



Dante School Newsletter

January 2009

Dear parents/guardians:

We trust that everyone had a restful and enjoyable Holiday and that our children have come back re-energized and ready to undertake meaningful and stimulating projects for the rest of the school year. However, one Dante family, in particular, did not have a happy Holiday and we ask for your generous help. Please read on...

Calling on our Dante Family to help one of our own: a family, victim of a fire

I am sad to inform you that the home of one of our students was burned down over the holidays and this family has lost everything. Fortunately the family was not home during the fire and no one was hurt. Assistance from the Red Cross and Sun Youth was immediate, but limited. The school is in contact with mom and provided school uniforms and school supplies. The family has now found lodgings and will need some basic household items and furniture such a bedroom set for the boy, window blinds etc.

Rather than collecting odds and ends, we are asking our Dante parents to kindly send in a monetary donation in the form of a **cheque payable to Dante School**, clearly marked: "**Fire Donation**". Please send in your donations immediately **until the end of January**. We will ensure that this family receives your donations. The Dante family believes in helping one another. Your donation will be considered a generous gift, regardless of the amount. Thanking you in advance for your help to our family in distress.

Open House- Jan. 21st

Open House for parents of new prospective students will be held on January 21st from **9:30 -11:00 a.m. & 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** During the evening, prospective parents will have an opportunity to speak with the teachers.

Open House visits to Dante's private Pre-Kindergarten will take place during the day only. Parents will be welcomed to submit their names for pre-registration to Pre-K. during their visit.

Registration Information - Feb. 2-6, 2009

Kindergarten – grade 6 Registration Week: February 2 – 6 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
On February 3 – daytime registration: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. &
- evening registration: 5:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Dante’s private Pre-Kindergarten will continue for the coming school year.
Pre-K Registration - Pre-K room - from 8 – 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. only

A.T. Cure Tour

G. B. has endorsed this year’s fundraiser for A. T. Cure (A. T. is a very serious illness called Ataxia-Telangiectasia). We hope to encourage and show encouragement to our own dear student who suffers from A.T.

A letter explaining our participation in this worthy cause was sent out on December 9, 2008. From January 5- 9, 2009, all students participated by running laps during their physical education classes. We ask the students solicit sponsors for the A.T. Fundraiser, amongst relatives and friends. Your child may ask hi/her teacher for another form, if the original has been misplaced. Parents are reminded to **send in their cheques, payable to AT Cure, before January 30th.**

Please make sure to complete the pledge form and return it with your donation in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child’s name A.T. in bold letters. The foundation will issue receipts for donations of \$20.00 or more. A copy of this letter was posted on our website. Together we can make a difference- help us to find a cure! Thank you for your continued support to our little angel.

Morning Supervision & Free Entry

Please note that teachers are on outside duty at 8:42 a.m. and that there is no supervision before that time. Students are expected to arrive in the school yard between 8:42 and 8:52 a.m. Daycare personnel are responsible only for registered Daycare students.

Parents may be aware that students no longer line up at the bell in the mornings. When the bell rings, students enter the building directly in an orderly fashion. This has proven to be a time saver as well as a quick efficient method of getting children in out of the cold. We have also implemented this method of entry after recess and after lunch.

School Policy re: Hot meals – LE DORAL

If a student is absent on a day when a hot meal was ordered from Le Doral, the meal is set aside. Parents may come by the Day care to pick up the meal. Day care will hold it for one day. If the meal is not picked up, it is frozen and donated to St. Brendan’s Parish where they distribute the donated meals to needy families.

Notes from our Spiritual and Community Animator

To the Dante Community,

As you may be already aware, a new season brings forth new projects and activities with our students. The first program I would like to present is the “Huggies Valentine’s Day project” for the Montreal Children’s Hospital. 12 EMSB schools come together on Valentine’s Day and visit the patients of the Montreal Children’s Hospital with gift baskets, new toys, coloring books, magazines and Valentine’s Day cards. Over the past 6 years, we have raised over \$50,000 for the hospital. This year, being the English Montreal School Board’s 10th year anniversary, Dante Elementary Administration and students will come together on Tuesday, February 10th for our annual visit.

To mark the 7th anniversary of our fantastic effort with the Montreal Children’s Hospital, the Huggies Valentine’s day team has joined forces with La Plaza Reception Hall and has created the third annual “Huggies Valentine’s Dinner” on Saturday February 7th. All proceeds from this event will be benefiting the Montreal Children’s Foundation. Our goal this year is to raise money for Cardiology and Brain Tumour Awareness in honour of Sabrina Di Giandomenico, former EMSB student and brain tumor patient who passed away at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. For more information, please log on to Dante Elementary’s school website <http://www.emsb.qc.ca/dante> or contact Vince Lacroce(514.483.7200 ext 5365) at vlacroce@emsb.qc.ca.

The second project will involve cycle 3 students who will be participating in Spiritual retreats entitled G.R.A.D.E.S. at Laurier Macdonald High School with High School leaders. The retreats are intended to better prepare the transition from Elementary School to High School. The spiritual retreat will speak about different virtues (Gratitude, Respect, Affirmation, Determination, Empathy and Self-Esteem) and provide students with the opportunity to work on their teambuilding skills.

May you and your loved ones rejoice in peace, health and happiness in this New Year. May this new season bring you all encouragement and provide rest for a new beginning; a time for family, a time for friends and a time to reconnect with one’s self.

Sincerely,

Vince Lacroce

Dante’s Brag Corner

- ❖ In December the students in 501 and 502 entered a writing contest! The theme of the contest was “What’s the nicest thing you’ve ever done for someone or someone has done for you over the holidays?” Congratulations to our finalists: Nina Arcuri, Michael Caterina, Adamo Buttino and Matteo Barbieri. The finalists’ stories were sent to CBC radio where twenty-five winners were selected from all the submissions received from different schools. The winners were asked to read their story on CBC Radio drive-home program and received a Homerun Holiday prize pack! **Adamo Buttino was a winner** and read his story on the air on CBC radio on December 31st! Well done, Adamo!

- ❖ In November 2008, Dante students were invited to enter a local drawing contest organized by the Jean Talon area commercial businesses. Dalia Renzullo's drawing was one of two drawings selected amongst all the winners (1 winner per school). Dalia's drawing will be featured on the recycled shopping bags to be used at the certain Jean Talon stores. **Congratulations, Dalia.**
- ❖ CTV reporters came to cover our Spirit of Giving- Talented Dante Stars show. They were so impressed that they invited two groups of students to perform live at Laurier MacDonald High School during the CTV Spirit of Giving news broadcast. Congratulations to Sara Recine, Natasha Marie Latsis, Alessia Di Re Karine Gosselin and Jessica Di Zazzo for Mama Mia. Kudos to our grade 2 musical group: singer, Julia Calabrese, and dancers: Alessia Del Borrello, Nicholas Risso, Valentiona Cimmarusti, Gabriella Taillefer, Frank Jr. Baldassare, Alessandro Constantiono-Di Dio, Marc Ranallo, and Alessia Liana Di Salvatore for their excellent rendition of Romagna Mia. Dante's talented stars really shone!
- ❖ We would like to congratulate Julia Bernardo, Rachel Cecere and Jessica Iacono who skate for Les Suprêmes -a great synchronized skating team right here in St.Leonard. So far this year, these fine young ladies have won:

GOLD - St.Hubert Invitational Competition - Dec.13,2008.

SILVER - P.A.T. invitational Competition - Jan.4,2009.

GOLD - Skate Canada Winterfest International Competition - Jan.9-11,2009.

Their coach, Miss Linda Sbrissa, is extremely proud of her skaters!!!

❖ **Caring for Our Environment – “The Dante lunch Box Crunch!”**

Depuis plusieurs semaines la classe 603 de Madame Elaine a travaillé sur leur projet de cycle " L'environnement ".

L'objectif de leur projet était de faire une différence pour l'environnement. Ils ont travaillé sur un projet " La boîte à lunch écologique", des recherches, sondages, planifications, éducation des pairs de l'école, fabrication de poster, ambassadeur de classe etc.

Le 11 décembre dernier, les élèves de 603 ont orchestré une journée spéciale à l'école : " la boîte à lunch Zéro déchet", avec la collaboration de tout le personnel de l'école, du service de garde (merci Madame Angie) d'un parent volontaire (merci Nobuko) ainsi que de la compagnie Doral.

Habituellement nous faisons environs 10 gros sacs de poubelles quotidiennement à l'école Dante. Le 11 décembre 2008, nous avons ramassé que 2 petits sacs à poubelle et des matières à recycler. Si tout le monde de l'école faisait sa part à chaque jour, nous pourrions faire la différence. Il est important de revoir le contenu (les contenants) de sa boîte à lunch.

Nous voulons vous mentionner que 100 % des élèves de la classe 201 de Madame Seliskar avaient une boîte à lunch sans déchet et que 75 % des élèves de l'école avaient très bien participé à cette journée spéciale.

Au gros merci à tous car ensemble nous faisons la différence ! Les élèves de 603

Upcoming Important dates & events

January 15 –Distribution of **Certificates for Stars of the Term**

January 16 – **Professional Development Day – No school for students** - Day Care will run a Ped. Day program 7a.m.-6p.m. for those who have registered in advance

January 19 – 23 **Raffle Sale Week for gr. 6 Ski & Snow Week Fundraiser**

January 20 – **Governing Board meeting** – 7 p.m.

January 21 – **Open House-** (details on school website)

January 23 - **Doubloon draws** for prizes

January 26 – **Ski & Snow Week Raffle Sale Draw**

January 30- Deadline for **A. T. Cure donations**

January 30- Deadline for **Fire Victim donations**

February 6th – Looney/Tooney Dress down Day (Ski & Snow Week Fundraiser)

Advance Notice:

May 6 will be a regular school day. The **board-wide Pedagogical day** has been postponed to **May 12, 2009**

May 12, 2009 – Board-wide Pedagogical Day – no school for students Day care will be running a Ped. Day for those registered.

February 7, 2009 – Huggies Valentine’s Dinner at La Plaza reception Hall – benefiting the Montreal’s Children’s Hospital. (Please see our website for details)

Acknowledgements & Thanks

Library Donations

The continued support from our Dante families to enhance our School Library is much appreciated. We would like to thank the parents of Luca D’ Ambra Violi, Sabrina Pirolli, Alex Vincelli, Amanda and Ariana Iaboni and other unknown contributors for donating many books which undoubtedly will be read and appreciated by many Dante students.

Volunteers for Bake Sale and Book Fair

Thus far this year we had many parents volunteering their time for our children. We would like to thank our dedicated parents for helping us again recently in making our Bake Sale and Book Fair so successful and well organized. Such activities would be very difficult to undertake if it weren't for your kind and continuous help. Many thanks to all our parent volunteers!

Patisserie Lafrenaie donated 2 cakes for our Bake Sale.
Many thanks to Mr. Frank Ruvo.

Donations for Doubloons Prizes: A special word of appreciation goes to all our parents who donated prizes towards our ongoing incentive program. Our first Doubloon draws for prizes will take place on January 23rd. Please keep the games and toys coming in as there will be another chance in June to win Doubloon prizes.

A New Year's Reflection

I would like to conclude this Newsletter with a special New Year's reflection by one of our grade 6 junior journalists regarding December's 2008 Spirit of Giving event:

"The Spirit of Giving – Dante's Talented Stars

A spectacular event took place at Dante Elementary School on December 9, 2008. The exceptional students who participated in the Talent show performed beautifully in front of our parents and the other students. The unique musical numbers moved everyone. The parents' comments were: "Exciting, an uplifting performance, amazing, well done!" We would like to thank our Masters of Ceremonies, Brandon Imperoli and Nadia Boutarfa, the decorating committee, and the organizing committee who made this all possible. Last, but definitely not, least, we would also like to thank the students. We can't thank you enough for making this 2nd annual talent and charitable Christmas event such a great success! We would also like to express our gratitude to the parents and students for having contributed non-perishable items for our annual Spirit of Giving Food Drive. This food drive helps many families which are less fortunate during the Holiday Season."

Submitted By: Michela Germano – 602 with the help of our Dante reporters, Sara Recine, Giovanni Mortellaro, Jordan Faraggi and Gabriel Di Iorio. Well done! Thank you for your fine report.

Please note that, for your convenience, pertinent school information, school photos, memos and newsletters are posted regularly on the Dante website.

Wishing our Dante Family much health and happiness for the 2009 year! Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Yours truly,

Mrs. A. Buchanan
Principal

Mrs. Ida Pisano
Vice Principal