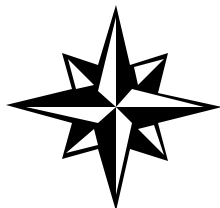


At School...

Let us now reflect as a school community on what environment we would like to create and nurture for ourselves and our students...



*Loving God,
Encircle this school
And keep these good things within:*

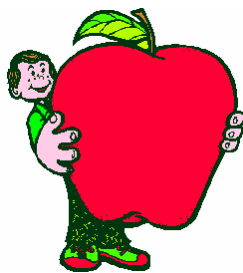
*Eagerness to Learn
Flowering of Talents
A sense of Wonder
Enjoyment of Sport
Experience of Beauty
Warmth of Friendship
The Art of Listening
Respect for All
Service of Others
Teamwork between Children and Adults
Care for the Planet
Reverence for Life
Balance of Body, Mind and Spirit*

*Loving God,
Encircle this school
And keep these bad things outside:*

*Low self-esteem
Confusion
Prejudice
Arrogance
Bullying
Cheating
Stealing
Malicious Gossip
Absenteeism
Apathy
Cynicism.*

*Loving God, encircle this school
For you are the source of all that is
good and true.
We ask this blessing in Your name.
All: Amen*

—Les Miller.



Lord, give us the strength to teach...

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York CDSB



Exploring The Heart Of Teaching



“Most of all students should be able to recognize authentic human qualities in their teachers. They are teachers of faith; however, like Christ they must also be teachers of what it means to be human...”

—The Religious Dimension of
Education In A Catholic School

Introduction

The field of education is constantly changing. As educators, it is difficult at times to keep up—the planning, marking, paper work, and recess duty keep us on an endless treadmill. Today's liturgy focuses on the how we need to renew our strength and explore the heart of teaching, through the words written by Parker Palmer, in the book, Courage to Teach.



The Heart of Teaching

Leader: If we want to improve the quality of teaching, a million workshops on methodology will not be enough. Good teaching does not come from technique. It comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.

All: My brother Jesus,

*Let us to learn to teach as you taught.
You turned a mountain, a hillside, a tavern
and a boat into a sacred place.
Help us to turn our classrooms into a sacred
place where learning is seen as a holy
act....*

Reader 1: If we want to teach well, we must learn more about the human dimensions of our craft—about the inward sources of our teaching, about the claims it makes on our lives, about our relations with our students, about a teacher's wounds and powers.

*All: May your Spirit flow through us,
Renewing us.
We may know all there is to know about curriculum
We may know all there is to know about the learner
But if our souls are parched
It counts for nothing
Because we cannot give from the place
where we meet You...*

Reader 2: When we enter the conversation about teaching not through the door marked "How To Do It" but through one marked "The Human Condition," we discover a new world of discourse, a world that will challenge but also reward us if we are willing to engage what we find there.

*All: May Your light and love
give us the strength to face
what challenges await for us
in our classrooms
to share who we are with our students....*

Reader 3: When I teach poorly, it is not be-

cause of poor technique but because I have allowed fear to get the upper hand. In the bad classrooms I suffered as a student, fear nearly always lurked backstage... Education's nemesis is not ignorance but fear. Fear gives ignorance its power. We are always teaching in the face of fear; that is why we need "the courage to teach."

*All: Help us Loving God to nurture
deep relationships with our colleagues
and students.
In them, may we see your face.
May we have the strength to see them
as an icon of You.
May these deep relationships sustain
me and hold us,
May this life-giving energy be re-
turned to those we serve.*

-Source Unknown

