

Originally named Chatelaine Village Catholic School for the first few months of its existence, Divine Infant Catholic School was renamed and blessed at its official opening on May 5, 1982. It took on the name of the newly-created Divine Infant Church community, which was to become a parish the very next year.

The Divine Infant Church community was established in September 1979, first holding services at Convent Glen Catholic School and then at St. Matthew Junior High School.

The school, which opened in September 1981, was designed by architect E.J. Cuhaci. Paul D'Aoust Construction Ltd. was the builder for the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board.

Over the years since its opening, Divine Infant School has raised thousands of dollars for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Holy Childhood Association, the United Way, UNICEF and the Canadian Hunger Foundation. This has been done through special activities such as "Jump Rope for Heart" and Lenten and Advent projects. This generosity of spirit in serving the local and global communities continues. In December 2004, the tsunami in southeast Asia caused untold devastation, and when the Divine Infant students returned to school after the Christmas break, they wondered what they could do to help those in need. The grade 4-5 class, under the direction of Teacher Dan Rigley, took the lead in creating a "Buck or Two Sale" in the gymnasium. The school community was invited to bring in books, toys, videos and other items that they no longer wanted or needed. Funds raised were donated to the Canadian Red Cross for tsunami relief. All donations were matched dollar for dollar by the Canadian government. Volunteers emerged from everywhere on their own

# DIVINE INFANT

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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initiative to assist students and staff in setting up this sale which resulted in the raising of over \$2,000.

Another example of the inclusive and generous spirit, which continues to pervade Divine Infant, happened in 2005 after a student was diagnosed with the same type of cancer as Terry Fox. In honour of both the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Terry Fox Run and of the student, the school held an event entitled "Run for Hannah." The school community pitched in, and over \$3,510 was raised for the Canadian Cancer Society. But this was not the end of it. When the community learned about the situation, a

parent, Mrs. Christina Lyons, launched an initiative to assist Hannah's family by cooking meals for them. She developed a two-month schedule and advertised for volunteers in the school newsletter. Not only did people sign up to cook meals, but a freezer was donated to the family so that the meals could be preserved.

A number of interesting events have happened at Divine Infant over the years. In November 1982, a baptism took place in the school library. Mrs. Cindy Simpson, a teacher at the school at that time, arranged to have her daughter, Sarah, baptized by Father Michael Hurtubise who was in charge of the Divine Infant church community. Father Hurtubise later became the first pastor of Divine Infant in March 1983.

In 1990, Mila Mulroney, the wife of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, visited Divine Infant School to speak to the students about cystic fibrosis. At that time, Divine Infant had a student suffering from the disease. The school community presented a cheque in the amount of \$3,500 to Mrs. Mulroney during her visit to the school. In January 1991, a fellow student, Kelly Robin Edwards, was killed in a school bus accident. A painting was commissioned in her honour, and hangs in the school hallway. In the 1990s, Daniel Massey, a custodian at the school, was killed in an automobile accident. His memory is preserved by means of a plaque in his honour, which is displayed on the wall in the school foyer.

**Present Principal**

Kimberly Giles

**Past Principals**

Andrew McKinley  
Richard Dittman  
Sam Coletti  
Kevin Mullins  
Lyle Bergeron  
Gerry Coulombe  
Cindy Simpson

**First Teaching and Support Staff**

Marjorie MacKay  
Marie Chambers  
Cindy Simpson  
Christina Van Vugt  
Murielle Cayouette  
Carol Wheeler  
Real Gagnon  
Theresa Lucas  
Deborah Barbaro  
Marie Chambers  
Shirley Dostaler  
Terry Lucas  
Adriana DeWaal, Special  
Education  
Janet DeMurs, Educational  
Assistant  
Judy Prest, Librarian  
Jacquie Lapratte, Secretary  
Felix Robertson, Custodian  
Maurice Rozon, Custodian

**Staff Recognition**

Jill Lamont received the Daniel Kelly Athletic Award in 1999.

Marilyn Doucette received the Bernadette MacNeil Award in 2005. This is an award given by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA).

**School Colours**

The school colours were originally orange and blue. They were later changed to blue and white.

**Logo**

The school logo was designed by a student through a contest organized by the school council under the principalship of Cindy Simpson.