



# Georges Vanier Catholic School

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DECEMBER 2011

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*Jennifer  
Valentini &  
Vanda Gioia*

## Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.

We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen



ADVENT

The four weeks of Advent lead up to the celebration of Christmas. As we prepare our hearts and our minds for the blessings of Christmas, let us take the time to celebrate the season of Advent together. We wait in joyful hope, trying to live as Jesus taught us: to live simply, to serve generously, to care deeply, and to speak kindly. Advent means *the coming*. At this time of year, we are invited to reflect on the responsibility we have to witness to the world and to be Christ's healing hands to those who need our help. It is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness, symbolized best by the Advent Wreath.





*Christmas*

*Break is*

*December*

*26, 2011*

*to*

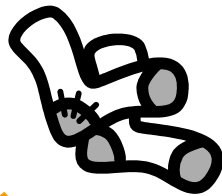
*January 6,*

*2012*



## Dressing for Winter Weather

While we have been blessed with unusually moderate Fall weather, we can expect this to change at any time. Please assist us in encouraging your children to dress adequately for the winter weather. Except when the weather is extremely cold or wet, the students will be going outside during the recess and lunch periods. Playing outdoors is a pleasant and healthy activity when students are wearing suitable clothing. For the younger students it would be helpful if parents were to label items of clothing with their child's name, so that each person can more easily locate his/her own clothing from the class coat rack area. A number of items make their way to the Lost and Found (which is found in our front entrance). Labeled items can be returned more easily and mixed up items sorted out more readily. If your child brings home an item by mistake, please return it to the school so that this mix-up may be corrected the next day!



For younger students, it would be helpful if parents could pack an extra pair of pants and socks in their child's backpack in case they get wet.

## The Advent Wreath

Advent traditions reflect a spirit of expectation and therefore, unfold gradually. The custom of an Advent Wreath began in the 16th century in Germany and was popularized among Catholics with the liturgical movement in the mid 1900's.

The wreath may be any size and made of evergreens. Three of the candles are purple, the traditional colour of Advent, and the one rose coloured for the Third Sunday of Advent.

Wreaths have always been symbolic of victory and glory. The Advent Wreath's symbolism goes beyond this; lying in the tension between darkness and light. Each year in Advent, people wait for the coming of the Lord, his historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem.



## Dates to Remember

Dec. 2 Lockdown drill  
Dec. 6 Advent Liturgy  
Dec. 13 Advent Mass  
Dec. 19 Advent Liturgy  
Dec. 21 Advent Retreat

## Food Drive

We are holding a food drive. Please bring in non-perishable food items. Thank you!



## Bullying Prevention Corner

### December– We All Want to Feel Included

The focus is on including and accepting others. The message “*we all want to feel Included*” underscores the idea that all of us desire the same thing and we all have some responsibility in creating an atmosphere that is inclusive. Students will learn the meaning of empathy and explore feelings associated with being excluded. Research shows that bullying behaviours demonstrate a lack of empathy toward others. Students will also look at how to help someone feel included and examine ways of strengthening their friendship building skills.

### Tips for parents:

- Talk with your children about ways to build friendships with others.
- Reinforce the message that even if we aren't good friends with someone we can still be friendly, considerate and welcoming.
- Use ‘teachable moments’ (family situations, media, and movies) to explore empathy with your children and help them relate to /and understand how others are feeling.



## Indoor Shoes

In order to avoid bringing mud, water and snow into the classroom, it will be necessary for each student to have a pair of indoor running shoes. Students will change into this additional pair of shoes as soon as they come to class. We appreciate your assistance with this matter!



## School Yard Expectations

Please review these expectations with your children:

- We help each other
- We respect all persons
- We respect all property
- We stay off fences
- We play non-contact games
- We use appropriate language
- We stay within our school boundaries
- We walk our bikes on school property
- We eat our snacks inside

We leave rocks, stones, snow, etc., on the ground.



## Full-Day Kindergarten Registration for 2012-2013

Registration for Full-Day Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year, will take place at Georges Vanier Catholic School on the following days:

**Monday, February 6, 2012\***

7:00-9:00 p.m.

\*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012**

9:00-11:00 a.m.

1:00-3:00 p.m.



For more information, call Georges Vanier Catholic School or visit [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org).



## Intramural Sports

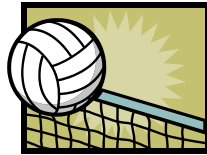
The indoor Healthy Soccer League has gotten off to a healthy start. The Running Radishes won the regular season, and now head to the Tofu Cup playoffs as the favorite. The Broccoli Badgers, Boston Bean Sprouts and the Tzatziki Titans will give them stiff competition. Over 75 grade 1-4 girls and boys take part in playing soccer.

Starting in two weeks the Outback Basketball League for students from grades 5-8 will begin playing.



Thank you to Mr. Mintz, Ms. Duliunas, and Mr. Kelly for running this sport event.

### Junior Boys Volleyball Tournament



### Junior Girls Volleyball Tournament

Congratulations to the Junior Boys Volleyball team who placed first at the Mini Tournament on November 23rd. They will be advancing to the Family Tournament held at St. John Bosco on November 29th. We wish them luck.

Thank you to Miss Baltazar for coaching the team. The team members were: Curtis C., Cole L., Chidie N., Jordy P., Cody P., Sean P., Jarue R., and Brian R.

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Volleyball team who placed third at the Mini Tournament on November 23rd. They played with great effort and enthusiasm.

Thank you to Mrs. Pizzani for coaching the team. The team members were: Alenea A., Camila C., Jenna C., Annika D., Perena D., Michelle L., Skyler M., and Ciera R.

## French Immersion Information Meeting

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2011 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

French Immersion centres	Session location	Date and time
Our Lady of Providence St Angela Merici St Joachim	St Joachim	Tuesday January 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 7:00 p.m.
Divine Mercy St Elizabeth Seton St Margaret of Scotland	St Margaret of Scotland	Wednesday January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 7:00 p.m.
St Gertrude St Pio of Pietrelcina	St Gertrude	Thursday January 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 7:00 p.m.

The deadline for submission of Applications will be **2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**