



**Bishop Francis
Allen School**

**325 McMurphy
Avenue South
Brampton,
Ontario**

**Principal:
E. Filippozzi**

**Superintendent
G. Prajza**

**Trustee
A. da Silva**

**Head Secretary:
L. Guerra**

**St. Mary Church
66A Main Street
Brampton, Ontario
L6W 2C6**

**905-451-2300
Pastor
Fr. L. Amaral**

**School Council
co-Chairs
T. Kelloway
T. Falldien**

December 2011 Newsletter



A Blessing At Advent

*May all who work for a world of peace
and reason,
be granted the gifts of strength and cour-
age...*

*May the good that dwells within every hu-
man heart be magnified...*

*May the blessings of truth and understand-
ing be ours...*

*May the joys of this Advent and Christmas
season dwell within all of us...*

*As we continue to grow and build for to-
morrow,
may we share Christ's love and understand-
ing with all*

*May God grant you the light in Christmas,
which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.*

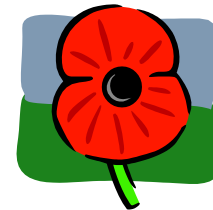
Amen

Advent

Advent is a time of waiting for the birth of Jesus. During Advent we prepare our homes and ourselves to welcome the new

born king. Advent traditions such as the Advent wreath serve as visual reminders of this time of waiting and preparing.

The Advent wreath is a popular custom that originated in Germany hundreds of years ago. It is a wreath of evergreen branches holding four candles, one for each week of Advent. The wreath is circular to remind us of the unending love God has for us. The evergreen branches also remind us of this gift. The wreath was an ancient symbol of victory and symbolizes the glory of Christ's birth. The candles remind us that we were waiting in the darkness until Jesus, the Light of the World, was born. It is popular that three of the candles be purple, the traditional colour of Advent, and one rose coloured, for the Third Sunday of Advent called Gaudete "Rejoice" Sunday.



Remember—N'Oubliions pas

On **November 11th, 2011**, Bishop Francis Allen students, and school community participated in an assembly to remember the Canadian men and women who have defended this country through all its wars and military obligations. Since the beginning of the First World War, more than 120, 000 Canadian soldiers have given their lives in service to this country.

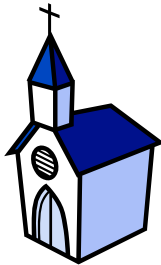
Thank you to all students for their reverence during the Remembrance Day Service, and to all the students who made a donation of money to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Visit our updated school website at <http://www.dpcdsb.org/BFALN>



Halloween Dance Food Drive

Thank you to the many students who supported our Food Drive and Sharelife on Halloween. All food items were sent to St. Vincent de Paul and we collected over \$100 towards Sharelife.



School Advent Mass

You are all cordially invited to attend our **School Advent Mass** on **Wednesday, December 7th, 2011** at **7:00 p.m.** at St. Mary's Church. We hope that many will be able to join us to celebrate our faith, pray as a community, and have an opportunity to wish each other a blessed and joyful Christmas. Following mass our Catholic School Council will be holding a small reception in our school gym.



Peel Police Food Drive

In past years, local schools have initiated food drives with Peel Regional Police attending the school so that kids can "Cram-a-Cruiser". This year Bishop Francis Allen will be participating in this Food Drive.

The Christmas Season can be a difficult time for many families, and the demand at the Food Bank, as you can well imagine is great. Collected food will be picked up by the Peel Police Department on **Thursday, December 8th, 2011.**

Junior, Senior and Full-Day Kindergarten Registration for 2012-13

Registration for Junior, Senior and Full-Day Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, will take place at all Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton and Orangeville 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.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2012

Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2012

Full-Day Kindergarten - Children must be 4 or 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2012

Bishop Francis Allen will be a Full-Day Kindergarten centre as of September 2012.

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- proof of age (Birth Certificate)
- original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) or baptismal certificate from an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome. *If the child has not been baptized, and the parent/guardian is a baptized Roman Catholic or is baptized from an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome, the parent/guardian must bring their own baptismal certificate.*
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian citizenship (Birth Certificate or Passport) or of Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (tax bill, utility bill, bank statement)
- for schools in Caledon and Dufferin County: emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property

**All documentation must be submitted in English.*

Kindergarten Students with Special Needs

There will be an information session for parent(s)/guardian(s) of children with special needs such as vision, hearing, autism, physical/medical and/or developmental delays who are entering JK, SK, or Full Day Kindergarten in September 2012. The information session will be held at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board—Catholic Education Centre, Room 301 on January 17, 2012 from 7:00 –8:30 p.m.

Extended French Information Meeting

Grade 4 parent(s)/guardian(s), who wish to enroll child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

St. Monica School
60 Sterritt Drive
Brampton, Ontario
(905) 454-6346
Wednesday, January 18th, 2012
7:00 p.m.

French Immersion

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 Centre(s)
Our Lady of Providence
St. Angela Merici
St. Joachim

Session location: St. Joachim

Date and time: Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.



Collecting of money for Pizza Days, School Trips, etc.

Please ensure that when you are submitting money with your child for trips, food orders, etc. to please treat them separately and send in the exact change. **Please do not combine siblings or single child orders together.** This creates confusion for our Accounting Department. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Minimizing Disruptions to Classes

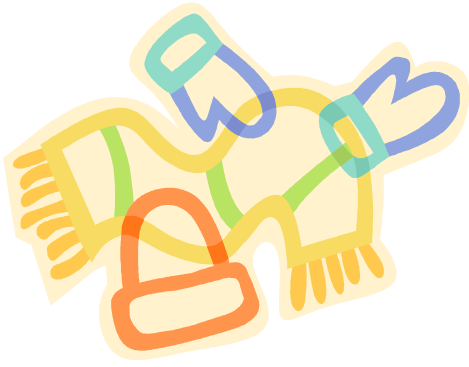
We appreciate continued parental help and support in minimizing disruptions to classes, whenever possible. By trying our best not to disturb classes, except in very important situations, we are reducing disruptions to quality teaching and learning time. To this end, we ask the following:

- If you wish to discuss something with your child's teacher, we ask that you set up an appointment with the teacher. Approaching the teacher, before, during and/or after school makes it difficult for the teacher to focus on her/his students. This also becomes a safety issue. Please leave a message with the office and the teacher will call you back.
- If your child is late please have him/her report to the office. **PLEASE DO NOT ESCORT YOUR CHILD TO CLASS.**
- Send a note in advance, to your child's teacher when your child needs to be picked up early, then meet them in the office and sign them out.
- If delivering lunches to your child at school, write your child's and their teacher's names on lunch bags and leave them on the table in the front foyer. This would be greatly appreciated.



Please Don't Be Late!

Recently we have noticed an increase in the number of students arriving late for school and classes. All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, should start school on time. This prevents interruption of classes and loss of information for the students. Please encourage and assist your children to recognize that punctuality is a responsibility, which all students should be developing. A reminder that school begins at **9:00 a.m.** in the morning and **1:00 p.m.** in the afternoon.



Dressing For Winter

While we have been blessed with moderate Fall weather, we can expect this to change at any time. Please assist us in encouraging the children to dress adequately for this weather. When on yard supervision, teachers are checking, not only on the activities/games children play, but also noting that they are wearing boots, hats, gloves and scarves when necessary. Except when the weather is extremely cold or wet, the students will be going outside during the recess and lunch periods. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School policy states that consideration should be given for keeping students indoors during recesses when the wind chill reaches -20°C . At -25°C students will be kept indoors. Playing outdoors is a pleasant & 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. Each term, items make their way to the Lost and Found and are never claimed. Labelled 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!



Indoor Shoes

Soon we will begin to experience wet and slushy weather. In order to avoid tracking 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 their class. We are also requesting that the shoes the students

will wear indoors, have LIGHT coloured soles so that there will be no black scuff marks on the floors .

We appreciate your assistance in this endeavor.

Change of Clothing

At times during the winter months students get wet a lot outside or dirty from mud on the field. In order not to have to call home to have a change of clothing brought in we encourage you to send in some extra clothing for your children. Please ensure that what you send in is clearly labeled with your child's name, class and place it in a bag that can be put on their hanger/hook.

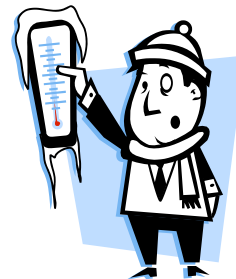
Lost and Found Items

There are many lost and found items in our school. During the week of December 12th to December 16th the items will be placed on a table in by the school gym. Please see if any of these items belong to your child(ren). After that the items will be packed up and sent to a local charity.



Student Illness – Staying in During Recess

Students who are ill should be kept home where they are most comfortable and can get better, sooner. A child who is too ill to go out for recess is too ill to be at school. Your co-operation to keep your child home when he/she is ill is appreciated.



Weather Cancellations

During the winter months, inclement weather and/or poor road conditions may cause the disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. In these cases, parents/guardians should develop alternate

care/transportation arrangements.

A decision to cancel bus transportation and/or to close schools is made by 6:00 a.m. Decisions are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature and road conditions. A decision to cancel bus transportation may be system wide (where all buses in Dufferin County and the Region of Peel are cancelled) or municipality specific (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled).

If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents require the same transportation home.

Notification

Parents/guardians, students and school staff are asked to monitor the following radio/television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation/school closure information.

Radio and Television:

CKFM 99.9	CHUM 1050
CFTO	CJCL 590
CJBC (FR) 860 AM	Global
CHFI 98.1	CJEZ EZ ROCK 97.3
CP 24	CFTR 680
CFRB 1010	CBC
FOXY 88.5 FM	Z103.5
The Weather Network	
CFNY 102.1	CHIN 100.7 FM / 1540 AM
93.1 FM	CJMR/CHOW 1250
102.7 FM (Caledon)	

A bus cancellation and/or school closure message will also be available online at www.dpcdsb.org or by calling 905-890-1221



Snow Stays on the Ground

As the winter weather begins, students are reminded that “**Snow Stays on the Ground**”. Every child in the school will be made aware of the importance of this rule in pre-

venting injury to others. Students are encouraged to constructively use the snow that winter brings to build snowmen, forts, snow sculptures, etc. Please assist us by reviewing with your child the dangers of throwing snowballs and the importance of preventing injury to other children. Together we will continue to create a school yard which is safe for all during winter.

Physical Education

Students participating in physical education must wear non-marking running shoes. In the interest of personal hygiene students should bring a change of clothes for physical education classes. In the interest of safety, students must remove jewelry prior to participating in physical education. Again we will continue with the Ministry mandated Daily Physical Activity Program. This program requires that all students from grades 1-8 be involved in 20 minutes of physical activity each day.

Telephone Use and Messages

There are a limited number of telephone lines available for use in the school. We would appreciate it if all arrangements that are necessary (after school, practices, etc.) be made prior to the start of each school day. This would help us in alleviating some of the congestion on the phone lines. Ultimately if something changes throughout the day we will be happy to relay the message to the teacher or student. However, if our lines are all busy then you are more than welcome to leave a message and it will be relayed. Please note that students can not be removed from their classes to receive telephone calls. The phone lines must be kept as free as possible in the event of an emergency. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Custody of Children

On rare occasions we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at our school asking to visit with their child or take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect the child when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and special instructions. If legal custody matters effect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of custodial arrangements between parents that may effect your child during school hours. We require custodial parents to provide legal documentation for our files.

School Advent Retreat

On December 22 our students will be participating in a school-wide retreat. Students will be lead around the school in groups where they will take part in a fun, exciting activities to mark the special Advent Season.

Virtuous Actions

The Virtue for the month of October was Conscience. The following students were the Virtue of the Month students in their classes for demonstrating the Virtue of Conscience on a regular basis:

Mrs. Spadafora	(am) Madeline T. (pm) Karoll R.
Mrs. Sciberras	Alyssa Z.
Miss. Nedumpara	Aaliyah M.
Mrs. Beaton	Kendra M.
Mrs. Grainger	Nadine P.
Mrs. Ricci	Magdalena B.
Mrs. Ricciuto	Alejandra C.
Mrs. Peterka	James S.
Ms. Serrentino	Adrian Z.
Mrs. Basha	
Miss Giovinazzo	Matteo P.
Mr. Virdo	Kalie B.
Mr. McCollum	Korrado A.
Mrs Dunne-Leslie	Earl Z.
Mrs. Ginn	Jeremy D.
Mr. Srsa	Jules G.

December Virtue of the Month is HOPE

People of Hope:

- Keep a positive attitude
- Can bounce back from a tough situation
- Set and stick to their goals
- See the good in others even when they make mistakes
- Work to include others
- Let others know that they are good people

The daily prayer of **HOPE** for December is:

Let us now pray...for the grace and courage to be people of Hope. People who can see, participate in and contribute to God's goodness emerging around us.

Amen

As always, if you have any questions, or require further clarification about the Virtues Program, we encourage you to contact us at the school.

Christmas Break

Christmas break will commence on **Monday, December 26th, 2011**. The last day of school will be on **Friday, December 23rd, 2011**. School will commence in the New Year on **Monday, January 9th, 2012**.

Did you know.....

from

An Historical Understanding of Key Issues Related to Catholic Education

Why did Catholics find the non-denominational religious education of the common school unsatisfactory?

Catholics wanted separate schools where all the beliefs of the Catholic Church would be taught, where the pupils would live their faith in a sacramental and community manner in proximity to the parish church and priest, and where religion would permeate the reading, literature and history curriculum. Furthermore, as modern times arrived, the multiculturalism of the public school's student body necessitated the eradication of the teaching of Christianity.

JESUS is the Reason of the Season!

Santa lives in the North Pole.
JESUS is everywhere.

Santa comes but once a year.
JESUS is an ever-present help.

Santa comes down the chimney uninvited.
JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and enters your heart by invitation.

You have to wait in line to see Santa
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...
JESUS lets you rest on His arms

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.
JESUS has a heart full of love, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

Santa's little helpers make toys.
JESUS makes a new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.