



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Elementary School



299 Landsbridge Street

Bolton, Ontario

L7E 2K4

Phone (905) 951-8788

Fax (905) 951-8798

December 2011



ADVENT



The word, "**Advent**" means "coming". During this season, we prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus when He comes. Of course, He does not come just once a year. He comes when we are in trouble, when we rejoice, when we pray, when we celebrate, when we love one another in His name. We take this time every year to practice being ready—so that we can receive Jesus every day of our lives.

Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and His presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives.

ADVENT PRAYER

God of mercy,

John the Baptist called people

to prepare for the coming of the Messiah

by turning away from sin

and toward God's love.

Help us to turn away from selfishness

and toward kindness, mercy and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen!

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: HOPE

This month we will celebrate the virtue of HOPE.

Hope gives us the strength to develop a peaceful optimism towards life. Hope gives us courage to face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. When facing the darkness, fear, and pain, hope teaches us that we can begin to understand and accept our imperfections and make use of the tremendous potential we possess. By seeing the world through the lens of hope, we can truly begin to honour our uniqueness. Through honouring our own uniqueness, we can then come to appreciate and honour the precious uniqueness of others. Perhaps the deepest insight we can acquire from letting our hearts run to hope is that we are truly never alone. With that realization, we can unlock a wellspring of love and enthusiasm for life. By turning to hope, we discover that God has given us the ability to turn our life around, and through that turning, we discover the light within us.



Our next Virtues assembly is scheduled for December 19th at 9:30 p.m.

Principal: K. Barton

Vice Principal: M. Clarot

Secretaries: L. Grant and

N. Cavaliere

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

P. McMorow

905-890-1221

TRUSTEE

F. DiCosola

905-951-8898

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Rev. L. Leger and Rev. S.
Hernandez

905-857-1938

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair: A. Lettieri

905-951-8788

Please visit our website at
www.dpcdsb.org/JBAPT

EXTENDED FRENCH PROGRAM

Grade 4 parents / guardians who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2012, are invited to attend an information meeting at:

St. Cornelius Catholic School
 16066 Innis Lake Road
 Caledon East
 January 18, 2012 @ 7:00 pm

At the present time, the above mentioned school is the designated centre for our area.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



This year our Christmas Concert will involve the grade 1—4 classes. The concerts will take place on **December 13th at 9:00 a.m. and December 14th at 1p.m. and 7p.m.** Attendance is limited to two people per family due to fire regulations.

PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

Thank you to all the students and parents for making our dance-a-thon a great success. We raised \$5000.00.



Thank you to the following local business for supporting our fundraising initiative: Staples, Boston Pizza, Walmart, McDonalds, Swiss Chalet, Harvey's Subway & EB Games

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR GRADE ONE STUDENTS: 2012/2013

Interested parent(s)/guardian(s) of children in senior kindergarten that want their child to enroll in the French Immersion program as a possibility for Grade 1 in September 2012, are invited to attend an information evening. The locations and times were indicated on the parent/guardian letter that has come home with your Senior Kindergarten child, or you can check out our website at www.dpccsb.org/JBAPT.

Transportation is NOT provided for students. It is the responsibility of parents.

**The deadline for registration is 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 8, 2012.**

DROPPING OFF CHILDREN

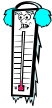


“SAFETY CONCERN”

Thank you very much to all those parents who are using our front driveway drop off lane as it was intended. The colder winter weather creates even a busier situation in front of the school during the routine drop off times. **Please ensure that when you are dropping off your children using the drop off lane at the front of the school, your children exits your vehicle on the passenger side of the car, facing the school. If your children exits towards the drive through lane they risk danger from any drive through vehicles. In this regard, students should never be dropped off from the drive through lanes.** Please also be reminded that cars should never be parked or left unattended in the front lanes of our school. If you need to escort your child to or from the school or yard, please park on a local side street and walk the short distance to the school. At no time should parents park in the staff parking, because there have been safety issues with children crossing at the cross walk. **Please do not park on Landsbridge St. This is a very busy street and parked cars block the view of pedestrians.**

Thank you for your cooperation for the safety of all our children.

APPROPRIATE DRESS - COLD WEATHER



The days are getting colder as the winter season arrives. We ask that students dress appropriately; i.e. coats, gloves, mitts, boots etc.. If they are dressed warmly, they are better prepared to participate in outdoor activities during recess and noon hour.

Please be advised that students are kept indoors at recess during the winter only when the weather conditions are extremely cold. (When the wind chill equivalent temperature is minus 25 degrees Celsius or lower, as per school Board policy.)

SCHOOL TRIPS



In order to give all parents equal opportunity to attend school trips with their child teachers will be selecting volunteers by lottery. Those parents who have already attended a school trip will not be given preference a second time. Equal opportunity will be given to fathers and mothers. Parents of children that have medical concerns may attend the trip, however they will need to transport themselves and pay the entrance fee.

RECESS RULES FOR STUDENTS

We encourage all students to experience their outdoor recess breaks in an enjoyable and safe manner. To ensure that students play safely and never endanger the safety of other children during recess times, we have two very important rules for all children to follow in our school yard.

In addition to plain common sense, we have a "NO CONTACT" rule in the school yard. This rule states that students are not to play any games or be involved in any activities in the school yard that involve physical contact. Games such as tackle football, soccer and British Bulldog are not allowed. Students are reminded that if a game develops during a recess break where contact becomes part of the game or activity, that the students are to remove themselves from that activity and report the contact to the nearest staff member on yard duty. In an effort to make our yard duty staff more visible for the students, they wear bright orange safety vests.

Our other main recess rule is for the winter season. Every year, throughout the winter season, students are reminded about a very strict, yet simple, rule that forbids the throwing of snowballs at school. Students are continually reminded during announcements that our school rule states:

DO NOT THROW SNOW OR SNOWBALLS AT SCHOOL.

We also remind students that the reason for this important rule is to ensure that all children can go out in the school yard, play safely and enjoy the outdoor recesses. Throwing snowballs in the schoolyard not only breaks our school rule, but also endangers the safety of other students.

Students who disobey the snowball rule are endangering fellow students by their poor behaviour and disciplinary consequences, which include school suspension, will be instituted.



[Kindergarten Entry Planning for September 2012](#)

Information Night for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Students with Special Needs in the areas of Vision, Hearing, Autism, Physical/Medical and/or Developmental Delays in the cognitive and/or motor areas.

On **Tuesday, January 17, 2012**, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will present an Information Night for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of students with Special Needs in the areas of Vision, Hearing, Autism, Physical/Medical and/or Developmental Delays in the cognitive and/or motor areas. The session will run from **7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** and will be held in **Room 301** at the **Catholic Education Centre at 40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga.**

Information will be provided regarding School Entry Planning for students entering JK, SK and Full Day Kindergarten. At the session parent(s)/guardian(s) will be reminded to ensure they register at their local school.

TOY AND FOOD DRIVE

As we prepare our hearts and our homes for the Christmas season, let us also remember our neighbours in this community, who are less fortunate. Your generosity makes a real difference. Last year your support helped many families and allowed numerous children enjoy a positive Christmas. Throughout the period leading up to our Christmas holidays, our school community will be assisting the Caledon Community Services, by hosting a toy and food drive. If you are able, please consider donating an unwrapped gift or gift card from Walmart or Canadian Tire for a girl or boy 10 to 15 years old and / or non-perishable food items. Thank you in advance for your support to this initiative !

BULLYING PREVENTION

December – We All Want to Feel Included

In December our 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.



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.

Kindergarten Registration Dates:



Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten for the 2012—2013 school year will take place as follows:

- Monday, February 6, 2012 from 7 to 9 pm.
- **Snow Date Only**—Tuesday, February 7, 2011 form 7:00—9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Feb. 8, 9 & 10 2012 from 9:00—11:00 a.m. and 1:00—3:00 p.m.

To register your child, you will need:

1. Proof of age.
2. Original Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman, Greek, or Ukrainian Rite, for one parent and child (if the child has not been baptized, a letter of counseling with the parish priest, to complete the process will be accepted).
3. Updated immunization records.
4. Proof of Canadian citizenship or Landed Immigrant status.
5. Proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement).
6. For schools in Caledon and Dufferin County, emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

To help you plan your holidays, the Christmas vacation continues from December 26, 2011 to January 6th, 2012. The last day of school in December will be Friday, December 23rd, 2011 and the first day of school in the New Year will be Monday, January 9, 2012.



Everyone Jump Program A Diabetes Program



Everyone Jump is a resource that raises awareness of the importance of regular physical activity and healthy eating in preventing type 2 diabetes. All our grade 1, 2 and 3 students have been involved in this initiative.

FROM THE STAFF OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL
WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



ROMAN MISSAL



Please see our website (www.dpcdsb.org/JBAPT) in regards to the Roman Missal. There are handouts about Frequently Asked Questions on the 3rd Edition.

DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Subday	3
4	5	6	7 Pizza Day	8 Reconciliation Meeting at 7:30 at Holy Family Church Grade 3s to Orangeville	9	10
11	12	13 Christmas Concert at 9 am	14 Christmas Concert Gr 1-4 at 1 and 7 pm	15	16 Subday	17
18	19 Virtue Hope Assembly at 9:30	20	21 Pizza Day	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break	28 Christmas Break	29 Christmas Break	30 Christmas Break	31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Back to School	10 Skating Gr. 1 and 1/2 at 9:30 & Gr. 2 at 1:30	11 Spelling Bee for grades 1-4 at 1 pm in the gym	12 Skating Gr. 3 at 9:30 & Gr. 4 at 1:30	13 Subday Gr. 7 & 8 Skiing	14
15	16 PA DAY	17 Skating Gr. 5 and 5/6 at 9:30 & Gr. 6 at 1:30	18 Extended French Meeting at St. Cornelius at 7 pm	19 Skating Gr. 1 at 9:30 & Gr. 1/2, 2 at 1:30	20	21
22	23	24 Skating Gr. 3 at 9:30 & Gr. 4 at 1:30 Comic Book Presentation 4, 5, 6	25	26 Gr. 7 & 8 Skiing Skating Gr. 5 and 5/6 at 9:30 & Gr. 6 at 1:30	27 Subday	28
29	30 Virtue Assembly at 1:30	31 Report Cards Go Home Graduation Pictures				