

St. Albert of Jerusalem School

December 2009 Newsletter



A Tradition
of Excellence
in Catholic
Education

40

Years

1969-2009

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Board web site: www.dpcdsb.org
School website: www.dpcdsb.org/alber

Principal:

S. Steer

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Secretaries:

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Superintendent:

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Trustee:

E. O'Toole

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Parish:

St. John of the Cross

6890 Glen Erin Drive

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Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard

Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil

Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

Advent-A Time of Hope

**God of Hope
You sent us Jesus,
the light of the world.**

**As we light our Advent candles,
one by one, a week at a time,
may we rekindle within ourselves,
the desires to make peace for Him.**

**May the flame of His presence
grow brighter and brighter
in our hearts, in our school,
and in our world.**

**May the God of Hope
fill us with joy and peace
this Christmas by the power of
the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**



”

“Upon our foundation, we continue to build the Spirit



Welcoming Advent and Christmas

The season of Advent is a time of expectation, waiting, caring, compassion, kindness, and hope. We celebrate that the promise to the people of God is fulfilled. Besides remembering the first Christmas, Advent is also a season to remember that Jesus will come again at the end of time. The Christmas season is a time to live in peace, and to remember that Jesus came for all cultures, all nations, and all people.

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and our lives so that we will be able to fully celebrate Christmas. We must encourage the children to live Advent as a season distinct from Christmas. Children need to hear the message that the month of December is about more than shopping and parties.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas should be a time of reconciliation and forgiveness, a time of reaching out to those we may have hurt by our words and our actions. They are seasons in which we reflect on and continue our journey with Jesus.

“We must keep the light of Christ before us.”

Advent Mass for Families

Our school community Mass is scheduled for **Monday, December 7th, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. at St. John of the Cross Church.** Please join us at that time to pause, reflect and enjoy the true meaning of this special season. Good fellowship and cheer, organized by our School Council, will be enjoyed by all in the parish hall following the Mass. Anyone donating baked goods (preferably nut free) is asked to drop them off between 6:30-7:00 pm in Nessinger Hall.



Virtues

We will celebrate the virtues of Faith, Empathy, Conscience and Hope at our December virtue assembly to be held on the 17th at 1:00.

December’s Virtue is one of Hope.

People of Hope...

- Keep up a positive attitude
- Can bounce back from tough situations
- 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

We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life.

We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

Year after year, we are reminded that God chose to send his Son to us because we are worth it. God knows how great we can be when we all come together.

When we look at the world through the eyes of God we see it becoming more and more like the reign of God that Jesus describes.

JK/SK Christmas Celebration



This delightful event, presented by the Junior and Senior Kindergarten students, will be held on December 16th, 2009 in your child’s classroom at 9:45 am for morning students and 1:45 pm for afternoon students. The children will sing Christmas songs and finger plays. Parents and students will work together to make a Christmas craft.

Primary Christmas Concert

The primary students will be hosting a Christmas Concert on the 11th of December. There will be two performances; 9:15 and 1:00. This evening of song promises to be a highlight of the Christmas season.





Christmas Mitten Tree

In the spirit of giving, the St. Albert Community would like to continue with our school tradition of the Mitten Tree. Families are asked to donate unused mittens, hats and scarves to provide needy children these necessary garments for winter. Clothing will be placed on our school Christmas tree as a symbol of giving. All donations will be given to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Items will be accepted until December 17, 2009.

Program and Curriculum

Assessment Evaluation and Reporting: Report Cards for Grades 1-8 will be sent home on December 1, 2009.

Parent-Teacher Interviews for Grades 1-8: will be held on the evening of *Thursday December 3rd, 2009* and during the day on *Friday, December 4th, 2009*.



Student Council

St. Albert of Jerusalem's Student Council demonstrated the virtue of conscience as they organized the fundraiser OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.

One of our Student Ambassadors, in grade seven, Chriselle presented the idea to our council and to Mrs. Steer. Chriselle is part of the youth group at our parish St. John of the Cross. She encouraged our school to help support this program and aid third world countries.

A BIG THANK YOU to our angels at St. Albert!

Together as classrooms, parents and a school we donated over 200 shoe boxes plus extra supplies to the church. We also raised over \$600 to help with the shipping cost.

The youth group president of St. John of the Cross, personally congratulated our school for their "generous support in assisting the church by sending, over 700 shoe boxes and over \$1000 raised" to Operation Christmas Child.

Eden Community Food Bank

Thank you to the St. Albert of Jerusalem Community for their support with Toonie Tuesday.

Volunteers -You are Appreciated!

During this Advent season we would like to thank all volunteers for your efforts in helping our children. Your time and effort with the All Star Reading Program, your participation in the various fundraising events sponsored by our School Council, your help in the classrooms, library, school trips, Kiss and Ride, or any other contribution to the school community are greatly appreciated. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless each and every one of you and may you all have a joyous Christmas.

St Albert of Jerusalem School Official Website

Check out our official website at:

<http://www.dpcdsb.org>

Just follow the links for authorized and accurate information pertaining to St Albert of Jerusalem School.

Peel Regional Police Feeder School Program

We are in our third year of the Peel Regional Police Feeder School Program. Two Neighborhood Policing Unit Officers have been assigned to St Albert of Jerusalem. This program strengthens and develops the partnership between students, staff and officers. This program will continue until April 2010. The officers will then be redeployed as Bike Unit Officers for the summer months.

School Trips and Other Financial Requests

Most school based activities are free of charge. However, from time to time the monetary request for trips and other items may cause some financial strain. At the same time, other opportunities at school such as Lunch Lady, and Pizza Days are voluntary and your discretion is required. However, please know that no child is ever held back from a school trip or classroom based activity/program for financial reasons. If you require assistance with classroom based activities please speak to Mrs. Steer in confidence and arrangements can be made.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found Box is overflowing. If your child has misplaced an item, ask them to visit the Lost & Found box. If you would like to look for a lost item, please sign in at the office first. Please feel free to drop in and look for lost items during Parent-Teacher

Interviews. **Any items not claimed by Friday, December 18th, 2009 will be donated to charity.**

Emergency School Procedures

There may be days during the upcoming winter months when inclement weather presents a potential safety hazard to our children. It is essential that parents discuss with their children the procedures they wish them to take to get home safely after getting off the bus. This discussion should include such direction as:

1. The appropriate/best route to follow on the walk home.
2. With whom the child should walk.
3. Where the child should go if parents are not at home or if they get locked out.
4. How the child should seek help if wind and snow are so strong that he/she cannot see their way.

You are the ultimate authority in deciding what weather conditions you consider safe for your child. It is always better to err on the side of caution than to risk a young life.

Indoor / Outdoor Shoes

The students should have a pair of indoor shoes to wear at school, in class and for gym. Outdoor shoes/boots will be kept for outdoor use only and out of the classrooms in order to reduce the amount of dirt and mud brought indoors. This will assist Mr. Silva and staff in keeping the school clean.



After Hours School Access

Although we appreciate the dedication of our students to return to school to acquire forgotten materials, we beg your assistance in making this a rare rather than regular occurrence.

Access to the school at any time is highly monitored and after school hours is no exception. Our custodial staff are directed not to allow students and parents to enter classrooms for the purpose of picking up forgotten books or homework. This is to ensure the safekeeping of student, teacher and school property. In rare circumstances, where an important item is needed, please seek the assistance of the classroom teacher, the principal or vice-principal for classroom admittance.

Anaphylaxis, Life Threatening Allergies and School

We ask that you refrain from sending in baked goods during this holiday season as we have many students subject to severe allergies. Thank you for your consideration of the safety of all our students.

Catholic Ratepayers – Check your Tax Bill to Ensure Proper Tax Support

If you are a Catholic ratepayer, we urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to your local Catholic school board, in our case, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. If you are a tenant, you can verify your support by contacting our Admissions Department at (905) 890-0708, ext. 24511, 24512, or 24519, or your local municipal office. By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter, you can help deliver a powerful message to the government about the level of support for publically-funded Catholic education in Ontario. In order to be eligible to vote for your local Catholic school board trustee, you must be registered as a separate school supporter.

Dates to Remember

December 1	Report Cards go home
December 3	Parent/Teacher interview
December 4	P.A. Day Parent /Teacher interview
December 7	Advent Mass 7:15 pm
December 11	Primary Concert 9:15 and 1:00
December 16	Gr. 2 Springridge Farm
December 16	JK/SK Christmas Celebration
December 17	Virtue Assembly
December 21-January 1	Christmas Holidays
January 4	Back to School
January 6	Epiphany
January 12	School Council
January 14	Early Release

From the Staff of St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School



*May our celebration of His Birth
Lead to renewed love and involvement in each other's lives, And,
Moved by your spirit,
May we make Your Kingdom on Earth
More like the image of our home in Heaven.*

*The staff and administration would like to wish the St. Albert of Jerusalem's School
Community a Blessed Christmas and the most prosperous of New
Years*