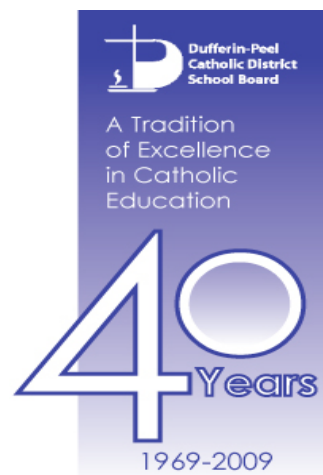


# ST. ALBERT OF JERUSALEM CATHOLIC SCHOOL DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Board web site: [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)



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Miss. Wards 9, 10  
905-812-5163  
[Esther.otoole@dpcdsb.org](mailto:Esther.otoole@dpcdsb.org)

## Parish:

St. John of the Cross  
6890 Glen Erin Dr.  
(905) 821-1331

## Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard  
Fr. Abraham Kulanjyil  
Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

## *A Christmas Prayer*

O God, Whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem  
those days long ago,  
lead us to that same poor place,  
where Mary laid her tiny Child.



And as we look on in wonder and praise,  
make us welcome Him in all new life,  
see Him in the poor,  
and care for His handiwork, the earth, the sky and the sea.

O God, bless us again in Your great love.  
We pray for this through Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

*For Advent prayers and liturgies please visit:  
[www.catholicsdoors.com](http://www.catholicsdoors.com)*

## Sunday Mass Schedule St. John of the Cross Church

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**CELEBRATING ADVENT**

The season of Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas. “Advent” is a Latin word meaning “the coming”. During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord into the world through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness, as symbolized best by the Advent Wreath.



At St. Albert of Jerusalem we emphasize the implications of the birth of our Saviour through

our Christian actions. We ensure that Advent is a time where we emphasize charity and social justice. It is a time to prepare the way, to make God real each and every day through prayer. The following activities provide a small window into how the staff and students at St. Albert of Jerusalem are the arms, legs, and hands of God.

**CONFIRMATION**

As part of Confirmation preparations, all grade eight confirmandi were required to present themselves as candidates for the sacrament. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the parish to support our candidates as they begin their preparations to enter further into their role as responsible Catholics.

**SCHOOL ADVENT MASS**

The student population of St. Albert of Jerusalem School will celebrate an Advent Mass at St. John of the Cross Church, on Wednesday, December 1st, 2010, at 7:15 p.m. The offering of the mass provides teachers, students and parents an opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together as a school and parish community. Following mass, everyone is invited to join in the parish hall for friendship, cheer and a nice sweet treat. (*Donations of baked goods can be dropped off before mass*)  
New this year!!! A second Advent liturgy will be offered at the school, on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and 10:35 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend.

**FOOD DRIVE & MITTEN TREE**

This year, as in the past, the staff of St. Albert of Jerusalem have organized a food drive and will place a mitten tree in the front foyer. We will be accepting donations for these charities from Nov.29 – Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The items collected from the food drive and mitten tree will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Charity is the primary response to our call as Catholics and provides us an opportunity for service to others. Once again, we call on all the students at St. Albert of Jerusalem School to help support these events and make them a success. Thank you for your donations.



**CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE**

Once again the St. Albert of Jerusalem School will celebrate the season of giving through our Christmas gift tree. Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, gift tags are available at the school, these tags indicate the age and gender of a child in need.



When you are visiting the school, please consider making Christmas a little brighter for the children in our community by requesting a gift tag. Recommended gifts are clothing items that will fit children from infant – 9 years of age, or gift certificates to local stores. Gifts should be left unwrapped or placed in a gift bag.

Our goal is to have the school foyer full of gifts by December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The gifts will be used to help various families in the community through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

## NEWS FROM STUDENT LEADERS

A BIG thank you is extended to the St. Albert of Jerusalem school community for donating small items to the Operation Christmas Child.

In all, 160 shoe boxes were created! Donations of \$500 from our Halloween dance, were used to aid St. John of the Cross Parish in mailing the boxes.

This November our Student Leaders informed students about Free the Children and challenged our entire school to take a VOW OF SILENCE for one hour. Many students DID NOT talk for most of the day, it was a great success.

*Finally, our school community showed their conscience by writing post cards to soldiers overseas and to our Veterans.*

This month we are looking forward to your continued support by donating items for the MITTEN TREE and Food Bank.

Rachel A.	Izabella B.
Kevin G.	Olivia G.
Samantha T.	Chriselle V.
Victoria V.	Alessia Z.

## A MONTH OF VIRTUES

In December we celebrate the virtue of hope. We believe that God comes to us as a small fragile baby who shows us that even the smallest and poorest can make a profound difference in the world. 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. During this time of hope, 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 know that the message of hope in Jesus' second coming will be and is fulfilled, because Jesus' love lives in us everyday.



### 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**

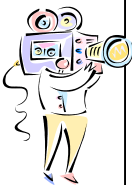
### PRIMARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The students of the primary division wish to invite their parents/guardians to a special presentation of "The First Christmas" on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 9:15 a.m. and 1:00 pm in the school gymnasium. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 pm. This celebration of song promises to be a highlight of the Christmas season.



### INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT IN AN EXCITING FILM PROJECT???

The primary and junior students will soon embark on creating a DVD of The Virtues in Action. If you are a parent with a particular skill in professional video recording, we beg your support! Please contact the school if you would like to donate some of your time and skill in creating this worthwhile resource early in the month of February. (See page 3 of this newsletter for further information)



Continuing with our Catholic Story...The second part of our series on the Historical issues related to Catholic Education

#### ***Was there opposition to separate schools before Confederation?***

Yes, as now, there were advocates of one school system. Protestant spokespersons believed in the adequacy of the common (now public) school's basic non-denominational Christianity, which constituted an important element of the common school's religion lessons and their readers. They held that beliefs specific to certain religions should be taught in the churches and homes.

#### ***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.



## ACTIVE STUDENTS

### EXTENDED FRENCH PARENT MEETING

Parents of senior kindergarten or grade four students who wish to enroll their child in the grade one or grade five Extended French programs for September 2011, are invited to attend information meetings as follows:

A meeting for parents of **senior kindergarten** students who would attend Divine Mercy will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at St. Gertrude School.

A meeting for parents of **grade four** students will be held at St. Therese of the Child Jesus School on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Applications for the Extended French Program will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2011.

### JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

The junior volleyball teams have already completed their first round of competition. All players have shown great dedication and sportsmanship. Both our teams were successful in their local competition and will continue on to the family tournament on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We extend our sincerest thanks to the coaches who are supporting this extra-curricular activity: Mr. Wu, Ms. Maiato, Ms. Wanat, Mrs. Mol and Ms. Fazzari.

Ashton F.  
Tomasz G.  
Austin H.  
Tyler H.  
Maurizio M.  
Stipe J.  
Marcus J.  
Pierce M.  
Jamie T.  
Jonathan S.  
Justin V.  
Tyler W.

Maryjo A.  
Madison C.  
Melissa C.  
Taryn C.  
Shannon D.  
Charlotte H.  
Stephanie M.  
Allisa P.  
Lauren V.  
Sarah V.  
Sylvia Z.



### STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

First term report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Along with the report card, you will receive a confirmation time for your report card conference. This conference will include the student, the teacher and the parents/guardians. Conference request forms will be sent home on January 12, 2011. During this first conference, the teachers would like to see and speak with all parents and students in order to discuss the first term and also to make plans and set goals for the second term.

Conferences for first term reports will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 – 9pm and during the day of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



### FLAG FOOTBALL

This year the Flag Football team has already competed in their first tournament, the Mississauga North Family of Schools tournament. In the round robin stage, the team had an impressive 4-0 record, including two games in which the opponent didn't score a single point. The team was successful in winning the semi-final game against St. Simon Stock, which qualified them for the championship game – the teams' fourth appearance in the last five years! The team played well and never gave up but unfortunately lost a very close game to St. Joseph's. The coaches would like to thank all team members for representing St. Albert with great sportsmanship, effort, and a positive attitude both on and off the field. The coaches would also like to thank the many parents who came out in the cold to cheer us on. The Angels will resume practicing in the spring for the next tournament at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in June 2011. Team members include:

Kyle A  
Tyler A.  
Anthony C-B.  
Michael D.  
Jason F.  
Obahi O.  
Taylor V.

Joshua A.  
Rebecca B.  
Nikysha C.  
Jacob D.  
Spencer G.  
Lauren P.  
Chriselle V.

Nathaniel A.  
Izabella B.  
Michael C.  
Brandon F.  
David M.  
Alexandra S.  
Marcel Z.

Our thanks are also extended to the Flag Football coaches, Mr. Kelenc and Mr. Sparkes. Your dedication and leadership is much admired and appreciated by the team and the entire school community.



Auditions will soon be held for talented young individuals who wish to have roles in the musical, ANNIE. This performance will be held during Education Week, May 2 – 6, 2011. Information has already been sent home... we look forward to this exciting extravaganza!

**PEACE PALS**

Many of our grade five students have volunteered to act as Peace Pals to our younger students. Peace Pals are leaders within the school. They foster safe, fun, co-operative and active play during school recesses. Our teacher leaders, Ms. DiFazio, Ms. Pandullo, Ms. MacIntosh and Ms. Mol have worked closely with our students to provide training to these young individuals: Stephanie M. Ashleigh W. Adam S. Runo O. Vivian S. Jessica J. Della D. Arianna Z. Lexie D. Taylor R. Ashley P. Amanda D. Riley B. Sarah L. Sydney S. Ashley A. Casey V. Tyler S. Sonia S. Dania B. Lauren M. Rochelle P. Meaghan D. Ashley G. Sabrina O.

**Thank you Peace Pals for being such virtuous role models!**

**INDOOR FOOTWEAR**



Please ensure that students keep a pair of running shoes or other appropriate footwear at school so that their feet remain dry and clean at all times. At certain times of the year, areas of our schoolyard can be quite muddy. Having an additional pair of shoes at school, assists us in keeping mud and dirt out of the classroom.

**AFTER HOURS SCHOOL ACCESS**

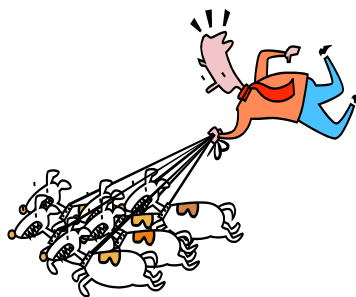
Although we appreciate the dedication of our students to return to school to gather forgotten materials, we beg your assistance in making this a rare rather than a regular occurrence. Access to the school at any time is highly monitored and after school hours are no exception. Our custodial staff are directed to not 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 regular classroom teacher, the principal or vice-principal for classroom admittance.

**ANTI-BULLYING CURRICULUM INITIATIVES**

Virtuous play has always been a part of our Catholic curriculum. It is primarily taught through Religion and Family Life, but is also woven within all subject areas. This year we have placed a significant focus on being able to recognize bullying (the problem), identifying that bullying does exist in our school, and identifying what students can do to prevent bullying (the solution).

We are particularly proud of the leadership that our Primary and Junior students have taken on the development of a Virtue's DVD. Through role play and discussion, they will share anti-bullying strategies and promote empathy, tolerance and kindness.

**DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**



Pet owners and community members are asked to support us in keeping our schoolyard clean. An increasing amount of pet lovers are neglecting to pick up after their pets... this causes additional work for our custodian and at times, unpleasant surprises for our students. Please report anyone who does not clean-up after their pet to the City of Mississauga.



**TRANSPORTATION CANCELLATIONS / SCHOOL CLOSURES**

A decision to cancel school transportation and/or close schools, due to inclement weather, is usually made by 6:30 AM. Only the Director of Education has the authority to cancel transportation and/or close schools. Please listen for DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD cancellations or closures. Announcements are made on the following radio stations:

CKFM – 99.9 FM	CFNY – 102.1 FM
CHIN – 100.7 FM, 1540 AM	CFRB – 1010 AM
CHUM – 1050 AM	DC103FM
CJCL – 590 AM	CHAY – 93 FM
CFTR - 680 AM	Q107 – 107.1 FM
CHFI – 98.1 FM	CJMR – 1250 AM
JACKFM – 92.5 FM	TALK640 – 640 AM
CBC – 740 AM	CHEZ ZP7.3
CIAO – 530 AM	CJBC (Fr.) 86

**Want to check bus cancellations and late routes on-line???**

**Visit STOPPR.com**

## LOCKDOWN DRILL

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that all schools practice a "Lockdown Procedure" twice a year. This precautionary measure helps to ensure that proper procedures will be initiated and followed should an emergency exist on school property or in the surrounding neighborhood.

During the week of November 24, 2010 our second Lockdown Drill was initiated. St. Albert of Jerusalem followed all procedures as outlined within School Board policy. In this practice a lockdown situation is alerted to staff and students by an announcement, "Initiate Lockdown Procedure". This announcement is followed by the repeated ringing of our lockdown bell sequence. This sequence is different from the bells students hear for fire drills or at entry and dismissal. Students follow the following procedures when they hear the announcement. During an actual lockdown:

- All students and staff inside the building will remain in their classrooms.
- Students or staff in the hallways or washrooms will be expected to go the closest classroom.
- Students and staff will remain in the classroom until further instructions are given. All doors and windows are locked.
- All windows in the classroom are covered.
- Students and staff sit on the floor out of the line of the classroom door.

## RAINY MORNINGS AND ENTRY PROCEDURES

Staff will closely monitor the weather conditions during the period of 8:15 to 8:30. If heavy rain falls during this period, we will call the students into the school. However, in the event of a light rain, students will remain outside until the 8:30 bell rings. Many of our students are supervised within the gym during inclement weather. If students come into the school prior to 8:30, we must delay morning physical education classes until the wet floors are addressed. On misty mornings please ensure that your children arrive with a hat, rainwear and/or an umbrella. Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

### FUNDRAISING

With the New Year soon upon us, we look forward to our next school fundraiser, our Dance-a-Thon. This event is one which is anxiously awaited by our students. Parents and community members can support this event by acting as a volunteer, a sponsor or by donating a prize. *Any products, especially gift certificates, that can be used for prizes, may be forwarded to the Fundraising Committee through the main office.* The funds raised through this event will be used this year to support school based learning initiatives. Funds raised during the current school year will be allocated to the following school initiatives:

### ONGOING INITIATIVES

Grade Eight Graduation  
First Communion and Graduation recognition  
Student Appreciation  
Recess games  
Literacy programs  
Sports uniforms  
TV/DVD players

### CAN YOU HELP OUT WITH A DONATION?

## overhead projectors needed!

We can always use overhead projectors and portable or projection units. If your company has recently upgraded its presentation tools and is looking to donate slightly used audio visual equipment that is in excellent working condition... please let us know.



Mark Your Calendars  
**Council Meetings for 2011:**  
January 11, March 2, April 12 and May 25

## Get Ready For... FaceBook 101

...at St. Albert of Jerusalem. What all parents and students need to know about **FaceBook on February 9, 2011.** Afternoon presentation for staff and students, 7:00 p.m. presentation for

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- December 1:** 7:15 pm St. Albert of Jerusalem Advent Mass and Christmas Social  
Junior Boys and Girls Family Volleyball Tournament  
Last Day for Mr. Delisle our co-op student
- December 6:** Ms. Almeida and Ms. Stellato to Peel Safety Village
- December 7:** Ms. Misiewicz and Ms. Dulhanty to Peel Safety Village
- December 9:** Grade 8 to Christmas Concert at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- December 15:** 10 am St. Albert of Jerusalem School Advent mass
- December 16:** Primary Christmas Concert
- December 18 – Jan. 2:** Christmas Break
- December 25:** Merry Christmas Everyone!
- January 3:** Welcome Back
- January 11:** 6:45pm School Council Meeting
- January 13:** St. Albert's Movie Night for primary students
- January 13:** 7 pm Extended French Meeting for senior kindergarten or grade 4 students
- January 14:** **P.A. Day Report card writing**
- January 17:** First Day Term 2
- February 1:** Report Cards sent home
- February 3:** Gr. 1-8 Report Card Conferences  
JK/SK Parent Conferences (no formal reports)
- February 4:** **P.A. Day Gr. JK -8 Conferences**
- February 21:** **Family Day (no classes)**
- March 14 – 18:** March Break

## **JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2011/2012**

**Is your child turning 4 prior to  
December 31, 2011?**

**Catholic School supporters are  
invited to register their school  
aged children on or after the  
following dates:**

**February 7, 2011 : 7 – 9pm**

**February 8, 2011:  
7 – 9 pm Snow Date**

**February 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2011:  
9 – 11:00am and 1:00 -  
3:00 pm**

## **ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH 2010-2011**

### **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - ONLY

7:00-9:00 PM

#### **CANDELIGHT CAROL SERVICE**

Take some time to share scripture, quiet time, festive music and fellowship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH - 7:00 PM

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

Mount Carmel Secondary School Gymnasium: 4:00 PM ONLY

At the church: 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 9:00 PM, 12:00 MIDNIGHT

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25th**

At the Church Only: 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

(Note: There will not be an 8:00 AM or 5:00 PM mass)

#### **FEAST DAY MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

Vigil Mass, Friday Dec. 31st

5:00PM at Church

NEW YEARS DAY MASSES, SATURDAY, JAN 1ST

10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

(Note: There will not be an 8:00 AM or 5:00 PM Mass)



*From the Staff of St. Albert of Jerusalem  
Catholic School*

May your Christmas be of great joy  
And may the miracle of Christmas continue to shine within your heart all year.



S. Steer  
P. Golin, D. Carpe

T. Ball  
A. Charette, P. D'Amato  
P. Silva, P. Tesoro, L. Adriano

C. Almeida, P. Ashworth, P. Aquino,  
S. Baiana, L. Bellizzi, C. Biffis, E. Bradford, M. Braun,  
T. Cameron, S. Cadieux, E. Caven, C. Cheung,  
S. Dale, R. DeBuck, A. De Souza, F. DiFazio, C. Dulhanty, B. Fazzari  
M. Finaldi, T. Fiorita, J. Fletcher, C. Gal, A. Galle, G. Giannini, N. Habre, R. Harris  
K. Havens, M. Heffernan, B. Hussel, , V. Juchimenko, , S. Kelenc, P.Kupferschmidt, , J. Lossing  
E. Lithwick, L. Lucchetta, I. Maiato, A. MacIntosh, L. MacNeil, L. Marcuzzi, C. Melo,  
A. Mendes, F. Miniaci, T. Misiewicz, A. Mol, F. Mondano, W. Moussa,  
M. Pandullo, A. Picciuto, J. Pocrnic, M. Polzc, C. Richards, G. Rodrigues,  
C. Rumbolt, M. Stellato, J. Sparkes, P. Vis  
A. Wanat, E. Yeung, M. Zenga,



*Have a Blessed Christmas  
and  
the most prosperous of New Years.*

**CHRISTMAS VACATION**

Christmas vacation runs from Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to  
Sunday, January 2nd, 2011. School resumes on Monday, January  
3rd, 2011. **The last day of classes is Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

## **Blessing of the Nativity Scene**

Read from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-8 from the Family Bible.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation  
you have made known Your love:

When our need for a Saviour was great You sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

*In Preparation*

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,  
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

AMEN.



## **Blessing of the Christmas Tree**

Read from the Letter of Paul to Titus 3:4-7 from the Family Bible.



Lord our God,

We praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel:

the Law, and the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, Your Son:

He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of  
Your love.

Lord God,

Let Your blessing come upon us as we light this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN. [light the tree]

## **Prayer Before Christmas Dinner**

Lord Jesus,

In the peace of this season our spirits are joyful:

We thank You for all you have given us. The gift of life, of family, and friends and food that strengthens  
and nourishes us.

You loved us so much that you sent Your Son Jesus to become part of our lives, to forgive us and save  
us and show us Your care for us.

By Your coming may the hungry be filled with good things,  
and may our table and home be blessed.

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty  
through Christ our Lord, Amen.

