

St. Therese of the Child Jesus School

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THE THERESE TIMES

December 2009



*Advent Prayer
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 desire 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*



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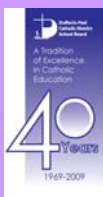
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VIRTUE OF THE MONTH—HOPE

This month, we will celebrate the virtue of HOPE. We believe that God comes to us as a real human, Jesus, who shows 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.

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



FAMILY ADVENT MASS

Our school community Advent Family Mass is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 at 7p.m. at St. John of the Cross Church. Mark your calendars and please plan to attend.

The Advent Mass will be preceded by a choral presentation by our JK's, SK's, and Gr. 1's singing, 'Take a Walk to Christmas'.

Our grade two's will present Jesse Tree symbols following Communion.

Students from all grades will be participating in some capacity. It is truly a community event. It is guaranteed to get you in the 'spirit' and help all of us remember the primary 'reason for the season'. See you there!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Again this year St. Therese of the Child Jesus School is currently collecting food and Canadian Tire money in order to help out some of the needy families in the Meadowvale area. We will be sponsoring a number of families. The St. Vincent de Paul Society, who is affiliated with St. John of the Cross Parish, will give us the information regarding the families. No names are given, only the family profile, their ages and clothing size. Last year, through your generous support, we were able

to give each family a hamper including clothing, books, toys and a substantial amount of canned food. Once again, with the help of your generosity, we would like to reach this goal. Please feel free to give what you can. Participation in this drive is strictly voluntary.

This year's Christmas Hamper Drive will end on Fri., Dec. 11, 2009

If you have any questions or have any contacts through your employment that you feel would help enhance our Christmas Hamper Drive, please leave a message at the school and we will gladly call you back.

On behalf of the School, we would like to thank you in advance for your support and wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2009-2010

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

MON., DEC. 14, 2009- ONLY- 7-9:00 P.M.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

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

SUN., DEC. 20 7P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

THURS., DEC 24th

Mt. 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

FRIDAY., DEC 25th

At Church Only: 8AM, 10AM, 12:00 PM

(Note: There will not be a 5:00 PM Mass)

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS/VIGIL MASS

THURSDAY., DEC. 31st

Feast Day Mary Mother of God

5:00 PM at Church

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

FRIDAY., JAN. 1st

Feast Day Mary Mother of God

8AM, 10AM, & 12:00 PM

(Note: There will not be a 5:00 PM Mass)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Christmas Break is December 21, 2009 to January 1, 2010 inclusive. The last day of classes for students is **Friday, December 18th.** It is a regular day with dismissal at 3:45 p.m. School will recommence, in the New Year, on **Monday, January 4, 2010.**



CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG

On our last day of classes before holidays, **December 18 at 11a.m. - 12p.m.**, we will have our traditional Christmas Carol sing-a-long in the gym. Parents are welcome to join us.



HELPING HANDS CLUB (Outreach project)

Helping Hands.....helping hands to keep warm, St. Therese has created a Helping Hands Club. Over 75 students have volunteered their time hand creating Christmas cards. We have sold over 100 cards at \$1.00 each and are using the money made to purchase mittens/gloves to assist other children who are in need in the Dufferin Peel Community. The "Helping Hands.....Helping" Club will continue into the new year selling other occasion cards.

REPORT CARDS and INTERVIEWS

Please note, as outlined in last month's newsletter, report cards have been sent home on Tuesday, December 1. Thursday, December 3 (4-5:15p.m. & 6:15- 8:30p.m.) and Friday, December 4 (9:15- 12:00a.m. & 1:00-3p.m.) were designated as the dates for first term Parent-Student-Teacher interviews.

PICKING UP MISSED WORK FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT

We receive many requests for work when students are absent due to illness or other reasons. If your child's absence is only for a period of one day we recommend that they collect the missed work the day they return. If your child's absence is for two or three days please call well in advance i.e. in the morning, to alert the school you would like to pick up missed work. Your child's teacher will prepare a package of work and this will be ready at 3:45p.m. for pick up. Instant requests for work cannot be accommodated. Avoid disappointment. Call in advance to make arrangements.

If you choose to withdraw your child from school for an extended period of time i.e. vacation, we are unable to provide missed instruction, class work and assignments/tests. However, a general overview may be provided. Please refer to the attached article, 'Vacation Requests for School Work', for a list

of suggested activities you can complete with your child while on holiday. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on missed work and make alternate arrangements for test and assignment completion when they return.

LEAVING SCHOOL PROPERTY AT LUNCH TIME

Please note that at recess (a.m. & p.m.) no student is permitted to leave the school grounds at any time. At lunch time the expectation is that all students in grade 1 to 6 stay at school for lunch unless they have written permission from their parents stating otherwise. Parents must sign their child out and in when taking them for lunch. In grades 7 & 8 some parents checked the "No" option on the annual permission form. Please remember, if you have given your child blanket permission to leave the school property at lunch time, or give them specific permission in writing on individual days to leave school property at lunch time, the school cannot assume responsibility for their supervision once off school grounds. Some intermediate students choose to go to the plaza at the corner of Forest Park and Derry for lunch, necessitating that they cross a very busy intersection. Safety tips have been reviewed with the Grade 7 & 8's so that they can remain alert and safe while off school property. Your help in reviewing your lunch hour expectations with your children and discussing safety issues would be helpful.



BUS CANCELLATIONS / SCHOOL CLOSINGS

During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. Please read and file the attachment for details.

JR. VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to all the boys on the Junior Boys' Volleyball team. Coach A. Powers reports real growth in each team member as the season progressed. The Boy's team have demonstrated dedication in attending all practices, an eagerness to learn new skills, and a desire to do well in each game. Team members are: Noah B., Kieran C., Dale C., Lyle F., Matthew I., Zachary K., Linden L., Dylan M., Justin D., Robert S., Arthur T., Gregory Y.

INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL

The Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Basketball Team tryouts are beginning in the last two weeks before the Christmas break. Mr. Bortolotto, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Murray, Dr. Singh, and our coop student, Ben R., look forward to working with the students in another successful basketball year.

EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION MEETING

Grade 4 parents who may wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2010, are invited to attend an information meeting at St. Therese of the Child Jesus School on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 7p.m. As you know, St. Therese of the Child Jesus is the designated Extended French Centre for our area. Applications will be received at the school beginning in March 2010. Admission is based on a lottery system. More information and application details will be given at the February 3 meeting.

SCHOOL BUS RULES

Please review the following bus rules with your children. Even though your child may not ride the bus on a daily basis, knowledge of these safety tips is important when students travel by bus on class trips.

All students should:

- * Be at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the designated time in the morning.
- * Board the bus in line, youngest to eldest.
- * Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- * Never throw anything on the bus or out the window.
- * Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times.
- * Keep the aisles clear of objects.
- * Avoid unnecessary loud noises.
- * Avoid inappropriate behaviour.
- * Keep hands to yourself.
- * Listen to and obey the bus driver.
- * No eating or drinking on the bus.
- * Do not vandalize the bus.

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found box is getting full. For the last two weeks before Christmas Break all lost and found items will be displayed in the front hallway. Please feel free to come and browse and see if you recognize any of your children's missing clothes!



SCIENCE CLUB (Engineers in Residence Programme)

First Science Club meeting was an "eggciting and smashing success". Ravi and Andrea, our volunteer engineers, praised the boys and girls for their excellent teamwork and creative thinking. Our next meeting will be on Wed. Dec. 16, 4:00-5:30 p.m. where we will make some "sweet and delicious chemistry" and build amazing straw towers. The sky is the limit with The St. Therese E.I.R Science Club Members. Remember... Science rules and is lots of Fun!! Thank you to Mr. Bortolotto, Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Keough for running this amazing program.

ST. THERESE IS A HEALTHY SCHOOL

During the month of November, classes were given 5 pedometers to run cumulative step counting to promote getting active and physical fitness. A contest was held to establish the class with the most steps counted. The top three classes won free chocolate milk for lunch. The three classes that had accumulated the most steps were: Third Place: Ms. Stephen's class with 314,630 steps; Second Place: Mme Firhoj's class with 335, 316 steps; and First Place: Mlle Packalen's class with 368,928 steps. Go Thunder!! Thank you to Mr. Powers for organizing our step contest challenge. We are getting our school moving positively for better health!

**THE NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING
IS ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12
at 7p.m. IN THE LIBRARY
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

ATTACHED

1. December calendar of student activities.
2. Bus Cancellations/School Closing Due to Bad Weather.
3. Vacation- Requests for School Work
4. Traffic Safety Times

*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.
Therese of the Child Jesus School Community a Blessed
Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

