

St. Therese of the Child Jesus School

Vol 2 Issue 3

December 2010

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Principal's Message

As Christmas quickly approaches, it is our hope that the true giving of Christmas will be reflected in our daily lives at school, at work and at home just as Christ gave Himself to us at His birth.

We wish to thank all our parents, volunteers, Trustees and Superintendent who have given us so much help and have willingly assisted both students and staff throughout the first few months of school. Although we are all very busy this time of year, let's find the time to

pause and give our attention to those close to us and let them know you see the light of Christ in them. Let us also remember those who are sick, who are suffering and who are alone or in need.

Let us reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the spirit of the season. Remind them that they are not alone.

We wish to extend to all members of the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic School community a hope that the Christmas Season will be

filled with the peace and joy of Christ and that the New Year will bring much health and prosperity for all.

*T. DeClerico
Principal*

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

Christmas Events

FAMILY ADVENT MASS

Our school community Advent Family Mass is scheduled for Monday, December 6 at 7p.m. at St. John of the Cross Church. Mark your calendars and please plan to attend.

Our entrance hymn will be 'Breath of Heaven.' Our grade twos and threes will present Jesse Tree symbols following Communion.

Students from many 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 CAROL SING-A-LONG

On our last day of classes before holidays, **December 17 at 11a.m. - 12p.m.**, we will have our traditional Christmas Carol sing-a-long in the gym. Parents are welcome to join us.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Christmas Break is December 20, 2010 to January 1, 2011 inclusive. The last day of classes for students is Friday, December 17th. It is a regular day with dismissal at 3:45 p.m. School will recommence, in the New Year, on Monday, January 3, 2011.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2010-2011

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

MON., DEC. 13, 2010- ONLY- 7-9:00 P.M.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

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

SUN., DEC. 19 7P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

FRI., 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

SATURDAY., DEC 25th

At Church Only: 10 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

5:00 PM at Church

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

SATURDAY, JAN. 1

10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

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

Youth Faith Ambassadors

November has been a busy month with organizing the first Youth Faith Ambassadors Gathering. All students were invited to a liturgy in the Library and St. Therese welcomed over 60 ambassadors to join our school efforts this year. Youth Faith Ambassadors were busy planning the upcoming Virtues Assembly on Hope to take place in the school gym on Thursday December 2nd @ 1:15 p.m. Executive Youth Council Members along with Youth Faith Ambassadors are planning Advent and Spirit Day activities for the students in December. Listen for further information to follow shortly.

Charities



HELPING HANDS CLUB (outreach project): A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Helping hands to keep warm, St. Therese has created a Helping Hands Club. Students volunteer their time creating Christmas cards which are sold at \$1.00 each. The money is used to purchase mittens/gloves to assist children in need in the Dufferin Peel Community. **We are currently looking for parent volunteers to help to make and sell the cards in the school on the days leading up to Christmas.** After the Advent Mass (December 6), Ms. DaCosta will be working with parent and student volunteers on printmaking and preparations for card sales. We invite your participation in this creative charity program.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Throughout November St. Therese of the Child Jesus School collected Canadian Tire money and unwrapped gifts in order to help some of the needy families in the Meadowvale area celebrate Christmas. It's not too late to make a donation, as the drive will continue to December 12. Thank you to all who donated to this very worthy cause.

If you have any questions or have any contacts through your employment that you feel would help enhance our collection, 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 Christmas season.



Fundraisers

HALLOWEEN DANCE-A-THON

A grand total of \$7369.19 was raised through the generous sponsorship of the St. Therese community. The fundraiser was a great success, especially considering that there are forty fewer students attending St. Therese than there were last year. Thank you to the members of School Council for organizing this exciting school event and in particular Anne Haley for heading this fundraiser. Thanks also to the community businesses who donated prizes, Lionheart Restaurant, Streetsville Bowl, Gino's Pizza, Walmart, Mastermind Toys and Best Buy.

QSP MAGAZINES

Order forms have been sent home for the QSP magazines. They make great Christmas gifts!



Sports



JR. VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to players on both the Junior Girls' and Boys' Volleyball teams for their dedication this season. The teams played their final regular season games, keeping playoff hopes alive until the end. Coaches Mills, Davis, Racine, and Gibson congratulate the girls for their skill development over the season. The team members are Mackenzie D., Marilyn H., Kaitlyn L, Sarah M., Cassandra R., Anna Y., Carol R., Kaitlyn A., Julia D., Casey W., Cloe K. and Holly M..

Coaches Ramlogan and Spadafina would like to thank the boys

for their consistent effort this season. The Junior Boys Volleyball team members are Alfonso D., Christopher Z., Bradley H., Noah C., Arthur T., Stefan M., Anthony M., Justin A., Justin S., Gabriel T., and Jett E.

INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL

The Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Basketball Team tryouts will begin in late December or early January. Mr. Bortolotto, Mr. Murray, and our student volunteer, Ben R., look forward to working with the students for another successful basketball year.

Programs

ENGINEERS IN RESIDENCE

The Science Club (EIR Program) will be having its first meeting in the New Year. Stay tuned for updates.

EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION MEETING

Grade 4 parents who may wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2011 are invited to attend an information meeting at St. Therese of the Child Jesus School on **Thursday, January 13, 2011** at 7p.m. As you know, St. Therese of the Child Jesus is the designated Extended French Centre for our area. Admission is based on a lottery system. The Extended French application deadline is February 9, 2011. The lottery for selection into the program is on February 14, 2011. More information and application details will be given at the meeting.

FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION NIGHT

All Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians are welcome to attend one of the following French Immersion information nights:

St. Joachim (Brampton FI sites) - Thursday, January 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Gertrude (Mississauga FI sites) - Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The deadline for French Immersion applications is Wednesday, February 9, 2011.

JK/SK REGISTRATION

Registration for JK/SK will take place on **Monday, February 7, 2011** at 7:00 p.m.

Weather

SNOWY AND COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS

Students are reminded to dress for the weather, and to bring indoor shoes in an effort to keep our floors clean and safe. Every effort will be made to clear snow from the school entrances, sidewalks, etc. throughout the winter months by Mr.

Dias, our Day Custodian. However, if the paths behind the school, accessed from Summer Heights Dr. are not clear, students are to use the paths and sidewalks at the front of the school, as they are prioritized for clearing and salting.

Reminders

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

BUS CANCELLATIONS / SCHOOL CLOSINGS

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

SCHOOL BUS RULES

Please review the following bus rules with your children. Knowledge of these safety tips is important when students travel by bus daily or 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.

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 he or she collects the missed work on the day of 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. 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 grades 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 given specific permission in writing on individual days to leave school property at lunch time, the school cannot assume responsibility for 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 crossing a very busy intersection. Safety tips have been reviewed with the Grade 7's & 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 as well as appropriate conduct in a public setting such as respect for others and respect for property of others would be helpful.

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! Anything not claimed by Dec. 17 will be directed to St. Vincent de Paul.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDS)

The use of personal electronic devices such as cell phones, Gameboys, or Ipods is discouraged at school. Emergency calls can be made at the office. Students who bring PEDS to school risk damage or theft. PEDS must remain in school bags until the end of the day.

Something To Think About

CATHOLIC EDUCATION HISTORY

As you may know, Ontario has a proud history of Catholic Education. However, the continued existence of a separate Catholic school system in Ontario must not be taken for granted. The following is an excerpt from *An Historical Understanding of Key Issues Related to Catholic Education*:

1. How long have Catholic separate schools been educating Catholic children and contributing to the public good in Ontario?

For about 170 years. In the early 1800s there were separate schools in many cities, towns and townships. In Peel, three separate schools opened before Confederation (1867): St. James in Malton in the 1830s, St. John's Agricultural College (1861) and St. Patrick's (1861), both in Wildfield.

2. Has the Ontario government always supported separate schools?

Yes, as did its predecessor, the United Legislature of Canada East (now Quebec) and Canada West (now Ontario) during its total life from 1841 to 1867. One of the first pieces of legislation it passed in 1841 was the *Common School Act*, with a separate school clause.

ATTACHED

1. December calendar of student activities.
2. Bus Cancellations/School Closing Due to Bad Weather.
3. Integrated Ridership
4. Home and School Connection



Merry Christmas
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!