

# St. Pio of Pietrelcina Elementary School

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December, 2011 Newsletter

## Principal's Message



Once again, we enter into the season of anticipation beginning with Advent and leading up to Christmas morning. As you walk through the doors of St. Pio of Pietrelcina School, you will see in our foyer, our Angel Tree. Walk into any classroom and you will see the signs of preparation for this special time of the year. All around us we are reminded that Christmas is coming. As a Catholic educational community, we pause once again to retell our biblical story of Jesus' birth. We invite our students to reflect on this story and the meaning of it for them today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our St. Pio community for their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence in support of our students and Catholic Education!

May the true spirit of Christmas bring you much happiness and best wishes for a Christmas that is filled with joy and a New Year that is bright with blessings!

### Advent Mass

Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:15 a.m. in the gym.  
All are welcome!

### Kindergarten Christmas Concert

Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:45 p.m. in the gym.

### Grades 1 - 5 Christmas Concert

Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>  
At 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

## *Advent*

*Most Holy God,  
as we prepare to celebrate  
your coming among us,  
help us to open our hearts to  
your presence during this  
Advent Season.*

*May we discover you in  
those with whom we live and  
work, especially the  
struggling and the needy.*

*May we find words of  
gratitude for what we have  
and words of encouragement  
for those who despair.*

*May we desire the coming of  
your kingdom not just at the  
end of time,  
but as a renewal of our  
hearts this very day*

*Amen*

Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer. St. Pio of Pietrelcina

## *Celebrating Advent*

At St. Pio of Pietrelcina, we ensure that Advent is a time where we emphasize charity and social justice. The following activities demonstrate how the staff and students at St. Pio of Pietrelcina are committed to helping others:

### *Angel Tree*

Thank you to those families who have already contributed. Your generosity is very much appreciated. We will continue to collect for this worthy cause until Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the letter that was sent home.



### *Food Drive*

We will again be asking for your assistance to make Christmas a joyful occasion for all the people in our community. Please make a food donation to contribute to the table of our neighbours less fortunate than ourselves. The food collected will be delivered to needy families within Dufferin-Peel.

### *Christmas Concert*

Please join us on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at **6:30 p.m.** for our “Christmas” presentation. Students from Grades 1 to grade 5 will be performing. More details to follow.

### *Kindergarten Christmas Concert*

The three Kindergarten Classes will be performing on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at **1:45 p.m.** in the gym. Hope to see you there.

### *Christmas Vacation*



Christmas vacation runs from Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, inclusive. School resumes on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. **The last day of school for students is Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.**

### *School Council Update*

A **St. Michael's Majors Community Event** is being planned by our School Council. The St. Pio of Pietrelcina school choir has been invited to perform at the Mississauga St. Michael's Majors game against Erie on **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.** We will begin selling tickets in the upcoming weeks at a discounted price. Please mark this date on your calendars. This will make

a great Christmas gift for any hockey lover on your list. More information to follow.

A “**movie/pyjama day**” is being planned for Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> during the school day. More details to follow.

Please join us at our next council meeting on **Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012** at 7:00 pm at St. Pio. The meetings are open to all (adults only).

### *December Virtue – Hope*

This month we will celebrate the Virtue of Hope. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. 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.

#### **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 would appreciate your support in discussing this virtue with your child and encouraging behaviours that would demonstrate this virtue.

### *Remembrance Day at St. Pio*

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Miss Campbell's and Miss Federico's students led our Remembrance Day service. The students acted out the meaning of a song about the difficulties of war. They also shared poems and stories that they wrote from the perspective of people directly affected by war. It was truly a meaningful and memorable experience for the entire school. Thank you to Miss Campbell and Miss Federico and their students.

### *Late Arrivals*

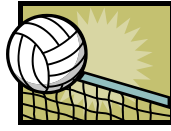
Being on time is a life skill which students need in order to be successful in the future. A student is considered late if the school bell has rung and they are not in line and entering the school with their classmates. Being consistently and continuously late interrupts the classroom during lessons, creates delays in the office and sets a poor example for those who do arrive on time. Please note that a letter will be sent home to those students who are habitually late and the school



Social Worker may be involved in order to correct these late arrivals.

### ***Junior Girls Volleyball***

Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team for a wonderful season. They made it to the Mississauga East Family Tournament with 3 wins and 2 losses. Team members are Danielle A., Danica B. Jade C., Marisa C., Nicole E., Leah F., Sydney R., Kyla S., and Kimberly T. Thanks to the coaches, Mr. Fahn and Mrs. Curran and their assistants, Sherina S., John B. and Kalli T.



reminded about how their talents and gifts correspond with their future goals as youth faith ambassadors. It was a wonderful and memorable opportunity for the ambassadors to continue to give honour and glory to God through prayer and communion.

By Lauren B. and Sarah R.

### ***The ECO Team has begun!***

During the month of November, students from all divisions have been meeting to discuss how we can make St. Pio a more eco-friendly environment. Our goal is to become certified as an ECO school which means we will be “graded” on our activities later in the year. Some of the initiatives we plan on doing are: recycle and garbage audits, awareness campaigns, re-use paper boxes in each classroom, waste-free lunches and turning off lights and computers when they are not in use. We thank you in advance for all your efforts to help us achieve our goal of becoming a more eco-friendly school. Stay tuned for more information in our next newsletter!

### ***Junior Boys Volleyball***

Congratulations to the Junior Boys team for making it to the Mississauga East Family Tournament on Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Their record was 4 wins and 1 loss for the season. Team members include: Thevin M., Malachi P., Joshua B., Desmond O., Glory S., Nicholas C., Dylan C., Casper B., Reuben C., and Keegan D. Many thanks to Miss Naccarato and her assistants Jahnay P. and Thenuk M.



### ***P.A.L.S***

The P.A.L.S. program is up and running at St. Pio during the lunch hour recesses three days per week. Thanks to the following students for volunteering to be PALs leaders this year: Alvin S., Tommy T., Benjamin K., Jade C., Danielle A., Marissa C., Michelle D., Danica B., Andrea S., Cristine V., Angeli L., Rachel D., Dorina H., and Joseph G. They are excited about sharing their leadership talents by teaching cooperative games to the primary students. Thank you to Mrs. Gonano and Mrs. Livermore for their leadership and dedication to this program.

### ***Athletic Leadership Council***

The Athletic Council consists of a teacher and grade 7 and 8 students. This council will be responsible for running the Intramural program, as well as various other athletic events at St. Pio. This year’s council consists of Raquel L., Jahnay P., Thenuk M., Patrisha U., Jessica S., Harris W., Michael U., Lorenzo D. and Miss Naccarato.

### ***Youth Faith Ambassadors***

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, several of St Pio’s Youth Faith Ambassadors attended a Commissioning Mass at Cristo Rei Church. During the mass, the students were

#### **Dates to Remember**

Dec. 24 to Jan. 8 – Christmas Break

Jan. 9 – First day back in the new year

**Jan. 16 – P.A. Day (report card writing – no school)**

Jan. 17 – School Council meeting

Jan. 25 – French Café

Jan. 27 – Kick off assembly- fundraiser

Jan. 31 – Report cards are sent home

Feb. 2 – Interview evening

**Feb. 3 – P.A. Day – reporting to Parents –( no school)**

Feb. 10 – Jump/Shoot Hoops for Pio – Major fundraiser

Feb. 16 – Grad Photos

**Feb. 20 – Family Day (no school)**

**FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION**

**MEETING**

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

*School: St. Gertrude School*  
*Address: 815 Ceremonial Drive*  
*Date: Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012*  
*Time: 7:00 p.m.*

The deadline for submission of Applications will be **2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION**

**MEETING**

Grade 4 parent(s)/guardian(s), who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September, 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

*School: San Lorenzo Ruiz School*  
*Address: 100 Barondale Drive*  
*Date: Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012*  
*Time: 7:00 p.m.*

At the present time, the above mentioned school is the designated centre for our area. Applications will be accepted at that centre until **3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**Junior, Senior and Full-Day Kindergarten Registration for 2012-13**

Registration for Junior, Senior and Full-Day Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, will take place at all Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton and Orangeville on the following days:

**Monday, February 6, 2012\***

7:00-9:00 p.m.

\*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012**

9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

For more information, visit the [Kindergarten Registration](http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/Schools/Kindergarten+Registration.htm) webpage.  
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/Schools/Kindergarten+Registration.htm>

**2012 JK/SK and Full Day Kindergarten Entry Planning for Students with Special Needs**

There will be an information session for parent(s)/guardian(s) of children with special needs such as vision, hearing, autism, physical/medical and/or developmental delays who are entering JK, SK or Full Day Kindergarten in September 2012. The information session will be held at the **Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board -- Catholic Education Centre, Room 301 on January 17, 2012 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are also reminded to register their child at our school office. Official Registration Dates are February 6, 8, 9 and 10, 2012. Snow Date is February 7, 2012.