



# St. Mark School

## St. Mark School

**December 2011**

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*Loving God, you send us your son, Jesus. Help us to open our hearts in welcome to receive Jesus with joy. May we share his comforting love and live in his peace and justice.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen*

### *Principal's Message*

*December is upon us! It is a very special and sacred month. During this Advent season, let us keep in mind the needs of everyone in our community, as we focus on family and Christmas traditions. Christmas Day is a day to celebrate and enjoy family and friends. I look forward to being in Boston with my family! The warmth of the season, as well as the hustle and bustle, has begun. Let us all remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the spirit of giving. Please welcome Mrs. Paschalis, who is teaching Mrs. Ceccomancini's Grade 4/5 class until the end of the school year. Congratulations to Mrs. Ceccomancini and to her husband on the birth of their son, Nicholas.*

*I hope you will join us for our assemblies and the Primary Christmas Concert. We are pleased to highlight the talents of your children. We will be supporting the St. Ignatius Loyola Parish St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Drive. Please consider donating to help this worthy cause. When we return in the New Year, I hope we will all be rested and rejuvenated. Thank you for your continued support and I wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas.*

*God Bless,*

*Connie Gale*

## School Assembly and Sing-A-Long

Thank you to Ms. Jackson, Mr. Kennedy and to the Steps to Faith Band and Singers for providing the music during the November Remembrance Day Assembly. Thank you to Mrs. Keddy's Grade 7/8 class for hosting last month's assembly and to our special guest, Capt. Rick Towey from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Our school Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Legere, will be filling the halls with their enthusiastic voices over our Christmas season, and leading our school in song at the **Christmas Assembly on Friday, December 23 at 10:30 am.**



### Advent Mass

Please join us at our **Advent Mass and Enrolment Ceremony for 1st Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 6 at 10:30 am** in our school gym. Our school choir will be singing under the direction of Mrs. Legere.

## St. Vincent de Paul—Angel Tree

St. Mark School will once again be supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. You can come into the school and select a gift tag from our Angel Tree to purchase gifts for specific family members, or other items such as grocery store gift certificates, movie passes and pizza vouchers. If selecting a gift for a specific family member, please have it pre-wrapped with the gift tag attached to the gift. The Angel Tree will be located in the front foyer. Please have all gifts sent to the school by **Friday, December 16, 2011.** Thank you to Mrs. Kuta and Ms. Ramelli for coordinating this event.

## Virtues

This month we celebrate the Virtue of Hope. 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. God helps us to keep on working for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged. People of Hope...keep up a positive attitude, can bounce back from tough situations, set and stick to their goals. 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.

PEOPLE OF HOPE...

- EXPECT THE BEST TO HAPPEN FOR EVERYONE
- HOLD ON TO THEIR DREAMS
- ALWAYS COUNT ON GOD TO HELP THEM IN TOUGH SITUATIONS
- TRUST THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT IN GOD'S WAY
- LOOK FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO COME OUT OF PROBLEMS
- ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO LIFE'S BLESSINGS
- SET AND STICK TO THEIR OWN GOALS

**HOPE**

## Primary Christmas Concert: Miracle on Bethlehem Street



Parents are invited to join us the Primary Christmas concert, performed by Grades 1 to 3. The performance is entitled "**Miracle on Bethlehem Street**". Teachers are preparing their students for this performance. The Primary concert has a dress rehearsal on **Tuesday, December 20 at 9:00 am**, and on **Wednesday, December 21 a concert performance at 7:00 pm**

**A \$5.00 family donation towards ShareLife will be accepted at the door.**

## Kindergarten Christmas Concert

Mrs. Pereira's Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes will have their **Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16 at 9:30 am** for the **morning JK/SK class** and at **1:30 pm** for the **afternoon JK/SK class.**

## Dry Feet, Dry Clothing and Staying in for Recess

Colder weather is upon us! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots. As the rainy season gives way to slush and snow, all students are reminded to bring an extra pair of shoes to wear indoors during the winter months. Fire regulations dictate that all students must have footwear on at all times.

In anticipation of a cold and snowy winter, we would also like to advise parents of children in the primary grades to send an extra set of clothes (track pants, sweatshirts, socks and underwear) to school. These clothes will be kept at the school to be used when the child is wet from playing in the snow.

In colder weather we often receive requests to allow children to remain indoors when they have a cold, flu, etc. Please note that we cannot comply, as we have neither the facilities nor the staff to supervise these students. If you feel your child is not well enough to go outside, it would be best for you to keep your child at home. **REMEMBER: Health Officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial as long as students are dressed appropriately.**

On extremely cold days, when the wind-chill factor exceeds minus 20C, we limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and following School Board guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, all children will go out for recess and the lunch breaks.

## St. Ignatius Loyola Community Concert

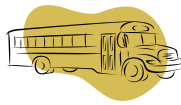
Everyone is invited to come out on **Friday, December 9** to the St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Community Christmas Concert for an evening of music, songs, skits and Christmas cheer. The Loyola Music Ministry and our community of schools are hosting this truly unique and special evening ushering in the Christmas season. We look forward to hearing our **St. Mark School "Steps to Faith"** music ensemble perform that evening. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the concert will take place from **7:00-8:30 pm**.

## Snowballs



Just a reminder...Please emphasize to your children that School/Board policy **DOES NOT ALLOW THROWING SNOWBALLS, KICKING SNOW, OR "SNOWING" OTHERS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**. Please remind your children of the seriousness of these activities and the possible danger, for those hit.

## Bus Cancellations/School Closing



During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. **A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually made by 6:00 am and will be announced on the local and TV and radio stations. (Please see insert in newsletter for further info.)**

## Kindergarten Registration

JK/SK Registration Monday, February 6, 2012  
7:00-9:00 pm  
JK/SK Registration Wednesday, Thursday &  
Friday, Feb 8-10, 2012  
9:00-11:00 am 1:00-3:00 pm

**Snow Date Only: Tues. Feb. 7, 2012 7:00-9:00 pm**

JK—Children must be 4 years old by December 31, 2012  
SK—Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2012

- Proof of age (Birth Certificate)
- Original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate for child and/or parent/guardian or baptismal certificate from an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome. *If the child has not been baptized, and the parent/guardian is baptized Roman Catholic or is baptized from an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome, the parent/guardian must bring their own baptismal certificate.*
- Updated immunization records
- Proof of Canadian citizenship (Birth Certificate or Passport) or of Landed Immigrant status
- Proof of address (tax or utility bill)

*\*All documentation must be submitted in English*

## Peel Health

Peel Public Health will be offering Meningitis immunization for Gr. 7 students and HPV (Dose #2) for Gr. 8 female students. Immunization against Meningitis/HPV continues to be voluntary

and a parent/legal guardian must authorize immunization for all students under the age of 14 years. Our school clinic date is on **Monday, February 6, 2012.**

## Extended French in Dufferin-Peel

Any student who is eligible to attend a Dufferin-Peel Catholic school and who is presently a Gr. 4 student is eligible to enroll in the Extended French program for Gr. 5 in September, 2012. A parent/guardian information meeting is on:

**January 18, 2012 St. Christopher 905-822-0721**  
**Wednesday 1195 Clarkson Road North**  
**7:00 pm Mississauga**

## French Immersion in Dufferin-Peel

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

French Immersion centres	Session location	Date and time
Our Lady of Providence St Angela Merici St Joachim	St Joachim	Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012 7:00 pm
Divine Mercy St Elizabeth Seton St Margaret of Scotland	St Margaret of Scotland	Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 7:00 pm
St Gertrude St Pio of Pietrelcina	St Gertrude	Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 7:00 pm

## School Council

Pizza and Sub Days—we have switched pizza vendors to Pizza Pizza for the duration of this session. Pizza and Sub lunch order forms will be sent home on **Monday, January 9**, for the new year. Our next school council meeting is on **Monday, December 12 at 7:00 pm**. Please join us after the meeting for our Christmas Social.

## Fundraising Update

We have completed our fall fundraising with the Entertainment Book orders. The top selling class was Mrs. Paquin's Gr. 5/6 class. The class has won the Sundae Party as well as a gift basket for Mrs. Paquin. Our school profit was \$2,196.

## Loyola Catholic S.S. Information Night for Gr. 8

On **December 13 and 14** Loyola Catholic S.S. will have an Information Night for current Gr. 8 students and their parents. Please visit their website for further updates at:

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/LOYOL>

Loyola Catholic S.S., 3566 South Common Court  
Mississauga. For more information, call 905-820-9822

## From Your Catholic School Trustee, Wards 2 & 8—Sharon Hobin

Well the school year is moving quickly as it always does (especially as we get older)! I am pleased to report that to date this has been a wonderful start up with many exciting events happening in our schools. Thanks to everyone who organized the many tributes to our veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Both my parents were veterans of World War II. It is very important that our children know and understand the terrific sacrifice made in the past and continues to be made by our armed forces. As the Christmas season approaches it also means it is time for the school board to hold its elections for chair and vice chair as well as committees chairpersons. The organization board meeting will be on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Information as to who has been elected will be on our board web site at [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org).

We welcome the opening of another Catholic school in Brampton. Our Lady of Lourdes opened its doors in September. It will serve a large population in the Brampton area and is predicted to grow in numbers every year. The new Loyola is moving along and is right on time if not ahead of schedule. We look forward to the opening in September. Course choices will include many of the new programs. And while writing about Loyola, sincere congratulations to the Loyola Senior Girls Basketball team for winning the AAA (ROPSSAA) Tier 2 Championship. This is Loyola's 27th championship team in the last eight years. Congratulations also go to the entire Cross Country team! They participated in the ROPSSAA championship on October 28th. It was a very cold day and the course was muddy but this did not deter the Loyola Warriors for a ROPSSAA gold medal!!! Many of our elementary schools are winning Family and board wide championships as well...too many to list. Sincere congratulations to all.

Congratulations to MPP Laurel Broten who has been appointed Minister of Education. We look forward to a positive partnership and wish her all the best in her endeavours. Congratulations to MPP Bob Delaney who has been appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education.

We will be inviting our local MPPs to meet with the board of Trustees and senior staff in the New Year to discuss goals, concerns and issues. I hope that our local MPP will be able to attend.

I am hoping that you will make an effort to attend your Catholic school council meetings. This is an opportunity for you to hear the latest news about your children's school and to ask pertinent questions. Thank you so much to our school council members and volunteers for your time and talent.

As I visit my schools I am acutely aware of our outward signs of our Catholicity. It is crucial that we continue to make our elected representatives aware that we expect that they will stand for Catholic education in this province. I wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. May the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.

## Dates to Remember

- Dec. 2** Gr 7 & 8 Crack Pot Studio at School  
Pizza Day
- Dec. 5** Lunch Lady
- Dec. 6** Advent Mass & 1st Reconciliation Enrollment @ 10:30 am—school gym
- Dec. 7** Sub Lunch
- Dec. 9** Pizza Lunch  
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Community Concert  
St. Mark School "Steps to Faith" doors open @ 6:30 pm, 7:00-8:30 pm concert.
- Dec. 12** Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm, followed by Christmas Social  
Lunch Lady
- Dec. 13** Jr. Div. Pantomime "Wizard of Oz"  
SeeHear Clinic  
Loyola Catholic S.S. Gr 8 Parent Info. Night
- Dec. 14** Sub Lunch  
SeeHear Clinic  
Loyola Catholic S.S. Gr 8 Parent Info. Night
- Dec. 16** Kindergarten Christmas Concert @ 9:30 am and 1:30 pm  
Angel Tree St. Vincent de Paul—due date  
Pizza Lunch
- Dec. 19** Lunch Lady
- Dec. 20** Primary Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal @ 9:00 am
- Dec. 21** Primary Christmas Concert @ 7:00 pm  
**Sub Lunch—new orders begin in January 2012**
- Dec. 23** Christmas Assembly Sing-A-Long @ 10:30 am  
**Pizza Lunch—new orders begin in January 2012**  
**Christmas Break Dec. 26 2011-Jan. 6 2012**
- Jan. 8** Epiphany
- Jan. 9** Classes Resume  
Lunch Lady
- Jan. 11** French Immersion Parent Info. Mtg. @ 7:00 pm at St. Margaret of Scotland School
- Jan. 13** Silvercreek Gr 4 Johnson
- Jan. 16** **PA Day Term 1 Report Card Preparation**  
Lunch Lady
- Jan. 17** Terms 2 Begins
- Jan. 18** Extended French Parent Info. Mtg. @ 7:00 pm at St. Christopher School
- Jan. 19** All Saints Intermediate Hockey Tournament @ Erin Mills Twin Arena
- Jan. 20** Silvercreek Gr 5/6 Paquin, Gr 7&8 Living Arts
- Jan. 23** Lunch Lady
- Jan. 24** All Saints Intermediate Hockey Tournament @ Erin Mills Twin Arena
- Jan. 25** Comic Workshop Gr 2-6 1:15-2:00 pm
- Jan. 26** All Saints Intermediate Hockey Tournament @ Erin Mills Twin Arena
- Jan. 30** Lunch Lady
- Jan. 31** **Term 1 Report Cards Sent Home**  
All Saints Intermediate Hockey Tournament @ Erin Mills Twin Arena
- Feb. 2** **Term 1 Reporting to Parents 7:00-9:00 pm**
- Feb. 3** **PA Day—Term 1 Reporting to Parents**