



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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<http://w3.dpcdsb.org/HOFAM>

December 2009



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

P. McMorrow
1-800-387-9501

TRUSTEE

F. Di Cosola
(905) 951-8898

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Pastor: Fr. Larry Leger
Asst. Pastor: Fr. Sherwin
Holandez
(905) 857-1938

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Chair: Sandro Scerni
Treasurer: J. Mondello

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

“Hope”

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost.
 To heal the broken.
 To feed the hungry.
 To release the prisoner.
 To rebuild the nations.
To bring peace amongst brothers and sisters.
To make music in the heart.

(Howard Thurman.)

Please join the Holy Family School community on Wednesday, December 9th, as we celebrate our Advent Mass with Father Leger at our Parish Church. Our Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m. Following the mass, families are invited back to our school to view the decorations/crafts made by your children and get into the festive spirit. Light refreshments will be provided for parents and children in the gym, compliments of our School Council. We are looking forward to seeing many of our community parents and students, as we come together in preparation and celebration.



Message from the Principal

This past Sunday, we celebrated the first Sunday of Advent. The word Advent is a Latin word that means “the coming.” In the Liturgical calendar, the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day, Christians all over the world prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord into the world, through the birth of Jesus.



During the busy holiday season it is easy to get so caught up in the preparations and festivities that we forget to take time to reflect and give thanks. I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks:

- for the students of Holy Family School; for their warmth and enthusiasm;
- to the staff of Holy Family School. A hard working, dedicated and talented group that ensure the students are learning in a safe, stimulating and Catholic environment;
- to the parents and guardians for their support and generosity;
- to our Trustee and our Superintendent for their continual guidance and support;
- to the School Council who have worked so hard at providing valuable and positive enhancements that assist in the education of the students;
- to Father Larry and Father Sherwin for the Masses and celebrations that they share with us; for the class visits and for their support.



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 extend to all members of the Holy Family 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.

Christmas Break

Christmas break will commence on Monday, December 21st, 2009. The last day for school will be on Friday, December 18th, 2009. School will commence in the New Year on Monday, January 4th, 2010.



Elementary Report Cards and Conferences

The Student/Parent/Teacher Interview is designed to complement the Ontario Report Card by enabling parents to communicate with teachers, to offer useful information and to ask relevant questions about their child’s progress in order to support their child’s learning.



A formal written report will be sent home on Tuesday, December 1st, 2009. Interviews will be held during the evening on Thursday, December 3rd and during the day on Friday, December 4th, 2009, or at other times by mutual agreement. Please note, Friday, December 4th is a P.A. Day, and there will be no school for students on that day. Parents will receive an interview confirmation form with their child’s report card. Every attempt will be made to ensure interview times for families with more than one child attending the school are scheduled close together.

Book Fair News

Holy Family will be hosting a Scholastic book fair in the library, from December 3rd to the 8th. Flyers with attached wish lists will be sent home with students prior to the fair. Classes will be invited to view all the new and exciting books at the book fair and make wish lists on December 3rd. Parents are invited to visit the fair during the December 3rd and December 4th interviews and fill out a ballot to win \$25 in free books for your child, as well as for their child’s teacher.



Looking forward to seeing everyone at the book fair!
Mr. Hill

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

On Tuesday, December 15th Santa Claus will be visiting Holy Family School. Students from kindergarten to grade 4 will be spending some quality time with Santa. Santa will be telling stories, singing songs and playing games with our students.



Youth Faith Ambassadors

On Wednesday, December 2nd, the Youth Faith Ambassadors are organizing a full day, school wide retreat for Advent. The day includes an opening and closing liturgy and various activities in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Thank you to Father Larry who will be celebrating our closing liturgy with us and blessing our classroom wreaths.

On behalf of Caledon Community Services, Holy Family will be collecting knitted items (hats, mittens, socks, etc.) and unwrapped new toys for members of our community in need. Also, we will be collecting nickels, dimes and quarters as part of our “Silver Christmas” cash donation. Please think about those who are less fortunate and donate what you can for this worthy cause. Items may be brought to the school with your child from December 2nd to December 11th. Donations of gift wrap to decorate toy boxes and gifts would also be appreciated.

Mme. Fazio and Mlle. D’Alessandro

Hope

During the month of December, we will be focusing on 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. 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. When we look at the world through the eyes of God we see it becoming more and more like the reign of God that Jesus describes.

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

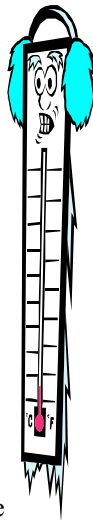


Snow and Ice

Please remind your children that their safety is of the utmost importance to us. Snow is always to stay on the ground. Snowball throwing, kicking snow or ice, or throwing snow at anyone is not tolerated here at Holy Family School. The playground climber is also now closed for the winter to ensure the safety of our students.

Winter Weather Reminders

The snow is coming! Please assist us in encouraging your children to dress appropriately for the cold weather. Please ensure that your child is wearing his/her boots, hats, gloves and scarves. We want our students to feel comfortable outdoors and not get chilled because of inappropriate winter dress. Except under unusual conditions, students will go outside during recess and lunch hour. The outdoor break allows for fresh air and exercise. Health officials indicate that the fresh air is good for children...not harmful, as long as students are dressed properly.



For our younger students, it would be helpful if parents were to label items of clothing with their child's name, so that each person can more easily locate his/her own clothing from the class coat rack area. Each term many items make their way to the "Lost and Found" bin and are never claimed. Labelled items can be returned more easily and mixed up items sorted out more readily. If your child brings home any clothing item by mistake, please return it to the school so that this mix up may be corrected. **Also, please ensure that your child has an extra change of clothing (socks and pants) stored in their back pack. This will help prevent phone calls home when your child comes to the office with wet clothing.**

Indoor Footwear

Students are expected to wear shoes in the school building at all times. Please note that in the event of an emergency evacuation, students will not have the opportunity to put on shoes, boots, clothing articles, etc. Please ensure that your

child has an extra pair of shoes at school, to keep their feet dry and warm during wet and/or snowy weather.

Catholic School Council

The next Holy Family School Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. We want to extend a special invitation to families who have just joined the community of Holy Family. Please come out and enjoy meeting some of the parents of the school community. As always, all parents are invited to attend the meeting.



Q.S.P. - Give the Gift of Reading All Year Long!

Are you looking for great holiday gifts for family and friends? Do you need gift ideas? You can go shopping online at www.qsp.ca and purchase magazine subscriptions. At the same time, you will be supporting Holy Family. Subscriptions can be sent to any Canadian address. There is a great selection of children's subscriptions and Q.S.P. offers complimentary e-card services too. If you ever have any questions about magazine orders, call Q.S.P. directly at 1-800-667-2536. Last year's best sellers include: People, Reader's Digest, Canadian Living, Maclean's, ChickaDEE, Canadian House and Home, Sports Illustrated and Chatelaine.



Pizza Day

Each and every Thursday is Pizza Day at Holy Family. Our next Pizza Day is on Thursday, December 3rd. Please note that our pizza supplier is Pizza Pizza. All their pizza products are nut free and abide by the government policy of 0% trans fats. A note to parents that have children who are allergic to shell fish; shrimp is on the Pizza Pizza menu and as a result, some products may come into contact with the shrimp.



Lunch Lady

Lunch Lady offers a hot lunch program every Monday. Orders can be submitted online or dropped off in the office at anytime. You can access the online order form through our website.

Student Council

Here is what your Student Council is working on for the month of December:

- Secret Santa Candy Cane sales began on Friday, November 27th and will continue through to Monday, December 7th. Send a Candy Cane to your special someone.
- Plans are in the process for a class contest for Christmas, which will involve decorating in preparation Christmas.
- We are also planning a few spirit days as we count down to the holidays.



Your Student Council wishes you a healthy and happy holiday!

Bullying Prevention Initiative Corner

Our Bullying Prevention message for December is that “We all want to feel included.” Our focus is on including and accepting others. The key message underscores the idea that all of us desire the same thing and we all have some responsibility in creating an atmosphere that is inclusive. Everyone wants to know they have a friend by their side. This month we want everyone to try and include people who may not feel as if they are included in everything. Maybe you might just put a smile on their faces. There is always room for one more friend, one more happy face. And remember, if you’re not a part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.

St. Michael High School Update

At a meeting on October 13th, it was concluded that St. Michael will not proceed with the option to include grade eleven into the St. Michael school formation in September 2010.

Catholic Ratepayers – Check your Tax Bill to Ensure Proper Tax Support

If you are a Catholic ratepayer, we urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to your local Catholic school board, in our case, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. If you are a tenant, you can verify your support by contacting our Admissions Department at (905) 890-0708, ext. 24511, 24512, or 24519, or your local municipal office. By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter, you can help deliver a powerful message to the government about the level of support for publically-funded Catholic education in Ontario. In order to be eligible to vote for your local Catholic school board trustee, you must be registered as a separate school supporter.

Voluntary, Confidential First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-Identification Policy

In keeping with our tradition of honouring the diversity of our community and in special recognition of unique gifts and learning needs of the First Peoples within our board and across Ontario, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is providing an opportunity for students to self-identify their First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) ancestry in a voluntary and confidential manner. The process supports the Ministry of Education’s Ontario *First Nation, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework Document 2007*. This program will allow the Board to provide expanded supports to first Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Self-Identification Policy, which responds to the Ministry of Education’s *Ontario First Nations, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework Document 2007*, expresses our commitment to educational needs of our First People as follows:

- Current students and their families can declare their First Nation, Métis or Inuit Ancestry on the voluntary, confidential form that was distributed this month;
- New students will have the opportunity to have their status recorded when the Student registration Form is being completed;
- Students under the age of eighteen wishing to identify will require parental/guardian approval,

- The Board will collect data on First Nation, Métis and Inuit students’ academic success and provide appropriate program supports as indicated;
- No individual student data will ever be reported. Our goal is to identify trends and support our Aboriginal learners’ achievement up to and including graduation;
- Personal information collected is pursuant to all confidentiality requirements.

Dates To Remember

Dec. 1	Report Cards Go Home
Dec. 3	PIZZA DAY
Dec. 3	Parent/Student/Teacher interviews
Dec. 3 – 4	Book Fair in Library
Dec. 4	P.A. Day – Parent/Student/Teacher interviews — No school for students
Dec. 7	Hot Lunch
Dec. 7 – 8	Book Fair in Library
Dec. 9	Advent Mass – 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 10	PIZZA DAY
Dec. 11	Skating – Gr. 1 & 2
Dec. 11	Youth Faith Ambassadors @ Davis Centre
Dec. 14	Hot Lunch
Dec. 14	Catholic School Council Meeting
Dec. 15	Santa Claus visits Holy Family—K - Gr. 4
Dec. 17	PIZZA DAY
Dec. 18	Last day of classes
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Jan. 1	New Year’s Day
Jan. 4	First day of classes
Jan. 4	Hot Lunch
Jan. 7	PIZZA DAY
Jan. 8	Skating – Gr. 5 & 6
Jan. 8	Youth Faith Ambassadors @ Davis Centre
Jan. 11	Hot Lunch
Jan. 12	Early Release Day
Jan. 13	SeeHear Clinic
Jan. 14	SeeHear Clinic
Jan. 14	PIZZA DAY
Jan. 15	Skating – Gr. 3 & 4
Jan. 18	Hot Lunch
Jan. 21	PIZZA DAY
Jan. 21	Skating – Gr. 1 & 2
Jan. 22	Youth Faith Ambassadors @ Davis Centre
Jan. 25	Hot Lunch
Jan. 28	PIZZA DAY
Jan. 28	Skating – Gr. 7 & 8

