



St. Philip School

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www.dpcdsb.org/PHILP



December 2011 - Volume 4

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Parish

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Pastor

Fr. Carlos Macatangga



Principal's Message

What a joy it was to celebrate our **Family Advent Mass** together as a school community on December 1st at Cristo Rei Church! Thank you to all the families who were able to join us, and a very special thank you to all the members of our **School Choir** whose angelic voices greatly added to the beauty of the evening. Congratulations, also, to our **Grade 8 students** who took their first step in receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation** by presenting themselves to Father Carlos at our Advent Mass.

The Advent Mass was just the first event in a very busy December as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. December's **virtue of hope** will be the focus of our **liturgy in the school gym on Friday, December 9th at 9:00 AM**, and the **band from Fr. Michael Goetz will perform a Christmas Concert in our gym on Friday, December 16th at 9:00 AM**. We will also have a **School – Wide Advent Retreat on Thursday, December 22nd**. We will end our day with an **Advent liturgy in the gym at 2:20 PM**. Please feel free to join us at the school for any of these events!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank **Mrs. Taylor** for her many years of service to the children at St. Philip School. As many of you are likely already aware, Mrs. Taylor announced her well-deserved retirement effective November 30th. Mrs. Taylor has taught at St. Philip since it opened in 1997, and she has touched the hearts of so many members of our community over the years! We wish Mrs. Taylor well as she embarks on this new chapter in her life, and we thank her for the love and dedication she has brought to the students at St. Philip School.

We welcome to St. Philip School, as our new Gr. 1 teacher, Ms. Roy. Ms. Roy has been a teacher in Ontario classrooms for over eight years, and she brings a wealth of experience and professional knowledge to our school.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas season!

Mr. G. Hilton
Principal

FAITH FOCUS

DECEMBER'S VIRTUE - HOPE

During the month of December we will focus on the virtue of **hope**.

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

Let us pray this month, for the grace and courage to be people of hope – people who can see, participate in and contribute to God's goodness emerging around us.

On Friday, Dec. 9 at 9:00 AM in the school gym we will have our monthly assembly focusing on the Virtue of Hope. The student awards for the month of November will also be given out at this time. As always, parents are welcome to attend!

We want to thank you for supporting our efforts at home in reinforcing with your children the 10 virtues which can be found in your child's agenda.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

One of the many joys of Catholic education is the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the sacraments. Our students in Grade 2 are preparing for the sacrament of First Reconciliation, and we look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion on **Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 PM at Cristo Rei Church**. We will be celebrating this sacrament with the students from Bishop Scalabrini School, Corpus Christi School, and St. Matthew School. Thank you to all our parents for working with us to help prepare your children for this very important step in their faith life.

ANGEL ON THE TREE



Once again the St. Philip Community will be celebrating the season of hope through our Angel on the Tree program. During the Advent Season, our Christmas Tree in the front foyer will have tags with age and gender of needy members of our community. Please choose a tag and register your family name at the front office. Return the unwrapped gift to the school and you will receive an angel with your child's name on it and it will be placed on the tree.

Our goal is to have the tree full of Angels by December 16th, (all gifts due). The gifts will be used to help various families in the community through the Cristo Rei Parish chapter of St.

Vincent de Paul. Thank you for helping members of our community, and thank you for helping your children understand the true meaning of Christmas!

CRISTO REI PARISH – UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 8 - 6:00 Rosary
6:30 bilingual mass - followed by a solemn procession with the image of Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Piat
- Dec 9 - 7 pm Friday - Advent Confession (20 priests available)
- Dec 10 - 7 pm Christmas Music - international - parish choirs and special guests
- Dec 17 - 7 pm Community Christmas Potluck dinner
- Dec 18 - 7 pm parish hall - LIVE Nativity Story (youth group)**
- Christmas Toy Drive - Dec 4-Dec 17 - Squires (youth Knights of Columbus) project
- Christmas Food Drive - please drop non-perishable food donation at the entrance of the church

*See the Life-Size Manger at the front of Cristo Rei Church

ACADEMIC FOCUS

EXTENDED FRENCH PARENT MEETING

Parents of Grade 4 students who wish to enroll their child in Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at **St. Philip School on Wednesday, January 18th, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Applications will be accepted until 3:00 PM on Wednesday, February 8th, 2012.**

JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2012-2013

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

Monday, February 6, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

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

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9, & 10, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by December 31, 2012

Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2012 (It is not necessary to register SK students if they attended St. Philip School for JK)

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child for JK/SK:

- proof of age of the child (birth certificate or passport)
- original Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (for parent/guardian and child) or Baptismal Certificate of other rites in communion with the Holy See of Rome (if the child has not been baptized, a letter of counseling with the parish priest, to complete the process will be accepted)
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian Citizenship or Landed Immigrant status
- proof of home address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- proof of English Separate School Support (may be done at the time of registration by completing an *Application For the Direction of School Support* and/or a *Separate School Lease Agreement* available at the school)

For more information, contact the school office at 905-306-8420.

2012 INFORMATION NIGHT- PLANNING FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ENTERING JK/SK

There will be an information session for parents of children with special needs such as vision, hearing, physical/medical, development or autism who are entering JK, SK in September 2012. The information session will be held at the **DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD- Catholic Education Centre Room 301 on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

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 **St. Gertrude School at 815 Ceremonial Dr. on Thursday, January 12th, 2012 at 7:00 PM.** The deadline for submission of Applications will be **2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 2012.**

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Friday, January 16, 2012 is a Professional Activity Day for teachers. There will be **no school** for students. Teachers will be involved in assessment and evaluation of pupil progress.

COMMUNITY / EXTRA-CURRICULAR FOCUS

SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER – A Message From Your School Council

Our Christmas Season has approached us; the snow has begun to flutter in the skies, and the holiday cheer begins to brighten our days. We, at the St. Philip School Council would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas Season. We wish you love, prosperity, good health, fortune, and most of all, blessings for all that is great to come into each of your lives. We celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th, Christmas Day. Let us remember how blessed we are by sharing with all in our community during this special time of year. Thank you to all families who are supporting needy members of our community through the school's Angel on the Tree program. On behalf of all of us, the School Council will also be participating in this very worthwhile program.

On behalf of the St. Philip School Council we would like to extend our fondest farewell to Mrs. A. Taylor who will be leaving our school to begin a new journey in life. We wish you all the success and greatness in your endeavours, and we thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and love for our children throughout the years. God bless you for always.

Our Chocolate Fundraiser will be held in the new year. More information will follow in our January 2012 newsletter. We continue to seek donations in order to provide our children with great prizes. If you are able to donate a new item, or product, or you are able to obtain an item through your place of business, employment or family/friends, please contact Adelma Alves, Co-Chair for a donation letter through our school office, if you require one. Any donation would be much appreciated, and the children will be thrilled with wonderful prizes. Let's make our first fundraiser of this school calendar year a successful one for our children. Please keep in mind that the funds raised benefits our children at our school. It helps towards, literacy, math, religion, arts, and science programs, and also sports activities. We strive to ensure that St. Philip Catholic Elementary School is blessed with the best possible to strengthen the education of our children.

To date, we have received a few donations; We would like to thank Palma Pasta, and Medieval Times for their generous donations. Our children will truly appreciate your gifts.

The St. Philip School Council is comprised of parents, teachers, a community representative, and our school Principal, who volunteer their time, and efforts to the improvement of both our school, and students. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the staff room. Your involvement, input, and participation is welcome.

Please note the following are the dates of our upcoming meetings:

January 10, 2012
February 7, 2012
March 2012 – no meeting due to March Break
April 3, 2012 and
May 1, 2012.

We invite you, the parents, to attend and participate, share thoughts and ideas, or just attend, and listen.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the St. Philip School Council!

Next School Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2012 @ 6:30 PM



All St. Philip School Parents are invited to join us.

PIZZA DAYS

Thank you for your continued support of Pizza Days. Please remember that the funds raised through our Pizza Days allow the School Council to continue to support many worthwhile activities in our school such as Scientists in the School, Artists in the School, and Gr. 8 Graduation. When you support our Pizza Days, you are supporting these activities!

Pizza Days continue every Thursday in December (Dec. 8, Dec. 15, & Dec. 22).

An order form will be sent home on January 9 for those who would like to order pizza in January and February. There will be no Pizza Day on January 12. The Pizza Days for January & February will be on Jan. 19, Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, & Feb. 23.

We would like to thank Mrs. Eng and Mrs. Alves for ensuring that our students receive their pizza hot and on time on Pizza Day.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST AWARDS

Thank you to all of our students who submitted posters and essays in the Remembrance Day Contest held by the Royal Canadian Legion. Congratulations to Jersey F. in Gr. 8 who won an award in the essay contest. And congratulations to Adam S. & Evelyn L. in Gr. 6 who won awards in the poster contest.



After School Program

PLASP Child Care Services operates an After School Program at this school, and there are currently spaces available.

The **After School Program** begins once school is dismissed and goes until 6:00 p.m. Children participate in recreational activities, are served a nutritious snack daily, and have time for homework.

Fee assistance is available.



To register your child, visit the PLASP Program Director, After School. For further information, call 905.890.1711 or visit the website at www.plasp.com

FATHER MICHAEL GOETZ SECONDARY SCHOOL

As part of our partnership with Father Michael Goetz Secondary School we will, from time to time, provide you with information about important dates or events at Goetz.

Monday January 9	Classes Resume
Thursday January 19	Gr. 9 Math EQAO
Friday January 20	Gr. 9 Math EQAO
Wednesday January 25 -	
Monday January 30	Semester 1 Final Exams
Tuesday January 31	No Classes (Exam day if needed for snow day)
Wednesday February 1	Exam Review Day
Thursday February 2	P.D. Day (No Classes)
Friday February 3	Semester 2 Begins
Wednesday February 8	Gr. 8 Feeder and Public School Info Night
Monday February 20	Family Day Holiday (No Classes)
Wednesday February 22	Ash Wednesday
Monday March 12 – 16	March Break
Wednesday March 21	Parent/Teacher Interview Night
Thursday March 29	Gr. 10 OSSLT Literacy Test
Friday April 6	Good Friday (No Classes)
Monday April 9	Easter Monday (No Classes)
Thursday April 12	Feeder School Dance (Gr. 8)
April 18,19 & 20	School Play (Hairspray)
Friday April 27	Semester 2 Mid Term Report Cards

REGISTRATION FOR SECONDARY WINTER NIGHT SCHOOL

Classes run from February 8 to May 23, 2012, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Night School Locations:

St. Aloysius Gonzaga S.S. (Mississauga)
Philip Pocock S.S. (Mississauga)
Notre Dame S.S. (Brampton)

Registration forms are available from your Guidance Department or online at

<http://www.dpccsb.org/CEC/CNE/Night+School/>

Registration closes Wednesday February 1, 2012.

The **Winter 2012 Adult and Continuing Education Flyer** (with program descriptions) will be delivered to the community by the week of January 2, 2012 and posted online at <http://www.dpccsb.org/CEC/CNE>.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION FOCUS

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The school will be closed for the Christmas Holidays beginning Monday, December 26, 2011 until Friday, January 6, 2012. School resumes Monday, January 9. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PED's) POLICY

As part of our efforts to promote and maintain a positive Catholic climate in our schools, the Board has a policy regarding Personal Electronic Devices (PED's) on school property. All PED's must be kept out of sight, turned off and must not used within school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc. To prevent the loss or damage of PED's, we encourage students to leave their PED's at home, as the school cannot be responsible for their safe keeping. Parental support is requested and greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

The conduct of individual students on the bus directly affects the safety of all the students on the bus. The driver's attention needs to be on the road. If students are misbehaving, this can distract the driver.

We are requesting that all parents/guardians reinforce the **School Bus Safety Rules** with their child(ren).

All Students Should:

- Be at the bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to their stop time. Never play close to the road. Be ready to board the bus by waiting in an orderly line.
- Board the bus in single file, use the handrail and sit down in their seat as quickly as possible.
- Listen to the bus driver.
- Always remain seated while the bus is moving.
- Do not throw anything around the bus or out of the window.
- Keep the aisles clear of all objects (back packs, lunches, books etc.)
- Do not shout or cause any other unnecessary noises. Be especially quiet at railway crossings.
- Never put any part of your body out an open window.
- Be sure to look all ways before crossing the road.
- Do not damage the bus in any way.
- Do not throw garbage on the floor.
- Do not consume any food or drink on the bus.

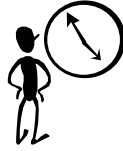
If students fail to follow the bus safety rules, the following actions will be taken.

- First Offence – child is warned by the principal.
- Second Offence – parents will be notified in writing and/or a telephone call.
- Third Offence – student may lose bus privilege.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students journey safely to and from school.

AFTER HOURS SCHOOL ACCESS

Please be reminded that access to the students' classrooms after school is prohibited. Our custodial staff is under strict orders not to allow students and parents to enter classrooms for the purpose of picking up forgotten books or homework.



This is to ensure the safekeeping of the students', teachers' and the school's property. We ask that you respect this school policy and permit Mr. Hernandez and Mrs. Locquiao to perform their custodial duties without interruption.

COLD WEATHER DRESS

Given the weather of the winter season, we ask that students be prepared for outdoor play. This includes proper gloves, hats, scarves, jackets and boots. Board Guidelines indicate that students will generally be outside for lunch and recess when temperatures do not fall below -20 degrees Celsius, with the wind chill. As such, appropriate clothing is essential. In colder weather, we sometimes receive requests to allow children to remain indoors due to colds and flu's. Please note that we cannot comply with these requests as we do not have the resources available to provide this extra supervision. If you feel your child is not well enough to go outside, then that means your child would benefit from further rest at home.



TRANSPORTATION

A decision to cancel school transportation and/or close schools, due to inclement weather is usually made by 6:00 AM. Only the Director of Education has the authority to cancel transportation and/or close schools. **Please see the attached memo with more detailed information about bus and school cancellations.**

A bus cancellation and/or school closure message will also be available online at www.dpcdsb.org or by calling 905-890-1221.

INDOOR FOOTWEAR & EXTRA CLOTHING REQUESTED

Please ensure that students keep a pair of indoor shoes at school so that their feet remain dry and clean at all times. This also helps in keeping our classrooms clean and dry. Storing extra clothing at school such as socks and pants – especially for younger students - is also very helpful during these wet winter months.

DATES TO REMEMBER DECEMBER

- **Wednesday, December 7th**, ...Intermediate Excursion to Father Michael Goetz Secondary School to watch "Kaleidoscope" Performance
- **Thursday, December 8th**, ...Meningitis Clinic Gr. 7; HPV Clinic Gr. 8 girls
- **Monday, December 9th**... Virtues Assembly 9:00 AM in school gym
- **Thursday, December 15th**...Grade 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation at Cristo Rei Church at 7:00 PM
- **Friday, December 16th** ... Fr. Michael Goetz Band Christmas Concert Presentation at 9:00 AM at St. Philip School
- **Thursday, December 22nd**... Advent Retreat Day; Advent Liturgy at 2:20 PM...parents are invited
- **Friday, December 23rd**...Last Day of School before Christmas Break
- **Monday, December 26th to Friday, January 6th**, ...Christmas Holidays

JANUARY

- **Monday, January 9th**...School Resumes
- **Tuesday, January 10th** ... School Council Meeting at St. Philip School at 6:30 PM
- **Friday, January 13th**, ...Self-Control Virtue Liturgy at St. Philip School at 12:45 PM
- **Monday, January 16th** ... PA Day
- **Thursday, January 18th**...Extended French Parent Information Meeting at St. Philip School at 7:00 PM

ATTACHMENTS: • Bus Cancellations/School Closing