



St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School

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December 2, 2011

Newsletter #4

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Bakhita

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Pastor

Fr. Mark

Villanueva

The Memorare of St. Bernard

Remember, O Most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother, to thee I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me.

Amen.

Love, Service

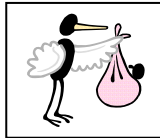
Peace

Excellence

Dear Parents and/or Guardians

Christmas is fast approaching and I realize that it is a busy time in every household. On behalf of the St. Bernard of Clairvaux staff, I would like to wish all our students, parents and school community a joyous and peaceful Christmas Season. We hope families will have an opportunity to share some quiet and relaxing moments together. As we await the coming of our Saviour, let us all make time to remind ourselves that Christ is what Christmas is all about. May God bless you and your families, and hopefully the New Year will bring peace and blessings to all.

Thank you to all the students and staff who have gathered throughout November to prayer the Rosary as a community. It is truly a wonderful opportunity to share this prayer and remember our loved ones. I would especially like to thank our staff and student Faith Ambassadors, who have help to lead our community in these prayers.



I would also like to thank Mrs. Mooney for her dedication to our students and wish her well as she leaves our school to await the arrival of her newborn. Ms. A. Rucurean will be joining our staff taking over the grade 4 class.

Thank you also to all of the wonderful students and families that have helped to support our Family Christmas Basket project as we reach out to ensure other families have a better Christmas season. Your generosity and consideration for others is overwhelming.

Thank you to all the parents who have provided the school with their email address. In January, in an effort to continue to go green and reduce paper, we will be sending out our newsletter via email to these families. All other families will continue to receive a hard copy sent home with their youngest child. If you too would like to receive the monthly newsletters by email, please contact the school and provide us your correct email address. Also please note that our monthly newsletters are also posted onto our school website. <http://www.dpcdsb.org/BRNRD>

Prayer for Christmas Dawn

Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Sincerely yours

Nick Teti



Merry Christmas

Virtues for December Hope

God helps us to keep on working for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged.

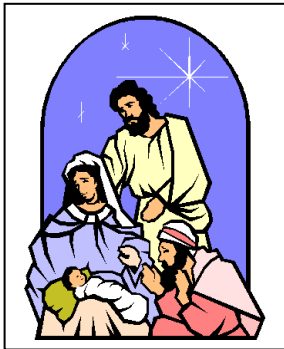
A hopeful person is...

- *inspired and inspires others*
- *always counts on God to help them in tough situations*
- *trusts that things will work out in God's way*
- *one who sees the good in the world*

God has given us this Advent Season to focus our minds and hearts on the good all around us. We believe that God created the world and all of us in it to be good. However, sometimes bad things happen to us that we cannot explain. During these times, we tend to get mad at God for putting us through so much pain. We may get discouraged and forget that God is always with us to help. When you feel sad and alone, remember to never lose HOPE, pray to Jesus, and things will get better.

Let us now pray ... 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. AMEN.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The four weeks of Advent lead up to the celebration of Christmas. Advent's familiar sights and sounds stir in us a readiness to receive our Saviour, while sharpening our sense of the world's need

for redemption and of the great mystery of God becoming human for us.

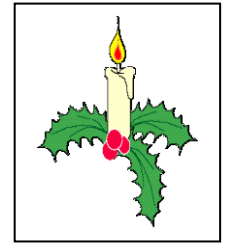
Advent is a Latin word meaning *the coming*. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three comings of Christ: his lowly birth in the past, his mysterious coming to the world in the present, and his promised return in Glory at the end of time.

Advent was originally celebrated as a kind of "lent" during the forty days before the feast of Christmas. Gradually, Advent developed its own distinctive character, retaining a penitential dimension but emphasizing the joy-filled hope in the coming of the Lord. At this time of year, we are invited to reflect on the responsibility we have to witness to the world and to be Christ's healing hands to those who are wounded and marginalized.

Advent is a special time of waiting. Since the latter half of the 6th century, Christians have set aside the four weeks before Christmas to remember and to celebrate that Jesus Christ is the one who comes. Traditional symbols and customs help us to celebrate this special time of waiting.

SYMBOLISM: THE ADVENT WREATH

- The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world
- The circular shape reminds us that God is eternal, has no beginning and no end, that God is forever, that the perfect nature of God is revealed in Christ



- The evergreens remind us that God never changes, that God gives life and growth to the Church and our families
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent or the four Gospels; unlit they represent the ages "sitting in darkness" awaiting the coming Christ; the growing circle of light represents the "approaching" light of the world.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life; the nativity of the Saviour. We add one candle on the wreath for each Sunday of Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for His saving birth. The light of the candles reminds us that Christ is the Light of the world.

Three of the candles for the wreath are purple, as a sign of our need to repent and turn back to God in preparation for Jesus' coming. During Advent we try to say that we are sorry for not loving Jesus enough and we promise to try hard to do better in our Christian walk.



The fourth one, lit on the third Sunday of Advent, is rose or pink to express our joy that Christmas is so close.

Some Advent wreaths have a large white candle in the center, the 'Christ Light', to be lit on Christmas Eve to herald the birth of Jesus. Each time we light a candle on the Advent wreath we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. His teachings are our guiding light. If we listen to what he wants us to do, we will be happy with him forever.

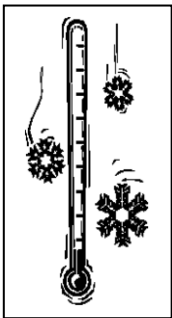
CHRISTMAS ITEMS



We are presently working out the details for a Primary Division Christmas concert. It is scheduled for December 20, and 21, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. for grades 1 to 3. Our Kindergarten classes will be

doing an Advent concert on Wednesday, November 30th and Thursday, December 1st. More information will soon be forwarded to parents with students from JK to Grade 3 identifying what specific evening they are performing.

APPROPRIATE DRESS - COLD WEATHER



The days are getting colder and pretty soon winter will arrive. We ask that students dress appropriately; i.e.: coats, gloves, mitts, boots, etc. If they are dressed warmly, they are better prepared to participate in outdoor activities during recess and noon hour. For health reasons and to help keep the school clean, we ask

all students to have indoor shoes.

Please note that in the event of an emergency evacuation, students will not have the opportunity to put boots on.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

WINTER WEATHER



During the winter season, the school receives calls from concerned parents as to how we determine when children will or will not be allowed outside for recess. On extremely cold days, we

limit the amount of time that students spend out of doors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow School Board guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, all children will go out for recesses and the lunch break. We remind students to dress appropriately for the weather.

SNOW, SNOW, SNOW.

Soon our playground will be filled with snow. And with the snow and the cold will come ice as well. We remind all students that we DO NOT throw snowball while playing outside during recess. We share the snow we do not own the snow. We DO NOT steal snow from students who are building snow forts or snowmen/ women. We DO RESPECT the work others are putting into their projects. WE DO work together to build not to destroy. WE DO have fun in the snow with our friends. WE DO NOT play near icy areas as it is dangerous. Please help us by reviewing this with your children as we continue to work together to maintain a safe school environment.

EXTRA CLOTHES FOR WINTER SEASON

Often during the winter season we have students, for various of reasons, coming to the office with wet clothes from playing outside during recess. We recommend, for the younger students, that you place an extra pair of pants, a shirt and socks in their back packs. This would help to avoid bothering parents at work when these situations occur. It is also recommended that students bring appropriate snow gear to school during these winter months (snowsuits, boots, gloves, mitts).

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for 2012-13

Registration for Full-Day Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, will take place at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School 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 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

For more information, call our school at 905-542-9203 or visit www.dpcdsb.org.

SPACE: A FRONTIER EXPLORED AT ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX



On Thursday, November 17th, 2011, three lucky schools in Canada had the amazing opportunity to speak to Chris Hadfield, a Canadian astronaut who is currently training in Russia. He will go aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in November 2012 for six months. For three of the six months, he will command the ISS. The three lucky schools, who spoke with Chris Hadfield via Adobe Connect, were from Yellowknife, Quebec and our school, St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Mississauga. Four to five students from each school got a chance to ask Chris Hadfield one question each. The students who asked a question in our school were Farah K., Lewis A., Marcus C. and David N. Although the students are in grade seven now, they learned about space travel in Science last year. "The experience was great and exciting", said one the students.

Chris Hadfield took the time to answer all our questions. We learned a lot about space and what it is like to travel to space and to live in space. It was a really cool experience and it is a memory we will always treasure. If anybody should be thanked for this amazing opportunity in our school, it should be the staff members from St. Bernard of Clairvaux and especially Mrs. Moraghan and Mr. Caetano for setting this up.

Written by David N. a grade 7 student

BUS CANCELLATIONS

During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruptions of bus transportation and regular school operations. A decision to cancel school

transportation and/or close schools is usually made by 6:30 a.m. and will be announced on several radio stations. Please refer to the attached memo for more information.

Please Note:

If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate later in the day. Parents who drive their children to school in the morning must arrange to pick them up at the end of the day.

SPORTS CORNER

Junior Volleyball



Congratulations goes out to all the boys and girls on the Junior Volleyball teams for representing our school. Their dedication, team work and sportsmanship helped to establish them as a strong team that continued to improve throughout the season.

I would also like to thank the coaches for their time and effort in providing our students with this opportunity. Thank you to Miss Brow, Mrs. Van Kooten, Mrs. Mooney, Mr. Rybinski and Mr. Kostoff.

Girls Team

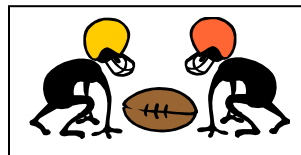
Francesca	Alison	Serena
Julia	Kristina	Trinity
Kimberley	Ashley	Joanne
Isabella		

Boys Team

Alfred	Bassem	Denzel
Evan	Gabby	Jordan
Pio	Raul	Ryan
Simeon	Stipe	Tyson

Our Intramural Volleyball program continues with the junior students. We have over 110 students participating from grades 4 to 6. Thank you to the intermediate students who are taking on the role of team coaches, referees and scorekeepers.

INTERMEDIATE CO-ED FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM



I would like to congratulate our students and thank Mr. Kostoff and Miss

DiPasquale, the coaches for representing our school. We were very proud of the way our team carried itself. Their hard work and sportsmanship were obvious as they improved their skills while representing our school.

Team Members

Anson	Anthony	Chaim
Chester	Jaden	Jonathan
Kacey	Kerik	Krizia
Lewis	Marcus	Matthew
Serena	Sweeny	

FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION MEETING

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2011 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 January 10 th , 2012 7:00 p.m.
Divine Mercy St Elizabeth Seton St Margaret of Scotland	St Margaret of Scotland	Wednesday January 11 th , 2012 7:00 p.m.
St Gertrude St Pio of Pietrelcina	St Gertrude	Thursday January 12 th , 2012 7:00 p.m.

The deadline for submission of Applications will be **2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 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: St. Therese of the Child Jesus
Address: 6930 Forest Park Drive
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 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 8th, 2012.**

FSL NEWS

To further enhance our French Language Program, as well as the Arts curriculum, we have the exciting opportunity to see Gregg LeROCK, a renowned French-Canadian musician! Learning through music and dance outside of the classroom, will help our students consolidate what they have been practicing in class.

Gregg is an Honours List graduate of the University of Ottawa's distinguished Lettres Françaises faculty, Gregg has managed to combine his three loves - teaching French, writing songs and performing for kids - into a single career. Upon completing his post-secondary French studies, Gregg began teaching French and grammar through non-traditional channels. He wanted to teach and inspire kids primarily through music.

He has released three best-selling CDs ("Encore", "Vive LeRock" and JUNO nominated "OUI!") and has performed for hundreds of thousands of students. Gregg's songs are featured in numerous French textbooks ("À La Ronde", "Carrousel", "Visages", "Images", "Destinations" and "Acti-Vie") and are sung in classrooms from coast to coast.

Gregg's high-energy concerts feature pop, reggae, hip-hop, folk, blues and Cajun styles, guaranteed to get every kid shakin' and singin' ... all in French! Please stay tuned for further information in the New Year.

A bientot! FSL Teachers

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST
RECONCILIATION AND FIRST
COMMUNION**



The date for First Reconciliation Celebration is Tuesday December 6, 2011 at 9:30 to 10:30 am at Merciful Redeemer Parish.

More information will be forwarded as we receive dates and times from Father Mark.

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion for our grade 2 students will be held on Saturday May 5, 2012 at 11:00 am at Merciful Redeemer Church.



**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
CONFIRMATION DATE**

The sacrament of Confirmation will be held on April 27th, 2012.

The sacramental celebrations will continue to be held at Merciful Redeemer Parish. We thank Father Vid and his parish team for their continued support and generosity as we work to build a church for our new parish community.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 30	Grade 3 classes go Swimming Mrs. Boles and Mr. Manne Kindergarten Advent Concert at 6:30 pm
December 1	Kindergarten Advent Concert at 6:30 pm
December 5	Grade 3 classes go Swimming Mrs. Boles and Mr. Manne
December 6	First Reconciliation for grade 2 students at Merciful Redeemer 9:30 am
December 7 and 8	Grade 1 students go to Peel Safety Village
December 8	Movie Night at St. Bernard of Clairvaux
December 9	Pizza Day
December 9, 12, 19	Grade 3 classes go Swimming Mrs. Neri and Mr. Salerno
December 14	Advent School Mass at 1:00 pm School Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
December 19	Grade 7 class to Dr. Simone's Warehouse
December 20 and 21	Primary Division Christmas Concerts
December 23	Last Day of School before Christmas Break

Attachments

- 1. Home & School Connections**
- 2. Math & Science Connection**
- 3. Reading Connections**
- 4. Bus Cancellation Information**
- 5. An Historical Understanding of Key Issues Related to Catholic Education**
- 6. FACEBOOK 101 Presentation**

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF PEEL REGION (STOPR)
BUS CANCELLATIONS/SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO BAD WEATHER
2011 – 2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

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 a.m. and will be announced on the following radio and television stations:**

VIRGIN RADIOFM99.9	CHUM AM1050	CFTR AM680
CFNY FM102.1/AM640	CJCL AM590	CHFI FM98.1
CFRB AM1010	EZ ROCK FM97.3	CJBC (FR) AM860
FM Z103.5	FM93.1	FM Q107
CHIN FM100.7/AM1540	CBC99.1	
CITYPULSE	GLOBAL NEWS	CTV

We will be communicating one of four standard messages to the radio stations. The four announcements and their effect on the transportation system are as follows: (Please note that the **highlighted text only** will be communicated by the radio stations).

1. **“DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES SERVING ST. ANDREW, ST. BENEDICT AND ST. PETER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND R.F. HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL ARE CANCELLED FOR TODAY.”**
2. **“THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES AND THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDON AND THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN ARE CANCELLED”**. This means that all runs listed under announcement #1 PLUS the following are cancelled.
 - All schools in the Town of Caledon and all school runs that begin in the Town of Caledon.
 - Individual schools will be notified if this cancellation affects their school.
3. **“THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES ARE CANCELLED.”** *This means that:*
ALL Transportation services provided by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and The Peel District School Board, including buses, vans and taxis have been cancelled for the entire day.
7. **“THE SCHOOLS AND OFFICES OF BOTH THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ARE CLOSED.”** *This means that:*
ALL Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and Peel District School Board schools and offices are closed to all students and staff.

Note: For Secondary School students riding Public Transit, cancellation of service will be communicated by the respective transit property over the radio. Please be advised that Public Transit rarely cancels and that the level of service on days with inclement weather is unpredictable.

An Historical Understanding of Key Issues Related to Catholic Education

March 2009

Written by Dr. Robert Dixon Edited by John B. Kostoff, Director of Education Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (This is the second installment from this article that can be found in its entirety on our School Board's web site.)

Our Catholic School Heritage – Third installment

11. Once section 93(1) was enacted, why did Ontario's separate school supporters continue to suffer financial hardship?

The *Separate School (Scott) Act* of 1863 did not anticipate the creation and/or growth of corporations and public utilities in Ontario, or the creation of public high schools. These two omissions caused over 100 years of financial hardship and inequity for separate school supporters.

12. Why did Catholic parents and students have to pay tuition to attend a Catholic high school after grade ten?

In 1871 the Ontario government passed an *Act to Improve the Common Schools and Grammar Schools of Ontario*. This *Act* abolished common and grammar schools and created public schools for grades one to ten and high schools for grades nine to thirteen. The highest official with the Department of Education, *Egerton Ryerson*, commented that the 1871 *Act* did not affect separate schools. The separate school boards operating secondary school classes carried on, receiving funding from grants and taxes. However, early in the twentieth century the government passed legislation which forbade a separate school board from offering education beyond grade ten if its boundaries fell partially or fully within the boundaries of a high school district. Thus, all but one separate school board (in Dublin) lost their ability to receive tax or government grant financing beyond grade ten. Furthermore, if a separate school board chose to continue operating grades nine and ten, it received only elementary school grants for them.

13. How did Catholic high schools survive?

Catholic parents and students paid tuition after grade ten. Parental groups raised money from draws, lotteries and school events. Parish priests contributed money from their Sunday collections. Many separate school boards, including Dufferin-Peel, opened intermediate-division (i.e. grades seven-to-ten) schools. With the vital assistance of the religious teaching Orders (which taught in and administered grades eleven to thirteen for little or nothing), the diocese continued to operate private Catholic high schools and opened new ones. In fact, Philip Pocock, the Archbishop of Toronto, decided in 1971 to open one new Catholic high in the archdiocese every year until the government approved tax and grant funding for grades eleven to thirteen.

14. How was the Catholic high school issue resolved?

In 1984, Premier William Davis, edified by the commitment to Catholic high schools of the Catholic community and convinced of the injustice of truncated separate schools, announced that the government would be completing the separate school system to the end of high school. The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously responded to a court challenge against the ensuing legislation by asserting that separate schools before Confederation were operating secondary school education with funding from taxes and government grants and, therefore, section 93(1) of the Canadian Constitution guaranteed the right of separate school boards to administer from junior kindergarten to the end of high school. After almost sixty years of financial sacrifice by the Catholic community, Catholic high schools once more became an equal partner in Ontario's publicly funded school system.

15. Catholic separate schools had a second obstacle to their survival. How serious a problem for separate school boards was the corporation tax issue?

This was very serious. As corporations like the Ford Motor Co., Inco, the Royal Bank of Canada and thousands of others came on the scene, and as public utilities like the Ontario Hydro and the Canadian National Railway were created, they could not pay separate school property taxes. Thus the assessment of urban public school boards became wealthier and wealthier, while separate school boards received taxes from only Catholic home and property owners and from fully or partially owned small businesses.

By the 1920s urban separate school boards were operating with about one-quarter to one-fifth of the revenues of their urban public schools boards. There were no compensatory government grants