



BLESSED JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 4

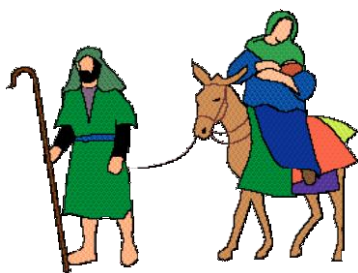
DECEMBER 2011



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Prayer For Advent

Loving God, we seek you in both the light and the darkness, the silence and the sounds, the fullness and the emptiness of this Advent season. Fill our hearts with the hope for your coming, love for those who are most in need, and faith in your promises. May this time of preparation help us celebrate the birth of your son with deep gratitude and abundant joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World.
Amen



On Sunday November 27th, we began a new liturgical year. Advent - a time of waiting for Jesus the Messiah, is upon us.

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 in us. 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 the world and to be Christ's healing hands to those who are marginalized.

Our daily prayers and classroom activities act as reminders throughout Advent that the season for hope and waiting is upon us.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATION

On November 11th, the entire community of Blessed John XXIII School participated in a Remembrance Day ceremony. Through song, prayer and reflection, we remembered those who risked their lives so that we may have peace. Thank you to Mrs. Romani & Mrs. Hughes for organizing this ceremony. The Royal Canadian Legion thanks all students, staff and parents for their generous contributions through their poppy purchases.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCE VISITOR

On Monday November 7, 2011 Major Sandi Banerjee of the Canadian Armed Forces visited Blessed John XXIII school. He spoke to students from Grades 4-8 about his personal experiences as a Canadian soldier and shared a slide show presentation. Major Banerjee reminded students about the importance of Remembrance Day and the role that Canadian soldiers play in various missions around the world. He also encouraged students to

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St. Martin of Tours Parish		905-279-5742
Fr. Joyson, Pastor		
Fr. Gigo, Associate		

appreciate the freedom that they are able to enjoy on a daily basis and to remember the sacrifices of our Canadian soldiers. Major Banerjee will be returning to duties in Afghanistan in February and the staff and students of Blessed John XXIII promised to pray for him and all Canadian soldiers.

VIRTUES EDUCATION

During the month of December we celebrate the virtue of Hope. Hope helps us to keep on working for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged. Mr. Mifsud's class will be sharing the message of Hope with the students.

GRADE 2 RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to our Grade 2 students who received the sacrament of Reconciliation on November 21st at St. Martin of Tours Church. The students are now preparing for the Sacrament of The Eucharist. Thank you to Mrs. Barbuto, and Mrs. Valeri-Lutz for preparing the students for these sacraments.

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to our Junior Girls' and Boys' Volleyball teams. Both teams played well. Our boys will be going forward to the Mississauga South Tournament on December 1, 2011. We are very proud of them for all their hard work and effort. We would like to thank Mrs. Gremmen, and Mr. Zubac for coaching the teams.

VALUABLES

Students are asked not to bring valuables or items of importance to school. This includes trading cards, expensive sports equipment, toys etc. The school cannot assume responsibility for valuables that are brought to school and are broken or go missing.

CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS

Thank you to all the parents who have submitted a current Criminal Reference check to the office. We have enough volunteers to go on our trips this month. This is another reminder for any parent who is planning to assist on trips, or in the school, you must have a current Criminal Reference Check. You can obtain one free of charge by getting a form from the school office. Please bring the completed Criminal Reference Check form to a Police location listed on the back of the form.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

With all the activities that take place at school in the playground, the gym, and in sports, accidents happen. Dental injuries can occur when two children accidentally bump heads or fall. The school board does not carry accident insurance for students. Winter outdoor activities, extra curricular and excursions are an additional reason you may wish to buy student accident insurance.

SNOWBALLS

When the cold months arrive and snow and ice on the ground is plentiful, students like to play in it and with it. Throwing snowballs and sliding on ice can be fun, however, snow and ice, can be very dangerous when lots of people are running around. In order for our school to be as safe as possible, the school rule must be that snow stays on the ground. There will be no snowballs, kicking snow or any other activity with snow or ice that could be harmful.

COLD & FLU SEASON

Please use discretion in keeping your children home to recover if they are ill. A child who is coughing, wheezing, etc. is not in a state to learn and will only infect others. If a student is sent to school, it is assumed that they will participate in all aspects of the school day, including **outdoor recess**. We also remind parents to dress students for our weather conditions. We will be having outdoor recess, weather permitting, as much as possible. At all times, we follow the Board guidelines for inclement weather. The students enjoy going out, especially if they have their snowsuits, hats and mittens.

COLD WEATHER/RECESS

We are beginning to experience cold winter weather. It is imperative that students come to school prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recesses and the 40 minute lunch period outside. The only students that will be permitted to stay inside are those with a doctors' note. We ask parents to ensure that children wear hats, scarves, gloves, winter outerwear and boots. Where possible, please put identification on your child's belongings. We also remind students to have a pair of indoor shoes or running shoes, so that the classrooms are kept as clean and dry as possible.



KISS AND RIDE WINTER PROCEDURES

A special thank you is extended to the parents/care givers who follow the procedures for our morning and evening Kiss and Ride. You are required to use the drive through lane only. **No cars should be using the bus lane for picking up or dropping off students.** The front lane of the driveway closest to the school should never be used by visitors/parents of the school. It is an emergency lane only and is used by emergency vehicles such as the Fire and Police Dept. and our school buses. We need your assistance to ensure your children do not cross between moving cars. We have noticed that some parents are using the south side driveway to exit. We have a one way sign here and ask that parents do not exit or block this entry by stopping at this spot. **We also remind student not to enter or exit the car using the driver's side of the car, as this is very dangerous.**

PIZZA LUNCHES

The December pizza lunch will be on Thursday, December 15th. Please remember that all monies raised goes to provide little extra's for the students, ie: special presentations, transportation for sports teams, special excursions, etc. It is because of your support that students have some cost free events. Thank you for your support.

BUS/SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

In order to avoid any confusion regarding bus/school cancellation, included with this newsletter is information regarding BUS CANCELLATIONS OR SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO BAD WEATHER. **We are the DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** and this is the name you should listen for regarding bus and/or school cancellations. Please remember that if busses are cancelled in the morning they will **not** be running in the afternoon.

Please be reminded not to telephone the school for this information. It is readily available on every major radio and television station, usually by 6:30 AM.

These non-essential telephone calls fill our voice mail service to capacity, making it impossible, on the next school day, for parents/guard

SEPTEMBER 2012- FULL DAY LEARNING

Our school has been scheduled to receive the full day kindergarten program effective September 2012. Registration will take place in February for families living in our area.

ARE YOU TICKED?

Direction of school support has long been an issue for Catholic school boards in Ontario. The fact is that, unless the municipality is notified, the school support designation, for assessment purposes, automatically defaults to public school support when an individual or family moves to a new address.

This may have an impact on students' eligibility to attend Catholic elementary schools, trustee representation on school boards, and on government perception of support for Catholic education.

We want to bring a greater awareness around this matter and have created the Are You Ticked? Campaign it is the communication vehicle for this awareness.

If you would like more information on school support designation or would like us to help you check or change your school support designation to the Catholic system, please call us at (905) 890-0708, ext. 24512.

CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRADITIONS



As a Catholic school, we are fortunate to be able to celebrate the birth of our Lord through the various and wonderful opportunities that our public school counterpart down the road cannot. We proudly carry on the traditions of Christmas and of

Christ as our teacher from one year to the next. As a Catholic school community, we need to continually keep our faith alive and most importantly, as the central focus of all that we do.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The advent wreath is another way to live the Spirit of Advent in these four weeks before Christmas. *The Circle* is a symbol of God. *The Greens of Pine and Holly* stand for our hope in the coming of God, and the *Candles* stand for our sacrifice in preparing for His coming.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We will be holding a Christmas Concert on December 20th at 1:15 and 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$2.00 each with a maximum of two per family for the evening performance.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

In the spirit of Christmas our school has adopted 5 families for Christmas. The St. Vincent de Pau Society, through St. Martin of Tour Parish will collect these baskets on December 14, 2011.

FOOD DRIVE

We will be having another food drive for St. Vincent de Paul's. Your generous donations help to support those less fortunate and display our ongoing commitment to community outreach as stated in our school goals and pastoral plan.

CANDY CANE -O-GRAM

Send a festive Christmas message to anyone in the school. Student Council will be selling Candy Cane - O - Grams for .50 cents from December 5 - 9. All proceeds will go towards the Christmas Baskets. Thanks in advance for your support!

ADVENT MASS

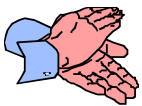
We will be celebrating our Advent mass on Wednesday December 7, 2011, at 1:30 PM at St. Martin of Tour's church, weather permitting. We invite all parents to join us there for the celebration of the Eucharist.

SANTA VISITS BLESSED JOHN XXIII SCHOOL

Breakfast With Santa will take place on Saturday December 3, 2011, starting at 9:00 AM. Don't forget to purchase your tickets. Thanks to School Council for organizing this wonderful event.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU



To all the parents who are getting their children to school on time.

To all the parents who are calling the school when your child will be absent.

To all the parents who are meeting their children outside the dismissal door.

To all the parents who are checking their child's agenda on a daily basis.

To all the parents who are using the Kiss and Ride safely.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Christmas Holidays begin on December 26, 2011 and end on January 6, 2012. Students return to school on Monday January 9, 2012.

ATTACHMENTS

Home & School

Cancelation due to bad weather

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 1	Grade 3's to Pioneer Village
Dec 1	Jr. Boys Volleyball to Iona
Dec 3	Breakfast with Santa
Dec 7	Advent Mass 1:30 at St. Martin Church
Dec 7	Gr. 8's to St. Martin S.S. - 6:30 PM
Dec 9	Choir to Specialty Care
Dec 13	Rosary Apostolate
Dec 15	Pizza Day
Dec 20	Christmas Concert 1:15 & 7:00 PM
Dec 15	Pizza Day
Dec 22	Skating Gr. 6, 7, 8 - PM
Dec 23	Last Day of School
Jan 9	School Begins



Blessed John XXIII Staff wishes you and your family joy throughout this Holy season and best wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas. We look forward to a wonderful and successful new year.

