



St. Sofia School
Sharing, Caring and Preparing
ШКОЛА СВЯТОЇ СОФІЇ

St. Sofia School
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Mississauga, ON
L4X 2M9

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Vice-Principal
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Secretaries
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J. Kalynowsky

Superintendent
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(905) 890-1221

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Rt. Rev. Dr. Roman Pankiw, Dean
Rev. Roman Trynoga, Assistant
Rev. Bohdan Mironovich
St. Mary Church
905-279-9387

Mitred Archpriest
Roman Galadza, Pastor
St. Elias Church
905-459-8888

Trustees:
Brampton:
A. da Silva (416) 706-5679
L. Zannella (416) 579-0126
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M. Pascucci (905) 302-3096
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T. Thomas (416) 845-8225
P. Ferreira (416) 805-7110
B. Iannicca (905) 270-0536
E. O'Toole (905) 812-5163



*When the song of the angel is still
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flocks
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
Among people
To make music in the heart.*

Amen.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE STAFF OF
ST. SOFIA SCHOOL.**

**Have a Blessed Holiday
and we will see you back
at St. Sofia School on
MONDAY, JANUARY 9th,
2012.**



ST. NICHOLAS CONCERT
JK - Gr. 5

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19th, 2011
(Gymnasium)

**DECEMBER
2011**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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 thank all our parents, volunteers, Trustees and Superintendent who have given us so much help and have willingly assisted both students and staff throughout the first term.

We wish to extend to all members of the St. Sofia 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.



FAITH COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE



In the spirit of Christmas, the school is participating in a food drive for The Mississauga Food Bank. As you know, in these economic times, the need is great and no more greatly felt than at Christmas. Your contribution by Monday December 19th, of non-perishable food items is greatly appreciated. We have received a list of needs: ground coffee; herbs and spices; canned tomatoes; powdered milk; ketchup; baby food; tea.

ST. NICHOLAS CONCERT

Every year St. Sofia School honours St. Nicholas with a school concert. The concert will be held at school during the day on Monday, December 19th 2011. Classes from JK to grade 5 will be performing. St. Nicholas will visit and speak to each group and angels will deliver gifts to the classrooms. There will be two concerts.

- 1) The first concert will begin at 9:45 a.m. with the following classes performing: Pani Solowy, Pani Tolomiczenko, Pani Chaplia, Pani Dowhal Pani Moskalyk and all of the junior kindergarten students.
- 2) The second concert will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the following classes performing: Pani Polsinelli, Panna Kraw, Pani Mazur, Panna Melech, Pani Stech and all of the senior kindergarten students.
- 3) The grade 5 students will be performing at both concerts.

We ask that parents recognize the limited space in the gymnasium and that gifts will be offered to St. Sofia students only. Please remember that any photographs that are taken should be of your own child, for personal use only and not made available on line.

DECEMBER'S VIRTUE—HOPE

Through regular celebrations, in class discussions and prayer, students will learn examples of how to perform virtuous actions and this month our focus will be 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



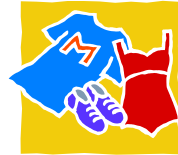
SCHOOL OPERATIONS

VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

The expectation is to have students in school for the full year. Teachers have a great deal of curriculum to cover and need to assess student learning over a period of time. Please refrain from booking holidays during the school year. Your consideration and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

LOST AND FOUND

Parents are encouraged to remind their children to check the Lost and Found Box for lost clothing. Items not claimed by the last week of December will be donated to orphans in Ukraine and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



WINTER DRESS



During the winter season, many parents are concerned about school policy on outdoor recess. It is generally accepted that when the wind chill factor drops below -25 C , students should not go outside for recess. Dufferin-Peel CDSB policy uses a wind chill of -20C as the determining temperature for modified recesses. At St. Sofia, students will remain inside when the wind chill is reported to be -20C or lower and we will modify the duration of lunch recesses when the temperature reaches -18C . Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather.

Children who are too ill to go outside are too ill to come to school. There is no supervision for children to remain indoors for recess. The supervision is outside on the playground.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Your child's uniform is supplied by R.J. McCarthy. Please visit them online at www.rjmccarthy.com as soon as possible to pre-register. Once registered, you can view your uniform options and pricing, as well as find the showroom nearest you. You also have the option of receiving email notifications of upcoming sales, promotions and events.

As well, as part of their ongoing mission of creating the world's highest quality school uniforms in a socially responsible way, R.J. McCarthy will be transitioning to internet-based, online school uniform guides. This new service will not only be more convenient for customers, but will also greatly reduce RJM's carbon footprint by:

- eliminating the use of many thousands of sheets of paper and envelopes
- reducing carbon emissions resulting from shipping and delivery
- eliminating the use of great amounts harmful paper dyes and colouring agents

As of **March 1, 2012**, your new uniform guide will be available online at www.rjmccarthy.com

CURRICULUM MATTERS

FIRST TERM REPORTS / CONFERENCES



Our First Term Report Cards will be sent home on Tuesday January 31st, 2012. The parent, teacher, student conferences for grade JK – 8 are scheduled for the evening of Thursday February 2nd, 2012 and during the day on Friday February 3rd, 2012. You are encouraged to contact your child(ren)'s teacher at any time should you require clarification, or if you have questions or concerns about student progress.

EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Information Meetings for the Extended French Program at all Dufferin-Peel Schools is included below. If you have any questions regarding this program please do not hesitate to call the school

DATE	SCHOOLS	TELEPHONE #
January 17, 2012 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	St. Anne 124 Vodden Street Brampton - L6V 1M5	905-459-7621
January 19, 2012 Thursday 7:00 p.m.	St. Thomas More 3270 Tomken Road Mississauga - L4Y 2Y7	905-279-6472
January 18, 2012 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	San Lorenzo Ruiz 100 Barondale Drive Mississauga - L4Z 3R1	905-501-0400
January 18, 2012 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	St. Christopher 1195 Clarkson Road North Mississauga - L5J 2W1	905-822-0721
January 18, 2012 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	St. Cornelius 16066 Innis Lake Road Caledon East - L7C 2Z2	1- 905-584-2245
January 17, 2012 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	St. Andrew 50 Meadow Drive Orangeville - L9W 3Z1	1-519-942-0262
January 19, 2012 Thursday 7:00 p.m.	St. Rose of Lima 4590 the Gallops Mississauga - L5M 3A9	905-828-4076
January 18, 2012 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	St. Therese of the Child Jesus 6930 Forest Park Drive Mississauga - L5N 6X7	905-785-0066
January 18, 2012 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	St. Jean Brébeuf 63 Glenforest Road Brampton - L6S 1L8	905-791-8529
January 18, 2012 Wednesday 7:00 pm	St. Monica 60 Sterritt Drive Brampton - L6Y 5B6	905-454-6346
January 18, 2012 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	St. Philip School 345 Fairview Road West Mississauga - L5B 3W5	905-306-8420

HEALTH & SAFETY

BULLYING AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Dufferin Peel's Catholic Board Learning Plan shows a commitment to building communities that reflect belonging, inclusivity, support and safety, rooted in Gospel values. At St. Sofia School we spend a great deal of time on building a positive school climate.

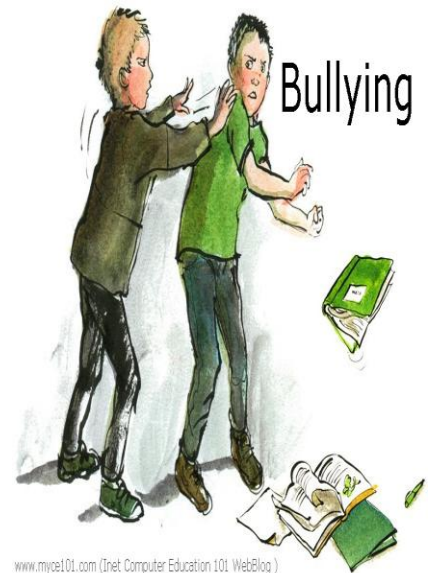
There are many warning signs that may indicate that someone is involved in bullying, either by bullying others or by being bullied. However, these warning signs may indicate other issues or problems, as well.

Being Bullied

- Comes home with damaged or missing clothing or other belongings
- Reports losing items such as books, electronics, clothing, or jewelry
- Has unexplained injuries
- Complains frequently of headaches, stomachaches, or feeling sick
- Has trouble sleeping or has frequent bad dreams
- Has changes in eating habits
- Hurts themselves
- Are very hungry after school from not eating their lunch
- Runs away from home
- Loses interest in visiting or talking with friends
- Is afraid of going to school or other activities with peers
- Loses interest in school work or begins to do poorly in school
- Appears sad, moody, angry, anxious or depressed when they come home
- Feels helpless
- Often feels like they are not good enough
- Blames themselves for their problems
- Suddenly has fewer friends
- Avoids certain places
- Acts differently than usual

Bullying Others

- Becomes violent with others
- Gets into physical or verbal fights with others
- Gets sent to the principal's office or detention a lot
- Has extra money or new belongings that cannot be explained
- Is quick to blame others
- Will not accept responsibility for their actions
- Has friends who bully others
- Needs to win or be best at everything



PARKING LOT SAFETY



The safety of our children must come first. Your assistance is requested in keeping our parking lot safe.

THERE IS NO VISITOR PARKING IN THE PARKING LOT. WHEN VISITING or PICKING UP YOUR CHILD, PLEASE PARK ON THE ROAD. As you are aware we have very limited parking available. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you park on the road and walk your child to school. Conversely, if you are picking up your child please park on the road, walk to school and walk your child to the car. ***Please do not stop and leave your car unattended, in the Kiss 'n Ride lane to pick-up your child(ren) at any time during the school day.*** As per our previous letter, there is no Kiss 'n Ride at the end of the day. ***Do not enter school property to pick up your children at the end of the day.*** No additional cars can be accommodated safely.

SCHOOL PICKUP /DROP OFF/ ENTRY



ENTRY

The safety and security of our students is of utmost importance. We ask that you follow the routines and procedures set by the school.

Upon arriving students are to gather in the school yard at the side and rear of the building. **Please say goodbye at the front of the school and allow your child the opportunity to develop independence and a sense of play with their peers, line up, and enter the building.**

Thanks go out to all the parents who have been following the entry and dismissal procedures. It has greatly reduced congestion in the halls and school yard at these times.

Students are not to enter the school by the front doors, unless arriving late. **Students arriving late must report to the office and get an admit slip.**

DISMISSAL

If you are picking up your child at a time other than regular school dismissal, we ask that you report to the office. Arrangements will be made for your child to be sent to the office. If you intend to send someone else to pick up your children, please inform the office. **Please note that 'early' signouts should be for emergencies only and must be done before 3:30 pm, as after this time, the class is busy with end-of-day and dismissal routines.**

Please be advised that your child needs to present a note from parent/guardian to the teacher if there are to be any changes in dismissal routine.

Again at dismissal time, we ask that you do not go to the back of the school property but instead arrange to meet your child at the front of the school.

FOOD ALLERGIES



Each year, attention is drawn to the fact that in our school we have students who suffer from food allergies. The most common of the food allergies is the "peanut allergy." For students who have this severe allergy, it can be a life-threatening situation.

While we cannot guarantee that food containing certain allergens is never brought to school, we do request that parents, especially those whose children are in classes with anaphylactic children, cooperate and refrain from sending potentially dangerous food items to school- (items with nuts, peanuts or made with peanut oil). Thank you for your cooperation and serious attention to making St. Sofia School an "allergy-safe" environment.

Ukrainian

У нас навчаються в цій школі з важкими небезпечними для життя гайку алергії. Будь ласка, не надсилайте будь-які горіхи, продукти з горіхів, як арахіс, арахісове масло або шоколад поширюється, що містять горіхи, і т.д. до школи разом з вашою дитиною. Дякуємо.

Russian

У нас обучаются в этой школе с тяжелыми опасными для жизни гайку аллергии. Пожалуйста, не присылайте любые орехи, продукты из орехов, как арахис, арахисовое масло или шоколад распространяется, содержащих орехи, и т.д. в школу вместе с вашим ребенком. Спасибо.

Polish

Mamy uczniów w tej szkole z ciężkim zagrożeniem życia nakrętką alergii. Prosimy nie wysłać żadnych orzechów, produktów nakrętki jak orzeszki ziemne, masło orzechowe lub pasty czekoladowe zawierające orzechy, itp. do szkoły z dzieckiem. Dziękuję.

ATTENDANCE



Regular attendance is crucial to success at school. Our school has a late start. School begins at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 4:00. When students are habitually late or leave habitually early, they miss critical class time, feel disorganized and may miss important information. Punctuality is an important life skill that students learn and helps them establish good work habits for their future.

TRANSPORTATION

The school office closes at 4:30. After that time there is no one available to answer phone calls. We recognize that it is important for parents to know the whereabouts of their child if the bus is delayed to due weather, traffic, etc.

Contact either STOPR at 905—890-6000 or check their website at www.stopr.ca or the bus company directly. Once the school buses leave the school this is the best method to locate them.

Bus #1 – SOF. 101	Rte. 2126	Attridge - (905) 855-7771
Bus #2 – SOF. 102	Rte. 0246	Attridge - (905) 855-7771
Bus #3 – SOF. 103	Rte. 0324	Stock - (905) 829-2040
Bus #4 – SOF. 104	Rte. 0080	First Student Wolfedale (905) 270-0561
Bus #5 – SOF. 105	Rte. 2209	Stock - (905) 829-2040
Bus #6 – SOF. 106	Rte. 0232	Attridge - (905) 855-7771
Bus #7 – SOF. 107	Rte. 0271	Attridge - (905) 855-7771
Bus #8 – SOF. 108	Rte. 0011	First Student Mississauga - (905) 275-1615
Bus #9 – SOF. 109	Rte. 0322	Stock - (905) 829-2040
Bus #10 – SOF. 110	Rte. 1208	First Student Snelgrove - (905) 857-4370
Bus #11 – SOF. 111	Rte. 1028	First Student Mississauga - (905) 275-1615
Bus #12 – SOF. 112	Rte. 1025	First Student Mississauga - (905) 275-1615
Bus #13 – SOF. 113	Rte. 1027	First Student Mississauga - (905) 275-1615
Bus #14 – SOF. 114	Rte. 0001	First Student Mississauga - (905) 275-1615
Bus #15 – SOF. 115	Rte. 1150	Attridge (905) 855-7771
Bus #16 – SOF. 116	Rte. 0078	First Student Wolfedale (905) 270-0561



INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS



Once again the prospect of inclement weather is upon us. A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually made by 6:30 a.m. on radio stations. The greatest confusion occurs when announcements effect transportation for certain geographic areas.

If the announcement says: “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 including buses and vans have been cancelled for the entire day.

If the announcement says: “THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS BUSES AND THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDON AND COUNTY OF DUFFERIN ARE CANCELLED. **This means that BUS #10 ONLY is cancelled.**

If the announcement says: “THE SCHOOL 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 schools and offices are closed to all staff and students.**

AROUND THE HALLS

BULLYING PREVENTION PRESENTATION

On Thursday, November 03rd, 2011 our students from grade 1 to 8 were treated to a presentation and basketball skill display by the Canadian Half Pints' "Bullyng's Not Kool" Program. The "Bullyng's Not Kool" program was originated by the Canadian Half-Pints and was a compelling presentation for students of all ages. It focused on how people judge others and how to recognize and avoid bullying. The school team of teachers and students was joined by Constable Justin Thorn, the school's Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) officer. Thank you to the School Council for funding this worthwhile initiative.



POCOCK BAND VISITS ST. SOFIA



On Friday November 4th, 2011, our grade 8 students were fortunate to have members of the Philip Pocock Band visit St. Sofia school and play a few musical interludes for them. Under the leadership of one of the Instrumental Music teachers at Philip Pocock, Mrs. Kohut, they came to introduce our students to various instruments. This is in preparation for a half day visit to Pocock where our grade 8 students will have the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument and see Music as a possible option for next year.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Friday, November 11th, 2011 St. Sofia students participated in a thoughtful, respectful and prayerful Remembrance Day Service. The ceremony allowed the students to focus on, appreciate and remember the sacrifices that members of the Canadian Armed Forces have made for us. Thank you to Pahn Baran and his class for leading the school through the assembly. A special note of gratitude needs to be given to Mr. Miller who shared with the students, his personal story.



HOLODOMOR



On Tuesday, November 22nd, Rt. Rev. Dr. Pankiw and Fr. Mironovich, led a panachyda to honour those who died in the Holodomor of 1932-1933. All students and staff attended. Our grade 7 students, under the direction of the Ukrainian Department, presented a montage highlighting the tragedy of the Great Famine in Ukraine. Thank you to the Ukrainian Department for organizing this important event.

STUDENT COUNCIL

On Tuesday, November 15th, 2011 our Student Council members attended this year's annual Youth Faith Ambassador's Commissioning Mass for the Mississauga East Family of Schools. Nicholas K., Maxim M., Andrew M., Nykyta P., Makayla M., Daniel O., Matthew P. and Andriana T. and their teacher advisor Pahn Baran and our vice-principal, Mr. Amodeo participated in a Eucharistic Mass at Cristo Rei Church with over 400 other students representing every school in the Mississauga East Family of Schools. Following the Mass, our student council received a special blessing. Each youth faith ambassador pledged to strive to grow in their faith, make an effort to live a life of prayer and Christian witness. The students were addressed by the Superintendent of the Mississauga East Family of Schools, Charles Blanchard. We congratulate our new Youth Faith Ambassadors and ask for God's blessing upon them in their mission among the students of St. Sofia School.

INSURGENCY SONGS COMPETITION

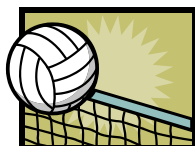


On Monday, November 21st, the Ukrainian Department hosted the Insurgency-Ukrainian Songs Competition in our school gym. All students from JK to grade 8 took part. The event was judged by our Pani Kasij, teachers –past and present and our School Council Chair. The winners of the competition were:

- 1st Place – Varenycky luncheon sponsored by School Council - grade 7 students
- 2nd Place - Lanyards - grade 4 students
- 3rd Place – Bracelets - grade 2 and 2/3 students

Thank you to everyone who participated and especially our Ukrainian Department who were responsible for organizing the event.

JR. BOYS VOLLEYBALL



Congratulations to the St. Sofia Jr. Boys Volleyball team who had a fun and successful season. The team members are: Peter B., Matthew T., William M., Zahar P., Roman C., Gabriel S., Orest K., Markian T., Mark C., Roman C., Alex H., and Ivan H. Special Thanks to their coaches Panna Obidzinska and Mlle Matuszak. **GO SABRES!!!**

JR. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



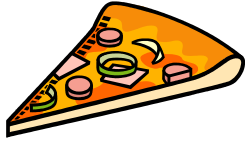
The members of the Jr. Girls volleyball team: Christina B., Alena D., Aleksa G., Larisa H., Magdalena H., Catherine M., Marta O., Sophia S., Adrianna S., Natalia S., Inessa W., and Sophia W. The girls played with a great deal of determination and excitement in every game. Thank you to their coaches, Mlle Matuszak, and Panna Lachmaniuk for a great season. **GO SABRES!!!**

IN THE COMMUNITY

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next meeting: Sunday, December 18th, 2011 at 6:30 in the school gym. This is a very important meeting as we will be preparing for the St. Nicholas Concert. *Please join us to make this day a special event for all of our children.*

PIZZA ON TUESDAYS



Many thanks to the volunteers who help make this happen: Diane Sahaydakivsky, Kathy Babij, Orysia Skotar, Anna Hankowski, Marsha Nakonecznyj, Oksana Patuszak and the committee chair, Pani Julia Kalynowsky

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the 2012-2013 school year

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*

7:00-9:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012

9:00-11:00 a.m.

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2012
Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2012



For more information, contact the school office or call the Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24500.

KIDSSSENTIALS LUNCH ORDERS

The Kidssentials lunch order forms for January – March 2012 have been sent home! If you have any questions about the lunch program or have missed the order due date, you may contact Kidssentials directly or visit them online at www.kidssentials.com and follow the links to 'place an order'.

Snow day / Bus cancellation policy reminder for all parents (even if your child walks to school): In the event that school busses are cancelled, the Kidssentials lunch will be cancelled for the entire school for that date. Notification of a rebook book date will be sent home through the school and/or via email.

Cancellation policy: Should a field trip or other absence fall on a Kidssentials hot lunch date, please call Kidssentials directly or send an email to cancel and receive a credit which may be used towards a future lunch order. While you may cancel any meal up to 8:00am on the day of a lunch, advanced notice is always appreciated.

Phone: 905.855.1914 / Email: mail@kidssentials.com / www.kidssentials.com

UPCOMING DATES:

Dec. 07 – Gr. 8 Trip to Ontario Science Ctr.
Dec. 07 – Pre-Christmas Confessions
Dec. 08 – Gr. 3s Skating
Dec. 09 – Class Spirit - Dress Down Day
Dec. 12 – Gr. 3s – Scientist in the School
Dec. 13 – Gr. 2s – Scientist in the School
Dec. 13 – Gr. 7 & 8 Retreat with Fr. Galadza
Dec. 15 – Hep B & HPV Vaccinations
Dec. 15 – Gr. 4s Skating
Dec. 19 – St. Nicholas Concert

Dec. 21 – Gr. 8s to visit Pocock
Dec. 22 – Gr. 5s Skating
Dec. 23 – Last day of classes before Christmas Break Begins
Jan. 09 – Classes resume
Jan. 12 – Gr. 6s Skating
Jan. 13 – Malanka
Jan. 16 – PA DAY – No School For Students
Jan. 18 – Svichechka
Jan. 19 – Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's

