



St. Benedict Catholic School
 345 Blind Line, Orangeville, Ontario L9W 4X1
 Phone: (519) 942-5980 Fax: (519) 942-3849
 Website: www.dpcdsb.org/BENED



December 2011



ADVENT

Principal: M. Cockburn
 Vice Principal: G. Graci
 Secretary: A. Wasyliw

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

P. McMorrow
 905-890-1221

TRUSTEE

F. DiCosola
 905-951-8898

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH

Fr. Sean Lee Lung
 519-941-2424

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-Chairs:
 S. McNally and D. Chodowicz
 519-942-5980



QUOTE

CHANGE

"If enough of us choose to change even one small thing, together we have the power to change anything."

Rick Hansen

Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.

We are a people to whom God has made a solemn promise. During Advent, we read in the Bible about God's promise to send a great Light in the darkness, to give sight to the blind, to fill us with comfort and hope, to put an end to sin and death, to give us more than we could ever hope for or imagine, and to fill us with His joy and peace.

We believe that God's plan of promise took flesh when his Son was born in Bethlehem. We believe that Christ is a light for the world. When all people share in this light, which is the fullness of God's life and love, then the ancient promises will come to fulfillment.

Advent is a time of quiet, joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and also a time to remember that we wait for Christ to come again at the end of time. It is a season to enjoy the hope that Christ's Resurrection points to. The first Sunday of Advent is also a time of new beginnings—it is the official start of the Church's calendar. Happy New Year !

Advent Prayer

Henry Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

To help you plan your holidays, the Christmas vacation continues from December 26, 2011 to January 6, 2012. The last day of school in December will be Friday, December 23, 2011 and the first day of school in the New Year will be Monday, January 9, 2012.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we prepare our hearts and our minds for the blessings of Christmas, let us take time to celebrate the season of Advent. We wait in joyful hope, trying to live as Jesus taught us: to live simply, to serve generously, to care deeply and to speak kindly.

At our December 8 Advent mass, we will collectively discern the Advent season as a time to think and ponder the "History, Mystery and Majesty" of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you in advance to Fr. Sean for serving our community at our school masses and throughout the year.

This season of Advent will be very alive and active here at St. Benedict Catholic School. Our distinct Catholic education system allows us to celebrate our beliefs actively in partnership with our local parish and families. The following summary of school Advent activities highlights how God is alive and active in our daily routines here at school. These activities include:

- Advent prayers as part of daily announcements.
- Advent mass for grades K - 8
- Christmas Play on December 21 featuring our grade 1-8 classes.
- Kindergarten Christmas celebrations
- Christmas food, mitten, hat and scarf collections for local needy families.
- Operation Christmas Child collection
- Advent prayer services for staff members

May the blessings of this Holy Season be with you always.

Sincerely,

M. Cockburn

WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

www.stwdsts.ca is the transportation services web site designed to help parents find bus information and to answer common transportation questions.

Is your child's bus late? A subscription service is now available that will notify via e-mail when your child(ren)'s bus has been cancelled or is delayed. The "**Bus Delays**" link allows you to view a list of reported bus delays with an estimate of how long each one is delayed.

The "**Cancellations-Closures**" link provides today's report on bus and taxi cancellations and school closures due to inclement weather. This service is active from November 1 to March 31. At all other times this report is only updated if inclement weather forces the cancellation of school buses or the closure of schools.

Checking the school board website at

www.dpcdsb.org and listening to local radio and television networks is another excellent way to check on bus cancellations and school closures on inclement weather days.

DROPPING OFF CHILDREN "SAFETY CONCERN"

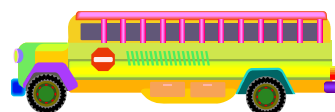
Thank you very much to all those parents who are using our front driveway drop off lane as it was intended. The colder winter weather creates even a busier situation in front of the school during the routine drop off times. **Please ensure that when you are dropping off your children using the drop off lane at the front of the school, your children exit your vehicle on the passenger side of the car, facing the school. If your children exit towards the drive through lane they risk danger from any drive through vehicles. In this regard, students should never be dropped off from the drive through lanes.** Please also be reminded that cars should never be parked or left unattended in the front lanes of our school. If you need to escort your child to or from the school or yard, please park in a designated parking space or on a local side street and walk the short distance to the school. **Please do not park on Blind Line. This is a very busy street and parked cars block the view of pedestrians.**



FROM THE STAFF OF ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



EXTENDED FRENCH PROGRAM

Grade 4 parents / guardians who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2012, are invited to attend an information meeting at:

St. Andrew Catholic School

50 Meadow Drive

Orangeville

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 @ 7:00 pm

The above mentioned school is the designated centre for our area. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION!**

RECESS RULES FOR STUDENTS

We encourage all students to experience their outdoor recess breaks in an enjoyable and safe manner. To ensure that students play safely and never endanger the safety of other children during recess times, we have two very important rules for all children to follow in our school yard.

In addition to plain common sense, we have a "NO CONTACT" rule in the school yard. This rule states that students are not to play any games or be involved in any activities in the school yard that involve physical contact. Games such as tackle football are not allowed. Students are reminded that if a game develops during a recess break where contact becomes part of the game or activity, that the students are to remove themselves from that activity and report the contact to the nearest staff member on yard duty. In an effort to make our yard duty staff more visible for the students, they wear bright orange safety vests.

Our other main recess rule is for the winter season. Every year, throughout the winter season, students are reminded about a very strict, yet simple, rule that forbids the throwing of snowballs at school. Students are continually reminded during announcements that our school rule states:

DO NOT THROW SNOW OR SNOWBALLS AT SCHOOL.

We also remind students that the reason for this important rule is to ensure that all children can go out in the school yard, play safely and enjoy the outdoor recesses. Throwing snowballs in the schoolyard not only breaks our school rule, but also endangers the safety of other students.

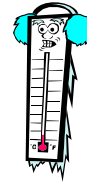
Students who disobey the snowball rule are endangering fellow students by their poor behaviour and disciplinary consequences will be instituted.

Operation Christmas Child Campaign

Thank you to everyone who supported us this year in our Operation Christmas Child Campaign for Samaritan's Purse. This organization collects small everyday items to send to children in war-torn or newly developing countries to ensure hygiene products, educational tools and toys are more readily available to children worldwide. Together the school community of students, staff and local businesses raised enough items to package 92 boxes and a total of \$215 to send to children in need. Thanks to everyone for your very generous support!



APPROPRIATE DRESS - COLD WEATHER



The days are getting colder as the winter season arrives. 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.

Please be advised that students are kept indoors at recess during the winter only when the weather conditions are extremely cold. (When the wind chill equivalent temperature is minus 25 degrees Celsius or lower, as per school Board policy.)

ARTISTS AT ST. BENEDICT

Many of our students have recently participated in student poster displays / competitions. Students who received individual recognition in these events are as follows:

Orangeville Lions Club "International Peace Poster" contest:

1st—Chad G., 2nd—Samantha S., 3rd—Grace R.

4th—Terry Y., 5th—Michael M.

Honorable Mention—Matthew F., Maurizio G., Emily D., Jessica T. and Emma H.

Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day poster contest:

Colour poster—1st—Carly L., 2nd—Jessica T., 3rd—Dana W. Honorable Mention—Reilly T., Rachel M., Catherine T.

Black and White—1st—Angel G., 2nd—Heather H., 3rd—Ryley N. **Honourable Mention**—Grace A., Kaitlyn F., Tyrell A., Adam M. First place winners in this contest will have their posters submitted to the regional competition.

Congratulations to all students who submitted posters to these contests. Sincere thanks are also extended to the junior and intermediate teachers who encouraged and motivated our student's participation in these initiatives.

ST. BENEDICT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert will involve the grade 1—8 classes. The concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 21. Parents are invited to attend either the 1:15 p.m. presentation or the 7:00 p.m. evening show.** All students will have an opportunity to see the show at a dress rehearsal performance. After their performances students will not be permitted to return to the audience, but will go to a supervised classroom to wait for the end of the show. Parking is very limited at our school so please consider walking or car pooling. Overflow parking will be available in the neighbouring church parking lot or on adjacent residential streets. Please do not park on Blind Line.

If you plan on attending the evening performance, please consider participating in our Christmas Concert Fundraising initiative. We are raffling off reserved front row seating and also reserved parking spaces for our evening show. The funds raised will be used to support our school snack program. Please refer to flyer recently sent me for more details on this fundraising initiative.

PEOPLE OF HOPE...

- EXPECT THE BEST TO HAPPEN FOR EVERYONE
- HOLD ON TO THEIR DREAMS
- ALWAYS COUNT ON GOD TO HELP THEM IN TOUGH SITUATIONS
- TRUST THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT IN GOD'S WAY
- LOOK FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO COME OUT OF PROBLEMS
- ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO LIFE'S BLESSINGS
- SET AND STICK TO THEIR OWN GOALS

HOPE



PLASTIC MILK BAG COLLECTION

We are collecting clean plastic milk bags to help with the creation of sleeping mats for children in developing countries. If you buy milk in the three liter bags, please rinse and send the outer plastic bags to school. They will be made into sleeping mats by R. F. Hall Secondary School students.



SAFE SCHOOLS FOCUS FOR DECEMBER - EVERYONE NEEDS TO FEEL INCLUDED

In December the focus is on including and accepting others. The message "we all want to feel included" underscores the idea that all of us desire the same thing and we all have some responsibility in creating an atmosphere that is inclusive. Students will learn the meaning of empathy and explore feelings associated with being excluded. Research shows that bullying behaviours demonstrate a lack of empathy toward others. Students will also look at how to help someone feel included and examine ways of strengthening their friendship building skills.

Tips for parents:

- talk with your children about ways to build friendships with others;
- reinforce the message that even if we aren't good friends with someone we can still be friendly, considerate and welcoming;
- use 'teachable moments' (e.g., family situations, media, and movies) to explore empathy with your children and help them relate to and understand how others are feeling.

DECEMBER VIRTUE

December Virtue of the Month is HOPE

People of Hope:

- Keep a positive attitude
- Can bounce back from a tough situation
- 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

The daily prayer of HOPE for December is:

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

HAT, MITTENS, SCARF AND FOOD DRIVE

As we prepare our hearts and our homes for the Christmas season, let us also remember our neighbours in this community, who are less fortunate. Your generosity makes a real difference. Last year your support helped many families and allowed numerous children enjoy a positive Christmas. Throughout the period leading up to our Christmas holidays, our school community will be assisting the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Timothy Parish by hosting a hat, scarf, mittens and food drive. If you are able, please consider donating a winter hat, pair of mittens / gloves, scarf or non-perishable food items.

JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2012—2013

Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, will take place at St. Benedict 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

9:00-11:00 a.m.

1:00-3:00 p.m.

For more information, call 519-942-5980 or visit www.dpdsb.org.

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) INFORMATION NIGHT

“Planning for Children entering
JK, SK & Full Day Kindergarten”

(September 2012)

An Information Night

for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Children with

Special Needs such as

Vision, Hearing, Autism, Physical/Medical and/or Developmental Delays in the cognitive and/or motor areas

On Tuesday, January 17, 2012

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at

**DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
OFFICE**

40 Matheson Blvd. West, Mississauga, Ontario

(Northwest corner of Hurontario Street and Matheson Boulevard,
south of Hwy 401)

In Room 301 (3rd floor)

**Please Note: Registration will take place at your local school on
February 6, 8, 9 & 10, 2012 Snow Date: February 7, 2012**

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL



GIRLS

Our junior girls' volleyball team is currently in the midst of an extremely successful season. They recently finished first at the local tournament here at St. Benedict School. On December 2 the team competed at the Family of Schools level tournament at St. Michael Secondary School, in Bolton. They competed and played very well. The members of this wonderfully talented team are as follows:

**Erika C., Grace A., Vanessa T.,
Olivia L., Lindsay G., Meghan O.,
Sierra S., Kathleen C., Shannen D.
and Emma H.**

Sincere thanks are extended to **Ms. LaVieille** and **Mr. Merry** for all of their inspired coaching efforts.

BOYS

The Junior Boys Volleyball team also had a very successful season. They also qualified for the Family level tournament at St. Michael's Secondary School in Bolton, on December 2. The boys were great ambassadors of our school, and showed a great deal of sportsmanship, respect and honour during their games. Team members are:

**Tyrell A., Noah D., Jordan P., Marshall P.,
Isaac C., Sebastian I., Liam H. and Jacob F.**

Sincere thanks are extended to **Mr. Merry** and **Ms. LaVieille** for excellent and dedicated coaching.

Sincere thanks are also extended to the volunteer parent drivers who assisted the boys and girls teams on

December 2!



