

What's New

- [Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open](#)
- [Registration for St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre- January 13-16, 2025](#)
- [Entry Planning Information Sessions for students with Differing Abilities - January 16 & 20, 2025](#)
- [Weather-Related Bus Cancellations/System Closures](#)

Board Highlights

The following items were received or approved by the Board at its December 10, 2024 meeting:

Pastor's Remarks:

- Monsignor J. Shiels Video Presentation: Advent and Christmas

Updates/Information/Reports:

- 2023-2024 Director's Annual Report
- 2024-2025 Revised Estimates - Operating & Capital Budgets

[Link to Recording](#) / [Link to Agenda](#)

Upcoming Board Meeting: January 28, 2025

For a complete calendar of Board and Committee meetings, agendas and minutes, visit the DPCDSB [Board Meetings webpage](#).

January Virtue of the Month: Self-Control/Decision Making

Self-Control/Decision-Making is regulating your thoughts and actions so that you stop any pressures from within or without and act the way you know and feel is right. Developing loving habits helps us to respond lovingly to others in our choices and actions. *"Like a city breached, without walls, is one who lacks self-control."* (Prov. 25:28)

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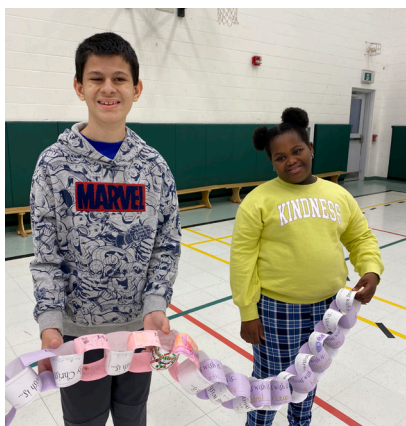
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Students from The Joy Club at St. Monica Catholic Elementary School embarked on a heartwarming mission to create the longest chain of Christmas wishes. They gathered over 200 wishes from staff and students and designed a beautiful chain that stretched an impressive 6.5 meters long. The Joy Club plans to display their wish chain at the front of the school, transforming it into a powerful reminder of the kind wishes shared by the children. Some of the wishes included, "Spending more time with family," "Peace around the world," and "Healing for the sick". Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!



Our Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School community has been blessed with a new Nativity Scene that beautifully demonstrates the significance of the Advent Season and our school community.

We are grateful and blessed to have our Art teacher, Mr. Brian Brito, share his incredible talents with us in making this masterpiece come to life.

It is a true testament to our faith, our journey through Advent and our excitement as we await the coming of Christ!

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In

the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:14-16



St. John XXIII Catholic Elementary School celebrated its 18th Annual Breakfast with Santa on November 30. It was a wonderful event that sparked delightful anticipation, coupled with the school spirit of students, families and staff alike. Various activities included a delicious breakfast service, family pictures with Santa (with some proceeds of the sales going to ShareLife), canned food donations, interactive arts and crafts, face painting, a book fair, travelling Christmas entertainers, and our choir known as the Jammin Jayhawks serenading the audience with Christmas songs. We express our gratitude to all our St. John XXIII students, families and staff who attended, and special thanks to our school trustee, Luz del Rosario, who was present to support our school community. This amazing day would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our St. John XXIII Catholic School Council, student alumni and staff volunteers.

A Victorian Christmas for John Cabot's ELL Newcomer Program

On December 5, newcomer English Language Learners from John Cabot Catholic Secondary School and their teachers travelled back in time to the 1800s to experience a Victorian Christmas at Black Creek Village. With a growing ELL newcomer population of over 200 students who arrived in Canada within the past few years, Cabot is blessed with students who have travelled thousands of miles from their homes around the world to be with us. Our students come from: Philippines, China, Vietnam, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Pakistan, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Turkey, Ukraine, Poland, Georgia and more.

Many of the students that visited Black Creek that day experienced snow for this first time as they walked the grounds where pioneers founded a small village over 100 years ago. Pioneer guides led the students around the village, explaining the lives of farmers, doctors and landowners. Students saw the workings of a printing press and a tinsmith shop. They also sat in a one-room schoolhouse as they learned how children learned the "3 Rs" when they were free from chores on the farms.

Christmas activities included creating home-made ornaments, orange clove pomanders and even singing Christmas songs on the bus on the way back to school.

Students learned many things at Black Creek, but one of the most important lessons they learned is that even though we may speak different languages, festivities, food, fun, family and friends are values we all share no matter where we come from.





On November 24, former students of St. John Bosco Catholic Elementary School, along with Parent Council, volunteered their time to run a Christmas Community Event in the school gym. Families were able to pre-purchase a pizza dinner and have a photo taken with Santa. Children also had the chance to participate in crafts, games and activities, including writing a letter to Santa.

Upcoming Events

January - Tamil Heritage Month (National)

January 1 – The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

This day dedicated to Mary, Mother of God. It celebrates Mary's role in the Incarnation and in redemption. Her special relationship with her son is emphasized and she is acknowledged as a model of the Church.

January 1 – World Day of Peace

The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that *"every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and promise at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come."* Each year has a specific theme, chosen by the Holy Father.

January 3 – Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, heaven and on earth and under the earth, every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:10-11)

January 5 – Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother." (Matthew 2:11)

The feast of the Epiphany is the time during the Christmas season when we celebrate the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus. Along with the three wise men, we mark this special day with joy, for God has seen fit to come to us in the form of a human being, Jesus of Nazareth.

January 5 – First Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 7 – Feast of the Nativity

Tonight the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches who follow the Julian calendar begin the celebration of Christmas.

January 12 – The Baptism of the Lord

"And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'" (Mark 1:9-11)

January 12 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 13-16 - Registration for St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre International Baccalaureate Programmes

Registration for St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre International Baccalaureate Programmes for the 2025-26 school year (Kindergarten to Grade 8) will take place Monday, January 13 to Thursday, January 16, 2025. St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre is an authorized International Baccalaureate (I.B.) World School which offers the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) and provides learning opportunities with a global focus for students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. As a regional site, St. James C.G.L.C. does not offer online registration through the board's online system. The registration process is outlined on the [registration section of the school website](#). The completed registration form(s) and supporting documentation can be sent by email to St.JamesInfo@dpcdsb.org. In the event the number of applications exceeds the number of allotted spaces, completed applications received by the due date will be subject to the random selection process. To be included in the random selection process, registrations must be received by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025. For more information, visit the school website or contact the school office at 905-891-7619 or St.JamesInfo@dpcdsb.org.

January 16 & 20 - DPCDSB Entry Planning Information Sessions for students with Differing Abilities

The DPCDSB Special Education and Learning Services Department invites parents/guardians to an information session to support the entry planning and transition for students with differing abilities who will be new to the DPCDSB and beginning September 2025. Parents/guardians will have the option to attend the in-person or a virtual session of this event. During the in-person session, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to meet with board staff and to learn more about the entry planning and transition process for students with differing abilities. The same information presented at the in-person event will be shared at the virtual evening session for those families who choose to attend online. Please refer to the [event flyer](#) for registration and information. Inquiries regarding registration for the parent information session may be directed to Fara Miranda Fernandes, Resource Secretary, Special Education & Learning Services at 905-890-0708 Ext. 24011 or Fara.MirandaFernandes@dpcdsb.org.

January 18-25 – Prayer for Christian Unity

This universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to participate in various liturgical and other community activities, and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires.

January 19 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday of the Word of God

“Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.”
- Pope Francis

January 24 - International Day of Education

January 25 – Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

“..present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me”. (Colossians 1:28b-29)

January 27 - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

January 26 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29 - Gifted Identification Information Session

Open to families who are interested in learning more about the Gifted Identification Process in DPCDSB. Virtual presentation via TEAMS. Time: 7:00-8:00 pm. For more information, refer to the [event flyer](#).

For a complete schedule of events, visit the [DPCDSB Events webpage](#).

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