

# St. Albert of Jerusalem School December 2008 Newsletter



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**Principal:**

G. Boudreau

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**Parish:**

St. John of the Cross  
6890 Glen Erin Drive  
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**Pastoral Team**

Fr. Leo Huard  
Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil  
Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

## **ADVENT PRAYER**

**Father in heaven,  
our hearts desire the warmth of  
your love and our minds are  
searching for the light of your  
Word.**

**Increase our longing for Christ  
our Savior and give us the  
strength to grow in love, that  
the dawn of his coming may  
find us rejoicing in his presence  
and welcoming the light of his  
truth.**

**We ask this in the name of  
Jesus the Lord.**



*“Upon our foundation, we continue to build the Spirit”*



## Welcoming Advent and Christmas

The season of Advent is a time of expectation, waiting, caring, compassion, kindness, and hope. We celebrate that the promise to the people of God is fulfilled. Besides remembering the first Christmas, Advent is also a season to remember that Jesus will come again at the end of time. The Christmas season is a time to live in peace, and to remember that Jesus came for all cultures, all nations, and all people.

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and our lives so that we will be able to fully celebrate Christmas. We must encourage the children to live Advent as a season distinct from Christmas. Children need to hear the message that the month of December is about more than shopping and parties.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas should be a time of reconciliation and forgiveness, a time of reaching out to those we may have hurt by our words and our actions. They are seasons in which we reflect on and continue our journey with Jesus.

“We must keep the light of Christ before us.”



### Advent Mass for Families

Our school community Mass is scheduled for **Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. at St. John of the Cross Church.** Please join us at that time to pause, reflect and enjoy the true meaning of this special season. Good fellowship and cheer, organized by our School Council, will be enjoyed by all in the parish hall following the Mass.

Anyone donating baked goods (preferably nut free) is asked to drop them off between 6:30-7:00 pm in Nessinger Hall.

### Virtues

We celebrated the virtues of Faith and Empathy in November. Students from each class were chosen who demonstrated characteristics of each Virtue. They received a pencil with the name of the virtue on it during a school-wide assembly and had a group photo which will be displayed in our new virtues corner in the main hall once it is completed.

Thank you to Ms. Szekelyhidy's students and St. Albert's Youth Ambassadors for their presentations on the "Look For" behaviors for November's Virtue, Conscience.

December's Virtue is one of Hope. A hopeful person is...

- inspired and inspires others
- optimistic
- one who seeks good things from life
- one who sees the good in the world

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to our Grade 2 students who received the sacrament of Reconciliation in November.



### JK Christmas Celebration

This delightful event, presented by the Junior Kindergarten students, will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in your child's classroom at 10:00 am for morning students and 1:45 pm for afternoon students.

### SK Christmas Celebration

The SK students will hold a Christmas Celebration on December 15 at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm in the classroom, rooms 102 and 105 respectively. Parents are invited to come and listen to their children sing Christmas songs and participate in the making of a craft.



### Christmas Mitten Tree

In the spirit of giving, the St. Albert Community would like to continue with our school tradition of the Mitten Tree. Families are asked to donate unused mittens, hats and scarves to provide needy children these necessary garments for winter. Clothing will be placed on our school Christmas tree as a symbol of giving. All donations will be given to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Items will be accepted until December 18, 2008.

### School Mascot Drawing Contest

St. Albert students are participating in the contest....

So You Think You Can Draw?

Students from Grades 1 to 8 are asked to design our school mascot. The deadline for entries is December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The classroom winners will be displayed in the hall during the week of December 15, 2008 for all to view. The winning design will be used as a mural in the large gymnasium.

So let's see you draw, St. Albert!!!!

## **Program and Curriculum**

Assessment Evaluation and Reporting: Report Cards for Grades 1-8 will be sent home on December 2, 2008.

Parent-Teacher Interviews for Grades 1-8: will be held on the evening of *Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008* and during the day on *Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008*.

## ***School Council***

### **SAVE THE DATE**

School Council Meeting: December 2, 2008 6:45  
Festive Family Skate: December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (1:15-3:15)



### **Eden Community Food Bank**

Thank you to the St. Albert of Jerusalem Community for their support with Toonie Tuesday.

### **Haunted House for ShareLife/United Way**

Thank you to all the students that brought in donations for Haunted House. We raised \$907.00 for ShareLife/United Way. A special thank you to the Grade 6 students who hosted this event.

### **Volunteers -You are Appreciated!**

During this Advent season we would like to thank all volunteers for your efforts in helping our children. Your time and effort with the All Star Reading Program, your participation in the various fundraising events sponsored by our School Council, your help in the classrooms, library, school trips, Kiss and Ride, or any other contribution to the school community are greatly appreciated. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless each and every one of you and may you all have a joyous Christmas.

### **News from the Library**



Due to an awesome, but overwhelming response, there is a waiting list for many of the School Council items available in the St. Albert of Jerusalem School Library. As a result, we will be limiting the number of books available for borrowing from two books down to only one, and reducing the period to one week. Please remember that items are available for a ONE WEEK lending period.

## **First Aid**

We have the opportunity for our grade 1 & 2 students to participate in a Canadian Red Cross First Aid Course for kids called 'PeopleSavers' level 2. This course will cover topics such as: what's in a first aid kit, calling EMS, emergency action steps, identifying emergencies, poisons and dangers, cuts, scrapes, burns and more! A Canadian Red Cross First Aid Instructor will teach the lessons during the lunch hour. The course for grade 1 students will take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>. The course for grade 2 students will take place on December 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The class size will be maximum 25 – 30 students; therefore, applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Permission forms will be sent home with the students shortly.

## **St Albert of Jerusalem School Official Website**

Check out our official website at:

<http://www.dpcdsb.org>

Just follow the links for authorized and accurate information pertaining to St Albert of Jerusalem School.

## **Peel Regional Police Feeder School Program**

We are in our second year of the Peel Regional Police Feeder School Program. Two Neighborhood Policing Unit Officers have been assigned to St Albert of Jerusalem. This program strengthens and develops the partnership between students, staff and officers. This program will continue until April 2009. The officers will then be redeployed as Bike Unit officers for the summer months.

## **School Trips and Other Financial Requests**

Most school based activities are free of charge. However, from time to time the monetary request for trips and other items may cause some financial strain. At the same time, other opportunities at school such as Lunch Moms, and Pizza Days are voluntary and your discretion is required. However, please know that no child is ever held back from a school trip or classroom based activity/program for financial reasons. If you require assistance with classroom based activities please speak to Mr. Boudreau in confidence and arrangements can be made.

## **Lost and Found**

Our Lost and Found Box is overflowing. If your child has misplaced an item, ask them to visit the Lost & Found box. If you would like to look for a lost item, please sign in at the office first. Please feel free to drop in and look for lost items during Parent-Teacher Interviews. **Any items not claimed by Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 will be donated to charity.**

## **Emergency School Procedures**

There may be days during the upcoming winter months when inclement weather presents a potential safety hazard to our children. It is essential that parents discuss with their children the procedures they wish them to take to get home safely after getting off the bus. This discussion should include such direction as:

1. The appropriate/best route to follow on the walk home.
2. With whom the child should walk.
3. Where the child should go if parents are not at home or if they get locked out.
4. How the child should seek help if wind and snow are so strong that he/she cannot see their way.

**You are the ultimate authority in deciding what weather conditions you consider safe for your child. It is always better to err on the side of caution than to risk a young life.**

## **Indoor / Outdoor Shoes**

The students should have a pair of indoor shoes to wear at school, in class and for gym. Outdoor shoes/boots will be kept for outdoor use only and out of the classrooms in order to reduce the amount of dirt and mud brought indoors. This will assist Mr. Silva and staff in keeping the school clean.

## **Snowballs and Cold Weather**

We will be reminding all students that snowball throwing is **NOT ACCEPTABLE**, as it can lead to injury, especially facial or eye injuries. Please reinforce this safety consideration with your child(ren). We also ask your co-operation in reviewing with your child(ren) the need to be respectful of each other outside on the playground.

## **Cold and Flu Season**

Cold and flu season is back and so too are children's illnesses. Please use your discretion in keeping your child home to recover. A child who is coughing, wheezing, etc. is not in a state to learn and is in a position to infect other children. Remember, if your children are well enough to attend school, they are well enough to go outside at recess. It is impossible for supervision and safety to have some students inside and others outside.

## **Anaphylaxis, Life Threatening Allergies and School**

We ask that you refrain from sending in baked goods during this holiday season as we have many students subject to severe allergies. Thank you for your consideration of the safety of all our students.

## **Christmas Holiday Reminder**

Christmas Break is Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008 to Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009. . . The last day of classes for students is **Friday, December 19, 2008**. It is a regular day with dismissal at 3:00 p.m. School will recommence, in the New Year, on **Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.



*May our celebration of His Birth  
Lead to renewed love and involvement in each other's  
lives,  
And, Moved by your spirit,  
May we make Your Kingdom on Earth  
More like the image of our home in heaven.*

*The staff and administration would like to wish the  
St. Albert of Jerusalem's School Community a  
Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

