

Grade 5 Extended French

St. Christopher School will be hosting an Extended French Program Information meeting for parents of Grade 4 students who wish to register in the program. Students in this program receive 50% of curriculum instruction in the French language.

Parents are encouraged to speak to your child's classroom teacher and French teacher to discuss the suitability of this opportunity for your child. Interested parents are invited to this presentation on **January 29th at 7:00 pm** at St. Christopher school gym.

Grade 1 French Immersion

Parents interested in **Grade 1 French Immersion** may wish to attend an information meeting on **January 26th at 7:00 pm** at St. Margaret of Scotland School.

Iona Catholic Secondary School Arts & Culture Pathway

Iona Catholic Secondary School is approaching the second year of an exciting pathway. The **"Iona Catholic Secondary School Arts & Culture Pathway"** is a huge success.

We will be open for applications to all Mississauga grade 8 students entering grade nine in September, 2009 and all Mississauga grade 9 students wishing to enter the Arts Pathway in grade 10 in September 2009. This intensive Arts & Culture Pathway will be a viable Catholic alternative for those students who would normally pursue their Arts education at a specific school of the arts. Our Arts & Culture Pathway will require students to partake in an intake process which will include an application, recommendations, interview, audition, portfolio, and preparation session. The Arts and Culture Pathway is designed to meet the diverse learning needs of all students in areas such as dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music, photography and visual arts. The intake process will commence in early 2009.

A parent information night to kick off the second year of the "Iona Catholic Arts & Culture Pathway" occurred November 28th at Iona Catholic Secondary School. Parents/guardians and potential "Iona Arts & Culture Pathway" students are invited to hear and see more about this unique pathway as well as meet with Iona Catholic Secondary School staff who are involved in the various areas.

Council Corner

Dance-A-Thon a Huge Success!

Wow! Thank you so much! Your participation was fantastic and your generosity outstanding. We managed to raise \$8,641.19 at our Much Music Video Dance-A-Thon!

The students had a great time, as did some of our parents. The top fund raising class was Miss D'Ettore's who raised \$874.00. They earned a pizza party. The next three top fund raising classes earned an ice cream sundae party. They were: Mrs. Keddy's \$621.00, Mrs. Legere \$603.75, and Miss Ramelli's \$565.00.

The top selling student is Bryce C. from Miss D'Ettore's class who raised \$245.00. He won the Raptor Tickets, donated by a parent from our school, Mr. Conner from DMG World Media. Thank you to the Loncar family who donated all the prize baskets. Thank you to our Fundraising Chair, Jane Cotnam, and our parent volunteers for their hard work on behalf of the school.

The early bird prize winners were: Steven D. from Mrs. Johnson's, Rachel S. from Miss D'Ettore's and Brian D. from Mrs. Legere's classes.

The Next Council meeting and Parent Social is Dec. 8 at 6:30 pm in the school library. Please bring an appetizer or treat to share. Baby sitting is provided at the school. Please leave a note at the office if you need babysitting.

Dates to Remember:

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| December 4th- | Parent/Teacher Interviews |
| December 5th- | PA Day Parent/Teacher Interviews |
| December 8th- | School Council Mtg /Christmas Social @ 6:30 pm Lunch Lady |
| December 9th- | Gr 8 Visit to Loyola Catholic S.S. |
| December 10th- | Jr. Division "Cinderella" |
| December 11th- | Keddy—Silvercreek
Primary Christmas Concert 10:15 am & 7:00 pm
Gr. 8 Loyola Option Sheet Presentation |
| December 12th- | Pizza Day |
| December 15th- | Lunch Lady |
| December 16th- | JK/SK Christmas Concert @ 9:30 am & 1:30 pm |
| December 17th- | Johnson—Silvercreek |
| December 19th- | Christmas Assembly Sing-A-Long @ 9:00 am |
| January 5th- | Return Back To School |
| January 9th- | Pizza Day |
| January 19th- | Gr 7 Hep B & Gr 8 Girls HPV |
| January 23rd- | Gr 7/8 Dance Workshop |
| January 26th- | Pizza Day
French Immersion Gr 1 Parent Info. Mtg @ 7:00pm St. Margaret of Scotland
Gr 7 Diversity @ Iona Catholic S.S. |
| January 27th- | PA Day |
| January 28th- | Gr 5 Ext. French Parent Info Mtg. @ 7:00 pm |
| January 29th- | St. Christopher School
Assembly Mrs. Kuta/Ms. Ramelli and Mrs. Keddy |
| January 30th- | Gr 7 & 8 Living Arts Centre |
| February 6th- | CCSC "Joe Rich-Parenting The Long Journey |
| February 12th- | What to Pack" 7:00 pm Miss. Conven. Centre |
| February 16th- | Family Day |



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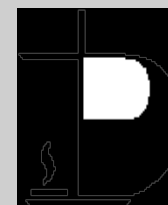
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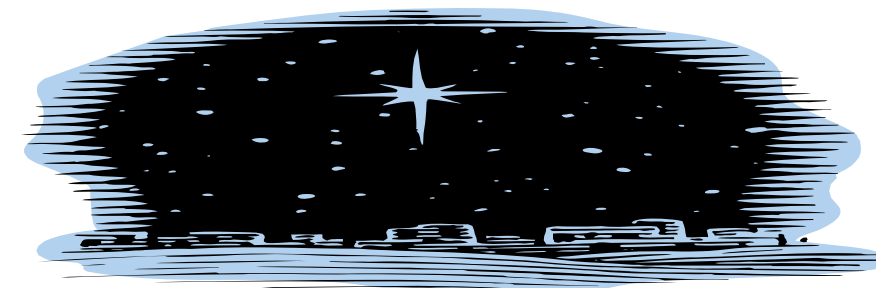
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www.dpcdsb.org/
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St. Mark School

December 2008



CHRISTMAS PRAYER

May this joyous season find all of your days
Spent in abundance in so many ways —
May LOVE be your blanket on a cold winter's day
May PEACE be your altar as you kneel down to pray.
May HOPE be your fire, a warmth to your feet,
And may you find JOY with each friend that you meet.
May HAPPINESS follow wherever you go —
And CONTENTMENT bring sunshine, to melt winter's snow.
These blessings I wish you, on this Christmas Day —
And may they go with you, forever, I pray.

Principal's Message



December has arrived! It is a very special and sacred month. Advent, a time of waiting, is filled with many activities and events that lead us to our most precious day, the birth of Jesus. Christmas Day is a day to celebrate and enjoy family and friends. I look forward to being in Boston with my family! The warmth of the season, as well as the hustle and bustle, has begun. Let us all remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the spirit of giving. December brings us to the end of Term One, a very active term. I hope you will join us for our assemblies and Christmas Concert. We are pleased to highlight the talents of your children at these events. We

will be supporting the St. Ignatius Loyola Parish - St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Drive. Please consider donating to help this worthy cause. When we return in the New Year, I hope we will all be rested and rejuvenated. Thank you for your continued support and I wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas!

God Bless,
Connie Gale



School Assembly & Sing-a-long Dec. 19

Our school choir, under the direction of Mrs. Legere, will be filling the halls with their enthusiastic voices over our Christmas season, and leading our school in song at the **Christmas Assembly on December 19th at 9:00 am.**

Congratulations to our school choir who sang so beautifully at our Advent Mass.



Virtues Program

This month we celebrate the Virtue of Hope. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. God helps us to keep on working for a more peaceful world even when we feel discour-

aged. People of Hope...keep up a positive attitude, can bounce back from tough situations, set and stick to their **goals**. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

Notes from Student Council

Angel Tree

Under the direction of Mrs. Kuta and Miss Ramelli, St. Mark School will once again be supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. You can come into the school and select an ornament from our Angel Tree to purchase gifts for specific family members, or other items such as grocery store gift certificates, movie passes and pizza vouchers. If selecting a gift for a specific family member, please have it pre-wrapped with the angel tag attached to the gift. The Angel Tree will be located in the front foyer. They have also asked for candy canes, chocolates, cakes or food vouchers. Please have all gifts sent to the school by **December 10th.**

Student Council will be **selling Candy Grams from December 8 to 12** for .25 cent each or 5 for a \$1.00. Money is going to World Vision/Share Life.

Student Council is also collecting **Mittens, Hats and Scarves** for the stockings which have class names on them. Each class is responsible for filling a stocking. The stockings are hanging in the front entrance of the school.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Grade 8 and Grade 2 students who took part in sacramental enrollments in December for Confirmation and Reconciliation.

Eden Food Bank

Thank you to the students and community who so generously donated \$ 381.00 to this food bank which serves our community.



Book Fair

Come one and all! The Scholastic Book Fair is at St. Mark Library from **December 2nd to 5th.** There is something for everyone, from beginning readers to the latest new releases for our older students.

Wish lists have been sent home with your child after their class visits. Students will have opportunities to buy books with the class, or parents may wish to visit on Interview Evening, **December 4th or on the PA Day December 5th.**

Book Donation Cards

Cards are available from Mrs. Tinkham for those parents who would like to purchase them as a gift for their child's teacher.

Reporting Time



Report cards were sent home on December 2nd. Teachers will be setting times to meet with you, regarding your children's progress. The evening of **December 4th and during the day on December 5th** will be when the majority of interviews will occur. We ask you to contact the appropriate staff at any time should you require further clarification, or should you have questions or suggestions. Confirmation of your schedule was sent home in the report card envelope.

A reminder that the Response Form (page 3) should be returned along with the envelope as soon as possible.

Dry Feet, Dry Clothing & Staying in for Recess

Colder weather is upon us! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots. As the rainy season gives way to slush and snow, all students are reminded to bring an extra pair of shoes to wear indoors during the winter months. Fire regulations dictate that all students must have footwear on at all times.

In anticipation of a cold and snowy winter, we would also like to advise parents of children in the primary grades to send an extra set of clothes (track pants, sweatshirts, socks, underwear) to school in January. These clothes will be kept at the school to be used when the child is wet from playing in the snow.

In the colder weather we often receive requests to allow children to remain indoors when they have a cold, flu, etc. Please note that we cannot comply, as we have neither the facilities nor the staff to supervise these students. If you feel your child is not well enough to go outside, it would be best for you to keep your child at home. **REMEMBER: Health officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial, as long as students are dressed appropriately.** On extremely cold days, when the wind-chill factor exceeds -20C, we limit the amount of time that students spend out of doors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow School Board guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, all children will go out for recess and the lunch breaks.

Snowballs



Just a reminder...Please emphasize to your children that School/Board policy **DOES NOT ALLOW THROWING SNOWBALLS, KICKING SNOW, OR "SNOWING" OTHERS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

Please remind your children of the seriousness of these activities and the possible danger, for those hit.

