



**NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2008**

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St. Joseph Elementary School

We C.A.R.E.: Catholic Community, Acceptance, Respect, Excellence

Advent Prayer

Lord God,
We come to you with excited and grateful hearts as we begin a new
church year and season.

Thank you for this Advent time.

It's exciting as we get closer to Christmas!
And it's good for us to slow down and enjoy each other more.

Fill us with your peace.

Make us better people.

Teach us to appreciate each other more deeply.
Help each of us to tell others more often how much they mean to us.

Make us aware that you walk with us each day.

Help us to be grateful and joyful.

Make our hearts strong and brave.

We love you, Lord.

Amen

VIRTUE OF HOPE

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

Celebrating our Faith

ADVENT MASS

On Monday, December 1st, at St. Joseph Church, our school community celebrated the Eucharist together with Father Marc-Andre. Special thanks to Mrs. Falcone, Mrs. Sajda and Mrs. Malo and their students for hosting the Mass. Thanks are also extended to our school choir under the direction of Mrs. Huber, Mrs. DeRango and Mr. Furtado.

Curriculum & Student Activities

VIRTUES PROGRAM

On Tuesday, December 2nd, we honoured the "Students of the Month" for October and November for the virtues of Empathy and Conscience. We also introduced the virtue of Hope for December. Thank you to Mrs. Malo, Mr. Bernais and Mr. Furtado and their students for preparing the liturgy.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Last week we sent home information regarding our "Acts of Kindness" Christmas activities organized by our Student Council under the direction of Mrs. Gaskin, Mrs. Coulson and Mme DaSilva. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support of our efforts.

JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

We would like to congratulate the Junior Boys volleyball team for a great season. Thank you to all parent volunteers for driving us around and cheering us on!

Randy Y., Tyler F., Xavier B., Andrew P., Ty P., Jamie H., Dylan D., Matthew B. and Karlo M.

Your coaches, Mrs. Guerrizio and Mrs. Falcone.

ALL STAR READING PROGRAM

The All Star Reading program is designed to help develop the reading skills of primary students through the assistance of volunteer "coaches". No previous experience is required as training and ongoing support is given. All materials are provided for the volunteers.

Any amount of time that you are able to give is greatly appreciated. We will design the program to fit your schedule.

It is a requirement that all school volunteers provide a current Criminal Reference Check before beginning the program. If you would like a form, please see the school secretary, Mrs. Carabetta.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Miss Sandford at the school.

Home-School Communication

STAFF UPDATE

Congratulations to Mrs. Murrell on her retirement. We wish her all the best.

We welcome Mrs. Neiva to the JK/SK classes.

LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR

We are looking for additional assistance with Lunchroom supervision. This is a paid position that would require one hour of your time a day. If anyone is interested, please contact the office. It is necessary that a Criminal Reference Check be completed which is available at the office.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The dates for the Christmas Holiday this year are December 22nd to January 4th. Students return to school on Monday, January 5th, 2009.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MASS SCHEDULE & NEWS

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24

3:45 p.m. Christmas Pageant, Mass 4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. & 12:00 midnight

Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 26 - 8:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Wednesday, Dec. 31 - 6:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Thursday, Jan. 1 - 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Please note that this is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Do you love to Sing? St. Joseph's Parish Children's Choir is looking for new members. Singing with the Children's Choir will provide a variety of benefits for your child. Studies have shown that exposure

to music improves brain development. At St. Joseph's Parish your child will develop their vocal skills while learning to read music and will also receive a basic introduction to music library. The choir accepts children from the ages of 5-13. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 5:30-7:00p.m. with a 9:00a.m. warm-up on Sundays for the 9:30a.m. mass. We accept new registrations at the Thursday rehearsals. For more information call Ana Maria Nunes at 905-568-2886

DROP OFF and PICK UP

Parents are reminded that supervision is available 15 minutes before the bell. Students should not be dropped off before 8:30 a.m. When parents need to talk with their children during the school day, they must first come to the office and sign in. For safety reasons, staff will direct all parents to the office. Also, parents must sign out all students from the office if they are leaving the school.

DRESSING FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please assist us in encouraging the children to dress appropriately for the weather. It is helpful when parents label items of clothing with their child's name, so that each person can more easily locate his/her own clothing from the class coat rack area. Each term many items make their way to the Lost and Found and are never claimed. Labeled items can be returned more easily and mixed up items sorted out more readily.

Also, please ensure that your child has indoor and outdoor shoes. In case of an emergency, the students will not have time to put on their boots/outdoor shoes. Students are not permitted to wear their boots/outdoor shoes indoors due to health and safety concerns. Your cooperation is appreciated.

USE OF SCHOOL PHONES

Students are only permitted to use the school phone in case of an emergency. An emergency is considered to be an injury or illness. Calling home for a pair of forgotten shoes or homework, or wanting to stay after school for a sporting event is not deemed to be an emergency.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of our School Council will be held on Thursday, January 22nd, 2009. All are welcome to attend.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 4 PM- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- 5 PA Day- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- 13 School Choir @ Loblaws (Glen Erin and Eglinton) @ 10:00 am-12:30 p.m.
- 19 Christmas Caroling- 9:00 a.m. in gym

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 5 Classes Begin
- 13 Hep B- 2nd Dose
First Communion Parent Mtg @ 7:30 p.m.
at St. Joseph Church
- 22 School Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- 28 P.A. Day- No School for students

The staff of St. Joseph School extend our best wishes to you and your family during this Christmas season. We hope that you will be blessed with the spirit and gifts of that first Christmas – peace, love and goodwill toward all mankind. May the promise of Christmas help to show God's boundless love for you and may you be blessed with good health, prosperity and happiness throughout the New Year!

**Merry
Christmas!**