



POPE FRANCIS NEWSLETTER

December 2021



We thank you for your understanding with the delay in sending home our Progress Reports. This September, the board instituted a new operating system that manages everything from student attendance to reporting. There were unanticipated printing problems that took a great deal of time to sort out. You will notice some empty boxes in the progress reports for Grade 1 to 5 where descriptions of the levels of achievement. We anticipate that these problems will be resolved by the Term 1 reports in February. The reports will now go home on **Wednesday, December 1st**.



We continue to have a number of items in the Lost and Found. Brand new mittens, ski pants and coats have been filling up the baskets and not claimed. Please ensure that your child's name is written in clothing so we can identify who it belongs to. Items left for several weeks are donated to the Father Costello Community Center.

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is already upon us. Every year seems to fly by more and more quickly and Covid has certainly impacted what we are able to do at school to celebrate Christmas. Sadly, we are required to cancel our in person Christmas Concert once again this year but we will be offering a virtual concert which will be released on December 16th. We are not able to prepare food or accept any homemade goodies this year.

During the month of December, we do have a number of spirit days planned please refer to the calendar, your child may participate in as many as they like. Should there be a Snow Day on the calendar day, the spirit day will not be postponed.

Over the next few weeks we will be reflecting on the symbolism of each week of Advent. We will emphasize the excitement, wonder, joy, expectation, even exhilaration we feel as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. The themes of Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace will be featured.

We are excited to be hosting a **Festive Food Drive** the week of December 6th to 10th. Non-perishable food items will be donated to the Timmins Food Bank.

COVID Daily Self Monitoring

The school has had an outbreak of Covid 19 in the last few weeks. As this situation resolves itself we need to be sure that we can prevent the spread of this virus. Please remind your child to wash their hands and use sanitizer frequently throughout the day. Students need frequent reminders to keep their hands and face masks clean. Ensure that your child's face mask is washed regularly to ensure that it is clean and germ free. Please note that we often get children in the office who report symptoms that would have been picked up in a morning COVID screen at home. **Monitor and check for symptoms daily, keeping the school community healthy and Covid free is everyone's responsibility.**

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Due to the continuing Covid situation, we are not permitted to host parents in the school at this time for student led conferences. Instead, teachers will be in touch with parents to set times for interviews. Please note that as a result of interrupted learning over the past 18 months many students are progressing with difficulty. Know that teachers have been actively planning to meet students where they are and to plan lessons accordingly. Your cooperation and assistance is appreciated. Students can practice their developing literacy and numeracy skills at home by playing math games and reading often.

*Wishing our students and families love, peace and joy during this
Christmas Season.*



Now that the cold weather is upon us we are noticing that students are not coming dressed for the weather. We do not stay inside for recesses until the windchill reaches -28 degrees. The students have many opportunities to get outside to play throughout the day.

Ms. Salvati's Grade 4/5 class and Mr. Presseault's Grade 5 class had a fun day of learning at Science Timmins. They took part in the "Guinness World Records" treasure hunt where they learned many interesting facts and had challenges to complete.



We have rescheduled our Catholic School Council to **Wednesday, December 8th, 2021 at 6:30pm.** Parents who signed up to serve on our council will receive a WebEx link via email.

This month sees the retirement of Mrs. Roslyn Gauthier, one of our principals. We are so grateful for her leadership, care and devotion to our school. Her daily announcements always made our mornings start off in an exciting way! She will be missed. We wish her the best as she moves on to a new chapter in her life. She has two wonderful Golden Retrievers, Eli and Hudson who will love having her home every day for walks and snuggles!



Last week, the Ministry of Education released a memo and directives for school boards to provide every student with a BTNX rapid antigen screening kit that contains five tests, for use during the winter break. These test kits will support all students to complete **voluntary screening at home prior to the return to the classroom in January.** For students who choose to use rapid antigen screening kits, it is recommended students conduct the rapid antigen tests every 3-4 days over the holiday break on every Monday and Thursday beginning December 23, until all five tests have been used.

Tests are packaged in convenient boxes of five (5), which enables all students to receive an individual box of tests for at-home screening. If a student tests positive using the rapid antigen screening, they must follow their [local public health guidance](#), which includes isolating and getting a confirmatory test at a [local testing site](#) as soon as possible. As this process is voluntary, students do not need to provide proof that they are negative before returning to school in January.