



# Shamrock Times



St. Patrick Catholic School

December 2015



## St. Pats Spreads Christmas Cheer!



### Staff and Students Raise Over \$540.00 for Christmas Wish!

On behalf of all of the staff and students at St. Patrick Catholic School, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's **Christmas Wish Campaign!** Students participated in a number of Christmas Wish Wednesday Challenges and altogether, staff, students and parents raised over \$ 540.00 for this very worthwhile cause! Thanks so much for your support!



As we enter the season of **Advent**, we will be gathering each Monday morning to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. It is rather suitable that this month's virtue of the month is LOVE. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on December 25<sup>th</sup>, but we are also mindful of the fact that love is not about material things. How can we practice love/charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things? This month at St. Patrick Catholic School, we will continue to demonstrate the virtue of love by completing random acts of kindness, sharing our time and talents (see the attached Advent Ideas Calendar) and by helping to prepare Christmas Food Hampers for families in need!



As you can see from the December calendar, there are a number of exciting events taking place in the upcoming month at St. Patrick School! Be sure to consult the December calendar for all of the details!

- On Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a **Student/Teacher Volleyball Game** at 2:00 p.m. To participate or watch the game, students are asked to bring in a non-perishable food item. All food collected this month will go towards our St. Patrick School Christmas Food Hampers!



- The **St. Patrick School Annual Advent Turkey Dinner** will take place on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:40 a.m. in the gym! On this day, we will gather in the gym as one big family to enjoy a traditional Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. There is no cost to the students as the staff will prepare the meal. Students may also bring their own lunches should they choose to do so!

- Our **Advent Mass** with Father Wayne will take place on **Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** in the gym. All are welcome to join us!



### December Birthdays!



Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Kelly A. and Tyger H.  
Dec 9<sup>th</sup> - William H.  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> - Zachary D.

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - Caleb N.  
Dec 19<sup>th</sup> - Joshawa E.  
Dec 20<sup>th</sup> - Bianca N.



### Criteria for the December Student of the Month:

A student who is engaged in learning and demonstrates **participation** in class - **a self-directed, responsible and life-long learner** who develops and demonstrates his/her God-given potential!



- Our **Christmas Concert** will take place on **Thursday, December 10th at 1:00 p.m.** in the gym. Please note that students do not attend the performance due to lack of space but they are able to view the dress rehearsal the day before. Also, parents are reminded that each student is part of the Grande Finale so students are not able to be picked up until the very end! It will be worth the wait!



### Sacramental Preparation Dates:

First Reconciliation Celebration  
Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish.



### **The Classic Grinch and Christmas Carols!**

On Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. the entire school community will gather in the gym to watch the classic Grinch tale!

Students may also dress up as their favourite Grinch character! On Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> we will gather in the gym at 10:30 for some classic Christmas Caroling!



### Where Are They Now?

Each month, the **Shamrock Times** highlights the accomplishments of a former St. Patrick School graduate! This month, we honour **Taylor Jae Gordon**. Taylor graduated from St. Patrick School in 2004 and then later graduated from TDSS as a Canada Trust Scholar! She attended Ottawa University and majored in International Studies and Globalization. She is currently at Fanshawe College studying Film. In addition to screen writing, her latest film project, "I am Still Embarrassed", placed first at the **Air Canada En Route Film Competition**. She will now travel to the **Berlin Film Festival** in February 2016. Congratulations Taylor! Her favourite St. Pats memory ...

"The many years I spent at St. Pats first as a "little" reading buddy and then as a "big" reading buddy! Those certainly were very memorable times."

### **Snow Days and Inclement Weather**

Please listen to the radio or check our website ([www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca)) with respect to bus

**cancellations** or delays during inclement weather days. The school most often will remain open but the programs available at school may be modified.



**BLACKBOARD CONNECT:** In January, we would like to once again begin to experiment with a program called "**Blackboard Connect**". This program will allow us to better communicate with our parent community by sending out email reminders and phone calls regarding upcoming school activities. If you would like to ensure that you are on our email list, please email our secretary Mrs. Purdy at [spcosec@ncdsb.on.ca](mailto:spcosec@ncdsb.on.ca)

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** To celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, St. Patrick Parish will be celebrating special masses to mark this sacred day. Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.** All are welcome to join in this sacred celebration.



### The Sights and Sounds of Christmas

The sound of joyful church bells heard from a distant hill,  
A warm and cozy fireside, to chase the winter's chill.

The jingle of the sleigh bells, a Christmas candle's glow,  
The cherished celebrations, each heart has come to know.

A child's anticipation as he peers beneath the tree,  
and finds the gift he asked for when he sat on Santa's knee.

The sights and sounds of Christmas woefully will depart,  
But the wondrous love of Jesus can remain within each heart.

**(Catherine Janssen Irwin)**

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas  
and a very Happy New Year!*

L. Hurtubise, Principal