



THE ALL-STAR GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2011

ST. PAUL SCHOOL — TIMMINS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ Family Skating Party on Saturday, December 10th
- ★ School Mass on December 15th at 9:30 am
- ★ Christmas Concert at OHS at 6:30



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A Message from the Principal



It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is already upon us. Every year seems to fly by more and more quickly. During the month of December, 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. During the Christmas season we celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation. How wondrously we are made that the Word of God would become one of us! God shows us how to live fully: by pouring out our lives for others. That is what the days of Christmas are all about.

Many of our activities this month will help our students to understand that Christmas is about giving. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our teaching staff and our support staff for all the extra time and effort they have put into making this part of the school year so successful for our students. Please take a few minutes over the next few days to remind your child(ren) of the importance of being hands-off in the schoolyard. I have reminded each class of my expectations for their behaviour on the playground, at lunch and in the bus lines. Our goal is to ensure that each and every child is safe while at school.

I thank you in advance for your help with this matter. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our special events this month. I hope you all have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Brumwell



COMMUNITY SERVICE

It has been brought to our attention that some of the clients of the Early Years Center are in need of toddler and early school-aged children's clothing (sizes 2 to 8 or so). If you are going through your clothing and have items that could be donated, please send these items to the school in the month of December.



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE

We will be collecting non-perishable food to support the Christmas Food Basket program at St. Anthony's. Please send in any items you can spare by Friday, December 9th. Thanks so much for your support of this worthwhile project!





Other December Events

Thursday, December 22nd
 Virtues Assembly & Prayer Service 9:30
 Academic Playday 10 to 2 pm
 Friday, December 23rd
 Movies at Cinema 6
 PJ Day



OUR SCHOOL

VISION...

Parents, Students

and Staff

Promoting

Achievement,

Understanding &

Spirituality

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our school will be performing a short Christmas Play called "Check Out that Star" on Wednesday, December 21st, 2011.

We will have a full dress-rehearsal at O'Gorman High School that afternoon at 1:15. Students will be bused to and from the high school for this afternoon practice.

The evening performance will take place at 6:30 pm at the Sylvia Gravel Theater in O'Gorman High School. Please drop your child off at the high school cafeteria by 6:00 pm that evening.

Should your family require transportation to this event, please let us know.



Attendance Last Week in December

Given how late school is going before the holidays this year, it is likely that many of you will be leaving before the last day of school (December 23rd). If this is the case, it would be very helpful if you were to call the school to notify us of your child's absence ASAP. This will save a great deal of time during a very busy time of the year! Thanks in advance for your assistance with this.

WANTED: Family Photos

If you were not able to join us for the Parent-Portfolio night, you were not here to have your picture taken for our Family Wall. We want to be sure all families are represented on this wall, so we are asking those families who were not here to send in a picture if they can.

Parent-Portfolio Night

WOW! What a turn-out we had for our Parent-Portfolio Night on November 10th. We are thrilled to let you know that we had 71% of our families out for this event. We've had very positive feedback from the parents, the staff and the students. It was really amazing to see the pride on the faces of our students as they showed their parents their work. Many thanks go out to our volunteers who helped with the Scholastic Book Fair, the dinner and the photos. This is one night that is sure to be repeated next year!



CELEBRATING OUR FAITH:

The Importance of Charity

Charity is a word that we do not hear much today except in reference to foundations or groups that provide monetary relief for certain disadvantaged people. However, the word charity implies much more in the Christian life. Charity is the traditional Christian word for love. An act of charity is an expression of your unselfish love for God or an unlimited loving-kindness toward all others. The term must not be confused or strictly interpreted as "benevolent giving". Charity, or love, is the greatest of all theological virtues. Charity has two parts: love for God above all things and love for man which includes both love for yourself and love for your neighbour.

Exemplifying Charity means:

- † Being selfless and sacrificial in our daily activities.
- † A willingness to sacrifice for someone else's well being.
- † Making other people a priority.
- † Sharing our time, talents and treasures for the benefit of others.
- † A focus on others rather than on oneself.
- † Forgiving others

Don't forget to send in your RSVP sheets for the Family Skating Party & Christmas Concert by Thursday, December 8th