



Home of the **CARDINALS!**

December 2018 Newsletter



Principal's Message

Advent is a time to prepare for a new coming of Jesus our Savior.

Some people want the savior to come with great power to reward them and wipe out their enemies. But Jesus is a loving and peaceful Savior. He calls his followers to make the whole world loving and peaceful. During Advent, we try to prepare our homes and our lives for Jesus, the King of glory and the Prince of peace.

It is wintertime. Days are short and nights are long. We need the light of Christ. We need Christ's warmth, love and joy. And so we gather around the wreath of hope.

The circle of this wreath will remind us of the coming of Christ, whose love for us has no End.

The light of these candles will remind us of the coming of Christ, who is the light of the world.

The green colour of these branches will remind us of the coming of Christ, who brings us eternal life.

Together with your families and friends, we encourage you to share this Advent Prayer.

During the month of December, our school community will be showing our Virtue of Justice by; gathering food at our Christmas play for Sacred Heart Parish's Christmas baskets; "Feed Our Family Fund", where students will be asked to bring in loose change to fill our John Deere bank located in the front entrance; and finally, creating Christmas hampers for NEOFACS. "Where there is charity and love, God is there." Thank you for your continued support.

From the staff to your families, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2018.

Yours in faith and education,

Mr. Berthier
Principal

Our spiritual theme: "By Our Works, We Show Our Faith," (James 2: 16 - 18).

Christmas Break

Christmas break begins on Monday, December 24th and continues until January 6th. School resumes Monday, January 7th, 2019.

Advent

Our Christmas Tree is up!

From December 1st to December 11th, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to help families in need this Christmas. When a student brings in an item they will be able to write their name on an ornament and hang it on our Christmas Tree. If you choose to donate loose change for our 'Feed Our Family Fund', students will write their name on the heart and hang it on our tree. Each day after homeroom attendance, volunteers will receive donations from students and give them an ornament or a heart to hang on the tree.

We thank you for your support and for helping us demonstrate the true spirit of Christmas. Your donations will be provided to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Christmas Baskets campaign which provides to the needy families within our area.
Social Justice Team

Reminders:

OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:50 - Entry & Opening Exercises
10:00-10:15 - Morning Recess
11:35-12:05 - Lunch Recess
12:05-12:35 - Lunch Inside
1:55-2:10 - Afternoon Recess
3:20 – Dismissal

OFFICE HOURS

Open from 8:00 am to 11:35 am
Closed from 11:35 am to 12:35 pm
Open from 12:35 pm to 4:00 pm

As a safety issue, we would like to remind you that the supervision of the school yard does not begin until 8:30 a.m. It would be best if students who walk or are dropped off at school do not arrive to school before then. If you are coming into the school, you are reminded that you must report to the office and not go to your child's classroom or locker. We appreciate your support on this.

Communication

If you have any concerns or questions about the curriculum, work being sent home or your child's progress or well-being, please contact your child's classroom teacher. You may leave a message for your child's teacher at the office or by communicating in the agenda. Please be patient and the teacher will get back to you as soon as he or she is able to. If you have any concerns regarding the school, please do not hesitate to come and discuss the matter with the Principal.

Safe Arrival Program

At Pope Francis Elementary School, our students' safety and well-being is of greatest concern to us. We must be notified by a parent/guardian, either by phone or in writing, whenever your child is going to be absent or late. Not only are we assured of that child's safety, but it also saves us the task of phoning parents at home, at work and on cell phones. **Please realize that we cannot accept notification from your child regarding any absences from school** – it must come from a parent or guardian. A note to the classroom teacher and/or a call to the office will help to speed up our job in the morning. A heart-felt thank you goes out to all those parents who have been notifying the school. We would also like to remind parents to inform the office of any changes in phone numbers and/or addresses as it is essential that we be able to reach you in case of an emergency involving your child.

Student Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to success at school. When students are habitually late or leave habitually early, they miss critical class time, feel disorganized and may miss important information. Punctuality is an important life skill that students learn and helps them establish good work habits for their future. Encourage your child(ren) to take responsibility for themselves to prepare and plan ahead in order to be ready and on time for school. Working together makes a difference for student learning.

Lateness: School Arrival

Lateness continues to be a concern at Pope Francis. Many students miss the initial part of their instructional school day due to this late arrival. **Valuable learning time is lost.** Chronic lateness is reported to the school's attendance counsellor. Please ensure that these inappropriate patterns of behaviour are not established with your children. Students should arrive at school no later than 8:45 a.m.

Monthly Virtue: Justice

The Importance of Justice:



Justice is a cardinal virtue found in the character of persons who show a practiced determination to live in right relationship with God and neighbor and to seek that, is just in every situation. Justice is about reaching out so that others are treated with equal dignity as God's children. Justice is living with righteousness. Justice is visible in our Catholic schools whenever we see people striving to meet their obligations to God and neighbor both near and far away.

Catholic School Council

Our next meeting will take place on January 23rd, at 6:30. Please use the Balsam Street entrance. Our co-chairs, Mrs. Courchesne and Mr. Fernandez will be taking any agenda items for our next meeting. At our last meeting, items that were discussed include, construction update, signage, front entrance, playground design student safety, Parent funds, Christmas concert and year end celebration.

Important Dates for December

December 1st to 10th – Support our Christmas food drive and Feed Our Family Fund by bringing in non-perishable food items and loose change.

December 5th – Advent Mass at 9:30 at Sacred Heart Church

December 7th - Christmas letters to Santa with Grade 7 & 8 OICS students

December 12th – Reconciliation with Father John, beginning at 9:15

December 18th – School Christmas Performance at OHS (1:15 and 6:30)



Closing Message:

"Everything is God's to give and to take away, so share what you've been given, and that includes yourself." Mother Teresa

Contact Information

Principal: Mr. Berthier (705) 264-5869

Superintendent: Mrs. Brumwell (705) 268-7443

Board website: www.ncdsb.on.ca

**POPE FRANCIS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**