



BLESSED JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DECEMBER 2013



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- Mrs. I. Fortino, Superintendent of Education
- Mr. P. Daly, Trustee
- Mr. J. Coons, Principal
- Mrs. L. Fama, Assistant to Principal

St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School
Mr. M. Daly, Principal
(905) 388-7020

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
1694 Upper James St.
Hamilton, Ontario
L9B 1K6
Father Ed Mahony
(905) 389-2472
Weekend Mass Times:
Saturday 5:15 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Confessions:
Saturdays 4:15-4:45 p.m.

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Message of the Christmas Tree: Life Is "Ever Green"

Pope John Paul II in his Angelus message, on December 19, 2004, said: The traditional "Christmas tree" is a very ancient custom which exalts the value of life, as in winter the evergreen becomes a sign of undying life. In general, the tree is decorated and Christmas gifts are placed under it. The symbol is also eloquent from a typically Christian point of view.



It reminds us of the "tree of life" (see Genesis 2:9), representation of Christ, God's supreme gift to humanity. The message of the Christmas tree, therefore, is that life is "ever green" if one gives: not so much material things, but of oneself: in friendship and sincere affection, and fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening.

Principal's Message



Advent is a time of preparation. The promise God made to our ancestors that he would be with us, came to life in the child, Jesus. Years of preparing for the coming of the Savior, Emmanuel, were rewarded. Advent becomes a time to celebrate the past, present and future. Today we are reminded that we must prepare for our joining God in heaven.

We celebrate the historic event of Jesus being born to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. It is a core belief of our Faith that we celebrate.

It is a story of love and of family. For the Blessed Virgin Mary it speaks of her great love for God the Father. When she was told by the Angel Gabriel that she would be chosen to give birth and raise Jesus she did not hesitate. When St. Joseph was told of his special call he was given support by God to fulfill his vocation. They serve as examples for mothers and fathers today.



For parents (grandparents and godparents) in our school community the story of the birth of Christ reminds us of our response to being blessed by God with our children to be raised in the Faith. In this way the historic event is recalled in our lives today.

The story of Christmas also reminds us that a whole community celebrates the birth of Jesus. We are part of the community that educates your child(ren). We ask that Blessed John Paul II blesses us with wisdom and guidance to make the best decisions for our students, our families and our staff.

On behalf of the Blessed John Paul II Catholic Elementary School family I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you be blessed with good health, good cheer and good times. May we continue to be the "Salt of the Earth and Light of the World."

The Spirit of Giving

We are truly BLESSED at our school. However, some families are experiencing tough times this year. We are fortunate to have support from our Catholic School Council, our Parish and St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School helping out through gift and food donations. If you think you are in need a quiet call to the school is met with a confidential call back and support. Please also support our Tree of Hope warm clothes drive.

Shoe Boxes

Thank you to all the children who participated in the Operation Christmas ShoeBox donation event at our school led by our Student Council. 100 shoeboxes were filled and sent off to those in need. A guest speaker who had received one as a child touched our hearts with her story. Thank you.

Corpus Christi Parish Schedule for December 2013



Confession Schedule for Advent, 2013

Tuesday December 10th after 6:30 Mass
 Tuesday Dec. 17th after 6:30 Mass
 Saturday Dec. 21st 11 to 12 Noon



Advent

Monday, Dec .9th Taize Prayer Service 7:00-8:00pm

The office will be CLOSED on the following days:

Mon. Dec. 23, 2013 through Wed. Jan. 1, 2014

*May the Spirit of God be with you this Advent season
 as we prepare to meet our Lord Jesus in the Manger.*

Mary and Joseph pray for us.

Christmas Masses

Tuesday, Dec 24th, **Christmas Eve** 5:00, 7:00 and 10:00pm
 Wed. Dec 25th **Christmas Day** 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 28th 5:15 p.m.
 Sunday, December 30th 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Mary Mother of God

Tuesday, Dec 31st, **New Year's Eve** 5:15pm
 Wednesday, Jan 1st **New year's Day** 9:00 am
 11:00 am



CSC ADVENT NIGHT

Thank you to our Catholic School Council for hosting our ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT this past Wednesday November 27, 2013.

The guest speaker was Teresa Hartnett from the Diocesan Office who spoke about Advent. Families gathered then went off and made a Picture frame craft for their family to help begin the Celebration of Advent in their homes.

Refreshments were provided and enjoyed by all.

The CSC will provide an update soon on their very successful Big Box of Cards fundraiser.

Thank you to all who supported this event.

Support for the Philippines

I am proud to announce that, under the leadership of several of our Intermediate students, the school donated \$400 to Development and Peace . This amount was matched by the Canadian Government. Our students showed initiative, made posters and gave class presentations to draw attention to this cause. Continue to pray and offer support for the many Philippine people affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

Health and Safety

Help Improve the Air Outside Our School

Just 'Turn it Off' to save money and the planet.

Our idling vehicles emit greenhouse gases and air pollutants that are harmful to our children.

Idling also costs us money. Idling significantly reduces the life of engine components and oil, uses a lot of fuel and rusts out the exhaust system.

Remember

10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than shutting off and restarting the engine.

Driving is the only way to warm up the whole car from engine to wheel bearings, steering, suspension, transmission and tires.

Solutions to Avoid Winter Idling

Wear gloves for a cold steering wheel and dress for the weather.

Turn off your car and step into the air.

Idling stinks
Hamilton



We Need Everyone At home to Support Numeracy and Literacy

Every year we look for ways to support student achievement in all areas. We truly try to educate the whole child. We prepare them for life not just school. Indeed, the “Anima, Mens, Corpus” is the motto of St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School. At this time, I need Parents and Guardians to reflect on seeking to support us at home by attending to some Literacy and Numeracy data:

(Source: EQAO Student Questionnaire: 2012—2013)(Gr. 3 and Gr. 6)

LITERACY

NUMERACY

Celebrate

Are we encouraging a variety of reading sources (or meeting students when they are reading)?
More (45%) text every day vs
Read 38% (stories,comics,other)
GR. 3 DATA

83% think about the steps they will use to solve a mathematics problem (58% sometimes + 35% Most)
Gr. 3 DATA

Concern

A significant drop in results in writing may be a one time drop but we will work to support effective writing practices at school and home
Gr. 6 data

Grade 6 Math Scores in EQAO in the Province, Board and School have dropped significantly over time 60s to 59% to 39%
Gr. 6 Data

Feel free to contact the Principal or your CSC requesting Speaker Nights. We could choose to support more than one speaker on any given night.

Faith Questions? Nutrition? Bullying Prevention? Wellness? Parenting?

“It takes a village to raise a child.” We need your support and ideas to help us at BJPII

CSC Healthy Choices Challenge

Get Moving this Holiday Season!

During the winter holidays it is easy to allow our kids too much screen time; but now is a good time to help them get moving (especially with all of the extra treats laying around to eat).

Some tips to stay active during this hectic time:

- *Help around the house; there is always something that needs tidying.
- *Build a snowman or snow fort
- *Go to the local community centre to open gym or open swim
- *Put some music on and challenge your family to a dance-off

Remember that any bit of movement counts!

PLEASE LIMIT EARLY PICK_UP CALLS

We understand that there are many reasons to have children picked up early from school. I am a parent, myself, so I get it. However, I do ask you to respect the school as a place of learning should you find you do this frequently. NOTES to teachers ahead of time whenever possible should inform the school and cut down on last minute calls. I appreciate your co-operation on this matter.

SAFETY AND OUR SCHOOL

With the weather changing come safety reminders for families, guests and visitors:

- ◆ Be aware of icy conditions and walk/drive carefully
- ◆ Wear safe footwear
- ◆ Drive with extra caution in parking lots and side streets