



# BLESSED JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JANUARY 2014 NEWS



600 Acadia Drive  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8W 3A8  
905-525-1300  
Fax 905-318-3080

- Mrs. I. Fortino  
Superintendent of Education
- Mr. P. Daly, Trustee
- Mr. J. Coons, Principal
- T. B.A.  
Assistant to Principal

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

Corpus Christi Church  
1694 Upper James St.  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L9B 1K6  
Father E. Mahoney  
(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.

**Before and After**  
**905 518-4694**

Should you have  
questions contact them at  
the number listed above

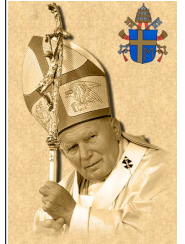
<u>INSIDE</u>	
<u>Parent Tips</u>	2
<u>Winter Weather</u>	2
<u>Family Literacy</u>	3
<u>Bus Lanes</u>	3
<u>Calendar</u>	4

**P.A. DAY**  
Friday, January 24,  
2014 is a P.A. Day.  
There will be no  
school for  
students.



## Wise Men, Return to the World . . . Pope John Paul II (Epiphany homily, 2001)

"...we are like the 3 Wise Men who journeyed to Jesus. Now, like those Wise Men, we return to the world from which we came, to the everyday life where we will witness to what we have seen.



..."indeed it compels us to start out afresh on a new stage of the journey on which we become proclaimers and heralds... The Wise Men were in a sense the first missionaries. Their encounter with Christ did not keep them in Bethlehem, but made them set out anew on the paths of the world.

"We need to 'set out anew from Christ,' with the zeal of Pentecost, with renewed enthusiasm. To set out from him above all in a daily commitment to holiness, with an attitude of prayer and of listening to his word. To set out from him in order to testify to his Love by living a Christian life marked by communion, charity, and witness before the world."

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



IT WAS INSPIRING TO CELEBRATE OUR ADVENT CEREMONY TOGETHER AT OUR SCHOOL. EACH WEEK SAW THE SCHOOL GATHERING TOGETHER FOR A LITURGY. BEING PRESENT AROUND THE ADVENT WREATH AS A FAITH COMMUNITY TRULY BROUGHT THE SPIRIT OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON HOME FOR MANY OF US.

WE BEGIN THIS NEW YEAR STILL CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS AS WE MIRROR THE WISE MEN AND OFFER GIFTS. THINK OF THE GIFTS YOU SHARED WITH YOUR FAMILY SUCH AS YOUR TIME, YOUR ATTENTION AND YOUR LOVE. THINK OF THE GIFTS YOU GAVE TO OTHERS, BE IT A DONATION TO A CHURCH OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATION. PERHAPS YOU PASSED BY SOMEONE ON THE STREET WHO NEEDED YOUR SMILE, OR A SMALL GESTURE YOU SHARED THAT RECOGNIZED THEM AS PEOPLE. YOU MAY, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, HAVE GIVEN SOMETHING PRIVATELY TO REMIND YOURSELF THAT IT IS IN THE GIVING, NOT THE RECEIVING, THAT TRULY IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

ON BEHALF OF THE BLESSED JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FAMILY WE WELCOME EVERYONE BACK FOR A NEW YEAR.

We are called to celebrate the gifts that each member of the family offers. Children are reminded to be obedient and grateful. Mary and Joseph model the love to be shown by adults to all children in their care.

This year at Blessed John Paul II we have celebrated births and mourned loss. Treasure the time you have with family.



## Winter Weather



All of the students should be wearing hats, gloves and even snow pants when the weather is cold and/or wet. An extra pair of socks and pants are sometimes handy to have at school when weather is damp or snowy. **We are requesting that the children leave their running shoes at school, not slippers.** Sometimes floors may be wet and slippery, causing safety issues. If we practise emergency evacuations, the students need to have proper footwear on. As well, with clothing all looking the same, ***labelling of clothing***, boots and runners would eliminate confusion. There is a lost and found box at school that is overflowing with items that were lost and cannot be returned to the proper owner because they were not labelled. Remember, to dress for the weather and label all outerwear.

*We watch the weather reports on our computers and use  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  as our gauge when deciding if indoor recesses will occur.*



Hearing of School Closures due to weather give us all reasons to plan ahead. Be sure to have alternate care arrangements for your children just in case. As we have sent out in previous letters, pay close attention to all local television and radio stations.

## CSC HEALTHY FOOD CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

**Include one fruit in your child's lunch each day. You can also add a yogurt to dip!**

Cut fruit up into small pieces or thin chip slices (squeeze a little lemon on apples, pears or bananas so they don't go brown) and put them into a small container.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING FOR Monday JANUARY 13, 2014

Parents are invited out to our Catholic School Council meetings. Days and times are available on the web-site. This meeting will be held in our School Staffroom from 6:00—8:00 pm

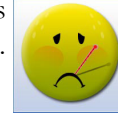
## SICK CHILDREN

### ◆ Send or Stay Home?



Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. Students with fever, colds, strep throat, vomiting, diarrhea, conjunctivitis (pink eye) and/or rashes should stay at home.

**Stress rules for proper handwashing.**



Please consider the health of your child and the other children in the class before sending your child back to school. If children come to school, they should go outside for recesses.

Should you have any questions please contact the Main Office. Thank you for working together to try to keep all well.

## Reporting Student's Absence



It is important to call the school office if your child is going to be absent or late for any reason. You can leave a message at 905-525-1300, with your child's name, grade and reason for their absence. Thank you.

## Electronic Equipment Policy



More and more requests have come in regarding the students bringing in electronic devices such as cell phones and now E-readers. Great Christmas gifts but what is their place in school? For safety reasons some students need a phone but the Main Office remains the first place to call family. Permission notes are required, signed and to be agreed to by the Principal. E-readers encourage literacy and can be part of the classroom. The school is not responsible for loss or theft of items. Privacy, learning and safety remain the priority. The School Board has a Policy on mobile digital devices. For more details please check [www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca) and refer to the line that is titled Board Policies: Mobile Digital Devices

## Parking, Drop offs and Winter Weather

We are anticipating another cold winter. Snow removal has been very good in the past year, but there will be times when the parking lot can be icy and snow covered.

**Parking and traffic are a concern. Safety first.** We do ask that all drivers pay close attention to those they drop off and look out for those students and adults making their way about our parking lot area.

By-law Officers are to be contacted for those who do not respect the rules of the parking lot.

## Please Respect the Bell times Around Dismissal

We DO understand that there are times when families need to have the School dismiss children early. However, too often, the exception becomes the rule. This disrupts the class and takes Main Office time away from other important tasks.

We are all at school for the children to learn. Please respect instructional time and class closing day routines.

### Parenting Tips: Improving Your Child's Attention Span



While we all understand that attention span is key to becoming a proficient learner, it's confusing on how it can be lengthened and deepened. Attention span varies from person to person and subject to subject, so coming up with a "normal" range is difficult. It is somewhat agreed that a child should be able to focus for 30-45 minutes by age 5+, but there are many reasons (health, fatigue, etc) that can affect this statistic. But when your child has a "low" attention span, despite all your best efforts, what can you do? First of all, increase your child's knowledge of the English language by reading interesting stories with varied levels of vocabulary and speaking in longer conversations. Remember that the more children comprehend the task at hand, the better they will sustain their attention span. A second way of helping your child increase his/her attention span is by shutting off the TV. Letting a child play outdoors or indoors at creative play counteracts the "passive" process of watching TV and increases their "active" attention-span building skills through such activities as Lego-building. Other proactive tactics include: modelling **good listening skills**; **encouraging children to pay attention**; **ensuring children have adequate sleep every night and a balanced diet every day**, and **speaking to the school staff on a regular basis to make sure work is up-to-date**.

For more information, check out the section on "Improving School Performance" at: <http://www.keepkidshealthy.com/adolescent/>

### Bus Drop Off at Front Doors

The front of all schools is busy. At Blessed John Paul II we have parking and drop off issues like other schools. However, we are more and more having students dropped off AND walked in using our front doors when it is not an emergency.

The rules of the bus lane must be respected and signs are posted clearly. **Do not block the bus lane.**

Snow removal has been such that sidewalks are clean for children to walk on even when dropped off closer to the street.

Parents and Guardians are requested to not make it a daily practice to walk their children to classes. This is not safe practice for all. Please support the school. Thank you.

### Family Literacy Week

**Family Literacy Day** is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Every January families across Canada are encouraged to take the time to celebrate this special day.

In the Hamilton area, Family Literacy Day has evolved into a weeklong celebration called **Hamilton Families Read Week** during the week of January 27-31, 2014. As a partner in this endeavour, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is encouraging schools to participate by celebrating the benefits of families reading together.

Our school accepted the invitation to participate in a **Snuggle Up and Read** event being held on Friday **January 31, 2014**. Throughout the Greater Hamilton area, young children will gather at schools, libraries, recreation centres, Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, Ontario Early Years Centres, and Child Care centres to celebrate the joy of literacy.

Look for details to come home from your child's teacher to see how you can come in and celebrate literacy in our school.

