



ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DECEMBER 2014



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Hamilton, Ontario
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- Mrs. I. Fortino, Superintendent of Education
- Mr. P. Daly, Trustee
- Mr. K MacIsaac, Principal
- Mrs. J. Shamon, Principal Intern

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 St 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."

Virtue Winners of The Month

This month we learned what it means to use our **CONSCIENCE**. The award winners for November are Caleb, Caden, Antonio, Phoenix, Joanie, Sofia, Manuela, Leah, Leticia, Julianna, Sam, Alessia, Noah, Fernanda, Joseph, Ariana, Gisele, Gavin, Daniel, Emily, Christina, Eva, Riley, Fabricio, Anaka, Hailey, Connor, Mary, Ninael, Lincoln, Sophia, Elena, Danika

CONGRATULATIONS . During the month of December we will learning about the Virtue of **HOPE**

Corpus Christi Parish Schedule for December 2014



Confession Schedule for Advent, 2014

Tuesday December 9th after 6:30 Mass
 Tuesday Dec. 16th after 6:30 Mass
 Saturday Dec. 20st 11 to 12 Noon
 Tuesday December 23rd after 6:30 Mass



Advent

Monday, Dec .15th Taize Prayer Service 7:00-8:00pm

The office will be CLOSED on the following days:

Mon. Dec. 22 ,2014 through Thurs. Jan. 1, 2015

*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.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Dear Parents!

Did you know that our school will be one of the first in the province to offer the convenience of online payments to parents?

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. We are asking parents to please take 5 minutes to register, by following the steps below. Once you are registered online, you will begin receiving emails about upcoming events.

Here is a one minute movie clip that will give you a brief overview of the registration and online shopping experience.

<http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies/>

[ParentRegEnglish/](#)

Register Online:

Step 1: Please click on this link:
[https://
 hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com](https://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com)

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps.

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the '[click here](#)' option, login and add each of your children to your household account.

Christmas Masses

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

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 27th 5:15 p.m.
 Sunday, December 28th 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Mary Mother of God

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



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



Anaphylaxis Awareness at St John Paul II

St. John Paul II is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;

Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)

Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: **Nuts, Fish, Shell Fish, Raw Eggs**
Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom.

Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.

Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.

Please do NOT bring any home-made food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY

Parents or Guardians are invited to complete an online survey about their children's math learning needs and how the school and board can support those needs. Please go to the following link <http://goo.gl/forms/eduTG1yHwj>

Parents are asked to complete the survey by December 15, 2014.

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