

MONSIGNOR CLAIR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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December 2017



Newsletter #3

THE ADVENT SEASON

It's easy to miss what is most important during this time of year. With shopping for Christmas presents, festive parties, children's plays, decorating and baking, we can so often feel stressed and exhausted. During the time when we are celebrating the birth of Jesus and want to abide in His presence, we can so easily miss time spent with Him. Making prayer and God's Word a priority in our life during this Christmas season can be difficult. But if we make it our aim to glorify Jesus right in the midst of everything, He can help us to redeem the time in many varied and unusual ways. We can never lose out if we choose to stop and ask Him to enter into our busy holiday lives.

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord, We worship You during this Christmas season. You are our wonderful Counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. We choose to put You at the center of our family life as we celebrate Your birth. Keep us from distractions and help us to invite You into all our family activities. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. May we reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. To you be glory and honour, in this New Year, and forever In Jesus' name Amen.

PEDICULOSIS-HEADLICE

Thank you for continuing to inform the school when you discover this nuisance. We handle this information discreetly and are able to inform other parents/guardians of the risk of infestation and thus limit its spread. This problem often flares up after school holidays so it is advisable to be extra cautious during the coming weeks. Please be sure to check your children over the holidays to help with clearing this problem up.

A few preventative measures could be: long hair braided or tied back, no sharing hats, coats or hairbrushes.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students, staff and families for their great contributions to the school community throughout the year. I am also glad to see all of the ways in which our staff have focussed on our annual theme *Our Story ~ Our Journey* so far this year. There are many natural connections between this theme and the Christmas season. In our schools, our students learned about the story of salvation through the Jesse Tree. They followed the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the journey of the shepherds to gaze upon the newborn Christ child and the journey of the wise men who offered their gifts.

On Behalf of the staff of Monsignor Clair School, I would like to wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas.

HEALTHY CELEBRATIONS

Healthy classroom/ school celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating messages they learn in the classroom. Unfortunately foods that are used in classroom celebrations are often unhealthy food choices. These choices have become the norm and the healthy choices have become the exception.

So what can you do for your child's next classroom celebration?

- Send a tray of watermelon slices or fruit kabobs;
- Offer to bring fruit punch made with 100% fruit juices and club soda
- Donate boxes of whole grain crackers and a block of cheese
- Send a veggie platter in the shape of a Tree for Christmas
- Prepare chocolate dipped strawberries for Valentine's Day

For more information you can call Your Health Connection at 721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 and speak with a public health nurse or click on the Health Unit's website at

www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

MONSIGNOR CLAIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thank you to our primary division and choir for their hard work putting together our annual Christmas Concert.

Once again parents and students were entertained by our students in grades JK to grade 3 with seasonal tunes and skits. Thank you to all families who made their food bank donation.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

The Christmas Tuck Shop was once again a huge success. Students were able to shop for items for their family at our Tuck shop, which supplied gently used and new gifts. The gifts were then wrapped and sent home with students. All proceeds from the Tuck Shop will help support families in our school community this Christmas season. Thank you to everyone who has made generous donations of gift items, wrapping paper, and gift bags. We raised more than \$650 for our Christmas Cheer campaign.

Thank you for your support,
Ms. St-Onge's grade 6 class



SAFE ARRIVAL

At this time of year and throughout the winter our office staff are kept very busy with Safe Arrival calls. We ask everyone to please remember that if your child is going to be late or absent to make a phone call to the school 705-737-2812. The school has an answering machine so a message can be left at any time of the day or night. You can now email a safe arrival notice to the school. On our school website is a link which brings up a safe arrival form. Just fill in the form and it is sent automatically to Mrs McVeigh. If the answering machine is full on a snow day or at any other time please remember to call back, or send an email. Mrs McVeigh clears the machine as fast as she can. If all parents/guardians remember to make this call the work for our office staff will diminish considerably.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The next scheduled meeting for our School Community Council is set for January 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the School Library. All are welcome to attend. Please call the school office by 12:00 pm if you require babysitting.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all for participating in our Annual Christmas Food Drive. We managed to raise more than our 500 item goal. Way to go Crusaders!!

ST. MARY'S PARISH

Christmas Mass Schedule

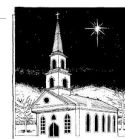
Christmas Eve- Dec. 24

In addition to our regular Sunday Mass Schedule.

No Mass at 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 24 - 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm,
9:00 pm, and 12:00 Midnight

Monday, December 25 - 10:00 am and 12:00 Noon



QSP MAGAZINE SALES

Looking for a Christmas gift for that hard to buy for person? Don't forget that you can continue to purchase magazines online at www.qsp.ca and our group code is 3720604. Thank you for your continued support. Customer Service 1-800-667-2536



WINTER WEATHER - KNOW YOUR ZONE

For the most up-to-date information about bus cancellations and the weather zones by school, please continue to check our website www.smcdsb.on.ca or www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca Bus cancellations are also announced on B101 or Rock95 (FM 95.7). **Our school is in the Central Weather Zone,** and when buses are cancelled in other regions of our Board, because of inclement weather, they may not be cancelled for us. In the coming months, please remember to check for, or listen to, specific information on weather zones! Get to **KNOW YOUR ZONE!!** **When the buses are cancelled the school remains open, unless otherwise announced. Please remember that if buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon as well.** Be sure that you have discussed with your child (children) the appropriate procedure to be followed in emergency weather conditions or if the school should have to close early. You, as parents and guardians, are encouraged to determine the advisability of sending students to school in inclement weather, even if buses are running.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT MONSIGNOR CLAIR SCHOOL

On Thursday December 7, Monsignor Clair School hosted a Family Fun Night for everyone in our community. The evening was a wonderful time with activities such as, face painting, arts and crafts, and the sharing of Christmas Stories. There was also time for refreshments with hot chocolate, cotton candy, and popcorn. It was a magical evening with the shared friendship of our school staff, family and our school community. Thank-you to everyone who helped to make this a gala evening. Special Thanks to the members of our Catholic School Council, Guest Story Readers, school staff and the many others who lent their time and energy.



VOLLEY BALL

Congratulations, goes out to our girls basketball team for a great season and the Junior Girls and Boys volleyball teams for a tremendous season both placing second overall. Our Intermediate boys volleyball team came through and was crowned the County champs. Excellent Job! Our grade 6 students did a fabulous job with our Christmas Tuck shop and all students contributed greatly for Christmas Cheer and our Christmas food drive.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 22	-	Last day of classes
Dec 25 – Jan. 5	-	Christmas Holidays
January 8	-	Classes resume
January 16	-	Catholic School Community Council
February 2	-	PA day
February 14	-	Ash Wednesday
February 19	-	Family Day



Merry Christmas

