**Advent Prayer for Families**

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

**School Council Update**

**Christmas Gift Shop:**

Our annual Christmas Gift shop will be open for student purchases on Tuesday, December 10th and Wednesday, December 11th. A huge thank-you to Parent Council for their hard work in organizing and running this event for our students!

**Our next Catholic School Council Meeting will take place on Monday, February 3 at 5:45 p.m. in the Learning Commons.**

**School Mass and Parish Connection**

The season of Advent is upon us! Our December School Mass will be **Thursday, December 19th at 1:00.** All are welcome!

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday, December 2nd:** First Week of Advent Prayer Service; Buy Nothing Day Clothing Swap

**Wednesday, December 4th:** Wilton Cheese Orders Due

**Friday, December 6th:** Jingle Bell Walk

**Monday, December 9th:** Second Week of Advent Prayer Service

**Tuesday, December 10th – Wednesday, December 11th:** Christmas Shop

**Monday, December 16th:** Third Week of Advent Prayer Service

**Tuesday, December 17th:** Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m. AND cheese order pick-up (Please bring money or cheque for payment!)

**Thursday, December 19th:** Christmas Lunch

**Thursday, December 19th:** School Mass 1:00

**Friday, December 20th**: Pizza lunch and Christmas PJ Day!

**December 23rd to January 3rd:** Christmas Break!

**Monday, January 6th**: First day back!

**Christmas Concert and Community Lunch**

****Our annual school Christmas Concert will be Tuesday, December 17th, in the evening. The Christmas lunch will be Thursday, December 19th. Thank-you to the Catholic School Council for organizing and running this delicious meal for us!

**Safe and Caring Schools Update:**



All classes are now participating in the MindUP program, which is a program for social-emotional learning, to help students develop mind skills. Visit the link below to learn more about the first lesson!

<https://vimeo.com/189802798>



Visit the website below for valuable information and resources on promoting positive mental health at home!

<https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-families/>

**Learner Profiles**

ALCDSB is committed to further developing student-centered learning environments and practices. To this end, students ****across the board are developing Learner Profiles. An important piece of each profile is the parent perspective, and to this end, a short survey will accompany your child’s progress report. **If you have not done so, please take the time to complete and return this purple form to us!**

**School Messenger**

We are hoping to get School Messenger – a platform for communicating through email or group phone messages – up and running at the school to improve ease and timeliness of communication with families**. If you have not already done so, please complete and return the attached consent form to participate!**

**\*\*Let us know if you need a copy of either form!\*\***

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Did you know, several studies have found a significant relationship between average hours of sleep and technology use before bedtime? Children who watched TV or played video games at bedtime were recorded to get 30 minutes less of sleep than those who steered clear of screens for at least an hour before bed. And children who used a computer at bedtime had approximately 60 minutes less sleep than those who did not.

**Jingle Bell Walk:**

Our Jingle Bell Walk will be held Friday, December 6th. Mrs. McCarron’s class will continue collecting non-perishable food items for the food bank up until this day. Thank-you for your support!

**Staffing Update**

Mrs. La Prairie will be going off on medical leave beginning December 11th, for approximately 12 weeks. We wish her a restful and speedy recovery during this time! Ms. Laura Anderson will be replacing her during this period and is excited to be joining our community.

**Santa Claus Parade Thank-you and Celebration**

What fun we had at the Santa Claus parade! Thanks to Mrs. Sherriff’s students for decorating and to the many students who joined us at the parade. Thanks also to our drivers, Glen Hulton and Ken Mosier! **Our float won first prize and we were awarded with gift certificates for pizza from the WIPP! We will have this pizza as a lunch celebration on Friday, December 20th!**

**School Improvement Update**:

On Monday, December 9th staff will be working with board Numeracy SAT, Andy Paquin, and further developing our understanding of **Concreteness Fading,** which is the idea of, when a new math concept is introduced, starting with concrete manipulatives, progress to drawing those representations and finally, represent the mathematical thinking abstractly through symbolic notation.



We look forward to bringing this learning into the classroom!

***I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a blessed, peaceful and merry Christmas with family and friends! One of my Christmas blessings this year has certainly been joining this community!***

***Laurie Day***