



December 2019

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St. Joseph Catholic School

Reverence, Responsibility, Relationships

405 Bridge St. E., Belleville, Ontario, K8N 1P7

Tel: 613-962-3653 Website: <http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/school/jose/Pages/default.aspx>

Lord God, You promise to send us joy beyond all telling. Let Your blessing come upon us as we wait for Your promised Light to dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts. Send Your peace into the world, and may the fire of Your love fill our hearts and make us one with You and with each other. We ask this through the great light, Jesus Christ, who enlightens and encourages us always.

Amen

During this season of Advent, we are **HOPING, PRAYING, and WAITING**. We are blessed to be in our Catholic school and have the daily opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen that symbolizes God's **never ending love for us and the everlasting life found in Christ**. The four candles represent Hope, Faith, Joy, and Love. Lighting the candles each week **reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world and we are called to be like Jesus** and be a light of compassion, kindness, and hope for our school, our homes, and our larger community.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere wishes to you and your families throughout this season of Advent as well as the upcoming Christmas season. May your homes be filled with Faith, Hope and Love and may Jesus's light bring peace and joy to you and yours.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mrs. Jackie Gauthier
Principal



Christmas Sharing

St. Joseph Catholic School is participating in the Christmas Sharing Program with the help of our Catholic School Council. Each class has been asked to prepare a food box for a family in need within our community. Students are asked to contribute one item on their class's list. Please have all food items and donations in to the school by **Wednesday, December 18th**. *Thanks to Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Michell, Ms. Pinto, Mrs. Sharpe, and our awesome Catholic School Council* for organizing this program and for delivering all of the baskets!

Thank-you for your support!

We Won't Forget!

Our community celebrated Remembrance Day with a wonderful presentation by Corporal Francois Gilbert of the Canadian Armed Forces. Cpl. Gilbert reminded us of the **great sacrifices that our brave Canadian soldiers have, and continue to make, each day for our freedom**. His words reminded us all that we are each called to use our gifts from God to be risk takers and to serve one another in our school, our homes, and the greater community.

It was wonderful to see the families who were able to take time out of their busy schedule to join us for our Remembrance Day ceremony. *Many thanks to Ms. McKerral, Mrs. Easson, and our choir as well as to Mrs. Naylor and our grade 8 leadership team for organizing this important ceremony!*



Congratulations Royal Canadian Legion Contest Winners!

Each year our students build their understanding and express their appreciation of the sacrifices made by our Canadian soldiers by participating in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #99's poster and literary competition. **Congratulations to the following poets and artists from our Intermediate classes:**

Ericah B.- 2nd place, black and white poster

Fiona S.- 2nd place, colour poster

Ella T. – 2nd place, poetry

Ryland M. – 3rd place, colour poster

William D.- 3rd place, poetry

We are proud of you!



Dragons Volleyball

Hats off to all of the students who represented St. Joseph Catholic School so well at the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board's Junior & Senior volleyball tournaments! All of our teams demonstrated great heart and sportsmanship! **Congratulations to our Junior Girls who won the A-schools championships!** We are proud of all of our athletes!

Many thanks to Mme. Bunton, Mrs. Cousens, Mr. Durkin, and Mr. Jones for coaching our teams!

Way to go, Dragons!



Sacramental Preparation

Preparing for and receiving the sacraments are an important part of our children's spiritual development. Please note the important dates below:

-Parent meeting for 1st Confession and 1st Communion: **Wed., February 12 at 7p.m.**

-First Confession – **Tuesday, April 28 at 7p.m.** at St. Joseph's Church

-First Communion – **Saturday, May 23 at 11a.m.** at St. Joseph's Church



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Merry Christmas, St. Joseph's Families!

Council is looking for a little help from you this holiday season as you read through the newsletter.

Christmas Shopping: Our annual Christmas Shopping event allows your children to purchase Christmas gifts for the family. Volunteers will wrap gifts nice and pretty for students before they go home. We appreciate if you could send in new or gently used items for our sale. Items can be brought to the stage starting Monday November 18th until Thursday December 12th. Our Christmas Shopping is scheduled for Monday December 16th, 2019. If you are able to volunteer anytime to help wrapping please email Amanda Bentley-Lake at mandibentley@hotmail.com

Christmas Sharing: Our school will be participating again in Christmas Sharing Baskets, helping out families in our community. Each class will do a basket for a family. Teachers will be given a list of items required for the basket and will ask each student to contribute one of these items to the basket. The delivery of those baskets will take place on Wednesday December 18th. We are looking for parent volunteers to help deliver these baskets to the families. If you are able to volunteer please email Whitney Hummell at wshummell@gmail.com

Thank you for everything you do and Council would like to extend our warmest wishes to you for a wonderful holiday season.



December Focus Virtue: HOPE

Virtues are habits that guide us in our daily lives. Real hope lies in wanting to be with God in heaven and in trusting that God is with us always. Hope tells us that God has given us the graces we need to overcome challenges and opens our hearts in expectation for future blessings. We are saved from turning inward in selfishness when we practice our virtue of hope by performing acts of charity and by understanding that we are in charge of what happens around us.

“Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.” ~Psalm 31:24



Help Us to Make a Difference

Our Legacy Team is a group of Grade 8 students who are leading our school to make a difference in our community. This year the students are supporting organizations in Belleville that support homelessness in our community. Our first initiative is to collect new hats, gloves, and socks as well as gently used or new Christmas stockings for Not Alone Team Quinte. Not Alone Team Quinte provides hot dinners for those in need, several evenings per week. Collection boxes will be in the front entrance of the school until **Wednesday, December 18th**.

The Legacy Team will be hosting a bake sale on **December 19th and 20th** to raise money for the Grace Inn Shelter. The Grace Inn Shelter provides emergency shelter for homeless adults in our community. On behalf of all of the Grade 8 students, we are excited to lead our school to make our community a better place. Team members: Kevin B., William D., Charlotte F., Makayla M., and Gregory P.



Ski Trip



Attention parents! If you have a student in grades 3-8 and are looking for a Christmas gift to get your son or daughter active in the new year, consider the St. Joseph Ski Trip! This year the school ski trip will be travelling to Brimacombe Ski Hill. Our trip is booked for **Thursday, February 20th, 2020**. Reserve the date to hit the slopes!

Look for forms to come home in early December!



Cancelled Buses

The decision to remove buses from the road because of unsafe driving conditions is made by Tri-Board Student Transportation. Late busses and cancellations are announced by our local radio stations and are listed at www.triboard.on.ca

Buses that are cancelled due to snow are cancelled for the whole day. Parents who drive their child(ren) to school on a “snow day” are responsible for picking them up at the end of the school day. Buses that are cancelled in the morning due to fog will run in the afternoon.

There is always the possibility of bus cancellations during the school day. Parents are reminded to update all phone numbers as well as emergency contact information.

If your child’s bus doesn’t arrive at its regular time, parents should call 1-866-569-6638.



Pizza and Snow Days

Please note that if **all** buses are cancelled on a pizza day, then students who have ordered pizza will receive their order on the Wednesday.

Self-Reg comes from a deep desire to understand why we are seeing what we’re seeing in children and youth these days, or for that matter, in ourselves. This paves the way to developing better ways, not for “managing problems,” but for sparking the curiosity and the process of discovery that lies at the very heart of Self-Reg.

-Dr. Shanker





School Mass

Parents/guardians are welcome to join us at our school Mass on **Wednesday, December 4th at 10:00 a.m.** at St. Joseph's Church.



School Spirit Day

Students and staff are invited to show their school spirit by wearing blue or their spirit wear on **Wednesday, December 4th!**



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Charles will be at St. Joseph Catholic School on **Tuesday, December 10th** for Confession for students in grades 3 to 8.



Advent Family Mass

Families are invited to our Advent Mass on **Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church** on Victoria Avenue! A social will be held in the parish hall following the Mass.



Dressing for the Weather

All students are outside for recess for a minimum of 40 minutes every day at lunch, in addition to our before school and snack recesses. Students need to have layers to keep warm and dry. Please be sure your child has snow pants/splash pants for warmth as well as a hat and mittens each day. Extra mitts and socks kept in their backpack are a great idea! Please put your child's name on their belongings so they can be returned if they get lost.



Indoor Shoes

With the wet weather upon us, all students are expected to change their footwear before entering their classroom. Wet shoes are not only uncomfortable, they also create slippery floors that are a hazard to others. For health and safety reasons, students may not walk around barefoot or in socked feet.

ORAL HEALTH SCHOOL SCREENING NOTIFICATION

Date of Screening: December 17 & 18, 2019.

Dental Screenings are being conducted at your child's school for:

- Students in Grades JK, BK & 2
- Students in Grades 4 and 7 may also be screened.
- Any student as requested by the child/parent.

IMPORTANT:

- Parents who do not wish to have their child screened are required to advise the school, in writing, each school year before the scheduled screening date.
- Selected students with urgent treatment needs may be rescreened at this time or at a later date.

FYI:

- Oral health screening is a quick, visual oral assessment using a sterilized mouth mirror.
- The screening is a non-invasive oral assessment which can identify potential concerns.
- Oral health report cards are sent home with the children to inform parents of any dental concerns.
- The oral screening is conducted under the statutory authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act.
- This screening should **NOT** replace your child's regular visit to the dentist.

For more information contact Hastings Prince Edward Public Health

Phone: 613-966-5500 ext. 680 | Toll-free: 1-800-267-2803 ext. 680 | TTY: 711 or 1-800-267-6511



To request this document in an alternate format, call 613-966-5500; TTY: 711 or visit hpePublicHealth.ca.

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Christmas Spirit Week

December 16-20

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red and Green Day! Christmas Shopping!	Ugly Sweater Day!	Christmas Character Day! Christmas Sharing Baskets go out	Christmas Hair and Hat Day! Kindergarten Christmas Celebration	PJ Day! Advent liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Thanks to Mrs. Naylor's grade 8 Leadership Team for organizing this fun community building week!

December 2019

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p><i>First Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hope</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Food collection for Christmas Sharing begins</p> <p>Collection of gloves, socks, & hats begins</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Pizza Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>School Mass 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church</p> <p>Spirit wear/school colours Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Advent liturgy in our gym at 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p><i>Second Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faith</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p><i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary</i></p> <p>Last day to order Pizza for January</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>Pizza Day</p> <p>School Confessions gr.3-8</p> <p>Catholic School Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>Advent Family Mass 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>Last day to drop off donations for Christmas Shopping</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Advent liturgy in our gym at 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p><i>Third Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Joy</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>Christmas Shopping Event for students</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spirit Week</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Pizza Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>Last Day to bring in Christmas Sharing & hats, mitts, and socks <i>Thanks for your help!</i></p> <p>Christmas Sharing Delivery</p> <p>Last day to order milk for January</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>Bake Sale</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Advent liturgy in our gym at 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Bake Sale</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p><i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Love</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p><i>Feast of the Holy Family</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>				

Christmas Holidays

See you on Monday, January 6, 2020!