

St. Patrick Catholic School

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January Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

January 3, 2022

Prayer for the New Year

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Advent Food and Clothing Drive

Our thanks to all the families that supported the St. Patrick's Food and Clothing Drive, which was part of our Advent giving and sharing. Your generosity with non-perishable foods and clothing items was outstanding and helped many families in our community enjoy Christmas!

Winter Weather is upon us!

Students are outside for recess for 20-25 minute intervals throughout the day, so it is important to dress accordingly. Children need the activity time that recesses provide. These breaks assist learning in that children are better able to concentrate when they have regular exercise and fresh air. Please make sure students have extra socks, pants, mitts, etc. so they have dry clothing to change into. With the advent of this colder weather, it is very important that students are not dropped off at times when supervision is not available. **Please remember that our morning supervision starts at 8:50 a.m.**

Staffing Update

We had a few staffing changes before the Christmas Break this year. Congratulations to Ms. Stockermans who retired at the end of November. We welcome Ms. Hurley who will be teaching the Gr. 7 moving forward. Congratulations as well to Ms. Gauthier who has been assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School to begin her new role as vice-principal. Our new Gr. 6 teacher will be Ms. O'Brien for the remainder of the school year.

Bus Cancellations

We strongly advise all our families to sign up for Tri-Board's bus cancellations (www.triboard.on.ca) and to listen to the radio in the event of inclement weather. Please remember that when buses are cancelled in the morning, they will also be cancelled in the afternoon. **If you bring your child to school, then you must pick them up by 3:35 pm.** You can also check with Tri-Board Transportation website for up-to-date cancellations.

St. Pats Night at the Kingston Frontenacs Game

Friday, December 3rd was St. Patrick Night at the Kingston Frontenacs game. Some of the Kindergarten students from Ms. Forster/Ms. Hazel's classroom opened the game with a fantastic rendition of O' Canada. About 120 members of our school community attended the game and were treated to a 5-0 win over the Oshawa Generals. Thanks to everyone who came out to support our school and cheer on the Frontenacs.

Covid Updates:

For those who heard the Premier's announcement on Monday, January 3rd, it looks like we will be moving to remote learning again for at least the next 2 weeks. Information is forthcoming at this time and details will be shared with families as soon as our board office team has had a chance to formulate a plan for schools.

We have been given some guidelines for when schools do return to in-person learning:

- Updated Provincial Covid-19 School and Child Care Screener: [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](http://COVID-19.school.screening(ontario.ca))
- Students will need to remain in cohorts indoors and outdoors until further notice.
- Survey for families wanting a move to the Remote Learning will go out Friday January 7, 2022. The Board will offer opportunities for families to go to remote learning as of Feb 3, 2022. From January 5 to February 3, 2022 those families that want to keep students at home will have access to asynchronous content from their classroom teacher.
- Teachers will post daily lessons to D2L asynchronously.
- All extracurricular activities are paused until further notice.

Thanks to everyone for your vigilance and cooperation around all our covid protocols and guidelines. We know that this has been very challenging and will likely continue to be a challenge in the new year. We really appreciate your support and understanding!

Upcoming Dates:

January 3 and 4	Extended Christmas Break for Students
Wednesday, January 5	Remote Learning Begins
Thursday, January 6	Regiopolis-Notre Dame Visits Gr. 8
Wednesday, February 2	PA Day

Sincerely,

Mr. Minutillo
Principal

Mr. Wells
Vice-Principal