



St. Jerome Journal

December 2012



The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins,
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace amongst brothers and sisters,
To make music in the heart.
<Fill our hearts with Hope for Your coming>

Principal's Message

December is upon us! It is a very special and sacred month. Advent, a time of waiting, is filled with many activities and events that lead us to our most precious day, the birth of Jesus. Christmas Day is a day to celebrate and enjoy family and friends. The warmth of the season, as well as the hustle and bustle, has begun! I hope that you will join us for our Advent Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Parish on December 6th at 1:00 p.m. and for our Christmas concert on December 19th at 1:00 p.m. in our gymnasium. We are excited to highlight the talents of our students during these events! Let us all remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the spirit of giving. We will be supporting the local Food Bank and collecting canned pasta sauce during our school Advent celebrations.

When we return in the New Year, I hope we will be all rested and rejuvenated. Thank you for your continued support of St. Jerome School and I wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas!

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We are on the web: <http://www.ncdsb.on.ca/>

December's virtue is **Charity**

The Blessing of Giving

Charity is a word that we do not hear much today except in reference to foundations or groups that provide monetary relief for certain disadvantaged people. However, the word charity implies much more for Christians. Charity is the traditional word for love; an act of charity is an expression of your unselfish love for God or an unlimited loving-kindness toward all others. The term must not be confused or strictly interpreted as "benevolent giving". Charity, or love, is the greatest of all theological virtues. Charity has two parts:

love for God above all things and love for man which includes both love for yourself and love for your neighbour. Faith, Hope, and Charity are the three theological virtues and are the foundation of moral activity. Charity is superior to all of these virtues. It also draws us closer to God and closer to one another.

In order to better understand charity, we need to reflect on God's love for man. We see God's love for us as being both selfless and sacrificial. The greatest demonstration of these two attributes is evident in the passion of Christ. Before his death, Jesus informs us of his wishes: "My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you." (John 15:13) Jesus loved His disciples and humanity to the end.



Fostering Gratitude in our Homes and Schools

Proverbs 25:14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.

Understanding charity and the love for others is a gift that we can nurture in our children. Not only will it help children feel good about themselves, it will improve their relationship with Christ and bring true happiness in their lives. A child who learns the importance of sharing their time, treasures and talents will be better able to sympathize with those in need.

Sharing Their Time:

Children can demonstrate their love to others by sacrificing their time helping mom in the kitchen, shoveling a neighbour's walkway, volunteering, baking cookies for their classmates.

Sharing Their Talents:

Children can share their talents with others by reading to a younger sibling, teaching a younger student learn to tie his/her shoes, playing the piano for the elderly, helping another student or sibling with a math problem.

Sharing their Treasures:

Children can share their treasures by donating toys for a toy drive, using their allowance to buy a loved one a present, choosing their favourite canned goods to donate to the food drive. Take pictures of your children when they are sharing their time, talents and treasures as a reminder of how good they felt giving to others. Discuss with your child the importance of their selfless acts and the joy that their sacrifices brought to others.

Cold Weather

Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to go outside for recess and lunch hour breaks. It is the expectation that each child comes dressed appropriately to go outside to enjoy the weather and get some fresh



air and exercise. With the arrival of colder weather, students are reminded to dress appropriately (hats, mitts, boots, etc.) and to wear all clothing that they came to school in when they go out for recess. A second set of mitts is recommended for grade 1- 3 students who are outside three times throughout the day. We encourage outdoor play and all students will be expected outside for recesses unless the wind chill factor drops below -25°C. We appreciate your continued support!

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Sign Out Procedures

A reminder that students must always be signed out by an adult if they are leaving the school property throughout the school day, to attend appointments. When the student arrives back at school, they are required to report to the office to sign back in.

School Safety

Parents are welcomed to the school throughout the year, however, for the safety of all children, parents and visitors **must use only the front door for entry and must sign in at the office and receive a visitor's tag each and every time** you visit the building. Visitors are not entitled to go to the classrooms as this is a disruption to student programming.

Since the hallways are busy during pick up times, parents are asked to meet their child outside at the side door at 3:15 p.m. **Please remember to most students in the school, you are a stranger! We also ask that parents do not enter the schoolyard during school hours as this is also a safety issue.** Thank you for your cooperation.



Fund-raising

Our **MacMillan's** fund-raiser of frozen foods was successful in raising \$ 2,400.50 towards our student funds.



The **Evening with Santa** was great fun and generated \$ 1,920.24 in profits. Thank you for your participation and all of your fund- raising efforts.

Subway Lunch



As part of our Healthy Foods awareness program we are offering a Subway Lunch to our students on Wednesday, December 19th. Please make sure that you have completed and turned in your order form.

Spirit Days!

Students are invited to hop out of bed and wear their **PJ's** to school on **Tuesday, December 18th**. Some classes will be participating in "Polar Express" activities throughout the day.

Christmas Concert

The students of St. Jerome School are working diligently on our annual **Christmas Concert**. The concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 19th at 1:00 p.m.** Make sure to mark your calendar and we hope that you can join us!



Milk and Pizza...

The **Milk Program** will start-up on **Monday, January 14th, 2013**. Again, we regret that will be unable to provide students with milk from Monday, January 7th, 2013 to Friday, January 11th, 2013. **Pizza Days** will resume on **Friday, January 18th, 2013**.

Snow Days

Please listen to the radio or check our website with respect to bus cancellations on inclement weather days. You now have the option to register through our website to receive an email in the event of bus cancellations. Our school will remain open but the programs available at school may be modified. Parents are asked to use discretion whether or not their child should attend school, and are reminded that once buses are cancelled they are cancelled for the whole day, so parents are responsible for transportation at the end of the day. Also, please note that Hot Lunch and Pizza Days are cancelled on snow days as well.

Anaphylaxis Alert/ Healthy Eating

There are several students in our school with a severe life-threatening food allergy to peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that can result in death within minutes of exposure. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, please send foods with your child's lunch that are free from nuts/nut products.

"WOW"butter is an ideal alternative if your child enjoys peanut butter but we ask that you indicate its use with a note in your child's lunch kit or by using the labels provided on the jars. Further to this, as part of "Sabrina's Law", we discourage the sharing of food and treats amongst classmates; this includes birthday and special occasion treats. On special occasions (Christmas, Valentine's) or to acknowledge your child's birthday, if you would like to send something, items such as pencils or "dollar store treasures" that are not edible would be appropriate. Thank you for your consideration and co-operation in making our classrooms safer and healthier for students.

Junior Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2012-13 school year will be held at all Northeastern Catholic District School Board elementary schools on: Monday, January 14th, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2013.

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- Birth & Baptismal Certificates
- Immunization Record
- Health Card

Please spread the word...

Christmas Break

The last day of school is Friday, December 21st. School will resume on Monday, January 7th, 2013.

We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

