



# St. Jerome Journal

December 2014

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. and for our Christmas concert on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in our gymnasium. 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!

## 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.*

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

## 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 warmly (hats, mitts, boots, etc.) 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!



## 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

**Fresh from the Farm** raised \$ 360.00 towards our student funds. The **Evening with Santa** was great fun and generated \$ 1972.50 in profits. Thank you for your participation and all of your fund-raising efforts.

## Spirit Days!

Students are invited to hop out of bed and wear their **PJ's** to school on **Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Students will be participating in "Polar Express" activities throughout the day.

## Advent Celebrations

Please join us for Advent celebrations taking place on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the gymnasium during the month of December as well as Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. We will also be collecting canned pasta sauce for the Kirkland Lake Food bank and invite students to bring donations to our celebrations.

## Christmas Basket Draw

Tickets are on sale for a Christmas Bear and Basket Draw. Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased at the office. The draw will take place on **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at our annual Christmas Concert.

## Christmas Concert

The students of St. Jerome School are working diligently on our annual **Christmas Concert**. The concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 again on **Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. Again, we regret that we will be unable to provide students with milk from Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. **Pizza Days** will resume on **Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

## Snow Days

Please listen to the radio or check our website at [www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca) 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 and should be at the school by 3:00 p.m. to pick-up their child. Also, please note that Hot Lunch and Pizza Days are cancelled on snow days as well.

## Classroom Treats

Just a reminder that while we appreciate your generosity, food treats such as cookies, candy, cupcakes, etc. should not be sent to school to share with your child's class. We have many students with severe food allergies. Should you wish to share some Christmas cheer pencils, erasers or stickers are a welcomed choice.

## Christmas Break

The last day of school is Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

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



**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**