



St. Jerome Journal

December 2010

Advent



Preparation for Christmas takes place during December, in a time of growing darkness. This preparation is called Advent. The word means "coming". In this mysterious season of waiting, with John the Baptist, we muster the strength to struggle against injustice. With expectant Mary we await the holy birth. Advent traditions reflect a spirit of expectation and, therefore, unfold gradually.



The custom of an Advent Wreath began in the 16th century in Germany and are an ancient symbol of victory. Advent wreaths symbolize the victory of Christ's coming and the glory of His Birth. There are four candles in the Advent Wreath, representing the four weeks of Advent. The three purple candles represent our waiting, repentance, hoping and longing expectation for the arrival of Christ. The pink candle representing the third week, reminds us that time of Christ's arrival is approaching fast, and we must prepare!



During Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming at the end of time, and his special coming in every moment of Grace.

*December's virtue is **Charity**.*

As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is CHARITY. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on the 25th, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. Our quote for the month is "Where charity and love are, God is there". As St. Thomas Aquinas described it "Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God." (2a2ae,25,4). How can we practice charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things? This month at St. Jerome School, we will be demonstrating charity by collecting canned pasta sauce for our local food bank.

128 Woods Street
Kirkland Lake, ON
P2N 2S4
705 567 5800
705 567 5838 Fax

Karen MacGregor,
Principal

Caroline Harvey,
Secretary

Glenn Sheculski,
Director of Education
877-422-9322

James Michaud,
Superintendent
877-422-9322

Steve Malciw,
Trustee
705 643 2172

Rick Brassard,
Trustee
705 544 8055

Fr. Wayne Mills,
Pastor
Holy Name of Jesus Church
705 567 3932

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

Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills

As a precautionary measure, we will practice fire drills and lock down procedures throughout the year. We are required to hold 6 fire drills each year as well as 2 lock down drills. During fire drills, students are asked to move safely and swiftly to the nearest exit and to report to their designated area outside of the building. If an exit is blocked, students are reminded to use their alternate exit. We will have three of the fire drills in the fall and the remaining three in the spring. In a lock down, students are alerted over the P.A. that we are "initiating lock down". Students are directed to move away from all windows and doors and to lie on the floor, if possible under desks. Classroom doors and windows are secured. Students remain this way until the alert is cancelled.

Discussing these procedures with your child will help reassure the importance of these safety procedures. In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency in our school, we will evacuate to Holy Name Parish Hall. Safety regulations require us to have this contingency plan in place. In such an event, your child will remain with school staff until we contact you.



Junior Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2010-11 school year will be held at all Northeastern Catholic District School Board elementary schools on: Monday, January 17th, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2011



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

- proof of age
- original Catholic Baptismal Certificate

Please spread the word...

From School Council

St. Jerome Catholic School Council is pleased to announce that our application for a PRO Grant has been approved. Please look for details in our next newsletter on our curriculum night and workshop to begin in late January 2011.

Student Safety

Snow and Ice

When the cool months arrive and snow play in it and with it. Throwing snowballs fun as it is, snow and ice, can be very people are in a small area. Most student order for our school to be as safe as on the ground – no snowballs, kicking that could be harmful. Please talk to your child about this at home.



and ice on the ground plentiful, we all like to and sliding on ice is fun. However, as much dangerous when lots of injuries happen during the winter time. In possible, the school must be that snow stays snow or any other activity with snow or ice

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 sign back noting their arrival time.

Fund-raising

Our **MacMillan's** fund-raiser of frozen foods was successful in raising \$ 2, 722.25 towards our student funds. The **Evening with Santa** was great fun and generated \$ 1,443.61 in profits. Thank you for your participation and all of your fund- raising efforts.



Advent

During **Advent**, St. Jerome School has been collecting non-perishable food items which will be donated to the food bank. The theme for this year is: **Canned Pasta Sauce**. Thank you for your participation and support towards the less fortunate.

Our **Advent Celebrations** continue every Monday, December 13th and December 20th at 9:00 a.m. in the gymnasium. Everyone is welcome to attend these activities.

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation will take place on **Wednesday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m.** at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish. Congratulations to those students who are receiving this Holy Sacrament.

Subway Lunch

As part of our Healthy Foods awareness program we are offering a our students on Wednesday, December 15th. Please make sure that completed and turned in your order form.



Subway Lunch to you have

Spirit Days!

Students are invited to hop out of bed and wear their **PJ's** to school on **Friday, December 10th**. Our Grade 3 students will be participating in "Polar Express" activities throughout the day.

On **Wednesday, December 15th** students are asked to participate in "**Red & Green**" Spirit Day. Everyone is asked to wear red and/or green clothing to show some Christmas Spirit!

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

Christmas Concert



The students of St. Jerome School are working diligently on our annual **Christmas Concert**. The concert will take place on **Monday, December 20th** at 1:00 p.m. Make sure to mark your calendar and we hope that you can join us!

Milk, Hot Dog and Pizza...

Please note that **Hot Dog Days** will resume on **Wednesday, January 12th, 2011**. Therefore, keep in mind that there will **not** be a Hot Dog Day on January 5th, 2011.

The **Milk Program** will start-up on **Monday, January 10th, 2011**. Again, we regret that will be unable to provide students with milk from Wednesday, January 5th, 2010 to Friday, January 7th, 2010.

Flu Boosters

Students who require a booster to their flu vaccination will receive this upon their return to school on Wednesday, January 5th, 2011.

Snow Days

Please listen to the radio or check our website with respect to bus cancellations on inclement weather days.



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 Dog and Pizza Days are cancelled on snow days as well.

Christmas Break

The last day of school is Tuesday, December 21st. School will resume on Wednesday, January 5th, 2011. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

