



# Home of the **CARDINALS!**

December 2019 Newsletter

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## **Principal's Message**

Advent is a time to prepare for a new coming of Jesus our Savior.

Some people want the savior to come with great power to reward them and wipe out their enemies. But Jesus is a loving and peaceful Savior. He calls his followers to make the whole world loving and peaceful. During Advent, we try to prepare our homes and our lives for Jesus, the King of glory and the Prince of peace.

*It is wintertime. Days are short and nights are long. We need the light of Christ. We need Christ's warmth, love and joy. And so we gather around the wreath of hope.*

*The circle of this wreath will remind us of the coming of Christ, whose love for us has no End.*

*The light of these candles will remind us of the coming of Christ, who is the light of the world.*

*The green colour of these branches will remind us of the coming of Christ, who brings us eternal life.*

*Together with your families and friends, we encourage you to share this Advent Prayer.*

During the month of December, our school community will be showing our Virtue of Love by; gathering food at our Christmas play for St. Anthony's Christmas baskets; where students will be writing Christmas letters to our soldiers; and finally, creating Christmas hampers for NEOFACS. "Where there is charity and love, God is there." Thank you for your continued support.

From the staff to your families, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2020.

Yours in faith and education,

Mr. Berthier  
Principal

**Our spiritual theme: "By Our Works, We Show Our Faith," (James 2: 16 - 18).**

## Christmas Break

Christmas break begins on Monday, December 23rd and continues until January 3<sup>rd</sup>. School resumes Monday, January 6th, 2020.

## Reminders:

### OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:50 - Entry & Opening Exercises

10:00-10:15 - Morning Recess

11:35-12:05 - Lunch Recess

12:05-12:35 - Lunch Inside

1:55-2:10 - Afternoon Recess

3:20 – Dismissal

Please note, the phones will not be answered between 11:35 and 12:35.

As a safety issue, we would like to remind you that the supervision of the school yard does not begin until 8:30 a.m. It would be best if students who walk or are dropped off at school do not arrive to school before then. If you are coming into the school, you are reminded that you must report to the office and not go to your child's classroom or locker. We appreciate your support on this.

### **Communication**

If you have any concerns or questions about the curriculum, work being sent home or your child's progress or well-being, please contact your child's classroom teacher. You may leave a message for your child's teacher at the office or by communicating in the agenda. Please be patient and the teacher will get back to you as soon as he or she is able to. If you have any concerns regarding the school, please do not hesitate to come and discuss the matter with the Principal.

### **Safe Arrival Program**

At Pope Francis Elementary School, our students' safety and well-being is of greatest concern to us. We must be notified by a parent/guardian, either by phone or in writing, whenever your child is going to be absent or late. Not only are we assured of that child's safety, but it also saves us the task of phoning parents at home, at work and on cell phones. **Please realize that we cannot accept notification from your child regarding any absences from school** – it must come from a parent or guardian. A note to the classroom teacher and/or a call to the office will help to speed up our job in the morning. A heart-felt thank you goes out to all those parents who have been notifying the school. We would also like to remind parents to inform the office of any changes in phone numbers and/or addresses as it is essential that we be able to reach you in case of an emergency involving your child.

### **Student Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial to success at school. When students are habitually late or leave habitually early, they miss critical class time, feel disorganized and may miss important information. Punctuality is an important life skill that students learn and helps them establish

### OFFICE HOURS

Open from 8:00 am to 11:35 am

Closed from 11:35 am to 12:35 pm

Open from 12:35 pm to 4:00 pm

good work habits for their future. Encourage your child(ren) to take responsibility for themselves to prepare and plan ahead in order to be ready and on time for school. Working together makes a difference for student learning.

*Regular attendance is important at every grade level. In our early primary classrooms, it is imperative that students attend regularly as this is where the foundation for academic success is built. Students learn valuable social skills and are exposed to routines at an early age, which will serve them well as they progress through school. These foundational pieces will only benefit our students.*

### **Lateness: School Arrival**

Lateness continues to be a concern at Pope Francis. Many students miss the initial part of their instructional school day due to this late arrival. **Valuable learning time is lost.** Chronic lateness is reported to the school's attendance counsellor. Please ensure that these inappropriate patterns of behaviour are not established with your children. Students should arrive at school no later than 8:45 a.m.

### **Monthly Virtue: Love**

#### **The Importance of Love:**



Faith, Hope and Love are the three theological virtues, and are the foundation of moral activity. Love is superior to all of these virtues. It also draws us closer to God and closer to one another. In order to better understand love, 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. Love motivates the Christian to do what is right in order to bring about the happiness of God and neighbor. Love is God's gift to us in Baptism. Our model of love is Jesus.

**Looks like:** serving others, lending a helping hand, sacramental engagement, opening a door for someone, allowing others to go before us, taking care of what belongs to others, helping others in need, praying for our loved ones and for our enemies.

**Sounds like:** prayer, encouraging someone, complimenting each other, listening to other people's ideas, treating people the way we would like to be treated.

**Feels like:** Welcoming others, helping others with their feelings, understanding each other, including others, feels like Jesus bringing a cool drink of water on a hot day.

### **Catholic School Council**

Our next meeting will take place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30. Please use the Balsam Street entrance. Our co-chairs, Mrs. Courchesne and Mr. Fernandez will be taking any agenda items for our next meeting. At our last meeting, items that were discussed include, construction update, signage, front entrance, playground design student safety, Parent funds, Christmas concert and year end celebration.

Spirit wear – Parent Council will be selling spirit wear. Forms will be sent home with your child. If you are interested in any other the items, please return the form completed and the money by December 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Closing Message:**

"Everything is God's to give and to take away, so share what you've been given, and that includes yourself." Mother Teresa

**Contact Information**

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Board website: [www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca)



**POPE FRANCIS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**