



PARENT UPDATE #14: DECEMBER 6 - 10

Second week of Advent: PEACE



Week 2 of Advent

During the second week of Advent, we have the chance to light the second purple candle, the Peace Candle. We bring peace to the world when we bring peace to others. During the second Sunday of Advent, we invite you to seek Peace in your life by surrendering to God's unfailing and never-ending Love. We are at peace with ourselves and others when we listen to God's word, take action in support of His mission, and place our faith in the Lord by asking for his guidance each day.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

**“Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way.
The Lord be with all of you.”**

Christmas Toy Drive – We need your help to support our local families with Toy donations. Our toy bin has been outside the front of the school during morning drop off (8:05-8:20) or afterschool (2:50-3:15) and we will continue to accept donations until December 10th.

Please consider donating items for various age groups. A good rule of thumb is to donate something that your own children would appreciate receiving. All gift card donations will be accepted at the main office.

Food Drive – Our Christmas Food Drive campaign continues for one more week until Friday December 10. Please send in nonperishable foods with your child and we will collect items from the classrooms. Donations in the form of Grocery store Gift Cards will go directly to OLF families in need. All food contributions will be donated to Food4Kids and will be distributed to local Halton families in need.

True North Aid – For the past 2 years OLF has supported children in First Nations communities in Northern Ontario through the True North Aid registered charity. This charity delivers necessities to children in isolated and underprivileged communities. Last year our school was one of many that raised funds for winter clothing, backpacks filled with school supplies and sports equipment. This year we will once again accept monetary donations through our school cash online system that will be used towards the purchase of continued supports for children in need.

Masks on School Property

We remind all parents/guardians: please wear a mask when you are on school property during drop off/pickups each day. We know that the students are very familiar with this expectation by now as they continue to arrive in the morning with their masks on, which we greatly appreciate! We just wanted to remind all adults, that we kindly request the same of you when you enter on to school property at the start and end of the school day.

Christmas Spirit Week at OLF

Monday December 13-17 we will be having Christmas Spirit week, with a variety of fun Advent/Christmas themed days and events to help get everyone into the Christmas spirit.

DAY	CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEAR	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
MONDAY December 13	CHRISTMAS ACCESSORIES (Hats, Headbands, etc.)	
TUESDAY December 14	ADVENT COLOURS – PURPLE AND PINK	9am - Advent Liturgy (led by Kindergarten Team)
WEDNESDAY December 15	SILLY SOCK DAY 	CHRISTMAS AT OLF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch your favourite Christmas movie in your classroom (PM) • Snacks (hot chocolate & Cookie) will be provided to classes *Staff are asked to bring a kettle to boil water for hot chocolate for your students
THURSDAY December 16	CHRISTMAS COLOURS – RED AND GREEN	JOY DAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Kahoot by division (schedule to come) • Bulletin Board Decorating (Winter/Christmas theme) OCGE Assembly (PM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liturgy • Bulletin board decorating contest (vote for winners by division)
FRIDAY December 17	PAJAMA DAY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Dismissal at 1:20pm

MindUP for students

We are moving on with Lesson 5 this week! Through a variety of exercises, they will become more attune to observing details by slowing down and focusing their attention. You can build on these skills of observation by encouraging your child/children to apply their curiosity and perceptiveness to their academic work or their extracurricular activities.

Take some time to focus in on what your family is observing out in your community. Make observations about common things you see in your community such as “How many red cars do you see?”

Arriving on time

School begins at 8:20am. The doors are open for students to enter beginning at 8:05am. It is very important that we are establishing good routines with our students and children, by ensuring that they arrive on time each day. Please consider walking your child to school to avoid the busy parking lots in the morning and afternoon. **A reminder that students should not be dropped off prior to 8:05am each day, as Supervision of students begins at that time. Students cannot enter the school until 8:05am, when supervisors arrive.**

Office Drop offs

Please send your child each day with their healthy lunch and water bottle when you drop them off in the morning. We want to avoid disruptions to the class and student learning, so we ask that you avoid dropping materials off at the office, by ensuring they are packed each morning.

Important Government Announcement this past week

We wanted to share some important information that was released in a press conference with Ontario's Minister of Health and Minister of Education regarding **COVID-19 health and safety updates for schools**.

Below are some highlights from the announcement, as well as additional information we received in a memo from the Ministry of Education.

Updates for All Elementary and Secondary Schools

- Before the Christmas break, each student in Ontario will receive a **Rapid Antigen Test home kit**, which will contain five (5) tests for voluntary screening at home over the holidays.
- As we did for the first two weeks of the school year, when we return to school in the new year, **confirmation of daily screening of COVID-19** will be required for all students, staff and visitors during the first two (2) weeks.

Winter Break Travel

With the holiday season approaching, it is anticipated that many staff, students and families will choose to make travel plans over the break. We would like to remind families to follow [federal directives related to international travel and quarantine requirements](#).