



## Weekly Update #13 November 30 to December 4/21

The beautiful season of **Advent** begins this week, with Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> being the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for the birth of Jesus, who came to show us God the Father's love and to free us from sin, so that we could be with Him together forever. We wait for him to be born again in our hearts, our classrooms, our homes, our Parish community, and in the whole world.



**Thank you** to parents for taking the time to have a conversation with your child's teacher via our Parent-teacher interviews that occurred November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with each of you and collaborate to create a partnership for your child's continued progress and success. We apologize on behalf of the HCDSB for the delay in getting Progress Reports to you via the new Power School program - your patience and understanding were/continues to be much appreciated. Hard copies were sent home on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the difficulty we experienced in sending electronic copies to families.

### Important Events:

#### Monday November 29<sup>th</sup>

- Advent Prayer Liturgy - 9:00 am virtual for students - thank you grade 6 team
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below

#### Tuesday November 30<sup>th</sup>

- Orange Shirt Day (non-uniform day) - see details below
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below

#### Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>

- iDARE parent committee meeting - 6:30 pm (virtual)
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below

#### Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Billet Media visiting QH to film promotional JK/SK video (Rm. 104 & 105)
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below

#### Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

- International Day for Persons with Disabilities
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below

### Upcoming Dates:

- **December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Wish** gift card donation campaign continues
- **December 9<sup>th</sup> - Grade 8 Caroling for Cans** food drive initiative 6pm - 7 pm
- **December 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> - Primary Christmas concert** premier event - 7 pm (exact date not yet determined, but will be one of these two ... more info below)
- **December 17<sup>th</sup> - “Dress Like an Elf”** school spirit day (non-uniform day); also, we have early dismissal at 1:35 pm on the final day before Christmas break

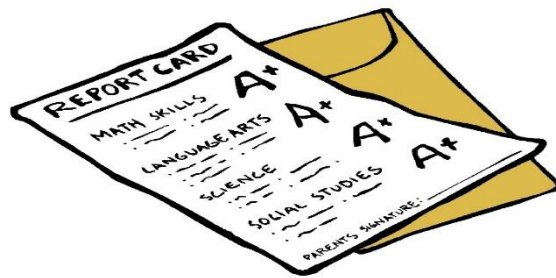
### Upcoming Events and Important News:

Christmas Wish Gift Card Donation Campaign - thank you to the many families who have already generously donated a gift card (denomination of your choice) to support families in need at Christmastime. Queen of Heaven families are supporting three organizations to help bring joy to families: Toys for Tots (run by the Halton Regional Police Services), The Good Shepherd (via Holy Rosary Parish) and the Queen of Heaven Helping Hands Fund (to support our own school families in need). Donations of gift cards should be sent in sealed envelop marked “Christmas Wish” and denoted with the charity your family wishes to support. If not earmarked for any of the three designated charities, we will equally divide the donations amongst the three organizations. Thank you for helping teach out children the importance of helping those less fortunate than ourselves! Deadline Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.



School Parking Lot Safety - we continue to be very concerned about the safety within our two school parking lots. This important issue was recently discussed at our School Council meeting of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. As we all know, school parking lots were not designed or built for the volume of automobile traffic they currently sustain each day. Due to the congestion in the parking lots and unsafe practices exhibited by some drivers accessing the parking lots, we are **considering various parking lot options & strategies** that are designed to protect student, staff and visitor safety. Please expect a parking lot safety flyer to be hand-delivered to drivers entering our lots over the coming weeks to forecast expectations and changes coming to our parking lots. In anticipation of these changes, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND PARNTS PARKING ON NEIGHBOURING SIDE STREETS AND WALKING ONTO SCHOOL PROPERTY TO PICK UP CHILDREN AT DISMISSAL TIME**. Please don't get frustrated as we enact strict measures to ensure the safety of our community members!!!!

**Progress Reports** - we once again extend our sincere apologies to our parent community over the frustration experienced last week regarding the distribution of the Progress Reports to our families. The process was extremely difficult for us as a school team and for parents anxiously awaiting Progress Reports to review prior to Parent-Teacher interviews. The “Power School” program seems inaptly named, to say the least. We hope the interview process allowed you the opportunity to converse with your child(ren)’s teacher(s) to collaborate and support your child(ren)’s learning. Parents are kindly asked to complete the page 3 response form and return to the attention of your child(ren)’s teacher. Thank you!



**Primary Christmas Concert** - as many of our parents of Primary students (grades 1-3) are aware, our Teacher-of-the-Arts teacher Mrs. Rabiej, in partnership and collaboration with our grade 1-3 teachers, have been working hard to prepare our students for a virtual Christmas performance to share with families. Thank you to our dedicated staff for tirelessly working to prepare our students and for families who have been practicing at home (in particular cases as roles warrant). Our goal is to share our Christmas Concert via a You Tube link available for families to enjoy on the evening of **December 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>**, depending on the success of our filming endeavors. As we draw closer to the date, we will share more specific details with families. Please save the date(s) on your calendars and get the popcorn and beverages ready - it's sure to be a joyful experience to enjoy!



**OAPCE News - OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)**

Last year, OAPCE conducted its first crowdsourcing idea board. The intent was to crowdsource parent thoughts and ideas on what things should START, what things should STOP, and what things should CONTINUE to be done in publicly funded Catholic Education across the province. Visit <https://www.oapce.org/> for the results.

OAPCE publishes a **Parents4Parents** Newsletter that highlights OAPCE involvement with Catholic Stakeholder groups, parent opportunities and special events. Click here for the [November Newsletter](#).



**Dress Like An Elf Spirit Day** - we are looking forward to our next spirit day - Friday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, 2021 is **dress like an elf day**. This is a fun, non-uniform spirit day. Please dress like an elf or Christmas colours of **red** and **green** will more than suffice. Please note, the final day before the Christmas break is also early dismissal day with school ending early at **1:35 pm** - please mark this in your calendars so you don't forget. Thank you!!



**Student iDARE Committee** - we are excited to begin the formation process of our student iDARE committee. As you know, **iDARE** stands for **inclusivity, diversity, anti-racism** and **equity**. We strive daily to instill the important iDARE values of respect and acceptance of all within our children. Students in grades 4-8 have the opportunity to submit an iDARE application to our staff iDARE committee members explaining why they would like to be selected as their classroom iDARE representative. Selected members will form our school iDARE student committee and work with school staff and coordinate with our parent iDARE committee around important iDARE initiatives, with the goal of teaching and spreading our iDARE messages to the broader school community. Below is the winning iDARE student logo design for 2021-2022 created by grade 8 student **Madison B.**



**Orange Shirt Day** - a reminder as part of our ongoing commitment to remember the history and impact of Residential Schools on Indigenous children, their families and communities, this **Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** is **ORANGE SHIRT** day (**non-uniform day**). Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange on Tuesday to show our continued support of our Indigenous sisters and brothers.



