



Weekly Update #14 December 6th to December 10th/21

The season of **Advent** continues this week, with Sunday, December 5th being the 2nd 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 and staff alike for continuing to practice our Covid safety protocols on a daily basis. With three recently confirmed covid cases in our school last week, it is a stark reminder that the virus continues to be present in our community. It is easy to let our guard down as we all have covid fatigue, but our recent cases within our school remind us of the necessity to wear face masks as at all times when stepping onto school property at drop-off and pick-up times, as well as maintaining physical distancing as much as possible and continuing to practice regular hand hygiene. We urge parents to think twice about social gatherings outside of school for your children, particularly the bulk of our students who are unvaccinated. Thank you for your continued cooperation and care as we work to keep our school safe and our classrooms open.

Important Events:

Monday December 6th

- Advent Prayer Liturgy - 12:45 pmm virtual for students - thank you grade 5 team
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below

Tuesday December 7th

- Special CANADA day (non-uniform day) - see details below
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below
- Grade 8s deliver the special decorative flyers advertising our "Caroling for Cans" event

Wednesday December 8th

- Special Education Transition Meetings begin for some of our Grade 8 students
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below

Thursday December 9th

- Special Education Transition Meetings begin for some of our Gr. 8 students con't...
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - see details below
- "Caroling for Cans" Grade 8 neighbourhood food drive/caroling - 6pm-7pm

Friday, December 10th

- Primary Christmas Concert - recording begins - fingers crossed!!
- Christmas Wish gift card donation campaign continues - last day to donate is today!!

Upcoming Dates:

- **December 6th through December 10th - Christmas Wish** gift card donation campaign continues
- **December 7th** - special CANADA day - dress in Canadian gear - see info below
- **December 9th** - Grade 8 **Caroling for Cans** food drive initiative 6pm - 7 pm
- **December 16th - Primary Christmas concert** premier event - 7 pm - more details on how to access the you tube link forthcoming
- **December 17th** - “**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. 10th.



School Parking Lot Safety - we continue to be very concerned about the safety within our two school parking lots. Mrs. Robinson & Mr. Starr passed out safety flyers last week to vehicles entering our parking lots at dismissal time. Please take some time to review the pints we have highlighted. 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.** We will continue to monitor the parking lot hoping to see vehicles not double-parking in the live lanes to allow cars to freely exit their parking spots.



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 16th**, 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 on your calendars and get the popcorn and beverages ready - it's sure to be a joyful experience to enjoy!



CANADA DAY - on **Tuesday, December 7th**, our beloved **Caretaker Mr. Parra** is receiving his **Canadian Citizenship**, after living here now for 13 years from his native country of Colombia. We thought it would be a very touching and fitting tribute for us all to wear our **Canadian apparel** on Tuesday. Hopefully your children can join in this special honour by wearing anything red and white and **CANADIAN** in honour of this special occasion. Thank you!



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 17th**, 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!!



