



Weekly Update #16 Dec. 20th - January 2nd/22

The season of **Advent** continues this week, with Sunday, December 19th being the 4th 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. On the final Sunday of Advent we light the last purple candle which symbolizes peace. We pray for a peaceful and joyous Christmas for all families and members of our Queen of Heaven School community.



Important Events:

Monday December 20th to Sunday January 2ne, 2022

- Christmas break - we hope you all remain healthy and well and find time to relax and spend precious time with your family. Wishing all our families God's continued blessings for a safe, healthy and joyous Christmas and New Year!

Upcoming Dates:

- **January 3rd - return to school (hopefully in-person ... be sure to check your email and/or watch the news in case we are told to pivot to virtual learning...)**
- **January 6th - Epiphany Liturgy (virtual for students) @ 12:45 pm**

Upcoming Events and Important News:

Christmas Food Drive - thank you to the many families who were able to donate non-perishable food items to our Christmas food drive. Our grade 8 students were happy to help organize and collect the food as it was dropped off throughout the week of December 13th through 16th. We collected many boxes of non-perishable items that were delivered to the Good Shepherd on Friday, December 17th, 2021. Helping instill in our students the importance of assisting those less fortunate than ourselves is one of the core values we strive to teach our children here at Queen of Heaven. Thank you again for your generosity and assistance.

Christmas Wish Initiative - thank you to the many families who were able to contribute a gift card to our QH Christmas Wish campaign. Donations will be forwarded to the Toys

for Tots program (run via the Halton Regional Police Services), the Good Shepherd via Holy Rosary Parish and our own QH Helping Hands Fund. Our sincere thanks is extended to all families who generously donated while at the same time helping us teach our children the importance of selfless generosity to assist those in need. Our collective efforts raised over \$2,300 in gift cards that were humbly and gratefully received by the recipients of your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you!!

Primary Christmas Concert - we are pleased to announce the premier of our Primary Christmas Concert - taking place this evening (Friday, December 17th) at 7:00 pm. We hope our production brings joy and happiness to your families. A heartfelt thank you is extended to our Teacher of the Arts Mrs. Rabiej, Mrs. Nielsen, Mrs. Jones along with all our grade 1-3 teachers as well as our parent volunteer Mrs. Lopes who spent countless hours preparing costumes, sets and practicing with our students. We hope you enjoy the show!!



iDARE Christmas Bulletin - from the Parent iDARE Committee, our final bulletin of 2021 is here! There's lots of Christmas Events that have happened at Queen of Heaven in preparation for the holidays, & there's suggestions of local events to help families enjoy the season together! Wishing you a wonderful and joy-filled holiday & we'll see you in 2022!

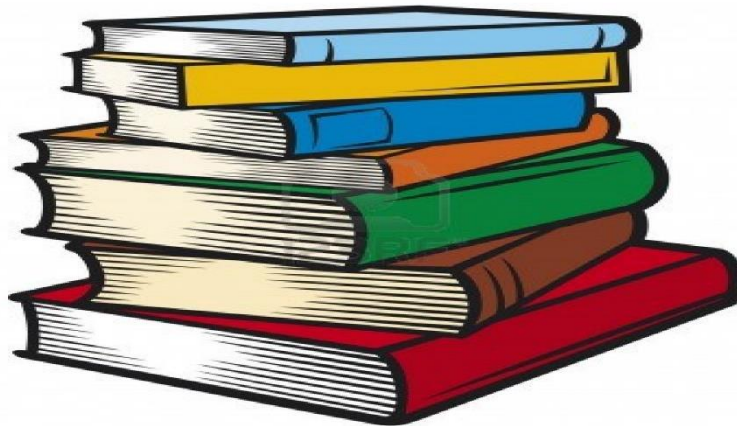
Link to the newsletter:

<https://bit.ly/3E1QlzW>

Rapid Antigen Screening Kits- all of our in-person learners took home a Rapid Antigen Screening Kit for voluntary use over the Christmas holiday. The rapid antigen screening kits have been provided by the Government of Ontario for every student who attends in-person learning at a publicly funded school. These kits may be used by any student, regardless of their vaccination status, however, should **only be used when a child is asymptomatic** (does not have any symptoms of COVID-19) and has not had any exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19. Please note, your child's participation in the **rapid antigen screening process is voluntary** and is not a required action for return to school after the Christmas break. Thank you for your ongoing support and care as we strive to keep our communities safe and our schools open for in-person learning.

Indigo Fundraiser to Support Queen of Heaven -Our online **Indigo fundraiser** continues until **December 31st**. If you need any last-minute gift cards, or wish to shop online versus in-person, please follow this link. A portion of each item, be it gift card, book, or toque goes towards buying books for the voracious readers at Queen of Heaven. Thank you for your support.

<https://indigo.flipgive.com/f/1498040>



Picture Retake Day - many parents have been inquiring about Photo Retake Day for class pictures. Please note, we have contacted our photography company, Edge Imaging, and we are arranging to have a photo retake day take place sometime mid to late January or early February. Picture retakes will be available for those students who were absent on the original photo days of Nov. 22nd/23rd or for students whose parents wish a retake for various reasons. Once we secure the exact date, we will communicate that to our parent community. Thank you!

Blessings - On behalf of our Queen of Heaven staff, we extend our sincere best wishes to all our families for a blessed and joyous Christmas. We hope God blesses each of our families and staff with continued good health, prosperity and much joy throughout the holiday and New Year. As the season of Advent reminds us, we strive to focus on Jesus being the true reason for the season and sincerely hope the joy of a strong relationship with our Lord brings contentment to your family and household. Merry Christmas and God bless!

