



# ST. LUKE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017

Principal: Mrs. E. Bakaic  
Secretary: Mrs. K. Rosati

Parish: St. Andrew Church

Phone: (905) 829-1700  
Website: <http://schools.hcdsb.org/luke>



**SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM:** A reminder to call in your child's absence or late arrival to (905) 829-1700. Our answering machine is operational 24 hours a day. Messages will be retrieved between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Provincial protocols require that schools exhaust all emergency contacts prior to calling the police in the event of a child who is unaccounted for. Please ensure that your information is accurate.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Advent is the time before Christmas when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. We wait in joyful hope for Christmas. The staff and students of St. Luke School will enter into the spirit of the season by preparing to help those in the community who require our assistance. As a school community we have many special activities planned for the season of Advent. We know that small acts of kindness can have a big impact and can help to make a difference in the lives of others. These special activities also help to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Holidays are a time to be with family and friends, a time to rejoice and give thanks for our many blessings. On behalf of the staff of St. Luke Catholic School may your family have a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. E. Bakaic  
Principal

## HOW DO WE CELEBRATE THE SEASON ON ADVENT?

We can all slow down. We can all breathe more deeply. We can all begin to trust that this will be a blessed time. Then, when we let ourselves be who we are, and hear the Scriptures, we can begin to quietly pray, "**Come into my life. I trust you don't mind if it is still messy. Come and fill me with peace and the love only you can give.**" As a family of St. Dominic Parish, let us pray that Jesus will come into our parish family, into our struggles and give us joy again.

## HOME SCHOOL PARISH CONNECTION

St. Andrew Church  
47 Reynolds St.  
Phone: (905) 844-3303  
Mass Times:

**Saturday evenings: 5 p.m.**

**Sundays mornings: 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon**

Please see the attached Christmas Schedule.

## WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE EMAIL FEEDBACK

We have received a wonderful response from our parent community regarding the Week-at-a-Glance updates that are being emailed to families every Friday evening. We're glad this streamlined look at what's happening at St. Luke has been useful to you.

## PEACE AND JUSTICE NEWS

This year we are continuing with our **Angel Tree of Hope.** Families have already chosen their angels from our tree and we ask that all gifts be returned to the school by **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.** Your generous gifts will be donated to support families served by *Acts of Kindness Network, Halton Children's Aid, Safety Net Youth and Child Services* and the *St. Vincent DePaul Society.* We hope that our Angel Tree will enable all of us in the St. Luke School Community to share our good fortune with those less fortunate and make the Christmas season a little brighter for everyone.

Although we appreciate your generosity, it is not necessary to contribute to all of the initiatives. We are most thankful for any support that you are able to offer!

*Our GRO Club members wish all of our families "A Blessed and Peace filled Christmas"!*

## 'THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD' ADVENT CELEBRATION

The Kindergarten through grade 8 classes invite you to join us in celebrating our faith through an Advent Liturgy and Song on **Thursday, December 22nd.** There will be two celebrations; one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. Due to seating/fire code limitations, there is a limit of three tickets per family for the Thursday **evening** performance. An invitation with more information and your tickets will be sent home with your youngest or only child next week. We look forward to an enjoyable event to celebrate the season of Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

Christmas Break is from **December 26 - January 6** inclusive. Please be aware that on **December 23rd there will be early dismissal at 1:30 pm.**

## FUNDRAISER UPDATE

We at St. Luke want to thank you, our school community, for your generosity once again in support of our annual fundraiser. We would also like to recognize and thank an anonymous donor for his generous \$2,000 donation to our fundraising campaign. As a result, we have raised **\$5385.00!** Way to go Gators! Please note that while our fundraising campaign ended on November 30<sup>th</sup>, the donation button will remain on our school website throughout the year and donations can be made at any time.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

We appreciate all of the support we have received from the parents of the St. Luke school community. Thank you also to our Fundraising Committee volunteers for all of their hard work in assembling the Christmas Baskets. They are beautiful and full of wonderful items to appeal to even the most discerning tastes! Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. **Tickets will be on sale through Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Parents and members of the School Community will be able to buy raffle tickets until this date. Students will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets each day at lunch recess. Baskets are on display in the school hallway. The draw will be held on **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



Remember to check the school website for School Council information and for council meetings and minutes. Our next Council meeting will be on January 25th, 2017.

## ANAPHYLAXIS UPDATE

**Christmas** often brings a number of treats into the building to celebrate the approaching holidays and we must maintain the safest possible environment for all of our children. **We appreciate your diligence in ensuring that nut and peanut products are not part of the treat selection.** In order to minimize the risk for our anaphylactic students and to promote our school as a Healthy School, parents are asked not to send their children with lunches from an outside provider (e.g. Tim Hortons). Lunches that are not guaranteed nut-free increase the potential for a life-threatening allergic reaction. Our students with life threatening allergies appreciate your assistance in this matter.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY



On November 11, 2016 St. Luke observed Remembrance Day with a liturgy and ceremony organized by Mrs. Chong, Mrs. Holowatsky and Ms. DaSilva. Thank you to all students who prepared so diligently to make this day special. Thank you as well to parents and guests who were able to join us to make this a memorable Remembrance Day.

## VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to our boys' and girls' volleyball teams on a fun and successful season. Our boys' volleyball team came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Halton System Finals! Thank you Gators for being excellent ambassadors of St. Luke School.



Thank you to our coaches — Ms. Kwiatkoski, Ms. Kellner and Mr. D'Elia. We really appreciate your hard work and dedication to our school teams!

## NOVEMBER SHINING STARS!



Shining Stars are awarded to students for exhibiting a good attitude, good effort and good behaviour. The staff of St. Luke are extremely proud of all of our students who won Shining Star ballots this month.

### **Congratulations to the following raffle draw winners:**

Movie Pass – **Maddie H.**  
Art Supplies – **Logan H.**  
Sports ball – **Aaron P.**  
Subway Gift Card – **Alesandra I.**  
Chapters Gift Card – **Geraldine B.**

## WHAT IS SEAC?

Did you know that there is a committee in each school board or school authority that provides important and relevant advice on Special Education? This committee is known as the **Special Education Advisory Committee** or SEAC.

**SEAC is made up of school board trustees and representatives of local associations with a common goal of protecting the interests and well-being of exceptional children or adults.**

Associations currently represented on HCDSB SEAC are:

- Association for Bright Children (ABC) Ontario, Halton Chapter
- Autism Ontario
- Easter Seals Ontario
- Halton Down Syndrome Association
- Learning Disabilities Association of Halton
- VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

## Students with Special Needs and the Christmas Holidays

Christmas and winter break can be fun, busy, and exciting – and the excitement and change in routine can also be chaotic for many students, especially those with special needs.

As much as educators do their best to maintain structure for students, the excitement of the holidays, the many special events and activities, and the time off school can be overwhelming. The change in routine can take a child out of their comfort zone and be difficult to cope with.

Here are some tips to help parents, caregivers and educators get through these challenging times.

### School Events

- ✓ Prepare your child in advance for changes in the typical school schedule and special events.
- ✓ If possible, have pictures or social stories about what your child can expect.
- ✓ Practice and rehearse what is going to happen, especially if your child will be part of a presentation.
- ✓ Talk to staff about how your child is going to participate; confirm that supports are in place to help them succeed.
- ✓ Plan for a quieter evening after the event, so your child has a chance to decompress.

Social interactions

- ✓ Use visuals to help your child understand what is going to happen
- ✓ Count down the days before school ends and then starts back up again. This makes your child aware that there will be a change in schedules.
- ✓ A daily calendar can be very helpful during the break, especially to help your child anticipate parties or family gatherings.
- ✓ Start adjusting back to your regular routine (bedtimes, naptimes, and the overall schedule) a few days before school starts back up in January, to facilitate a smoother transition.
- ✓ Consider hosting friends and family rather than visiting in a place that is unfamiliar to the child.

Holidays can be a wonderful and memorable time for children, and it is important that they feel included and excited about the experiences during this time. Hopefully some of these ideas will provide ways to create special memories for everyone.

### ESL NEWS FOR DECEMBER

**"Good news of great joy that will be for all the people"** -- Luke 2:10

As we enter the Advent season, we prepare for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We are called to be the light for others by showing kindness and compassion to everyone. In December, people offer a seasonal greeting of joy and peace with Merry Christmas.

Here's how to wish people "Merry Christmas" in different languages:

English ... **Merry Christmas**

French... **Joyeux Noel**

Italian... **Buon Natale**

Portuguese... **Feliz Natal**

Arabic... **Milad Mubarak**

Korean... **Sung Tan Chuk Ha**

Russian... **Schastlivogo**

**Rozhdestva**

Filipino... **Maligayang Pasko**

Japan... **Merii Kurisumasu**

Polish... **Wesolych Swait**

India Hindi... **Krisamas Kee**

**Badhaee**

Nigeria Yoruba... **Ikini Odu**

**Keresimesi**

Spanish... **Feliz Navidad**

Tagalog... **Maligayang Pasko**

We wish you and your families a blessed and holy Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

### KINDERGAREN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Advance registration for students new to Kindergarten will take place on **Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

**We encourage all parents of potential school age students to register at this time to ensure the best possible classroom organization for September.**

**Please Note:** If your child is presently attending JK at St. Luke you do not need to register him/her for Senior Kindergarten.

To register for Junior Kindergarten children must be 4 years of age on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Please bring the following documentation with you when you come to register your child for this program.

- **Roman or Eastern Rite Catholic Baptismal Certificate** (Child's or Parent's)
- **Birth Certificate** – proof of age is required
- **Immunization Record** – Before registration is finalized, a child will have completed the prescribed program of immunization for diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, chicken pox, mumps and rubella. Parent(s) must provide evidence their child's Immunization Record.
- **Proof of address** – to verify that the child is being registered at their home school.

### WHEN A CHILD IS ILL

With the approaching cold weather and flu season, we remind you that a child who is not feeling well is in no state to learn and participate fully in the school program. An ill child will feel more comfortable at home. Also, it is likely he or she could infect other children. We strongly encourage parents to keep sick children at home or make other care arrangements. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



### INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Halton Catholic District School Board provides procedures to follow in the event of inclement weather. For extreme cold and temperatures with or without a wind chill factor:

- A) warmer than -15 C, students may remain outside for all regular outside activities.
- B) between -15 C and -20 C, students may remain outside for no longer than 20 minute intervals at a time.
- C) colder than -20 C, students must remain inside.

### SCHOOL EMERGENCY CLOSURES

In the event of inclement weather, Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) determines whether to cancel school transportation. When the decision is made to cancel transportation, it is cancelled for the entire day. In consultation, the Director of Education of the Halton Catholic District School Board and the Director of Education of the Halton District School Board determine whether to close schools. In most cases, these decisions are communicated beginning at 6:30 a.m. The decision to cancel buses and/or close schools is communicated in the following ways:

#### Primary Methods of Communication

- **Board Website:**  
[www.hcdsb.org](http://www.hcdsb.org)

When school transportation is cancelled and/or schools are closed due to inclement weather the Board's website is updated as soon as this information becomes



available. These updates are very visible at the top of each page of the website. Every effort is made to update the website with this information by 6:30 a.m.

**Please note: If an update is not posted on the Board's website, it signifies that school transportation and school operations are running as usual.**

- **Television Stations:**  
CHTV (Morning Show), CITY TV (Breakfast Television), CP 24
- **FM Radio Stations:**  
CHFI 98.1 FM, WAVE 94.7 FM, Y108/107.9 FM, 95.3 FRESH FM, CLASSICAL 96.3 FM, VIRGIN RADIO 99.9 FM, 102.9 KLITE FM, EASY ROCK 97.3 FM, CBC/CBLT 99.1 FM, CIMJ 106.1 FM
- **AM Radio Stations:** CFRB 1010 AM, CHAM 820 AM, JOY 1460 AM, CHML 900 AM, CKOC 1150 AM, ZOOMER RADIO AM 740, AM 680NEWS

- **Telephone Recording at Board's Main Switchboard:**  
A telephone recording will be provided through our Board's main telephone number: 905-632-6300 or at 1-800-741-8382.

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## Supplementary Methods of Communication

### Twitter:

School closures and bus cancellations will be tweeted out to Halton Catholic District School Board followers on the Board's [Twitter account](#).

## TOWN OF OAKVILLE CROSSING GUARDS NOTICE

The Town of Oakville has implemented a new inclement weather procedure for all Town of Oakville school crossing guards. The procedures outlined below define parameters for crossing guard duties when there is a weather alert or an extreme weather warning issued by the Environment Canada.

### Cold Alerts/Extreme Cold Warnings

If there is a cold alert, crossing guards will be on duty, but service

may be interrupted or intermittent if travel becomes difficult and guards cannot make it to their crossing location.

• Environment Canada issues a cold alert when the daily predicted low is  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  without wind chill  
**If there is an extreme cold warning of  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  or colder, guards will not be on duty even if the schools remain open.**

• Environment Canada issues an Extreme Cold Warning for outdoor activity (when the temperature or wind chill is expected to reach  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  for at least two hours); or  
• Extreme weather conditions such as blizzard or ice storm.

### TIS THE SEASON...FOR ITCHING!

It's that time of year again. When head lice tend to make their way into our school for a holiday visit.

#### Preventing Lice

Having head lice is not a sign of uncleanliness or poor hygiene.

However, you can help to prevent kids from getting lice — or from becoming

Re-infested with lice — by taking the following precautions:

-Tell kids to try to avoid head-to-head contact at school (in gym, on the playground, or during sports) and while playing at home with other children.

-Tell kids not to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves, bandanas, ribbons, barrettes, hair ties or bands, towels, helmets, or other personal care items with anyone else, whether they may have lice or not.

-Tell kids not to lie on bedding, pillows, and carpets that have recently been used by someone with lice.

-Every 3 or 4 days, examine members of your household who have had close contact with a person who has lice. Then, treat those who are found to have lice or nits close to the scalp.

#### Treatment

Your local pharmacist can recommend a medicated shampoo, cream rinse, or lotion to kill the lice. These may be over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medications, depending on what treatments have already been tried. Medicated lice treatments usually kill the lice

and nits, but it may take a few days for the itching to stop.

**A reminder to please call the school office if you have found your child to have lice or nits so that we can have the class checked. Children must be rechecked by WeCare before returning to school.**

#### More Information

Visit [www.wecare.ca](http://www.wecare.ca) for more head lice (pediculosis) information

## MedicAlert NO CHILD WITHOUT PROGRAM SAVES LIVES

One out of three Canadians have a condition that paramedics and emergency responders need to know about, including many children that live with a medical condition, allergy or special need that must be communicated during a medical emergency.

**MedicAlert** is the **most trusted, most recommended medical ID service provider** in Canada. For more than 55 years, MedicAlert has protected the lives of over one million Canadians by offering **exclusive services** to those that are in need. The **No Child Without** charitable program, founded by MedicAlert in 2006, has protected over 50,000 students in the last 10 years and supported school officials to address concerns about students living with chronic medical conditions, Allergies Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes or special needs.

This program provides **children and students**, attending participating schools, one **free** MedicAlert medical ID and **free** MedicAlert service plan coverage **between the age of 4 and up until their 14th birthday**. To date, the **No Child Without** program is available across over 200 school boards, in over 6,000 schools.

St. Luke School is a participant in the MedicAlert No Child Without program and we are happy to introduce the program to more students at our school! Thank you MedicAlert for providing lifesaving service!

**Parents and guardians should consider this program if their child lives with:**

- A medical condition

- Allergies and requires the use of an epinephrine injector
- Asthma or uses an inhaler
- Autism or ADHD
- Medication they need to take

For a more comprehensive list of conditions or simply learn more about the No Child Without program, visit [nochildwithout.ca](http://nochildwithout.ca).

## ABOUT MEDICALERT

**MedicAlert Foundation Canada** is a national registered charity, and it is the most trusted and most recommended medical identification service by healthcare professionals in Canada. MedicAlert has been protecting over one million Canadians for over 55 years, by offering **exclusive benefits** including:

- **Critical assistance in seconds** – An exclusive 24/7 Emergency Hotline that is answered within an average of 5 seconds, in 140 languages
- **Family notification service** – MedicAlert tells emergency responders what they need to know about the student and notify family members in the event of an emergency
- **Designed to rigorous medical standards** – ensures all information on the MedicAlert identification adheres to globally accepted medical standards that are critically relied upon by emergency responders