



Immaculate Conception Catholic School

December 2019 Newsletter

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Website: immaculate.scdsb.edu.on.ca

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Important Dates to Remember:

- Christmas Concert — December 11
- Christmas Baskets Ticket Sale — Starts December 9
- Food Drive — Starts December 9 (5 days)
- Mass (Virtue of Patience/Christmas) — December 18

A Christmas Message from the Principal

by Mr. Mathieu

During the month of December, in this time of Advent, our school will reflect on the virtue of patience: the ability to wait calmly without complaining. Patience is a learned and valuable virtue. This month, patience will be reinforced and taught through prayer, reflection, and classroom activities. We are all “plugged in” to our modern fast-paced world - a pace that can be overwhelming. As Christmas nears, the pace of life seems to speed up, presenting us with the perfect opportunity to slow down and be patient. As a school, we will build a sense of quiet as we prepare our hearts for the coming of baby Jesus. We will also be reminded of how patient God is with us. We have several opportunities to reflect together as a community of learners, including our weekly Advent prayer services and our Christmas mass. Mme Larivière and Mrs. Lotter’s classes, along with Father Jackson, will lead us into prayer on December 18 at 10:45 am. Parents and members of our school community are welcome to join us. We are also looking forward to reaching out to our local community by holding our

annual Christmas Food Drive during the week of December 9. We also have three primary teachers, Mme Martin, Mrs. Hayden, and Mrs. Lotter, who will bring the children to the Elizabeth Center on Dec. 17 to spread the joy of the season through song. What a wonderful way to reach out to our neighbours! This month, all classes will be engaged in hands-on learning opportunities as they visit Science North on December 5 and 6. We are also looking forward to creating beautiful themed Christmas baskets that will be raffled off on December 19. Ticket sales for the baskets begin on December 9. All students will receive a booklet of 5 tickets to sell to family and friends. Additional tickets are available for purchase at the main office. This month, we also wrap up our White Buffalo Circles program with Joel Agowissa. In terms of social media, we are looking forward to launching our brand new school website soon at immaculate.scdsb.edu.on.ca. Mr. Mathieu is now on Facebook, sharing important news, events, and reminders with parents and friends. Go to facebook.com/immaculatevalcaron.

Spend Time with Family

Celebrate What’s Really Important

Christmas is about so much more than presents and parties, and yet, each year, that is the focus that we as a society place on it. Christmas has become a stress for some and financial hardship for others. Where there used to be a holiday to celebrate family, we have somehow lost touch with our roots and a meaningful, soulful Christmas.



The Internet is filled with wonderful ideas of things that cost little or no money that you can do with your family this Christmas for a more meaningful holiday. Let’s all make it a point to set aside some family time. From home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another, may the warmth and joy of Christmas bring us closer to each other.

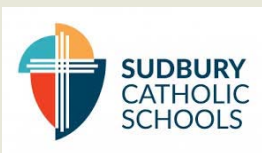
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Christmas Concert!



Join us for our annual Christmas concert on Wed., December 11. The concert for the students in the Regular English program begins at 9:30 a.m. The start time for the French Immersion concert is set at 1:30 p.m. Christmas Basket Raffle tickets will be available!



Having the Right Tools for School

A carpenter knows that he can't do his best work without the proper tools for the task. That's a good way to think about how your children can do their best in school. They need to show up with the right tools to do the job. Here are a few essential ones:

Enough sleep. A good night's sleep is essential to your children's health and success in school. Children

between the ages of seven and 12 need 10 to 11 hours of sleep per day.

A healthy breakfast. Cars can't run without fuel, and kids' brains are no differ-

ent. Many studies show that children who eat breakfast do better in class, earning higher grades and test scores. They are better able to focus and have fewer behaviour problems.

High Expectations:
When you believe your children can do their best, they'll believe it too!

High expectations.

When you believe your children can do their best, they'll believe it, too. So send them off with an "I know you can do it!" and they'll have the confidence

they need to tackle another day. Remember that the staff at the school is here to support and encourage your children to do their best each and every day!

MEET OUR STUDENT COUNCIL



At Immaculate Conception Catholic School, we view student voice as a critical component to improving the experience students have at their school. Being a member of the student council helps to develop in students a strong sense of membership. They feel more positive about school and build a stronger sense of respect and self worth, making them feel more positive about themselves.

This year, we have several students who are members of our student council. They are led by strong and dedicated staff members, including Mrs. Bradley, Mme Larivière, and Mrs. Hayden. These teachers help students create a sense of self-as-learner and enable them to better manage their own learning. They give the overall student body a sense of agency making them feel like their voice and their opinion matters to us. When students share what their experience is like at their school, they contribute to the improvement of teaching and learning at their school.

This year, members of our student council include Trevor C., Avary D., Jack K., Emily M., Mason M., Alorah P., Isabella P., Ryan T., Gabby V., and Ethan W.

Good Habits at Home Can Help Your Children Ways to Help Your Children Thrive at School

Every family—and every child—is different, but there are ways all families can set their children up for success. Studies show that kids are more likely to achieve in elementary school and beyond when their parents give them the tools to succeed. To help your children:

Assign chores. Kids who have responsibilities around the house learn how to be responsible. Give your children a list of weekly tasks to complete. They may grumble, but don't give in.

Teach social skills. Your children's success in life hinges on more than grades; it centers on their ability to get along with others. Model good behavior—like cooperation and courtesy.

Set the bar high. Expect your children to do well, and they'll rise to the occasion. Don't demand perfect grades, but do insist they work to the best of their ability. And praise them when they try hard—even if they fall short. When you show them you believe in them, they'll believe in themselves.

Nurture your relationship. You are your children's parent, not their friend. But you're also their ally. So, make time to have fun together! Share a hobby. Build a snowman together in the yard. Never let your children forget you're on the same team.

Take care of yourself. If you're always stressed, your children will be, too. Carve out time to relax, exercise, or curl up with a good book. A calm, peaceful home starts with you.



Faith and Life

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Patience

Celebrating the birth of Christ

“To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.”

— Christmas gift suggestions from Oren Arnold

The whole month of December is about preparing your family for the birth of Christ. But when we are at the mall with our lists and budgets in hand, are we really taking the time to think about Christ? How can we prepare ourselves for Christmas when we are caught up in the hustle and bustle of shopping, cooking and decorating? As you celebrate Advent with your family, slow down and reflect upon the blessings and joys that God has given you. Granted, Christmas is an extremely busy time of year—but if we take time to pray, to laugh, and to enjoy each other’s company, we will enjoy the real spirit of Christmas. The birth of Jesus Christ is a celebration!

How can our family celebrate Christmas together?

- Do a Christmas craft or project together.
- Reflect on Christmas traditions and begin new ones.
- On Christmas Day, pray and thank God before opening presents.

Christmas songs are a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of Christ. Songs like “Joy to the World” and “Go Tell it on the Mountain” beautifully express the excitement and joy brought by the birth of Christ. Borrow a hymnal from Church or look on the Internet for the words to some of your favorite Christmas tunes!



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- 3 St. Francis Xavier
- 7 St. Ambrose
- 8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 St. Lucy
- 14 St. John of the Cross
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 St. Stephen
- 27 St. John, apostle and evangelist
- 28 Holy Innocents
- 30 Holy Family

PRAYER

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

—Frank Borman (Apollo 8 space mission, 1968)



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Principal: Mr. G. Mathieu



Safe Arrival Policy - For safety reasons, all doors including the ones by the office are locked at all times. All visitors must report to the main office upon entering the school.

December 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Parents, please call and let us know if your child will be late or absent. The phone number is (705) 897-4483	<u>Virtue of the Month: PATIENCE</u>					Please: No nuts, peanuts, tree nuts, sesame seeds/oil, sunflower seeds, shell fish or latex.
1 Visit the School Website at: http://immaculate.scdsb.edu.on.ca	2 Advent Celebration Week 1 11:00 a.m. <i>(same time next week for Advent Week 2)</i>	3 Subway White Buffalo Circles	4 Popcorn (\$2.00) Pizza Day (\$1.25)	5 Pita Pit Science North FDK FI, FDK R, 1/2 FI and 2R / <i>Bishop A. Carter Open House at 6:30 p.m.</i>	6 Science North Gr. 1R, 3/4R, 3/4FI, 4/5R, 5/6R, 5/6FI	7 "Teach us, Lord, the discipline of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work."
8 "Have patience with all things. But, first of all, with yourself."	9 Christmas Baskets Ticket Sales Begin Food Drive Begins Non-perishable items	10 Subway White Buffalo Circles	11 Popcorn (\$2.00) Pizza Day (\$1.25) Christmas Concert English – 9:30 a.m. Immersion – 1:30 p.m.	12 Pita Pit Food Drive Ends Tomorrow!	13 Skating: FDK R, Gr. 4/5R, Gr. 5/6R Spirit Day: Red, Green, and White Day	14
15 Volleyball Tournament at St. Benedict	16	17 Subway Visit to Elizabeth Center for students in Gr. 1/2 FI, 1R, and 2R White Buffalo Circles	18 Popcorn (\$2.00) Pizza Day (\$1.25) Mass – Christmas / Virtue of Patience 10:45 a.m. Gym	19 Pita Pit Christmas Baskets Draws 9:30 a.m.	20 Spirit Day: Dress like an Elf	21 "Have patience. All things are difficult before they become easy."
22 "With love and patience, nothing is impossible."	23 Christmas Break Begins	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28 Your Trustee: Michael Bellmore
29	30	31 New Year's Eve Classes resume on January 6, 2020	Help us protect the future of Catholic education: ensure that your property taxes identify you as a Catholic school supporter. Call the school if you move or are not sure if you are presently a Catholic School supporter.		ALL PARENTS/VISITORS ARE ASKED TO REMAIN IN THE LOBBY AREA.	