

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

470 KITTY MURRAY LANE, ANCASTER, ONTARIO

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DECEMBER
2016



Hamilton-Wentworth
Catholic Schools
Believing. Achieving. Serving.

VOLUME 4

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ADVENTPRAYER



Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
king of the universe, You sent Your
Son to be the Light of the world and
to spread his light to all.

As we light the candles of this wreath May its growing
brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of
your Son So that the day of His coming may find us
prepared and filled with joy.



We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

From the Principal's Desk.....



As we begin the month of December we do so with great anticipation awaiting the birth of Jesus. In the rush of Christmas shopping, baking and planning let us take the time to be mindful of the reason for the season in the birth of our Saviour. As a school the time of Advent gives us the hope to wait with joy and prepare our hearts for His coming. Each Monday we will gather to pray and sing at our Advent liturgies which are led by our students within the divisions. Please join us at 9: 30 am to light our Advent wreath as we get closer to the birth of Jesus.

Thank you to our parents who joined with their children in participating in our interview times to dialogue about the Provincial progress reports. Your ongoing support of your children is very much appreciated as we work together to build upon their strengths and focus on areas of need. Please continue to keep lines of communication open with your child's teacher to ensure you are updated and informed. A great way to enhance the link between home and school is to have the agenda book signed each night.

I am so proud of our students who have demonstrated excellent leadership skills within the school. To our Student Council members who continue to support our "Christmas Wish Upon A Star" program with such commitment and enthusiasm. We continue to work together to be stewards of the earth in leading our classes in reducing, reusing and recycling, to our milk helpers, bus buddies, classroom helpers, school choir and library helpers we extend a heartfelt thank you for giving of your time and being excellent ambassadors of our school. We look forward to the celebration of our Feast Day with our Pasta Dinner on Thursday December 8th from 5:30-7:30 pm.

On behalf of the staff I extend our best wishes for a joyful and peace filled Christmas. May you take the time to share in the birth of Christ with family, friends and loved ones. May your new year be filled with prosperity, good health and much happiness. God Bless.

Wishing all of our
parents, students,
staff and families
a very Blessed
Christmas and a
Joyous New Year
filled with God's
blessings. .

“JOY” Day at Immaculate Conception School—Thursday December 1st, 2016



On Thursday December 1st our classes will celebrate the tradition of “JOY” Day which will take place in our classrooms during the course of the day.

It is a regular uniform day but we do invite students to wear red and green accessories for the day. Parents are welcome to join us each Monday for our Advent liturgies which will take place in the gym. Our final Advent liturgy will be held on Monday December 19th time TBA. It will also be a civvies day with students dressed in “red, white and green”. The focus of JOY represents “Jesus” “Others” and “You”. We look forward with joy to the celebrations this month.



ECO NEWS

Are you looking to tie together school-spirit with holiday spirit this Christmas? Consider purchasing a stainless steel water bottle with the All Stars logo for just \$3. They are available at the school's Main Office. Their sale helps support Eco initiatives at our school.

This holiday season, please remember that the City of Hamilton will take both tissue paper and wrapping paper (non-metallic/foil) in the paper blue box.

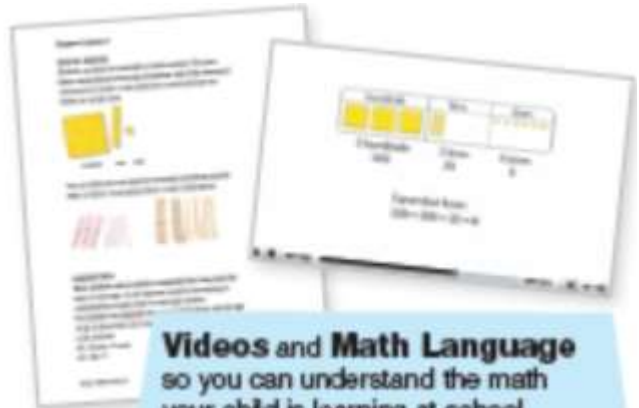
The ECO team is collecting used batteries for recycling. They can be brought to the school and deposited in the pail located in the main office.



Did you know?

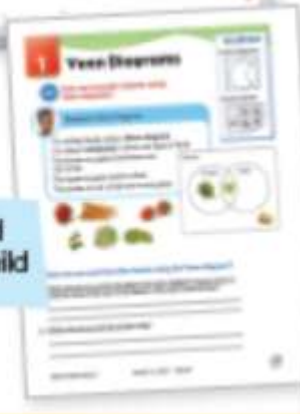
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Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
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ANAPHYLAXIS MESSAGE



Immaculate Conception School is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;

Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)

Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: nuts, dairy, eggs, gluten, shrimp, peanuts, nut products, shellfish. Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom.

Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.
Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.

Please do NOT bring any home-made food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.

Lunch Reminders for Students



We remind students of the following procedures during lunch time:

- Students are to play outside from 11:55–12:20 pm and follow the safety rules that are in place.
- Students are to eat their lunch in their classrooms from 12:20–12:45 pm. Students are expected to clean up their area after eating and to use the recycling bins and garbage containers accordingly.
- Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at lunch time if they are a "bus" student. These are students who are on our master list of students who are eligible to take the bus.
- Students who are walkers are expected to leave the school promptly at 11:55 am and return by 12:45 pm to begin afternoon classes.
- Parents whose children are on the bus list are required to come to the school to sign out their child if you wish them to leave at lunch time.
- Thank you for your continued cooperation in this regard.

YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL AT WORK

Pasta and Meatball Dinner

Order forms have been posted on our buzz board for our 6th Annual Pasta and Meatball dinner, on Thursday, December 8th, 2016, to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Pre-ordered tickets will be available for pick-up at the door. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please bring the family out for an evening of good food, raffles and good times. Proceeds of this dinner will be donated HWCDSB Equal Opportunities Program.



Christmas Wish Upon a Star

We have launched our Christmas Wish Upon a Star Program to offer Christmas hampers of gifts, non-perishable food, and gift cards for families in need being served by the Catholic Children's Aid Society in Hamilton. Each classroom has been provided with their family profile. We gratefully accept donations of gift items as indicated on each profile, or cash/cheques (made payable to Immaculate Conception School) as well as non-perishable food items. We ask that all donations (food, money, unwrapped gift items) be submitted by Friday, December 9th. Volunteers are needed in various areas including shopping with donated funds prior to December 8, wrapping of gifts on December 13th in the school gymnasium. If you are able to assist with any of these areas and have a police check on file with the school, please fill in and submit the forms that have already come home with the students. Each of these hampers goes a very long way in helping each of these families to not only keep warm as the winter months approach, but also to celebrate the giving and sharing of the Christmas season. Keep Christ in Christmas.



Joy Day

We are also pleased to be part of the Christmas celebrations for the students including the Joy Day on December 1st and the class door decorating project that the children will be beginning on Joy Day. Each class will transform their doors with decorations. These will then be judged and the winning door will receive a pizza lunch party courtesy of the Catholic School Council.



WestJet Raffle



The Catholic School Council will soon be selling WestJet Raffle tickets for \$5.00 per ticket. Proceeds from the sale of these tickets will go towards the purchase of technology to enhance our classrooms. The winning ticket will receive 2 roundtrip tickets good for anywhere WestJet Airlines flies. Order forms will be made available to our families. Stay tuned for when tickets will go on sale as they were very popular in the past and many wanted to purchase beyond our school community.

Pizza Days

Pizza Days are every Friday (Thursday if Friday is a PA Day). Pizza is available for \$2.00 per slice. GLUTEN FREE pizza is also available. Order forms are available online via the school website or from the office. If there are any parents interested in volunteering (police check required) to help distribute pizzas on Pizza Days, please leave your contact information in the office. Thank you to all of our volunteers who assist in delivering pizza to our students.



Milk Kicks Program

The Milk Kicks Program deadline for Winter milk orders is December 6th. Milk order forms are available on the school website. Please click on the "Winter" tab of the opened workbook in order to open up the correct order form. The Winter order form covers the period of January 6-March 28, 2014. Pizza this month will be Thursday, December 19th since the Friday is a Professional Activity Day.



Popcorn Days



Popcorn will be sold this month on Wednesday, December 22nd. Butter Salt, White Cheddar, Dill Pickle and Caramel flavours will be available for \$2.00 per bag.

Next Meeting

Our next Council meeting will be on Wednesday January 25, 2016, 7:00-9:00 pm, in the Learning Commons. Parents of students attending Immaculate Conception are welcome to attend.

On behalf of the Catholic School Council, have a Safe and Blessed Christmas !

AllStarsClub



We are pleased to update parents on the newest opportunity for supporting students with their learning through our All Stars Club. It is held each day from 3:30-4:10 pm and helps students from Grades 3-6 with their studies. We thank our Educational Assistants for their leadership to guide our students in their learning. There is still time to register and have your child participate. Currently our students work in the Learning Commons and bring with them work which they wish to focus on during this block of time.

BOUQUETS OF THANKS!



We wish to express our appreciation to our parents, students and staff who answered the call to support the needs within the Hamilton-Wentworth community by your donations to the United Way on our casual day on Tuesday November 8th. Our school raised \$ 587.00 which was donated to the United Way. Together we can make a difference!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

[Institute for Catholic Education](#)EXPECTATIONS OF THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE
CATHOLICISM'S CORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN CONDITION

Distinctive expectations for graduates of Catholic schools are determined and shaped by the vision and destiny of the human person emerging from our faith tradition. This Christian anthropology or world view, reveals the dignity and value of the person. Our tradition tells us God creatively and lovingly calls each of us into the wonder of life, sustaining us by the power of the Holy Spirit, throughout the human Journey, into life eternal. We acknowledge that the journey includes moments of brokenness and sin. We recognize in the person of Jesus, the risen Christ, the human face of God sharing our life in order to heal us of our brokenness and liberate us from sin.

This Christian vision of the human journey is best understood within the context of relationship. It is accomplished in community, in solidarity with brothers and sisters in the Church and beyond.

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind, and spirit. Rooted in this vision. Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.

Excerpts from This Moment of Promise (Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1989)

In a society marked by personality cults, we are called to bear witness to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, and to reverence Him in the poor, the lowly, and the marginalized.

Focus for December—(A Reflective and Creative Thinker)

In an age, which seems more fearful of the future, we are directed to give an account of the hope that is within us.

- (a) Creates, adapts, evaluates new ideas in light of the common good.
- (b) Thinks reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems.
- (c) Makes decisions in light of gospel values with an informed moral conscience.
- (d) Adopts a holistic approach to life by integrating learning from various subject areas and experience.
- (e) Examines, evaluates and applies knowledge of interdependent systems (physical, political, ethical, socio-economic and ecological) for the development of a just and compassionate society.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL CELEBRATES....

Our students in November who were recognized for being “Peacemakers”
Catholic School Graduate Expectations

Each month we focus on one aspect of the Catholic School Graduate Expectations and recognize students within each of our classrooms from JK—Grade 8 who demonstrate an aspect of the expectations which speak to student leadership and who give witness of their faith within our school.

We are very proud of our students and share in their achievements with their families!



Our “peacemakers” in JK—Grade 3

Our “peace makers” in Grades 4-8



“NOVEMBER STUDENT RECOGNITION... Peace Makers”



The focus for the month of November was an opportunity for our students to demonstrate “Peacemaking”. We congratulate the following students who have been recognized by their teachers as individuals who make us very proud as they led by example and demonstrated “peacemaking” in their words and actions. A certificate or recognition will be awarded to them for their achievements. Congratulations on a job well done. We are very proud of you! Our focus for the month of December will be students who are “respectful” and give witness to their efforts to be a respectful class member. We will celebrate their achievements in our monthly school assembly.

FDKA —Mrs. Piekarczyk’s and Ms. Ebanks’ class— Drina D., Gabriella A.,

FDKB—Mrs. Jacka’s and Mrs. Clausen’s class— Alaina P., Adriana T.,

FDKC—Miss Giannasi’s and Mrs. Cino’s class—Ayden M., Marco L., Kateryna C.,

FDKD—Mrs. Carter’s and Ms. Bachetti’s class— Sofica P., Juliana B.,

FDKE—Mrs. Lenjosek’s and Mrs. Baumgartner’s class—Catherine M., Stefano Z., Adriana G.,

Grade 1—Mrs. Sottile-Fortino’s class— Layla G., Aiden C.,

Grade 1—Mrs. Tassone’s class— Isla C., Remi V., Caiden C.,

Grade 1/2 - Mrs. Filice’s class - Noah L., Luca D.,

Grade 2—Mrs. Shea’s class— Savion B.,

Grade 2—Mrs. Cooper’s class—Renton L., Sabrina P.,

Grade 2—Mrs. Kolaski’s class— Julia S., Derek C.,

Grade 3—Mrs. DeLuca’s class— Jordan N., Ava C.,

Grade 3—Mrs. Ciccarelli’s class— Martina M., Isabella M.,

Grade 3—Mrs. Schwarz’s class—Max. D., Sophia B.,

Grade 4— Mrs. Baktawar’s class— Grace T., Paolo S., Madison R.,

Grade 4—Mrs. Mendoza’s class—Julia B., Eric E.,

Grade 5—Miss Tigani’s class— Ayne P., Mia P., Anthony B.,

Grade 5—Mr. Perri’s class—Jason O., Hilary B.,

Grade 6—Mr. Pocsai’s class— Zachary A., Caitlin S., Jessica Z., .

Grade 6 - Mrs. Dilannis’ class— Brooke J., Nathalia N.V., Hayden W.,

Grade 7—Mrs. Bozzo’s class— Emily A., Mark R., Alessandro E.,

Grade 7—Mr. DeVito’s class—Christopher Y., Aislyn B., Paul C.,

Grade 8—Mr. Cheeranjie’s class— Maggie C., Kieran C., Jomel R.,

Grade 8—Mrs. Miller’s class—Emma B., Ben S.,

ImmaculateConceptionScienceFair

Dear Parents,

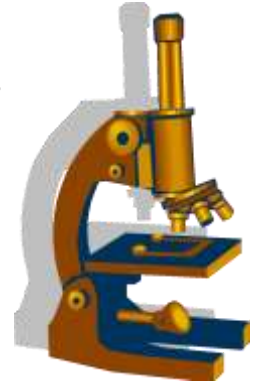
A Science Fair Club is being initiated at Immaculate Conception to allow students to prepare for the HWDCSB Science Fair to be held . This experience is a rewarding and challenging one if students are prepared for the commitment involved.

Students in grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 can work independently or in pairs, every Tuesday at lunch hour. It is important that students start their projects early since there is much research involved. The students will have regular weekly check in times with at school to help monitor their progress.

The science projects will require: (1) a daily journal which logs the progress (like a diary), (2) a research paper outlining the experimental method, and (3) a backdrop providing a visual display of the project. The backdrops will be provided by the school and will be available once the student has completed the research paper (towards the middle of January).

Students will require a duotang or a binder. A binder with a folder pocket on the inside works the best for science fair. This is to be provided by the student.

The following time line is to be used as a guide while completing this project. Please mark these important dates on your calendar and sign page 2. This package will be kept in the student's booklet for their reference. Students will be required to complete the guideline sheets and report their progress on the listed dates. Any additional work completed will be kept in their binders.



WEEK OF	PROJECT STAGE
	Group to be formed Topics chosen – including Purpose (problem) Bibliography of reference used Note cards/source cards
	Hypothesis formed Outline of experiment Materials needed Procedure
	research completed notebook completed backboard completed
	School science fair
	Names submitted for HWDCSB Science fair
	HWDCSB Science fair

Please note that the schedule depends upon the student completing some work before returning to school in January. However, this can be avoided if students are organized and use their school time efficiently.

We strongly advise that parents discuss guidelines with their children and assist them in establishing a time line that will be followed. Experience has shown that the best projects are those which have been developed in small segments, on a regular basis, over a lengthy period of time.

Please note that children do not always make the best choices when choosing partners. Students should choose a partner that they are able to work with and someone who is of the same academic standard as they are. Be advised that both students will receive that same mark when moving forward at the school and board wide Science Fair.

Parental Involvement

As parents, we all want our children to do well. Parental assistance to some degree is essential if the student is to succeed with this project. This is especially true at the outset when students are choosing the purpose of their experiment. Guidance from parents is necessary regarding the scope of the project, the availability of resources, the potential cost of the project and partnership with another student. Naturally, similar guidance will also be given at school during regular weekly meetings.

The problem arises when well intentioned parents contribute too much assistance such as conducting the actual experiment while the student watches, doing the lettering for the display board, drawing sketches or building/buying an expensive model.

School time will be provided weekly with enough time to stage each step of the project. This is the reason we are initiating the process early. However, the students will need to come prepared and use this time effectively. If the student is enthusiastic and takes some work home, we expect that parents will use good judgment in this regard.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Please check:

My son or daughter will be working with partner (name) _____

My son or daughter will be working alone _____

I have read and understood the requirements for the Science Fair.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Save the Dates in December!



- Thursday December 1st–Joy Day (school uniform with Red and Green) - Pizza Day due to Friday PA Day
- Friday December 2nd–PA Day
- Monday December 5th–2nd Week of Advent Liturgy/Sub Day
- Tuesday December 6th– Trashless Tuesday
- Wednesday December 7th–Sub Day
- Thursday December 8th –Feast Day Mass at 9:30 am in the gym. Grades 1-8 attend performance of “There’s no L in Christmas” at Bishop Ryan High School. 5:30-7:00pm Pasta Dinner in the gym
- Friday December 9th–Noon hour–Monkeynastix in the gym
- Monday December 12th –3rd Week of Advent/ Sub Day/
- Friday December 23rd–Last Day of School for 2016 3:30 pm Dismissal
-



ADVENT—A TIME OF WAITING FOR OUR LORD

Advent is a time of preparation to make our hearts truly ready to receive Jesus. The symbolism of Advent with the lighting of the four candles, one on each of the four Sundays in Advent, helps to symbolize our expectations and hope in our Saviour's first coming into the world as well as His Second Coming as Judge at the end of the world.

Symbolism of the Wreath

The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represents everlasting life. The cones, seedpods and nuts used to decorate the wreath are symbolic of resurrection, and fruits represent the fruitfulness of Christian life. The shape of the wreath in the form of a circle is a symbol of God, as He is eternal and without beginning or end. The evergreens which make up the wreath are "ever alive". They are symbolic of Christ, who died but who is alive, never to die again.

Symbolism of the Candles

The wreath has four candles, three violet ones and one rose coloured candle. These symbolize the four weeks of the Advent season, our time of preparation for Christmas. As the light from the wreath increases each week as more candles are lit, the wreath reminds us that the birth of the Light of the World is coming closer. So may our souls grow brighter in their love for and anticipation of the Christ Child as this season of grace continues.

The violet candles remind us that Advent is a season of preparation in which we should be spiritually preparing our souls to receive Christ on Christmas. The single rose coloured candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, which is called "Gaudete" Sunday. "Gaudete" is the Latin word for "rejoice" and symbolizes an element of rejoicing in the midst of our penitential preparation, for the joy of Christmas is almost here.

The joy we celebrate at Christmas is symbolized in white candles, the time of waiting is over and we welcome Jesus our Saviour into our world. Our Advent wreath within our homes and at Church symbolizes the link between our homes and the Church.

The Advent wreath reminds us of the need for spiritual preparation to fully share in the great joy of the birth of Christ, the Son of God who gave His life for us so that we might have eternal life.

There will be a short Advent liturgy at 9:30 a.m. in the school gym each Monday in December. There will also be a Mass on Thursday December 8th at 9:30am in the gym. Parents are most welcome to all of these liturgies.

God Bless Our Confirmandi in Grade Seven



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our students who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday November 23rd at St. Ann Church. This sacrament of Initiation was bestowed by His Excellency Bishop Emeritus Anthony Tonnos with Father Ian Duffy Pastor of St. Ann Church concelebrating the Mass.

We thank our parents for the continued spiritual guidance of your children as we work together to build the family of God. Special thanks to the sponsors who have supported our students in their faith journey and gave visible witness of their own faith by their presence at the Confirmation celebration.

May God continue to bless our Confirmandi as they walk with the Lord and share an "attitude of gratitude" for all of the blessings that have been given to them. May they continue to give freely of their gifts and talents within our school and wider community by their words and actions.

IC Says NO To Bullying!

At the monthly celebration assembly at Immaculate Conception School staff and students wore the symbolic pink attire to show strength in numbers to say NO to bullying. Our monthly focus on "peace makers" was the culmination of a month long conversation which promoted the message of building positive relationships within our classrooms, playgrounds and communities. Our Student Council led the assembly with a brief presentation which posed challenging questions about not being a bystander and being an "upstander".



Students sharing



the message!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



Our Student Council will be very busy during the month of December as the Executive members help serve at our Pasta and Meatball Dinner on Thursday December 8th as well as greet our visitors.

They will be leading the Christmas Food Drive for non-perishable food items for our hampers program as we support "Christmas Wish Upon a Star". We thank them for their modelling in reaching out to the students in our community by their example of caring, compassion and spirit.

The food will be collected to be placed in the hampers for each of the 24 families we will be supporting at Christmas through the Catholic Children's' Aid Society.

The students will be also very busy wrapping presents, sorting donated food items, creating gift tags and working with our parent volunteers to help brighten another family's Christmas. We are very proud of their efforts and thank them in advance for their gifts of time.

On Friday December 23rd they will be assisting the student body in a Christmas assembly and sing along in the gym. It will also be a "Red, Green and White" Day where students and staff are invited to wear clothing that highlight Christmas colours.

We wish all of our families and students a very joyous Christmas and the best for 2017!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2016-2017 yearbook



Once again we are pleased to announce that a yearbook highlighting our students and activities is in the planning stages as we capture special moments in pictures throughout the year. We thank our parents volunteers who are coordinating the production of the yearbook with the support of the representative of Lifetouch Photographers. The yearbook will be submitted at the end of June and will be released in September 2017.

Further details will be sent home with students after the March Break for ordering purposes. The cost for this year's yearbook will be \$20.00 each due to increased pages. Any parents who wish to assist in the photos are asked to contact the office and leave your name.

WinterWeatherReminders



For the safety of the students and staff we remind students and parents about our expectations during winter weather. Please note the following:

- Students are not permitted to throw snowballs at any time. There may be stones, or other particles within the snow that can be injurious to others. Students who disregard this rule will have consequences that may lead to school suspension.
- Students are expected to have indoor footwear during the winter months when entering the classrooms. All boots and outdoor shoes are to be left in the hallway outside the room before entering the classrooms. Students are not permitted to be in stocking feet at any time due to safety reasons.
- Students are expected to be dressed for outdoor play each day. Hats, scarves, mitts/gloves should be worn by students and properly labelled for returning to the owner if misplaced.
- If students are well enough to be at school they are well enough to be outdoors. Please do not ask to have students remain indoors due to cold weather conditions. The office closely monitors the weather conditions and an announcement will be made when conditions restrict children from being outside.
- Only students who are wearing boots and snow pants/snowsuits will be permitted on the field. All other students must remain on the blacktop during recess times.
- Students are reminded to wash their hands thoroughly during the day to reduce the spread of germs during cold and flu season.
- Coughing etiquette reminds all of us to cough into our sleeve rather than into our hands.
- The use of tissues are expected during winter season to help runny noses and coughing. Thank you to the many parents who have kindly donated a box of tissues for their child's classroom.
- The weather channel is monitored during inclement weather to determine conditions for outdoor play. If wind/cold conditions are severe students will be kept indoors. Public health department often sends schools weather advisories during the winter.

SafeArrivalProgramatic

Our school will be implementing the new Safe Arrival program effective Monday December 12th. Parents have received a letter with details about updating phone numbers, email addresses and contact information in order to be connected to SYNREVOICE. Please refer to the requirements in the letter that was sent home on December 1st in order to ensure a smooth transition for our system.

Catholic Education Week April 30-May 5, 2017

The Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association has shared the theme for Catholic Education Week which is scheduled for April 30th—May 5th, 2017.

There are several sub-themes to help schools prepare for the celebrations beginning with the season of Advent.



The sub-themes are as follows:

1. Advent: “Walking Forward Together with God” “Aller de l’avant avec Dieu”
2. January: “Walking Forward Together with Our Families” “Aller de l’avant avec nos familles”
3. February: “Walking Forward Together with Others” “Aller de l’avant avec les autres”
4. March: “Walking Forward Together with Creation” “Aller de l’avant avec la Création”
5. April: “Walking Forward Together in Hope” “Aller de l’avant dans l’espérance”

OPENING PRAYER O God of Comfort, We place our hope in you. In this Advent Season, may we walk with you into a future that will bring hope and peace to all the world. We are grateful that you are always present to us as our Redeemer. May this Advent season renew our hearts and strengthen us to bring this hope to others. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, God among us. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER God of All Creation, You walk with us in a special way during this Advent season reminding us that peace, love, hope and joy come to us in the birth of your son. Be with us as we walk this Advent season reminding us that peace, love, hope and joy come to us in the birth of your Son. Be with us as we walk this Advent season and help us to bring your light to all we meet. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel.

JOY Day at Immaculate Conception School

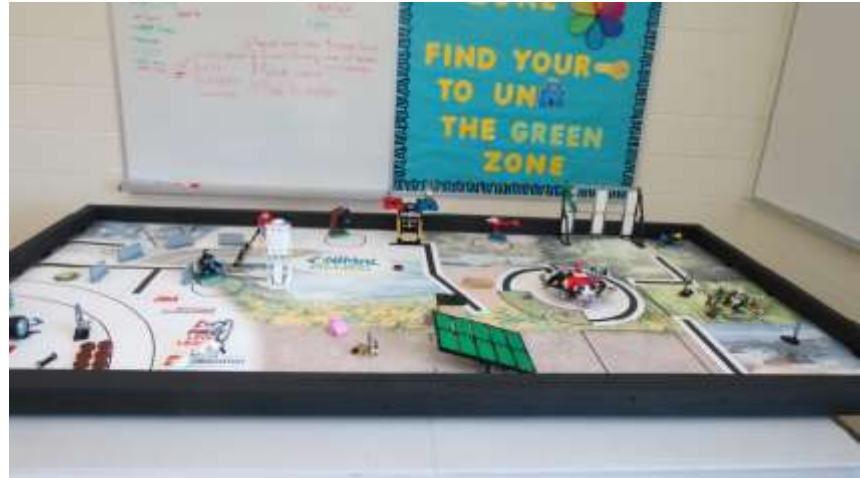
Many hands and creative minds came together on December 1st to celebrate the reason for the season with a focus on our theme of "Keeping Christ in Christmas". Doors were decorated with a wide variety of materials within the theme and the message was very clear. We await the arrival of Jesus into our lives and our hearts. We remember JOY—JESUS, Others, You.



On behalf of the staff and students we extend our best wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. May the blessings of Christmas be with you and your loved ones as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. May your hearts and homes be filled with peace and joy as we look to the star of Bethlehem that led the Kings to Jesus.



All Star Robotics at Work at IC!



Our Robotics team is busy putting the finishing touches on their project as they prepare for the FLL Competition on December 10th. We wish all of our team members the best of luck as they represent our school for the very first time. Thank you to Mrs. Colatosti and Mrs. Baktawar for coaching the team and working with the students each Tuesday and

Thursday after school.



Advent—A Time of Joyful Waiting
Our Intermediate division led the staff and students in our first Advent Liturgy on Monday November 28th in the gym. Our choir helped us to offer our

prayerful reflections in song.

