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Immaculate Conception CES – Weekly Update for December 12th

Please visit our school [website](#) regularly throughout the year for the latest up-dates, messages, highlights, news, information, school calendar and up-coming school events.

Dear Immaculate Conception Catholic School Community,

We pray this email continues to find you well and your loved ones are healthy and safe. Please click on the link to view Father Peter's [Weekly Bulletin](#), [Homily](#) and [Weekly Mass](#).

We are in the third week of advent. This is the week of joy and we light the third candle. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

Upcoming Events ([Click here to view Calendar](#))

1. **December 13:** Advent liturgy. Joy Day – Red, Green, and White Civvies day.
2. **December 14:** Winter Wonderland Day. White, Blue, and winter accessories civvies day.
3. **December 15:** Yellow Shirt Day. Bike, walk, and Roll to school.
4. **December 16:** Ugly Christmas Sweater Day and Christmas Accessories. Students will receive a prepackaged cookie, however, due to the increase in COVID numbers, hot chocolate will be postponed to the new year.
5. **December 17:** Christmas PJ Day. Games/Trivia/Bingo. December Awards celebration.

Important Information

1. We thank the community for their generous donations to our Christmas Hampers. Our community raised almost \$10,000 to support families in need. We were able to support 10 families from St. Patrick CES, 5 families from St. Martin Mannor, and the remainder will be sent to Catholic Children's Aid. Each family received approximately \$500 in gift cards and a beautiful bag of toiletries.
2. Our draw for **Giant Santa** will take place on Monday. We will contact the parents of the winning student as Santa may be a challenge to take on the bus or to walk home with.
3. Student Council has several activities planned for next week. Please note there is a different theme each day. Unfortunately, due to the rise in COVID cases the serving of hot chocolate will be postponed to the new year. Our Christmas groove day will also take place in the new year so the classes in isolation can participate.
4. Early next week, **Rapid testing kits** will go home to each student. Please [click here](#) to view the letter. For instructions on how to use, [click here](#).
5. We are currently reviewing our [Anti-Bullying plan](#) with staff, student council, and CSC. Please see draft version on the website.
6. Parent Conference will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 22. [Click here](#) for more information.

Standing Items

1. Staff will be using LMS to update parents about information that is happening in the classroom. There is a parent portal, [click here](#) to find out how to access. If there are any questions, concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the office 905-523-2463 or imco@hwcdsb.ca
2. If parents need to contact their child during the day, we ask that it please be done through the main office not personal devices. A reminder for BYOD, personal devices are to be used with teacher permission for school work only.

3. Parents, if there are any issues on the bus, please contact the school. We will advise you of your next steps and our next steps. We ask that you please do not approach the bus drivers.
4. If you are creating birthday invites we ask that they are sent out discretely (e.g. email, phone, text), unless the whole class is invited. This protects the dignity and feelings of all children. Thank you for your cooperation.
5. If a child is going home for lunch, they need to be picked up by a parent from the main office. This is in case of emergency as the office is required to know who is in the school.
6. We ask that parents continue to **wear masks** during pick up and drop off. This helps to model to all students the importance of mask wearing when physical distancing is difficult.
7. For **dismissal**, we ask that parents pick up students at 3:35. Many parents have been arriving between 3:20 and 3:30. If you have an appointment, please let the classroom teacher know in the morning and please report absence to school messenger. Please avoid calling the office or pressing the buzzer between 3:00 and dismissal unless there is an emergency, the office becomes a very busy place as we ensure the safety of all.
8. **Online Donations:** The Donation Module can be accessed from your school website by clicking the “Donate Now” button , which is featured in the middle of our school’s website. When using this method you, as the donor, will automatically receive a charitable donation tax receipt which will be emailed directly to your email address. Be sure to remember that the online donation module is for “Advancement of Education” donations only, and not for the purchase of online items (ex. books, spirit wear, hot food items, etc.), nor is it for donations to external charities. Any funds posted for non-eligible donation related items will have your charitable tax receipt retracted. The donor will be asked to select a “Fund Destination” from the drop-down menu. Look for our school from the drop down menu or select others like the Board’s Equal Opportunities Project that is currently available choices as choices for your donation. As a donor your donation may be made in memory of someone by simply identifying the individual. Also, a donor can provide a message to the school and/or the Board (i.e. donation to move a thon; Football Booster; etc.). We encourage you to donate on line and thank you in advance for all your support.

We wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas. May this be a time to renew, restore, and join in Faith. If there are ever any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. J. Townsend-Leendertse
Principal

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