

FATHER SERRA C. S.

111 Sun Row Drive, Toronto, ON, M9P 3J3

416-393-5391

THE FATHER SERRA TIMES



Principal: Mr. F. Venditti
Admin. Assistant: Mrs. E. Barbaro
Superintendent: Mr. P. Crawford

Vice Principal: Ms. M. O'Dowd
Secretary: Mrs. S. Zenko

November-December 2007



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

As we make our Journey through the season of Advent, we look forward to welcoming Jesus at Christmastime.

We also look forward to a brand New Year filled with resolutions

and hopes for continued success here at Father Serra Catholic School. We also take this time to wish Mr. Palmino all the best and thank him for his hard work this term with the grade 6 class. Mrs. Bellisario returns in January.

On behalf of our staff and students we would like to wish everyone in our school community a Holy and most Joyous Christmas!



A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*I'm Your Christmas Tree,
All
Brightly Lit*

I'm your Christmas tree, all brightly lit, Hung with angels, coloured balls, and elves. Underneath my boughs your presents sit, if you've behaved yourselves.

Why must we wait till early Christmas morn to open up our brand new games and toys? Why gifts for us the day that Christ was born if we're good girls and boys?

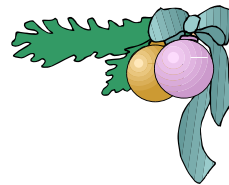
Now listen to your Christmas tree: "I'm wise in all the ways of faith that you know. I'm here because of what I symbolize: Green through ice and snow.

There is a world beyond what we can see. Where, by grace of God, we can receive God's greatest gift: to live eternally, if only we believe.

Eternal life is what God gave to you in sending down His Son to live on Earth. This was His gift, so Santa brings gifts, too, to celebrate Christ's birth.

The baby Jesus got gifts on this day because, like any child, He loved to play. And so God wants to share this special joy with every girl and boy.

Believe God loves you as your parents do, and takes great joy in giving gifts to you. Live well and love, and evergreen like me, you'll live eternally.



VICE-PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents;

I have greatly enjoyed my first few months at Fr. Serra and the chance to become acquainted with members of this community. I am grateful for the warm welcome extended to me by staff, students and those of you I have met during visits to the school and office. I am extremely impressed with the degree of commitment and support I have encountered from everyone in providing for the education and well being of the children within this school. I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to working with you in the New Year!

Christmas Holidays

Dates and Times

Friday, December 21st
students dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, January 7th, 2008
school re-opens





CSAC NEWS



Greetings!

The Catholic School Advisory Council has had a very productive start to our new school year. We would like to extend our gratitude to the parents, teachers and students here at Father Serra for helping the CSAC committees with our many endeavors.

ECO-NEWS

We are happy to announce that Fr. Serra C.S. is officially part of the Ontario Eco-Schools Program. Our goal is to become a certified Eco-School this year. The team selected 2 areas of focus for this year: Waste Minimization and Energy Conservation. Our country ranks 2nd in the world in the production of solid waste per person. Reducing waste is essential, now more than ever. The guidelines require that we implement a waste-free lunch. Our waste-free lunch in October was very successful. Most of our students and staff participated and our garbage went down by 50% during that week. So we know we can do it! Our next step is a "Boomerang" lunch every day of the week. This means that any uneaten food and waste material produced must be returned home, where it can be composted. We ask for your cooperation in making this initiative a success.

Our second initiative is to minimize the use of our resources, therefore, we will be limiting letters to one per family. The youngest in each family will be given any letter or newsletter, calendar, etc., except for children in Kindergarten. Newsletters and Calendars will also be posted on our web-site (www.tcdsb.org). We thank everyone for their cooperation in making these waste reduction plans a resounding success in the New Year, starting January 7, 2008.

Christmas is a busy time of year and we welcomed the opportunity to have shared in the joy of the season with our Father Serra community during the Advent Season. Thank you, to Father Vito for a wonderful Mass, the teachers and students for a wonderful play, singing and music and to the Advent Mass Committee for coordinating the social event afterwards and to everyone who volunteered their time.

It is the parents and teachers who make this school a wonderful learning environment for our children.

Remember—"It takes a village to raise a child."

Merry Christmas!

Eric Hopkins and Gino Franceschetti
CSAC, Co-Chairs

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2007-2008



Professional Activity Days:

October 5, 26; February 15th
June 26th

Parent-Teacher Interviews:

Nov. 29th, 30th (PA Day)
March 6th, 7th (PA Day)



Christmas Break:

December 24th-January 4th

Family Holiday: February 18th

March Break: March 10th-14th

Good Friday: April 21st

Easter Monday: April 24th

First Confession: February 20th
7:00pm.

Confirmation Rehearsal: April 3rd,
7:00pm.

First Communion: Sunday April
13th, 3:00 p.m.

Confirmation: Saturday April
5th, 2:00p.m.

Graduation: Wed. June 18th,
7:00.

Last day of school: Wed., June
25th, 3:30 dismissal

ATHLETIC/TEAM NEWS

New School Teams Uniforms!

Thanks to the generosity of **Mr. Hunkin**, a parent in our school community, for his monetary donation to our Catholic School Advisory Council and along with the CSAC's fundraising efforts our school teams will soon be sporting new team uniforms. The council plans to purchase uniforms for the many sporting events that our students participate—from Soccer to Basketball, our students will be wearing official team uniforms during TCDSB tournaments and athletic meets.

Boys' and Girls' School

Volleyball Team Results

Our **Intermediate Girls' Volleyball** team played at the divisional tournament at All Saints School. We played 4 games against St. Matthew, St. Thomas Aquinas, Our Lady of Victory and last year's champs, All Saints. The team started off strong and ended up playing All Saints in the finals. We

were so proud of ourselves that we were able to make it that far finishing 3rd. The team members were: Alexandra C., Madeline, Giuliana, Ariana, Krystyn, Nicole R., Maria, Larissa, Rebecca, Andrea, Elisabeth, Alexandra F., Nicole, and Alessia. Thank you to all the coaches, Mr. Merenda, Mr. Palmino, Mrs. Lui and Mrs. Lucia.

Our **Intermediate Boys' Volleyball** team had a very good season. The team played an invitational tournament at Archbishop Romero and placed 3rd overall. At the divisional tournament at All Saints C.S. the team started out very well and just missed playing the championship game by one point.

Congratulations to the coaches Mr. Rivera and Mr. Merenda. The team members were: Philip, Marco, Brent, Daniel M., Bradley, A.J., Daniel S., Charles, Paul F., Paul T., Roberto, Jonathan, Mark, and Gianfranco.

Primary Soccer House Leagues

Primary soccer house leagues began in December for Grade 2 and 3 girls and boys and continue until March Break. Grade 1 house leagues will take place after March Break for the remainder of the month. We would like to thank Mr. Farrell and the grade 8 students for organizing this activity to make it a success every year.

Ice Hockey Team

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Gonano and Mr. Oljnyk, Father Serra School will have an Intermediate Ice Hockey team this year. Tryouts begin in the second week of January and are open to both girls and boys in Grades 6, 7 and 8.



GUIDANCE CORNER

The Angel Foundation for Learning

Father Serra Catholic School is pleased to announce that **The Angel Foundation for Learning**, the charitable organization devoted to assisting needy students within TCDSB schools, has approved our school's funding request in the amount of \$500.00 in support of our grade 8 class trip to Montreal and our grade 7 class trip to Brock University Science Camp.

Serving TCDSB students

and making a positive difference since 1987, we congratulate The Angel Foundation for Learning on celebrating their 20th Anniversary.

Donations to the Foundation are welcome and can be sent to :

The Angel Foundation for Learning,
80 Sheppard Ave. East
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 6E8

Tax receipts for donations of \$10.00 or more will be

issued. For more information about the Foundation visit: the web-site at:

Angelfoundationforlearning.org



Christmas Blessings to all.

Dear friends and parishioners, once again the joy of Christmas resounds not only in the songs, decorations, gift-giving and family gatherings, but especially in the Good News which the Angel sang the night of his birth: "I bring you news of great joy: TODAY is born for you a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord!" This Good News is given to us. Today, in our life, in our needs, in the reality we face day by day, Christ is born. May the joy of this message permeate every moment of the New Year.

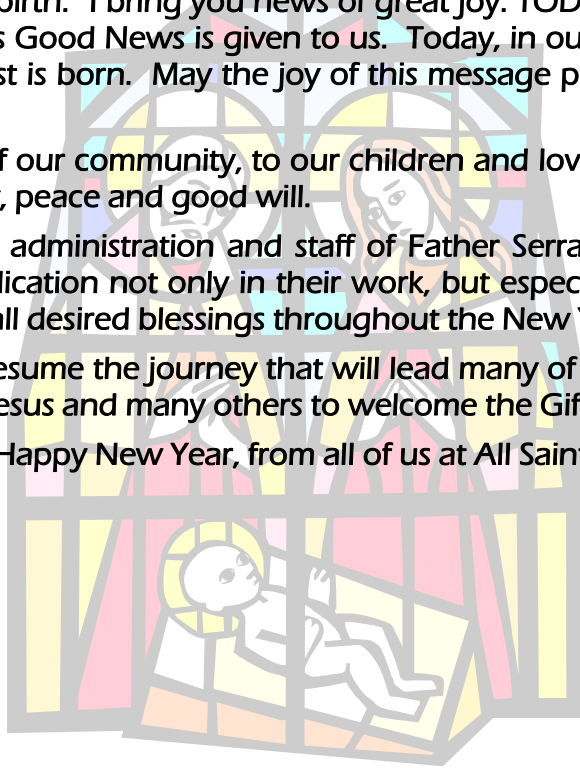
To you, the families of our community, to our children and loved ones, may this Christmas Season bring joy and serenity, peace and good will.

Special thanks to the administration and staff of Father Serra Catholic School for their Christian commitment and dedication not only in their work, but especially in their Christian witness. May the Lord grant them all desired blessings throughout the New Year.

We look forward to resume the journey that will lead many of our children to their first encounter with the Eucharistic Jesus and many others to welcome the Gifts of the Spirit in Confirmation.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from all of us at All Saints' to all of you, the Saints.

Fr. Vito Marziliano,
Pastor



Student Leaders

The student leaders were very busy the last few months. November 20th was National Child's Day. We had a breakfast for the student leaders and discussed the Convention of the Rights of Child. The grade 7's presented a poster displaying a right and the grade 8's put on a play.

We ran a Toy Drive to benefit the Chum City Christmas Wish Foundation. The student leaders delivered the toys and spent the morning volunteering their time at The Wish warehouse on December 11th or 12th. At the same time, we held a winter clothing drive to benefit our sister school. A few student leaders dropped off all the donations to the school the morning of December 18, 2007. The highlight this year was the Chum City Christmas Wish TV Commercial that our students taped.

In January we will be continuing "The Snack Shack." A few days a week, during the lunch recess, we will be selling healthy snacks. The monies raised will continue to be donated to the Free The Children organization, to build a school overseas.

Printer Cartridges

Students are reminded to continue to bring in their used cartridges to support the Greentec recycling project. The box is located at the main entrance to the school. Thanks for your support.



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