

December 2015

J A M E S C U L N A N C A T H O L I C S C H O O L

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Principal's Message

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www.jamesculnan.tcdsb.org

**JAMES CULNAN
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL PARENT
COUNCIL**

**NEXT MEETING:
WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 2ND
AT 7:00P.M.**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME TO
ATTEND!**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We often hear the expression, "Charity begins at home." How easy it is to be charitable with our loved ones. Christ's challenge to us is to extend charity beyond our homes. As we enter the season of Advent, preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus, we strive to live the virtue of charity through our thoughts, words and the deeds.

The season of Advent began on Sunday, November 29, and is a tremendously important part of the Catholic Church year. The first Sunday of Advent marks the start of the liturgical year and, of course, leads up to Christmas Day.

As we prepare to welcome our newborn King, let us always remember to give thanks for the many gifts with which we have been blessed. December is a month of celebration and prayer. Jesus reminds us that it is in giving and sharing that we truly receive.

We have several events planned in our school to celebrate the Advent Season. Our school's Advent Mass will take place on December 10th, beginning at 9:15am at St. James Church. Parents of our kindergarten students are invited to attend our Christmas concert, featuring performances by students from kindergarten to Grade 6 on Tuesday, December 15th beginning at 9:15am. That same day, parents of students in Grades 1 to 6 are invited to our evening show, at which students in Grades 1 to 6 will take to the stage.

On behalf of the entire staff at James Culnan, I wish our students and families a Holy and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with renewed hope and peace. May the spirit of Christmas bring peace to the hearts of everyone!

Regards,
Stephen Dempsey Leonor Goncalves
Principal Vice Principal

Winter's Coming...



Reporting of Cancellations and Closures Due to Weather

Please note that any cancellations or closures due to inclement weather will be reported before 7 a.m. Best place to get the info quickly is through Twitter @TCDSB (please follow us), the board's web-site www.tcdsb.org and the 24-hour telephone information line 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

Appropriate Winter Clothing

All students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather conditions. As the temperature drops, students should be wearing coats, hats, gloves/mitts, scarves, boots, etc. As well, we ask that students keep an additional pair of shoes at school



Conditions Warranting Indoor Recess

Children need daily opportunities for exercise and free play outdoors. However, extreme weather conditions sometimes warrant indoor recesses, lunch periods and pre-entry periods.

When the temperature, including wind-chill, falls below -18°C , time outside



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM - STUDENT ILLNESS OR ABSENTEEISM

If your child is to be away from school for any reason, always call the school by 8:30 in the morning to report the absence. If calling after-hours, you can record the child's name, grade, teacher, and reason for the absence, on the school's voicemail. As well, our secretary, Mrs. Curcic will also accept e-mail notification of an absence. You can email the absence information to: susan.curcic@tcdsb.org.

If you are picking up your child early, please be sure to report to the office to sign them out. If you are returning before the end of the day, please sign your child back in at the office.

Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC)

Follow us...



[@JamesCulnanCSPC](https://twitter.com/JamesCulnanCSPC)



www.facebook.com/jamesculnanCSPC/

VISITING THE SCHOOL

We value the importance of making James Culnan a welcoming place for our parent community. This, of course, has to be balanced with the school's obligation to ensure a safe environment for all students. When visiting the school, **always report immediately to the office**. Never travel the halls or go to classrooms without first getting permission from the office.

PARKING

Our neighbours on Willard Ave. and Windermere Ave. are very understanding about vehicle traffic, especially during pick-up and drop-off times.

However, the school has received a number of calls recently about driveways being blocked.

When parking your vehicle, please avoid blocking driveways



Scholastic Book Fair

James Culnan will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair for students from December 7th to 11th. Parents are welcome to attend on Thursday, December 10th, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.



Christmas Concert: Tuesday, December 15th

9:15 a.m. - Parents of kindergarten students to attend

7:00 p.m. - Parents of students in Grades 1-6 to attend

Shazaam!

Over seven days in November, our Grade 7 students participated in an in-class arts program entitled *Shazaam! Literacy Through the Arts*.

Shazaam! is a multidisciplinary arts studio, focusing on themes of community, heroism, social justice and exploration of various art practices.

Our students translated these themes into wonderful stories and drawings inspired by their community. The Shazaam program is created and delivered by Lakeshore Arts in partnership with the City of Toronto. The

James Culnan community was privileged to experience first-hand the impact of their instruction of literacy through the arts. Students' feedback supported a greater appreciation and understanding of the value of us-



Me To We Initiatives

Vow of Silence:

On November 26th, our dedicated Me To We committee participated in a one-hour vow of silence in recognition of those around the world whose voices are not heard. To raise awareness in the community, our students made signs and walked in silence through the neighbourhood.



Hard Candy Collection:

Our Me to We committee would like to thank all those who donated hard candy in November. In total, 4,010 pieces of candy were collected and donated to Dr. Simone's charity, Canadian Food for Children.

Volleyball

On Monday, November 9th, 2015 the intermediate boys' volleyball team played their divisional volleyball tournament at St. Nicholas of Bari Catholic Elementary School. The team played against the following teams: St. Cecilia, St. Nicholas of Bari, St. Alphonsus and Blessed Pope Paul. The team came in second place and played a deciding playoff game against St. Alphonsus. Unfortunately, the team lost and was knocked out of the tournament.

Congratulations goes out to all team members who played with determination and competitive spirit and represented the school very well at the tournament. The team included: CHRISTIAN B., JAMES A., ADAM A., NOEL T, NOLAN R., SHAWN S., MATTHEW O., JOSHUA C., EDWARD S., EDWARD V., CHRISTIANO P., DAVID O., and DENNIS S. The team wishes to thank Mr. Pedrosa and Mr. Neri for volun-



EcoTeam

As announced in October, this year our school will participate in the Ontario EcoSchools program. To help make it a success, we're seeking parents interested in helping to make James Culnan a greener place. All interested parents will be asked to commit to attending 1-2 lunch time meetings per month. Please call Mme Van den Berg or Mme Calçada at 416-393-5325 for more information.

On Friday, November 27th, our newly-established and energetic EcoTeam hosted a very successful Book Swap. Over the last two weeks in November, students were encouraged to donate previously loved books for the event.

For each book brought in, the children received a voucher which could be exchanged for a new-to-them

