PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

The month of December begins our liturgical year with Advent, a word derived from Latin that means “coming”. During Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and we look forward to his second coming at the end of time. During this Season of Advent, our virtue of the month is Charity and our quote of the month is “Where charity and love are, God is there.” This month at Our Lady of Peace we will be demonstrating Charity by collecting $1 donations with our dress down day to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It is a small way to minister to the needy within our parish boundaries.

Thank you to all parents and guardians who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences last month. It was not only a chance to meet your child’s teacher, visit their classroom and gain information about their academic success, it also strengthens the working relationship between families and school.

On Wednesday December 6th at 10:00 a.m. we will be having our school Advent Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend. On Friday, December 15th, we will be having an Advent Mass for FDK and Grade 1 classes at the school. It is always wonderful when we have opportunities to come together as a school community in prayer as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

To celebrate the festive season, our primary classes will be hosting a Christmas concert at Michael Power/St. Joseph on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. and our Gr. 6 and Gr. 7 classes will be performing a Christmas drama presentation to the school on Wednesday, December 13th. The FDK classes will be having a Christmas concert at the school on Tuesday, December 19th and Wednesday, December 20th.

On behalf of the Our Lady of Peace staff and students, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your family for a Blessed and Holy Christmas. May each of your families continue to be blessed with the Lord’s bountiful goodness and abundant love in the New Year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Joyeux Noël and Bonne Année.

Please check the school website regularly for Our Lady of Peace news and information. http://ourladyofpeace.tcdsb.org

OLP is now on Twitter!!

Follow us at @OLP_TCDSB for news, reminders, information and fun!
DECEMBER VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: CHARITY

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Where there is charity and love, God is there.”

As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is CHARITY. Many of us already engage in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree for Christmas Day. Let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. As St. Thomas Aquinas described it “Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God.” (25:4). How can we practice charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things?

DRESS CODE:

All students are expected to come to school appropriately dressed; that is, neat and clean, and in a manner that suits the aims and atmosphere of a Catholic elementary school environment. To be succinct, any combination of white and navy is acceptable. Absolutely no denim is permitted. The Dress Code is now mandated for all TCDSB schools. Adherence to the code is not optional.

OLP SCHOOL LEARNING IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SLIP)

Throughout this term, Our Lady of Peace staff has analyzed school data and compared various assessments in order to identify our urgent critical need. Student surveys indicated that Grade 3 and 6 students enjoy Math more than Reading. Based on various assessments and teacher observations, our current grade 3 and grade 6 cohorts will need focused support in the application of solving real life problems.

If we promote cross-curricular problem solving opportunities through authentic learning experiences that appeal to the interests of students then students will be able to apply critical thinking skills to solve real life problems.

What is Inquiry Based Learning?

Inquiry based learning is a process used to solve problems, create new knowledge, resolve doubts, and find the truth. Inquiry involves working with others and respecting a diversity of voices while seeking the best possible solution to the problem or answer to the question (Watt, J. and Coyler, J. p.3).

What I wonder about Inquiry Based Learning?

- What if not all students are interested in Inquiry Based Learning?
- How does the teacher meet all the Curriculum Expectations?
- What role does the teacher play in Inquiry Based Learning?
- How do you assess and evaluate student learning?
- Do all subjects have to be Inquiry Based?

REMEMBRANCE DAY:

On Friday, November 10th, OLP had 2 assemblies to commemorate and honour the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of conflict. Thank you to all who donated to help support our veterans. We raised approximately $500.00 during our Poppy Campaign. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Ryan and her students for organizing our Remembrance Day celebration. Mme. Iatsikowska and the choir for the beautiful songs, Mme. Perri together with Mme. Mayer’s students for the beautiful poem and the beautiful art work donated by M. Zacchilli, Mme. Correia

ME TO WE TEAM:

The ME to WE team will be having our annual Christmas Tree ornaments sale. We will be selling a variety of ornaments for $1 to $3. You can purchase ornaments starting December 11th to December 20th. So get yours before they all sell out!! All proceeds raised will be going to ME to WE.
INTERMEDIATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL:

Our intermediate girls’ volleyball team just had the most successful and memorable season in many years. The team played three-touch volleyball, demonstrated amazing skills, strong motivation, perseverance, excellent sportsmanship and team spirit. They remained undefeated and came first in their Divisional Tournament at Humber College on November 8th. On November 15th, they participated at the Regional Tournament at Michael Power/Saint Joseph Secondary School where they came second and thus qualified for the City Finals, which took place on November 24th at the Pan Am Sports Centre. Eventually, our girls came 5th in the city among over 150 participating schools. A big high five goes out to the captains Madeleine and Mia and the players Ava, Sofie, Nicole, Leah V., Katie, Layla, Annie, Victoria, Leah D, Maya, Abbey, Dawn and Niamh. Special mention goes to Madeleine as not only the best player of both the divisional and regional tournaments but also for mentoring and coaching the team as well. We are very proud of you girls! Go Peace Go!

A special thank-you goes to our dedicated parent volunteer drivers (Mrs. Ciddio, Mr. and Mrs. Vella, Mr. Gasparro, Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Cilia, Mr. Antoniw, Mrs. Marzilli and Mr. Orrico) who drove the players for to/from the venues and also came to support the team together with our teachers Mr. Covelli and Mr. Koka. We would also like to thank Coach Prifti for his dedication and leadership this season.

INTERMEDIATE BOYS VOLLEYBALL:

Congratulations to the Intermediate Boys Volleyball team for a wonderful season. They placed third at the Divisional Meet on Tuesday, November 7th at Humber College. The boys played well and coaches Mme Alaimo, Mme Micco and Mme Ventura are very proud of their efforts.

KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

The Kindergarten children are very excited to be performing for the very first time a Christmas concert for their parents on December 19th and December 20th. We would like to invite the parents of the Junior Kindergarten students to join us on December 19th and the parents of Senior Kindergarten students on December 20th. The concerts will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the gymnasium. Refreshments will be served after the entertainment.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: JANUARY 2018

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2014 to register for Kindergarten beginning Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 10 a.m. EST.

Registration options:

- **Online**: Parents will be able to complete their application online at: [https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx](https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx). A follow up with visit to the school to present the required documents will be scheduled following the online application.
- **In Person**: Parents can register at their local school with the required documents.

Information: 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314, [www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration](http://www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration)

As part of the registration process, school staff will meet with parents. During the meeting, school staff will verify the original documentation required for registration. This consists of a Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and/or Passport, Immunization record, proof of residence and Application for Direction of School support.

Applications to register children in grades other than Kindergarten can also be done on the online S.O.A.R. application. For further information, please contact our school office at 416-393-5253.

FRENCH IMMERSION:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board offers French Immersion and Extended French programs at several TCDSB sites. The French Immersion program is offered to students beginning in Junior Kindergarten. Our Lady of Peace will be hosting a French Immersion Parent Information Evening on Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH:

CPF Ontario is offering a free webinar for parents on how to support your child in French Immersion, Extended and Core French programs. Login to our 30-minute webinar from the comfort of your home, office or school. All you need is a computer connected to the internet and speakers for listening to the presentation.

Homework Help Tips & Tools with Access to Online French Resources (K to Gr. 3) 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 (30-minute webinars)
Check the following link to pre-register:
https://goo.gl/forms/OX0X2QOWExqmnyfp1
*Offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

These webinars are produced by CPF Ontario with the financial support of the Ministry of Education Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Regional/Provincial Grant.

STUDENT ABSENCES and EXTENDED ABSENCES:

A reminder that if your child is going to be absent from school due to illness please call the school at 416-393-5253 and leave a message on the machine.

Please advise the school in writing if your child will be absent from school for any reason other than illness.

REPORTING OF CANCELLATIONS OR CLOSURES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Winter weather arrived early this year. 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 website www.tcdsb.org and the 24-hour telephone information line 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CLASSES:

New students are welcome!

Did you know that the TCDSB International Languages Dept. is offering International Language classes for JK to Grade 8 students at your children’s school on Saturday mornings from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

We are accepting new students so please call or visit the school on Saturday mornings at 9:30am for more information. We are also able to offer new International Language classes if parents of at least 23 children are interested. Please call us at 416-222-8282 ext. 2495 for more information.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL (CSPC)

Our next CSPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24TH at 6:30 p.m. in the library. New members are welcome.

CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE:

The CSPC (Parent Council) cannot thank you enough for supporting this year’s Curriculum Enhancement, together we raised $17,150.

As promised, OLP Staff will be participating in a Pie Face Showdown on Thursday, December 21st. Stay tuned for more details.

THANK YOU:

The staff and students of Our Lady of Peace would like to thank the many parent volunteers that donated their time to assist with Pizza, Pita Pit, Booster Juice and Subway Lunches: Un grand merci à:: S. Baraniuk, A.Barreto, J. Celio, G. Solares, A. D’Urzo, T. DeMaria, I. Hanna, S. Hingley, H. Kim, D. Melo, M. Hennessy, E. Quinn, C. Trachuk, S. Venditti, G. Vujeva, L. Zecchino

Rory McGuckin, Director of Education

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After an abbreviated summer, it looks like winter has finally arrived. However, as we near Christmas, I would be remiss if I didn’t extend a warm welcome to the students and staff who have joined the community or who have taken on new roles this year. I wish them continued success in their new school communities.

I am continually amazed by the wealth of programs and initiatives ongoing in our local schools. These programs, and the school communities that support them, are a testament to the students, parents and educators who have invested so much of their time and effort. While some schools in the system have been struggling with declining enrollment we have seen growing demand for Catholic education in south and central Etobicoke. It truly is a success story.

The beginning of December also marks one of the most important times of the year; the beginning of Advent. Advent allows us time to reflect on the year that has passed and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. As we run from place to place during this busy time, please take a moment to reflect on those less fortunate than us and the efforts we can make to lift their spirits.

For many, the Christmas season also brings with it the stress of trying to find that perfect gift the loved ones in your life. This year, please consider giving a donation in the name of that special someone to the Angel Foundation for Learning. The

Angel Foundation is a charitable organization that supports TCDSB students through nutritional, educational and recreational programs. For more information, or to donate, please visit [http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org](http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org).

In closing, I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to the students, staff and families of our Ward 2 community. I hope your season is blessed with joy as we take the time to reconnect with friends, family and loved ones.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Ann Andrachuk
Trustee – Ward 2 (City Wards 3, 5 & 6)