

December, 2018

Our Lady of Peace Catholic School Newsletter



OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

70 Mattice Ave.
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9B 1T6
416-393-5253
Fax: 416-397-6061

Principal
S. Figliomeni

Vice Principal
D. Whicher

Superintendent
P. Keyes
416-222-8282 Ext: 2732

Trustee
M. de Domenico
416-512-3402

Parish
Our Lady Of Peace
3914 Bloor St. West

Father Yaw 416-239-1259

CSPC Chair:
J. Celio

Hours of Operation:
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Lunch Hour:
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.



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.

Last month we had to say goodbye to Mme. Martinez who was teaching Core French. She accepted a permanent position within the TCDSB. We will miss her and wish her continued success in her new schools.

On Tuesday, December 11th 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 that same evening, our Grade 2 students will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Peace Church. 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 13th at 7:00 p.m. The FDK classes will be having a Christmas concert at the school on Tuesday, December 18th and Wednesday, December 19th.

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!!

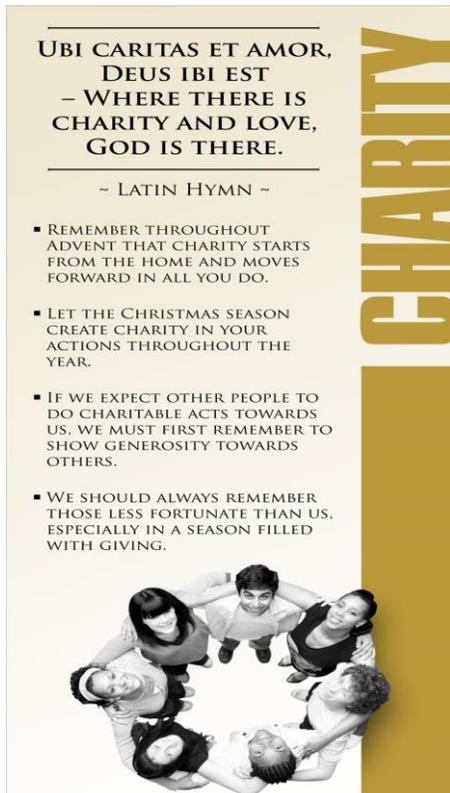


Follow us at **@OLP_TCDSB**
for news, reminders, information and fun!

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)

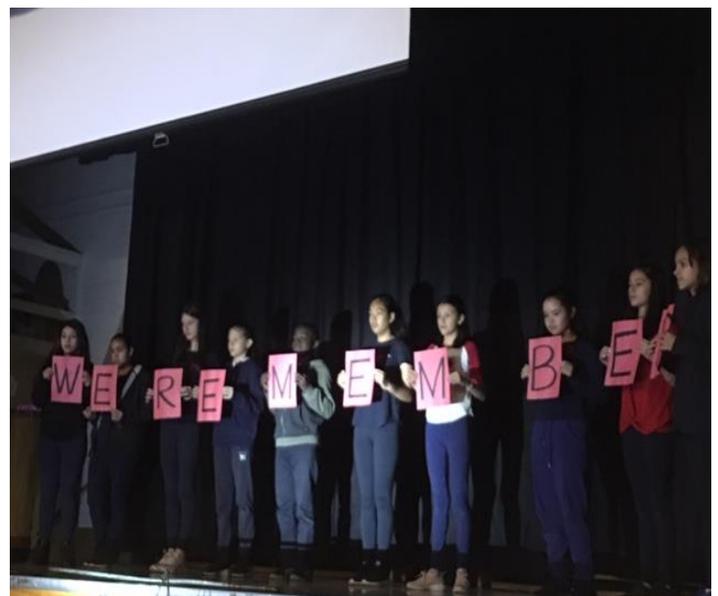
Throughout this term, Our Lady of Peace staff has analyzed school data and compared various assessments in order to identify our urgent critical need. Student surveys reveal that Grade 3 students enjoy Math more than Reading and Grade 6 students enjoy Reading more than Math. EQAO data reveals that Gr. 3 boys score higher in Math than females and Gr. 6 girls score higher than males in Reading, Writing and Math.

Based on various assessments and teacher observations, our current grade 3 and grade 6 cohorts will need focused support in shared real-world problem-solving to improve student engagement, understanding, and cognitive reasoning of multi-step problems.

Starting in the primary grades and into the junior and intermediate grades we will engage students in more shared real-world problem-solving to improve student engagement, understanding, and cognitive reasoning of multi-step problems.

REMEMBRANCE DAY:

On Friday, November 9th, 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 \$400.00 during our Poppy Campaign. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Guido and Mr. Steriovski and their students for organizing our Remembrance Day celebration that included a powerful power point presentation, music and drama skits.



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 12th to December 20th. So get yours before they all sell out!! All proceeds raised will be going to ME to WE.

The Me to We team would also like to thank everyone for their support for our Food drive. We were able to help many families as we collectively gathered almost 700 cans of food and delivered them to our local fire hall. Special thanks to the classes who donated the most: Mr. Zacchilli, Mme. Richard, Mme. Del Giudice.

In the New Year, ME to WE will be collecting old glasses. Stay tuned for more information.

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL:

Our intermediate girls' volleyball team had a successful and memorable season. The team played three-touch volleyball, demonstrated amazing skills, strong motivation, perseverance, excellent sportsmanship and team spirit. They came first in the round robin at their Divisional Tournament at All Saints Catholic Elementary School on November 8th by easily beating three schools on straight sets and splitting sets with All Saints team. They moved on to the finals and lost to the All Saints team, which is one of the best in the city. The girls performed amazingly and fought very hard especially in the first set which they lost 25-23. Unfortunately, last year's best teams of the region were placed in the same divisional pool and it was our OLP team which had to end the season early this year. A big high five goes out to our captain Annie and the players Jasmine (MVP), Ava, Sabrina, Briana, Layla, Katie, Sofie, Nicole, Leah V., Angela, Avery and Honor. We are very proud of you girls! Go Peace go! Many thanks to our dedicated coaches Mr. Prifti and Mr. Steriovski for their leadership and hard work with our girls.

A special thank-you goes to our dedicated parent volunteer drivers (Mrs. Maddalena, Mrs. Cruz, Mrs. Vella, Mr. Allison, Mr. Antoniow, Mrs. Cilia who drove the players for to/from the venue and also came to watch and support the team.

INTERMEDIATE BOYS VOLLEYBALL:

Our intermediate boys' volleyball team had one of the best successful seasons in many years. The team played great team volleyball, demonstrated perseverance, excellent sportsmanship and team spirit throughout both tournaments. They remained undefeated and came first in their Divisional Tournament at All Saints on November 6th. On November 13th, they participated at the Regional Tournament at Bishop Romero Secondary School for the first time since 2007. The boys fought extremely

hard, however they fell just short of making it to the City Finals. A big congratulations goes out to the team captain Massimo N. and the squad: Nico, Adriano, Dante, Christopher, Roy, Matteo, Michael, Antoine, and Luis. Special mention goes to Massimo N., as not only the top players in both tournaments, but more importantly for mentoring and leading the team to its victory. Thank you to our wonderful coaches for volunteering their time to prepare the boys. Mr. Steriovski and Mrs. Donaghey are beyond proud of you boys! Go Peace Go!



DIFFERENCE MAKERS:

During Anti-Bullying Week in November, students participated in fun facts, social skills classes, recited anti-bullying poetry, pledges, and signed an anti-bullying contract. All students were invited to participate in an anti-bullying poster contest. Students from each grade were awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for the submission of an appealing poster with a strong anti-bullying message.

The Difference Makers are a group of enthusiastic intermediate students who have chosen to make a difference at school by promoting mental health initiatives in various ways. They have learned and teach that without mental health we will not have our health. Recently, they collaborated, wrote, and performed an anti-bullying play for our primary students. Their play demonstrated various ways students can regain their self-worth, assist targeted students, and stop bullying at school. The Difference Makers will be attending the TCDSB Stop the Stigma Symposium at the University of Toronto on December 3rd. They will collaborate with mental health professionals, teachers, child and youth workers, and students from other schools to bring back ideas for promoting good mental health at Our Lady of Peace.



KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

The Kindergarten children are very excited to be performing their Christmas concert for their parents on December 18th or December 19th. We would like to invite the parents of the students in Ms. Govaert, Ms. Ngasa, Mr. Zacchilli, Ms. Harry and Ms. Fisher's classes to join us in the gymnasium on Tuesday, December 18th. The parents of the students in Ms. Morassutti, Ms. Venditti, Ms. Longphee, Ms. Hance and Ms. Della Mora's classes will be invited to join us on Wednesday, December 19th. The concerts will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the gymnasium. We are asking the children to wear a Christmas hat and their Christmas best. Following the concert, the children will receive a gingerbread cookie and will engage in decorating it before it is eaten! We look forward to seeing you at our celebration!

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 5:30 p.m. in the library.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: JANUARY 2019

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2015 to register for Kindergarten beginning **Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 10 a.m. EST.**

Registration options:

- Online: Parents will be able to complete their application online at: <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

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.

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD IT!

We have a week remaining for our students to collect pledges for the December 14th Dance-a-thon. As with all fundraising activity to date, proceeds will go to the playground renovation; and the more money students raise, the more chances they will have to win our amazing prizes.

We have incredible prizes this year – including a week of camp at Camp Boulevard, a signed Ibaka jersey from the Toronto Raptors, Fitbits, an iPod, passes to Cineplex Odeon, Skyzone, Boulderz and so much more. We hope that our students are as excited about them and the dance as we are!

We are also excited to announce that students may dress down for the dance **without** a \$5 donation, so please disregard that information on their pledge forms.

Please remember to send students to school with pledge forms and donations by December 10th. We thank you again for your continued support of this project.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL (CSPC)

Our next CSPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. New members are welcome.

CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE:

Parent Council's biggest fundraiser, Curriculum Enhancement, is officially over. We raised \$13,830, just shy of our \$15,000 goal. A BIG thank you to all the families that supported this important fundraising effort! We had our early bird giveaways of Indigo and Cineplex gift cards, congratulations to all the winners: Ava C, Matthew R, Peter E, Emilia L, Ava G, Nathan N, Michael S, Marcus R, Daniel N, Cassandra R.

CSPC wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!

THANK YOU and MERCI:

The staff and students of Our Lady of Peace would like to thank the many parent volunteers that donated their time to assist with time to assist with Pizza, Pita Pit, Booster Juice and Subway Lunches: Un grand merci à: A. Best, K. Boyes, C. Blazik, J. Celio, T. DeMaria, A. D'Urzo, A. Fenech, A. Fenech (Sr), R. Fournier, A. Henderson, S. Hingley, R. Khoury, M. Pasco-Font, R. Mazza, E. Malindi, E. Quinn, L. Rapini, G. Solares, C. Swan, V. Symchych, M. Yano, E. Zaffino, K. ZukBorawski

The ELP team would like to thank the Antal family for their generous donation of shovels and rakes for the Kindergarten children to use in our outdoor learning space. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES ELEMENTARY (ILE) PROGRAM:

On July 12th, the Board of Trustees of the TCDSB approved a motion to survey parents, in all TCDSB Elementary Schools, from November 13th to November 27th, to determine whether parents wish to continue or initiate an International Languages program at their child's school. We would like to thank everyone that was involved with the delivery, distribution and collection of the completed ILE survey. We would like to especially thank all families for providing your voice to the process by completing and returning the survey.

Results of the survey will be compiled and reported to the Board of Trustees in January 2019. This report will include a list of results by school, including the response rates for each school. However, only schools with the required threshold of 67% response rate will receive a detailed summary of parent responses.

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.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2018– 2019

Wards

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 5. Maria Rizzo | 9. Norm Di Pasquale |
| 2. Markus de Domenico | 6. Frank D'Amico | 10. Daniel Di Giorgio |
| 3. Ida Li Preti | 7. Michael Del Grande | 11. Angela Kennedy |
| 4. Teresa Lubinski | 8. Garry Tanuan | 12. Nancy Crawford |
| | | Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee |
| | | Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee |

