



St. Bernard's Catholic School

Education and Community Working Together, Centered in Faith

Newsletter #4 Dec. 2016



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Balance Day Schedule 2016-2017

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 8:40 am | Supervision |
| 8:55 am | Entry Bell |
| 10:55 - 11:15 | Nutrition Break |
| 11:15 - 11:35 | AM Recess |
| 1:15 - 1:35 | Nutrition Break |
| 1:35 - 1:55 | PM Recess |
| 3:15 pm | Dismissal |

The Story of the Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. Legend has it that Saint Boniface first gave the wreath its Christian meaning in the eighth century, and we have been using these wreaths as part of our Advent preparation ever since.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. The evergreens signify continuous life. Each of the four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the prayer, penance, preparation, and good works we are called to do during Advent. The color purple signifies the "royalty" of Jesus Christ.

The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is the Sunday of rejoicing. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. We gradually add more light each Sunday until Christ, our Light, comes at Christmas.

Principal's Message:

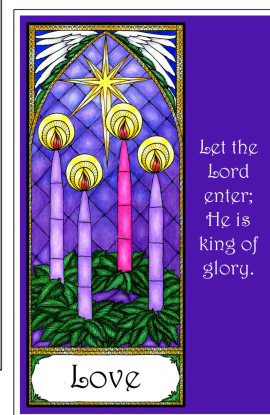
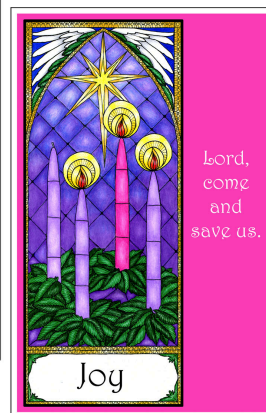
On Sunday November 27th, we began the season of Advent. Advent is a very important time in our faith as we begin a new liturgical year and prepare for the coming of Jesus. The Advent wreath is a symbol of our waiting. As each week passes, we light another candle as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. A deliberate observance of Advent prepares us for a richer experience of Christmas.

Our board theme this year focuses on the importance of family – those closest to us, and our connections to one another as sisters and brothers of one God. Just as we each have a family tree, Jesus had a family tree too, and the Advent tradition of the "The Jesse Tree" tells the story of his family members.

On behalf of the staff of St. Bernard's Catholic School, I would like to wish you all an Advent season full of hope, joy and peace. For those of you who are traveling over the holidays, may God bless your travels and return you home safely.

Merry Christmas,

~ Mrs. B. Heeneman & the Staff of St. Bernard's



Electronic Communication Tools:

There are two different ways to stay informed electronically about the exciting events happening in and around SBE:

1. Sign up for eNewsletter

Subscribing to eNewsletters will allow our newsletters to be sent directly to your email. This will also be used to keep you updated on important happenings in the school using our "e-blast" tool. Many families have already subscribed which allows them to receive the eNewsletters. We are grateful for their support in helping us go green! If you are not currently receiving our eNewsletters please sign up following the 3 steps below.

Please note that all SBE newsletters are now only being sent electronically unless a paper copy was requested .

Sign up in 3 easy steps!

Step 1: Visit

<http://www.smcdsb.on.ca/sbe>

Step 2: Click the "E-newsletter"

Button in the Quick Links Section

Step 3: Click on the "Subscribe" button

2. Visit our Website

St. Bernard's has a web page. Stay informed about upcoming events and interesting information about teaching and learning



Reminder: Advent Family Mass and Community Social

In keeping with our theme of "Celebrating God's Family", the staff of St. Bernard's have been preparing for our Advent Family Mass, which will be followed by our community social. The Advent Family Mass will be held on December 8th at St. Columbkille's Church. Our celebration will commence promptly at 6:30 pm.



All families should have received their invitation. Please call the school if you have any questions. This event will serve as our celebration for December. In the New Year, we will begin planning a spring event to once again showcase our many gifts and talents. Merry Christmas!

Kiwanis Children's Safety Village:

The school gym was set-up the week of November 21-25 for the Kiwanis Children's Safety Village. All classes were scheduled and participated in safety presentations. We thank the many volunteers who graciously gave their time to set-up the village. A special thank you all goes out to all of our community partners who came to share important safety messages.



Bullying Prevention Week at SBE November 20 - 26, 2016:

The SMCD SB theme for Bullying Prevention Week was Be Kind Online - What is Your Digital Footprint? Staff encouraged students to use this year's theme to reflect on social media etiquette and the importance of kindness and the respect of others, and to think before they text, share, or post anything online. We must expand our focus beyond the traditional view of children as the bullied, the bully, and the bystander to include the relationship of children, including online social interactions.

By combining the individual needs of the child with what we know about social dynamics of children's peer groups, and the role that adults play in shaping children's experiences, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of bullying and recognize multiple approaches required to prevent and stop bullying.

Important Dates & Events



| | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 27 | First Sunday of Advent - Hope |
| Nov 29 | Gr. 7/8 Georgian College Presentation |
| Dec 2 | CSCC Poinsettias and Candle Orders Pick Up 3:30 - 6:30 pm Patrick Fogarty Concert Band 12:00 - 1:00 pm |
| Dec 4 | Second Sunday of Advent- Peace |
| Dec 6 | Patrick Fogarty Student Services Visit for Grade 8 students Reconciliation in gym CSCC Meeting @ 5:30 pm in library |
| Dec 8 | Advent Family Mass and Community Social at St. Columbkille's Church |
| Dec 11 | Third Sunday of Advent - Joy |
| Dec 12 | Dental Screening JK/SK, Gr. 2, Gr. 8 & Other |
| Dec 18 | Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love |
| Dec 22 | Last Day of Classes! Merry Christmas! |
| Dec 23 | Board Holiday (See you in the New Year!) |
| Jan 9 | Classes Resume |
| Jan 11 | Father Prasanth Visits JK/SK, SK/1 & 6/7 |

Catholic School Community Council (CSCC):

The CSCC would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support with our two Fall Fundraisers. The Halloween Dance-a-thon raised just over \$1200. The Poinsettia and Candles sales were also a big hit! Our CSCC treasurers have reported that approximately \$1050 was raised. Proceeds from these fundraisers will be put towards guest speakers, gowns for grade 8 graduation, funds per class to help offset the cost of field trips and special events (e.g., winter carnival, Advent Mass, Shrove Tuesday, Jump Rope for Heart, and Track & Field). Thanks again for your continued support!

Our next meeting will take place on December 6, 2016 at 5:30 pm in our library. All are welcome!

School
Council

Dismissal and Crosswalk Safety Reminders:

For the safety and security of our students and staff, the Kiss and Ride will be closed at the end of the school day. Cars will not be permitted to enter the Kiss and Ride area or the school parking lot to pick up students. If you are driving to pick up your child after school, you must park your car on a side street and walk on to the school property. Please do not park on Oxford Street in front of the school as per the by-law signs. Traffic becomes backed up and this can cause unnecessary congestion, which makes it more difficult for our busses to leave in a timely and safe manner. To ensure further the safety of all, please use the crosswalk and sidewalks when escorting your child from school. Vehicles in the school parking lot will not be allowed to exit until 3:30 pm. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

Dressing For Winter & Inclement Weather:



Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions throughout the day. Hat, mitts or gloves, snow pants and boots are necessary. Please label all clothing items. Students will be outside for recess during the winter months as weather permits - please always send your child to school dressed for outdoor recess.

Bus cancellation announcements can be heard on our local radio station or viewed on our board website at www.smcdsb.on.ca or www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. We are in the North Weather Zone. In the event that the busses are cancelled, the school is open for drop off at 8:40 am in the main foyer and students must be picked up at dismissal at 3:15 pm. Please note that your child will require a lunch on inclement weather days as food orders are cancelled and re-scheduled for the following school day. If your child walks, please call the Safe Arrival line to report if they will be absent or late.

Parish News



Sacrament of Confirmation:

Grade 7 students: The church is once again providing students in Grade 7 through the Sacrament of Confirmation, with a chance to deepen the grace received through Baptism. Students who have not received First Communion can prepare for and receive that sacrament with Confirmation. Students in Grade 8 who missed receiving confirmation last year are invited to register. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday May 28, 2017 at the 11:00 am Mass at Guardian Angels Church with Most Rev. Wayne Kirkpatrick, Auxiliary Bishop. Confirmation will also be celebrated on Sunday June 4, 2017 at St. Columbkille's Church in Uptergrove. Details about the preparation sessions are available by contacting GAngels.Confirmation@gmail.com or Eileen Brown (705) 326-9403.

Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion:

This is a reminder that registration for Reconciliation and First Communion will take place at Guardian Angel's parish hall on Sunday January 29th from 1:00 - 2:00 pm and Monday January 30th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. You will need a copy of your child's baptismal certificate and \$30 to register.

Reconciliation or Holy Communion Questions Email: Tara Treash sacramentprep@gmail.com

Scholastic Book Fair Update:

Congratulations to Mr. Leger for hosting a very successful Scholastic Book Fair. The event had approximately \$2985 worth of sales, which translates into \$1388 worth of books for our library and classes. Keep reading everyone and thank you for supporting our literacy goals!

St. Bernard's Gives Back at Christmas:

As we enter the season of Advent, the St. Bernard's community will work to answer God's call to serve those in need.

Our annual Hat and Mitten Tree has been set up in the front foyer of the school. Donations of hats and mittens will be distributed to students and families in need.

Donations will be collected each morning by the Grade 3 students and will be delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul Society prior to the Christmas holidays.

Thank you for giving the gift of warmth this holiday season!

