



ST. JEROME JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2020 WINTER NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

PEACE
JOY
LOVE
HOPE



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

BY MS. ROCCA PRINCIPAL

What an extraordinary school year this has been! With our collective efforts we have been able to navigate through much change and uncertainty. Now, we look upon this Christmas Season with a renewed sense of hope and gratitude for all that we have accomplished and for all that will come in 2021. Every day I feel blessed to be a part of the St. Jerome school community and witnessing the care, understanding and commitment to our children's education. Together, in our partnership, we have demonstrated great resilience, resourcefulness and common consideration for overcoming many of the challenges we faced. My wish is for your families to be healthy and safe this Christmas and New Year. I hold our students dear in my heart as I pray that we will all be able to welcome them back in person in the near future. Until then, many blessings for a peaceful and very Merry Christmas.

**Be courageous, be strong,
be everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16: 13-14**

MANE EVENTS:

Advent Liturgy-December 15th
1st day back to school-January 4
P.A. Day-January 15th
CSC at 6:00 p.m.-January 18th

P.A. Day-February 1st
1st Term Report Cards-February 9th
Ash Wednesday Liturgy-February 17

CSC at 6:00 p.m.-March 1st
March Break-15th-19th
Easter Liturgy-April 8th

Next issue of St. Jerome Journal:
April 2021

Holly Jolly Gift Card Gala

The St. Jerome School Community will be taking part in a **Holly Jolly Gift Giving Gala!** At a time when many families are in need more than ever, we have decided to spread a little St. Jerome cheer with the a fundraiser in support of the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Our Lady of Grace Parish. We will be accepting President Choice Gift cards (in any denomination). With every gift card delivered to our school, a heart with your family's name will be placed on our Christmas tree. Our Fundraiser begins on **December 1st and will run until December 8th!**

Let's begin the season with love, peace, and generosity!

Advent Family Prayer

God of Hope, your world needs you more than ever. We need to know that we count, that you care, That there is a reason for things that happen. Christmas time makes us think about important things: like giving, and sharing, and families and friends, and the poor and the forgotten, and the left out and the left alone, and the unfed and the unclothed. Christmas makes us think of hope, and about who gives hope and who takes it away. Help us give hope or help us give it back. God of hope, your world needs you more than ever. We know that we all count, because we care. Amen

Our Catholic Virtues

We continue to celebrate our Catholic virtues each month. Students who exemplified Compassion in October and Justice in November received awards. We look forward honouring students in December for demonstrating Hope.

Christmas Card For Seniors

We want to bring some Christmas cheer and hope to Seniors in our community. We understand many seniors are separated from their loved ones and are experiencing loneliness during this pandemic. Students from our school will be creating Christmas cards and writing messages to Seniors who are in Sunrise of Aurora and Chartwell Long Term Care residence. Our St. Jerome love and care for others is ever strong and bright!



Preparing Our Hearts and Spirits

Each Friday our school will have a virtual prayer celebration to help prepare our hearts for each Sunday of Advent. We will have a virtual Advent Mass on December 15th. We will also be participating in the 12 Days of "Daily Physical Activity" Challenge to help keep ourselves healthy and active. We have a special Christmas Spirit Week planned for the week of December 14th-18th. There will be Christmas carols, riddles shared and so much more!

- Monday-Wear Christmas Colours!
- Tuesday-Wear Cozy Socks & Scarf!
- Wednesday-Ugly Christmas Sweater Day!
- Thursday-Santa Hat Day!
- Friday-Pyjama Day!

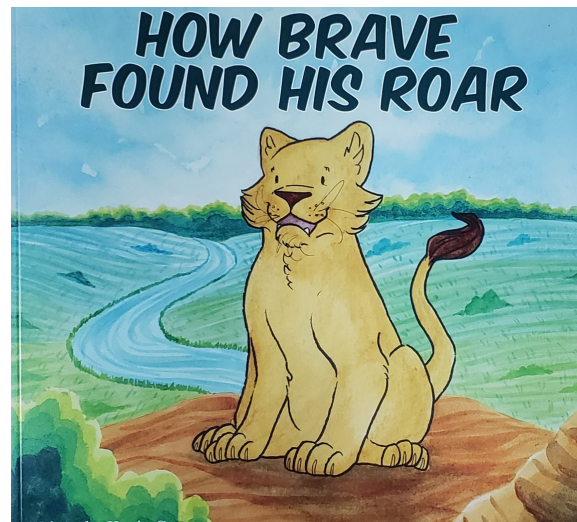
Christmas Class Gifts

This year, because of our unique circumstances, we are unable to bring gifts to class for students or staff. In past years we were happy to express our Christmas wishes with a sentiment or treats to share with others. Unfortunately, this year we will only be able to pass along our best wishes with a virtual greeting card.



Bullying Awareness & Prevention

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. At St. Jerome, we invited "Brave Education" to conduct virtual workshops with our Grade 1-8 students. Both in-person and remote students participated with their classes. FDK classes received a class copy of the book, "How Brave Found His Roar," and students in grades 1-3/4 received their own copy to take home. Grade 4-8 students took part in an interactive workshop discussing anti-bullying awareness and prevention strategies. We hope that this program helped to provide students with the necessary tools as to be aware and deal with conflict in proactive ways.



**Don't
Stand
By-Stay
Brave!**

Inclement Weather Procedures



When buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, parents are encouraged to listen for reports on the radio and television stations. Parents will receive an email through School Messenger by 7 am. Notifications will be posted on the Board website, all school websites and the Board's Twitter account (@YCDSB) and School Twitter (@StJeromeCES)

With the winter season upon us, this is a reminder to parents and guardians that students are to dress appropriately for outdoor play. Remember to have them wear a warm coat, hat, mittens and proper footwear. Many of our students are often getting their pants and socks wet during recesses and need an extra change of clothing. Please ensure that your child has an extra pair of pants and socks at school in case of a wet or muddy emergency. Please review with your child the importance of keeping snow and ice on the ground so that everyone has fun in the snow. In agreement with the CSC, students will go outside for recess unless it is -20 degrees Celsius or at principal discretion.

NEW this season are our REVISED INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the YCDSB Inclement Weather Procedure must change based on direction from York Region Public Health. **If buses and other forms of school transportation are cancelled due to inclement weather, all schools will be closed to students. DO NOT bring your child to school. All students are to remain at home and access remote learning for the day.** Teachers will provide live remote learning for all students through their virtual classrooms.

Hybrid Learning

Since October 14th, we have adopted an entirely new and never tried before teaching/learning model. In every effort to provide support and be proactive, it is essential for parents to be familiar with remote learning, especially if your child is a face-to-face learner. Please practice having your child log on and navigate google classroom so in case there is ever a need to switch modalities your child will be ready. Please be mindful of the hybrid learning environment, attendance protocols, privacy and code of conduct.

This information has been sent to parents via email through our YCDSB Communications Department. It is important to review this so we could establish and maintain a positive learning experience for all.



The Rocks and Rings Program introduced students to the sport of curling. Students from grades 1-8 learned skills such as teamwork, co-operation and sportsmanship, while providing them with fun, physical activities to promote a healthy lifestyle. Unique indoor floor curling equipment was used to give a true curling experience without requiring ice! Remote learners were given a link to learn alongside their classmates. All and all it was a great experience!

The Great St. Jerome Trivia Challenge

Congratulations to: Ms. Bondy/Fazzalari's class-1st place, Mr. Mertens' class- in 2nd place and Mr. Pecchi's class in 3rd place.

HYBRID LEARNING



Spirit/Mental Health Week

With every effort to be mindful of our student's mental health and well-being, along with maintaining a positive school climate, we put the two ideas together in a fun-filled and informative week. Students were able to raise school spirit by wearing school colours and other silly theme days while learning about mental health resources and various strategies to improve their well-being!



Cross-Country

On October 23rd, St. Jerome hosted their own Cross Country Race Day for students in grades 4-8. We were blessed with glorious weather that day!

Students enjoyed participating in this competition. Even our mascot Rory came out to cheer our runners along! Way to go Lions!

All grades enjoyed participating in our daily trivia challenge. We learned bizarre and interesting facts about Canada.

Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day and Future Liturgies

We are thankfully blessed and grateful for all we have. Our school community came together to celebrate Thanksgiving with a virtual Liturgy. We also donated food for the Aurora Pantry. Our school honoured our fallen heroes in our Remembrance Day Virtual Liturgy where we learned the importance of being a peacemaker. We will be coming together in the new year when we look to celebrate Ash Wednesday, prepare for Lent and Easter. It is so special when we come together as a school and we always look forward to it.



School Resource Officer

In January, some classes will participate in virtual visits from our school resource officer. The Grade 6's will take part in the V.I.P. program. Our Intermediate students will continue to learn about safety and cyber-bullying.

Looking Ahead To The New Year!

Our recent Progress Reports served as a preview of your child's academic progress. These reports are an initial indication of how your child is progressing and how their important learning skills are developing. For the most part it opens up the dialogue between parents and teachers. In February, parents will be receiving their child's first term report card. This will include a more comprehensive look. In the meantime, should you wish to discuss your child's progress, communication with your child's teacher(s) is always encouraged.



Continuation of Covid Protocols

We continue to stress the importance of the Covid protocols put in place here at school. Proper use of masks, handwashing/sanitizing and physical distancing measures have become a routine part of our day. Parents, please continue to stress the importance of having your child wear a mask properly while at school (grade 4-8-mandatory and younger grades are encouraged). When coming to school or picking up your child from school, it would be appreciated if you could model the wearing of a mask, especially if physical distancing is a challenge. We appreciate your continued cooperation in screening your child prior to attending school and keeping them home should they feel ill. We also appreciate how prompt and responsive parents have been in picking up their child during the day in case they have become ill and need to go home. All these measures working together continue to keep us all safe and healthy.

SPIRIT FRIDAYS

Every Friday is Spirit Wear Day!

Students are encouraged to wear their St. Jerome spirit wear and/or school colours on Fridays! We are looking to plan a spirit wear campaign in the spring. We will keep you informed!

School Photographs

School photographs and graduation 2021 photographs will be determined in the new year. At this time photographers are not considered essential visitors and we are unable to schedule any school photographs. We will announce any updated information.

Safe Arrival Reminder

If your child is absent or late, please call our Safe Arrival Line at 1-855-856-7862, or visit the website, www.go.schoolmessenger.ca. All absences and lates must be reported through this system. School staff will be directing all calls to the Safe Arrival Line. Please note that if your child will be absent during a snow day, it is important to contact the Safe Arrival Line.

Message From OLG Parish

Father Frank and the Our Lady of Grace Parish would like to extend their blessing to our St. Jerome Families wishing them a Holy and Peaceful Christmas. Information regarding Christmas mass will be forthcoming.

Information regarding Sacraments for students in grades 2 and 7 will be communicated in January.

From our St. Jerome family to yours...



Getty Stock

Merry
Christmas
and
Happy New Year
2021

Catholic School Council

Our Catholic School Council has met twice so far this year. We discussed applications for grants to support our school. We are continuing to look for guest speakers and ways to engage our school community. We are unable to fundraise at this time but we are continuing to look for ways to keep our school vibrant and active. Thank you to the CSC members for their dedication and commitment to the St. Jerome school community. Our future meetings will be held virtually at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Monday, January 18th 2021

Monday, March 1st 2021

Monday, May 17th, 2021