

St. James the Apostle Catholic Elementary School



NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

**Mrs. E. Minicucci**  
Principal

**Ms. D. Falcao**  
Assistant to the Principal

**Mr. C. Ciapanna**  
Superintendent

**Mrs. M. Nardini & Mr. P. DiFrancesco**  
Trustees

**Fr. D. Reitzel**  
Pastor of  
Our Lady of the Assumption

**Mrs. P. Ferrari**  
Secretary

**Mr. E. Piccioni – Principal of Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School  
Proud Feeder School of Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.**



**Advent Family Prayer**

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family. Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.

God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of your love.  
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,  
As we wait and prepare for his coming.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.  
Amen.

## *A Message from Mrs. Minicucci*

*As we begin the month of December we do so with great anticipation awaiting the birth of Jesus. In the rush of Christmas shopping, baking and planning let us take the time to be mindful of the reason for the season; the birth of our Saviour. As a school community the time of Advent gives us the hope to wait with joy and prepare our hearts for His coming. Each Monday we will gather to pray and sing at our Advent Liturgies which are led by our students within the divisions. Please join us in prayer at 9:15 am. December will be filled with many fun and enjoyable learning activities for our students. Each week we will be playing whole school Christmas BINGO. The last day of school before the Christmas break; Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> students are invited to wear Christmas sweaters, crazy ones or not!*

*Thank you to our parents who joined with their children in participating in our interview times to dialogue about the Provincial Progress Reports. Your ongoing support of your children is very much appreciated as we work together to build upon their strengths and focus on areas of need. Please continue to keep lines of communication open with your child's teacher to ensue you are updated and informed. A great way to enhance the link between home and school is to have the agenda book signed each night.*

*On behalf of the staff and myself, I extend our best wishes for a joyful and peace-filled Christmas. May you take the time to share in the birth of Christ with family, friends and loved ones. May your new year be filled with good health, prosperity and much happiness. Many blessings.*





### **'Preparing our Hearts'' Advent Family Night**

Thank you to all the families who will be joining us in prayer and fellowship on **Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm**. It will be a wonderful opportunity to spend some time as a family and value each other's company.



## Day

On **Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup>** our students will celebrate the tradition of 'Joy Day' which will take place in our classrooms during the course of the day.

It will be a Christmas Spirit Wear Day and students are invited to wear Christmas colours or Christmas clothing and Christmas accessories (ex. head gear, Christmas lights necklace etc.)

Students will also enjoy some hot chocolate with marshmallows.



### **Student Council News**

We are proud of our Student Council for demonstrating leadership skills. The Student Council in collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish will be organizing a Food Drive to reach out to our less fortunate brothers and sisters at this very special time of year. We welcome non-perishable food items, gift cards from grocery stores or money that we can use to purchase gift cards. This is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Please encourage your children to participate and explain to them how much their donation can really mean to someone. Students who donate to the food drive will receive a bonus 'dress down day' on Friday December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Let us all help in any way we can put a smile on someone's face this Christmas.



# Thank You!

Thank you students, parents and staff to answering the call to support the needs within the Hamilton-Wentworth community by your donations to the United Way on red & white day. Together we can make a difference!



Parents,

This year the Junior grades (4,5 & 6) will be preparing Science Fair projects. This experience is a rewarding and challenging one if students are prepared for the commitment involved.

Students are given the option to work independently or in pairs. Please note that children do not always make the best choices when choosing partners. Students should choose a partner that they are able to work with. Be advised that both students will receive the same mark when moving forward at the school and board wide Science Fair.

Classroom teachers will be sending packages home. It is important that students start their projects early since there are many steps in the process. If students are organized and use their school time efficiently this will decrease the amount of time having to work at home. We strongly advise that parents discuss guidelines with their children and assist them in establishing a time line that will be followed.

We look forward to seeing all the amazing learning that will take place.



### Catholic School Council

Please join us for our next Catholic School Council Meeting on Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons.



## Weather Reminders

For the safety of the students and staff we remind students and parents about our expectations during winter weather. Please note the following:

- \*Students are not permitted to throw snowballs at any time. There may be stones or other particles within the snow that can be injurious to others. Students who disregard this rule will have consequences.
- \*Students are expected to have indoor footwear during the winter months when entering the classrooms. All boots and outdoor shoes are to be left in the hallway. Students are not permitted to be in stocking feet at any time due to safety reasons.
- \*Students are expected to be dressed for outdoor play each day. Hats, scarves, mitts/gloves should be worn by students and properly labelled for returning to the owner if misplaced.
- \*If students are well enough to be at school they are well enough to be outdoors. Please do not ask to have students remain indoors due to cold weather conditions. The office closely monitors the weather conditions and staff and students are informed when conditions restrict us from being outside.
- \*Only students who are wearing boots and snow pants/snowsuits will be permitted on the field. All other students must remain on the blacktop during recess times.
- \*Students are reminded to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day to reduce the spread of germs during cold and flu season.