

ST. CLARE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues to Educate All Students



JESUS IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Principal's Message:

December is here and Christmas is just around the corner. I love Christmas for many reasons but especially for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. As Catholics it is paramount that we recognize the importance of who we are especially during the Advent Season. Jesus is the reason for the season. (cont. on page 2)

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Mission

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Core Values

Catholicity, Excellence, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect.

Vision

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources, Engaging Our Communities.

Principal's Message Cont.:

When you celebrate Christmas this year remember that you are truly blessed. Christmas is not about who gets the biggest or best present. It is about looking at ourselves in the mirror and asking how can we make a difference in another person's life? That person may be your child, parent, brother or sister. It may be your wife, husband, neighbour or a stranger. Regardless, you may not know it but you do make a difference in many peoples lives. Show your appreciation by telling them how lucky you are for having them in your life. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May 2019 be filled with health, happiness and prosperity.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SARA WESTBROOK AT ST. CLARE:

"Choose to respect yourself. Choose to respect others. Choose to respect your dreams" Those are the words **Sara Westbrook** told students of St. Clare Catholic School. Sara delivered a positive and powerful message that everyone matters and how powerful it is to be respectful. "All individuals are superheroes" and we can all make a difference in the world. Sara spoke to students from all grades. The first presentation was to students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 which focused on respecting themselves, others and their dreams, while the second presentation, for those in Grades 4 to 8, offered students a choice-making formula aimed at providing skills to think and act beyond their emotions.

Sara was excellent and the students walked away with information about making a positive change in themselves. We thank our **Catholic School Council** for funding this presentation. Also we thank Sara for coming to St. Clare and making a difference in our world!





PJ Drive:

Our PJ Drive was a big success! Thank you to all the families who generously donated PJs for our drive. We filled over 10 boxes of PJs from infants to adults. This could not be possible without your generosity and commitment to making a difference. Thank you to our **Liturgical Committee, Daniela Boragina** from our Catholic School Council and **Marsie Fracassi** from St. Clare of Assisi Church. Finally, a special thank you to **Josie Raia** who contacted several companies for large donations.

Marlies Game:

On Sunday, November 25th, a number of families from St. Clare attended a Marlies game at The Coca-Cola Coliseum organized by the school. As part of the First Intermission entertainment, our St. Clare Choir performed Can't Stop the Feeling by Justin Timberlake. The choir consists of the following students: **Freddy A., Brody B., Elizabeth B., Mariella G., Luca O., Maria P., and Chiara P.** We congratulate them for representing St. Clare with such pride and dignity.



While the choir was singing, our very own **Alex G.** in Grade 8 was selected to ride the zamboni. It was a joy to see Alex having so much fun on the jumbotron! We thank all the families who attended this fun filled event. We hope to attend



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:

The Boys Volleyball team are champions! Congratulations for representing St. Clare with pride and dignity. The boys team consist of the following players, **Matthew C., Julian C. Luciano C., Jonathan C., Nathan D., Eric D., Stefan F., Anthony M. and Eric S.** A special thank you to **Alex G.** as assistant coach. Finally a thank you to **Mr. Mirabelli** and **Mr. Ruberto** for coaching the team to the championship!

FAMILY IN NEED

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. For many, we are so fortunate to provide our children with all they need and more. Nevertheless, you often hear of families struggling to provide for their children during this festive time.

We currently have 1 families at St. Clare who need our help. Unfortunately, they are struggling and have no means of providing their children a Christmas due to their financial situation.

We are asking families to donate to help make this Christmas a special one. By donating a **Walmart Gift Card** (amount of your choice) or cash we can provide this family the means of purchasing food, clothing and toys. God bless you for all that you do.





December 2018

Active School Travel

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As the colder months approach us, our time spent outdoors is often limited. However, there are many benefits to being outdoors in the winter including: encouraging creative play; increasing physical exercise using different muscles groups; getting fresh air; improving problem-solving skills; and increasing exposure to vitamin D.

Just as we prepare for winter by bundling up or getting our flu shots, we prepare for Christmas by celebrating the Advent season. Advent is a time to reflect and prepare for the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our York Catholic **Active School Travel Team** and **Religious Education Department** have teamed up this Advent to take our students on an **Active School Travel Challenge**. Using the Jesse Journey Tree, pictured on the right, students are encouraged to reflect on a different Jesse Journey Tree symbol and its related scripture passage each day as they journey to school between December 3 - 21.



How it works:

- [Download our Active School Travel Challenge Package](#) containing Jesse Journey Tree symbols, scripture passages and prayers for each day of Advent. Please print off a copy for your child. The package is also posted on the Boards website under Student Transportation at: <https://www.ycdsb.ca/student-transportation/>.
- Each day, families/students read the passage and prayer and children colour and cut out their symbol at home (with the help of an adult as needed), and carry it with them as they walk/wheel to school or their bus stop while making the daily journey connections.
- When students arrive at school, or at an appropriate time during the school day, they should then add their symbol under the Jesse Journey Tree located in the school's front foyer. Over the course of the 15 school days during Advent, the tree will fill up.
- We will Tweet the symbols and connections each school day from [@ycdsb_AST](#). Tweet us photos of your journey and tag [@ycdsb_AST](#) so we can share your child's Advent journey.
- Following the daily symbols in the [Active School Travel Challenge Package](#) there is a picture of a Jesse Tree for your child to colour the corresponding symbol for each day they walk/wheel to school or the bus stop. Send a photo of your child's coloured tree to: activeschooltravel@ycdsb.ca by January 7, 2019 to be entered in a prize draw! The winner will be chosen by random draw, no minimum days required for entry.

The Jesse Journey Tree is a way of celebrating our religious family tree while we promote healthy living, and a rich prayer life. We hope you will join us on this Advent journey!

Sincerely,

YCDSB Active School Travel Team and the Religious Education Department

DIRECT DONATIONS FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Thank you to all the families who have donated to our Direct Donations Fundraising Program. Our goal was \$7000 and we raised \$6500 in total. Congratulations to all students who participated. Funds will be used to help support our Kindergarten outdoor area, science equipment and technology in the school. A special thank you to **Francesca DiFazio** and **Cathy Arnone** for all their hard work and commitment.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK:**

This year Christmas Break runs from Monday, December 24th to Friday, January 4th, 2019. Students are expected to return to school on Monday, January 7th, 2019.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY:**

Thank you to Lt. Col. C. Jansen for coming to St. Clare once again to share his stories on Remembrance Day. The students were very respectful and asked many interesting questions. We thank the men and women who sacrifice to make our world a better place. God bless!

JESUS IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS:

Let us give thanks to God for our school, community and families. We are all so blessed to have each other to depend on as well as to help. As a Catholic Learning Community, we should take pride that our children are in one of the finest schools YCDSB has to offer. During this time of Christmas celebration, let us give special meaning to what Christmas is all about and celebrate the birth of Jesus. He is our saviour and gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. Make time this Christmas to celebrate the real meaning behind Christmas. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas! May 2019 be filled with health, happiness and prosperity.



DECEMBER 2018



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2	3	4	5 Grade 8 Trip to York University	6 Rosary Ladies	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Advent Mass 1:15 pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Last Day of School	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 	2	3	4	5