



ST. CLARE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

391 Velmar Dr.
Woodbridge, ON L4L 8J5
Tel No.: 905-856-6643 Fax: 905-856-6349

<http://sce.ycdsb.ca>

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DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation. We await the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ! It is a time of self-reflection, a time of patient and prayerful waiting. Catholic schools are called to be places of hope. Hope is the spiritual virtue by which we place our trust in Christ's promises and rely not on our own strength alone, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

As Catholics we know that the Advent season is about preparing our hearts and souls for the birth of Jesus our Saviour. During this month the students and staff will be preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus through prayer and by helping others within their classes, throughout the school and the wider community.

St. Clare's Kindergarten & Primary Division will lead our Advent liturgy on Wednesday, December 18, at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome to attend. We are planning for the last week of school before the break to be a Christmas themed Spirit Week. More information will follow as we get closer to the date.

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. Whether you know it or not, we all make a difference in the lives of others with our actions and words. It is also important to show our appreciation for those who make a difference in our lives. Tell those around you how lucky you are for having them in your life.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May 2020 be filled with health, happiness and prosperity.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. F. De Bartolo
Principal

**Catholic School Trustee
& YCDSB Vice Chair**
Maria Marchese

Superintendent of Education
Opiyo Oloya

Pastor
Rev. Msgr. John Boreon

Associate Pastor
Rev. Antonello Murgia

CSC Chair
Sandra Carvalho

Administrative Assistant
Maria Boem

Principal
Francesco De Bartolo

**To report student absences
and lates, please dial:**
1-855-856-7862
OR
go.schoolmessenger.ca

SCE SCHOOL DAY:
8:35 Supervision Begins
8:50 Morning Entry
10:20 AM Recess
12:00 Lunch
12:20 Lunch Recess
1:00 Afternoon Entry
2:20 PM Recess
3:40 Dismissal

Mission Statement

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.

Vision Statement

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

Core Values



Strategic Commitments





MONTHLY VIRTUES

Each month, a different Catholic virtue is highlighted board wide. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their daily actions both at school and at home. During the month of December, we celebrate the virtue of **Hope**. Daily reflections and classroom discussions will be centred around this virtue. Students from each class will be recognized who best demonstrate this virtue on our new Virtue Wall in the front foyer.



ADVENT LITURGY

The St. Clare school community will gather once a month to celebrate mass or participate in a liturgy. Our Advent Liturgy will take place on **Wednesday, December 18 at 10:45 a.m.** Our Kindergarten and Primary Classes will be organizing the liturgy. Parents and guardians are more than welcome to join us for our religious gatherings.

SHARELIFE CIVVIES DAY

Our next ShareLife Civvies Day will be held on **Friday, December 20th**. Students who wish to participate are asked to wear appropriate clothing to school and don't forget your loonie or toonie. Thank you for your support in our ShareLife campaign.



ROSARY APOSTOLATE

The St. Clare community once again welcomes the Rosary Apostolate back to our school. They will be visiting our classrooms on a monthly basis and organizing a special school celebration during Catholic Education week in May. This month, the Rosary Apostolate will be visiting classes on **Thursday, December 5th**.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 3rd, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome to attend.



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PJ DRIVE

Under the leadership of the Luke 4:18 Committee, SCE participated in the St. Clare of Assisi Community Parish PJ Drive. The goal for the drive this year was to collect between 3000 and 4000 pairs of pyjamas. This year, with the generous support of the entire school community, we were able to collect 174 pairs of pyjamas! These PJs were delivered to the church and added to their collection to be donated. The pyjamas will go to St. Vincent De Paul Society, Rose Of Sharon, The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, The Sisters of Charity, St. James Community, The Vaughan Food Bank as well as some other local shelters and agencies. Thank you to all who donated.

TIME TO SET GOALS & GO!

Term 1 is now in full swing! With your child's Progress Report Card and ParentTeacher Interviews complete, it is now time to work with your child to celebrate their successes and to develop a plan to address any next steps for ongoing success identified by you and / or your child's teachers. The plan is greatly augmented through strong two-way communication between home / school and it may take the form of :

- Curriculum-based newsletters/calendars/website
 - Notes/Checking of the Agenda
 - Phone Calls
 - Signing of rubrics, tests, assignments, etc.
 - Parent-teacher meetings, as needs dictate
- Let's help our children grow, not only as learners, but as well-rounded, character-focused individuals.



EXTREME TEMPERATURE THRESHOLD/WARM

The extreme temperature threshold at St. Clare CES has been set at -17 degrees celsius. That means if the temperature (including the windchill) is less than -17 degrees celsius, students will be heading outside for recess. Please ensure that students come to school appropriately dressed for the weather.

EXTRA CLOTHING REMINDER

It's that time of year again and the weather is getting colder, wetter and can be quite unpredictable. Please send extra clothing to school with your child for those cold, wet and/or muddy days. Extra socks are especially important as students will often have wet socks on rainy or slushy days. Extra clothing may be kept in the bottom of the knapsack. Please label your child's clothing whenever possible. With winter approaching, please ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed for recess times and 40 minutes of outside activity at lunch time.

If a parent feels their child is too ill to go out for recess, then the child should be kept at home until they are better and are able to enjoy the outdoor recess routines.

LOST & FOUND

Our lost and found bin is full of many lost treasures which have accumulated since September. Hats, gloves, shirts, shoes and boots are but a few of the items. Students are asked to come in and claim lost articles. All unclaimed items will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If your child needs to be dismissed early from school, please advise the classroom teacher by sending a note to school. Students will be called down to the office once they have been signed out by a parent/guardian.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2020/2021 School Year opens January 6th, 2020! Registration can now be done online from the board's website, www.ycdsb.ca. If you have a child who is turning 4 in 2020 or know of one who lives in the St. Clare boundary, please share this information with them.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NEWS

It is difficult to believe that the winter months are upon us. In the event of inclement weather, parents are asked to please exercise discretion in deciding whether to send your child(ren) to school. In the event of extreme winter weather, Student Transportation Services (STS) of York Region will notify designated radio and TV stations regarding bus transportation cancellation by 6:15 a.m. You may also wish to check the board website, YCDSB Twitter, or schoolbuscity.com for information. When transportation is canceled, schools will remain open and parents/guardians will have to make alternate arrangements to transport their children to and from school. Please note that if transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will not operate in the afternoon. If buses are cancelled for the day, all tests, quizzes, excursions, school programs, parent meetings, evening presentations, and evening permits are automatically cancelled and will be rescheduled.

5 HELPFUL TIPS ON INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

When an Inclement Weather Day has been declared, an email will be sent to you from the school with the following information and reminders:

1. All transportation to and from school has been cancelled.
2. The school will be open, however due to the severe road conditions, your child may be combined with another class.
3. All hot lunches are cancelled, please ensure your child has a lunch and snacks.
4. If you are dropping your child off to school, please plan on being at school promptly for 3:40pm dismissal.
5. If your child is not attending school, please input their absence in the Safe Arrival system by calling 1-855-856-7862 or online before the start of the school day at:

<http://go.schoolmessenger.ca/>

ST. CLARE IS A CHARACTER SCHOOL

Each morning, as part of our school announcements, we remind all our students at St. Clare is a character school. This means that we always hold ourselves to a higher standard. If students should ever find themselves in difficulty and cannot resolve a problem on their own, they are reminded to approach a caring staff member for assistance. We review daily that we must keep our hands and feet to ourselves and only to use kind words, even when we are provoked. Both the YCDSB and our school places excellence, equity, community and positive relationships at the heart of student success and well-being. ***We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.***

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of the YCDSB and St. Clare Catholic Elementary School that students will:

- ★ Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- ★ Respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions
- ★ Treat one another with dignity and respect, especially when there is a disagreement
- ★ Respect and treat others fairly
- ★ Respect the rights of others
- ★ Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- ★ Seek assistance from teachers to resolve conflicts peacefully
- ★ Demonstrate respect for people in positions of responsibility
- ★ Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching
- ★ Be courteous and polite at all times

We thank you for reviewing these expectations for behaviour and overall conduct with your child.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Whenever possible, we ask that all medication be administered at home. However, should your child require medication throughout the school day, please pick up the required S16 and S16a forms from the office. Complete each form (including physician's signature) and return it to school. Students are not to keep medication (aside from inhalers and Epi-Pens) in their knapsack or in the classroom.

REPORTING TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE

All visitors must report to the office upon entering the school. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to enter the main area of the school without having checked in at the office. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school safe.

LUNCH ROUTINES

Students who eat lunch at school are expected to remain on school property and respect the Code of Conduct during this time. Students may not leave school property, unless they are picked up by parents/guardians. Parents bringing their child a lunch must leave it on the lunch table in the foyer and clearly place their child's name/grade on the lunch. **For safety reasons, please do NOT linger in the foyer, and please only drop off a lunch for your child(ren) only. Purchasing drinks or food items for other students, unless approved by the office is not permitted.**



York Catholic District School Board

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we get into the excitement of Christmas and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I invite you all to join me as we reflect on the many blessings from this past year and to look forward to the many blessings that await us.

Christmas is a time of year when our schools joyfully participate in celebrations that lift the hearts of our students on the blessed journey to Christ's birth. In our schools, students are celebrating through musical concerts and Nativity plays, community service projects and most importantly through a deepened time of prayer. Each of these provide our students with opportunities to enrich their spiritual journeys that give deeper meaning to this faith-filled season.

Let us be grateful that we are a part of a Catholic school system where students can practice their faith every day as they grow intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Let us be inspired by the foundation of excellence which supports all that we do here at the York Catholic District School Board.

I hope that your hearts will be filled with the warmth that is the closeness of your family, friends and loved ones this holiday season. May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you throughout the year. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maria Marchese".

Maria Marchese, Vice-Chair

Maria Marchese, Trustee – Vaughan, Woodbridge (Area 3, Ward 3)
maria.marchese@ycdsb.ca • Cell: 647-960-3165



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Giving with Open Hearts

St Clare CES Christmas Toy Drive

Friday, November 29, 2019



Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the season of Advent, the St. Clare community would like to live by Jesus' example found in the Gospel of Matthew:

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Matthew 25:35-36

In order to continue to share Christmas blessings with others, we ask that students make a donation this advent to our toy drive.

Students are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy for children between the ages of 0 to 14 years of age. Even the smallest toy will bring the biggest smile to children in need this Christmas. All toys should be at school by **Friday, December 6th, 2019**. These toys will be donated to the City of Vaughan CHUM Christmas Wish. The City of Vaughan CHUM Christmas Wish has become one of the largest distributors of toys to those in need in the Greater Toronto Area.

Together we can put a smile on a child's face. We thank you for your Christmas kindness.

Sincerely,

Ms. Galloro

Ms. Inglese

Mr. De Bartolo

**“It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”
Mother Teresa**