

Volume 1 | Issue 4  
December 1, 2018

# St. Gregory the Great Academy Newsletter

*Principal Mrs.  
Naccarato*

*Trustee Mrs. Marchese*

*YCDSB 647-960-3165*

The Christmas season is quickly here! In order to prepare ourselves for this wonderful time of year we begin by celebrating the season of Advent. Each Sunday beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup> signifies the 4 weeks of advent and we light a candle (purple or pink) to mark our anticipation of the Birth of Jesus Christ. In commemoration of His blessed birth we sing the song of joy and praise "Come, O Come Emmanuel!".

Please come and celebrate with us for our **Christmas Mingle and Jingle** hosted by our JK to Gr. 3 students and teachers on Dec. 13 at 7:00 pm. in the gym. Cookies and milk/juice will be a big hit! Forms have been sent home for pre-orders. Come prepared to take family photos in our Frosty Christmas Scene!

Thursday, December 13th will be an Ugly Christmas Sweater civvies day for all students. Students are asked to bring in a donation of \$2. The money raised from this civvies day will go directly to Sick Kids. If students do not have an ugly Christmas sweater, they are welcome to wear green and red! Merry Christmas from the Luke 4:18 Committee.



## **Community Service at SGG!**

Thank-you for your continued support this season and for giving us all a way to help those less fortunate. The Pyjama drive, the Shoebox toiletry drive were selfless actions that allowed us to help many needy families this Christmas. Fr. Antonello and our Luke 4:18 Club have been a great inspiration to us at St. Gregory the Great and we look forward giving to those in need and recognize how fortunate we are!

## **Uniform or Dress Code Preliminary Survey**

Thank-you for participating in our survey! We are happy to continue with the St. Gregory the Great uniform currently in place with 90% so parents/guardians giving their response to continue as is.

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***Thank-you Catholic  
School Council***

**Scholastic Book Fair:**

During the week of Nov. 19th St. Gregory the Great held an outstanding Scholastic Book Fair. Our profits will be allocated to the needs of the school library as well as the classrooms. Many thanks to all of our parent volunteers who kindly assisted in the set up and daily running of the Book Fair.

Congratulations to the daily prize winners who won a \$5.00 gift certificate for the Fair: Anthony M., Ava G., Frank G., Ariyana L., Rocco L., Natalie S., Athena T., Anthony V., Quentin B., Katelyn M., Julian P., Michael F.

Congratulations to Francesca B. in grade 6, who won the special Family Event draw for \$25.00 in free merchandise along with her classroom teacher. Once again, thank you to parents, teachers, and students for your generous support!

**Thank-you Volunteers!**

We are so grateful to our volunteers who help out in so many ways! God bless them and their selfless efforts to make our school St. Gregory the Great, a place of kindness and collaboration. When we give to others, we do so with our open hearts just as Jesus would have done for us and not expecting more in return. This feeling cannot be replaced in any community.

**Anti-bullying Edge Movement**

EDGEducation's goal is to help schools and teachers integrate Movement Based, Social/Emotional Learning Methods into their culture, teaching practice and delivery of various curriculum, creating engaging, healthier, wellness focused learning environments for today's students. Through music, games, talk and dance students will be shown how to express themselves in a way that is healthy for everyone. Feeling good about oneself starts in the mind. Knowing how to respect yourself and others when emotions are changing is key to a productive school day. When we strive to understand and accept ourselves we are better equipped to be present in our world enabling us to make lasting relationships based on respect and care for one another as children of God.

**Girls' Anti-bullying**

The girls in Grades 6-8 also had a chance to hear Dina Pestonji talk about her experiences as a young woman growing up in a world with so peer pressure at every turn. Her talk inspired our young ladies to make confident choices that will positively impact themselves and others.



## YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

School transportation service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open when transportation services are cancelled.

The safety and well-being of our students is taken into consideration when making decisions concerning transportation service cancellation. Information regarding the cancellation of school transportation or school closures will be made available by 6:15 a.m.

***Please exercise discretion in deciding whether to send your child to school when school transportation has been cancelled.***

***Please note the following:***

- ✓ A decision to cancel school transportation service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- ✓ Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make alternate arrangements to transport their children to and from school if school bus service is cancelled.
- ✓ If transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will not operate in the afternoon.
- ✓ In the event school transportation is cancelled, exams, tests, quizzes, excursions, charter trips, school programs, co-curricular activities, evening presentations, workshops, as well as, parent meetings (i.e. Identification, Placement, and Review Committee Meetings, IPRCs) will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- ✓ Secondary School Cafeteria Services will be cancelled
- ✓ All evening permits will be cancelled
- ✓ All Continuing Education evening classes will be cancelled

**Further Information regarding the Board's Inclement Weather Guidelines are included on the YCDSB Website at:**

<http://www.ycdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Inclement-Weather-Notice.pdf>

**Inclement Weather Notifications will be posted to:**

- ✓ School Website & Board Website ([www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca))
- ✓ Student Transportation Services of York Region Website ([www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com))
- ✓ Twitter ([www.twitter.com/ycdsb](http://www.twitter.com/ycdsb))
- ✓ Designated Radio and Television Stations

RADIO				TELEVISION
AM 640	640AM	CKDX	88.5FM	CITY TV
CBC	99.1FM	CKFM	99.9FM	CTV BARRIE
CFNY	102.1FM	KISS	92.5FM	CTV TORONTO
CFRB	1010AM	NEWS	680AM	CP24
CHAY	93.1FM	Q107	107.1FM	GLOBAL NEWS
CHFI	98.1FM	CJCL	590AM	
CHIN	1540AM & 100.7FM	CJEZ	97.3FM	
CHRW	94.9FM	CIQB	101.1FM	
CHUM	1050AM & 104.5 FM	CJBC	860AM	
CJKX	95.9FM & 89.9 FM			
CKDO	1580AM			

Information about school transportation cancellation is also available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)



## Active School Travel

December 2018

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](mailto: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

**ACTIVE**  
**SCHOOL TRAVEL**  
York Catholic District School Board

# York Catholic District School Board

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*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)*



December 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During this Advent Season, students and staff in our schools have been enthusiastically preparing for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our faith traditions help us to think about Jesus’ humble birth in a manger, and our Catholic schools provide all members of our Catholic learning communities with a wonderful opportunity to reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas. We are reminded to keep Christ close to us for He is our strength throughout our lives.

In our Catholic schools, students proudly display their faith in action. Whether it is by singing about the coming of our Saviour, organizing food drives, toy drives and clothing collections for those most vulnerable, or celebrating the Eucharist, our students demonstrate the true meaning of the season.

As your Trustee, I thank you for choosing Catholic Education. Your support of our school system is a blessing that allows our students and staff to grow in the love of Christ.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with peace and joy as you rejoice in our Saviour's birth. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Maria Marchese

Trustee, Vaughan, Area 3, Ward 3

**Maria Marchese, Trustee – Vaughan (Woodbridge, Area 3, Ward 3)**

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