



MADONNA DELLA LIBERA
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mr. D. Pace – Principal

Mrs. M. Petrella – Vice-Principal

Mrs. Debbie Cotter – Secretary

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

December 2020 NEWSLETTER

December marks the start of our Advent Season. During this time, students and staff will gather as a community virtually to celebrate the coming of our Saviour by the lighting of the ADVENT candles.

Prayer for Our Advent Journey

Dear Jesus,

We prepare for our own journey to the stable by listening more carefully for your presence around us.

This Advent, may we weave our prayer and our service into a suitable cloth to swaddle you.

May the fabric of our lives comfort and hold the sacred gift. May we serve you faithfully and joyfully all the days of our lives.

We pray in Your name,

Amen



Notes from the Office

One of the key ways that you can support your child's learning and create sound work habits is to ensure they arrive on time for school. Please help them to organize at night by packing backpacks, laying out clothes and making lunches so that the morning is organized. A good night's rest sets up the next day for success.



**Appropriate
Outdoor
Clothing**

Winter weather has arrived! Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather. An extra pair of gloves, socks, and a hat to keep in the backpack is a great idea. Brrrrr!

SEASONS GREETINGS

The season of Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. Advent is a time to slow down, to enjoy time with friends and family, and to reflect on the true reason for the season.

Traditionally the journey towards Christmas is marked by an Advent wreath. Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches with 4 candles to represent the 4 weeks of Advent. Ideally, 3 candles are purple and 1 is pink.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday as we are getting closer to the joy of the birth of Jesus.

We wait in expectation and hope for the coming of our Lord. Our hope is that you will take time with your family to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to enjoy time together. We wish you joy and peace during this Advent season.

God Bless,

Mr. D. Pace and Mrs. M. Petrella

Our school will focus on being 'Caring Family Members' during the month of December. Charitable acts are a great way for students to experience and live our school board's theme of 'TRANSFORM': 'Hearts on Fire'. Students who are recognized by school staff for being Caring Family Members will receive a certificate and students who receive 'Pawchas' for making good choices will have their names entered a draw to win a gift card.

Absences

If you know your child/ren are going to be absent or late to school, **please call the school at 519 753-5283 before 8:45 am.** Please feel free to call anytime in the evening or through the night and leave a voice mail message. If a child's absence is unexplained, you will receive an automated phone call to ensure that your child is accounted for and safe.

IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

Christmas Spirit Days

1. Mon, Dec 14th - Christmas Sweaters
2. Tues, Dec 15th – Christmas Hat Day
3. Wed, Dec 16th - Christmas Sock Day
4. Thurs, Dec 17th - Christmas Colour Day (Red, Green, White, etc...)
5. Fri, Dec 18th - PJ Day

Madonna Della Libera Catholic Elementary School Presents: The Virtual Scholastic Book Fair!

Mark your calendars!! You have been invited to our first virtual book fair held by Scholastic! Keep the fun and excitement of a Scholastic Book Fair alive by attending our school's virtual book fair! Adapting to our changing needs, Scholastic has developed a virtual shopping experience to provide an opportunity for our students and families to experience the joy of reading together. We have emailed a PDF flyer for both senior and junior students to browse books before our opening. So, save the date! Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair will take place: ***Monday, November 30th to Sunday, December 13th***.

When it is time to shop, visit our school's Virtual Book Fair site using this link: <https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5152358>

Thank you for supporting our school's library and fostering a love of reading.

Alyssa Hughes
Library Technician

GRADE 8 STUDENT & PARENT

**VIRTUAL
OPEN HOUSE
WEEK**

JAN 18-22

assumptionlions.com/futurestudents

 Assumption
College School

All families welcome!

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sjconline.ca/futurestudents

 St. John's
College

All families welcome!

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Thank you to all for your cooperation in staying clear of the bus areas at dismissal time to allow safe access for busing and for students using the crosswalk to enter the school grounds. Please be mindful of speed, pedestrians, and our neighbours in the community when entering and exiting the parking lot to ensure safety for all. Please also be aware of areas you are not permitted to be in that are marked with pylons. We appreciate your cooperation.

Math Focus: Learning to Count



When children are learning to count, they like to touch, point to and move objects as they say the number aloud – so encourage them to!

- Have your child count toys, kitchen utensils, items of clothing as they come out of the dryer, collections (such as stickers, buttons or rocks) and any other items your child shows interest in counting.
- Mix it up! Have your child count a set of objects but start at different places in the set (for example, start counting in the middle of the set rather than at the beginning). This helps to develop the idea that the counting of objects can begin with any object in a set and the total will still be the same.
- Sing counting songs and use counting in meaningful ways in games, such as Hide-and-Seek. Counting games, rhymes and songs exist in every culture. Some counting songs and rhymes help children to count forward and backward as well.
- Have your child skip count (counting by twos, fives or tens) to count larger groups of items quickly. Use such objects as blocks, pasta pieces, toothpicks or buttons.
- Develop your child's awareness of the symbols used to represent numbers by making it a game. Look for number symbols in your home and neighbourhood: on the television remote, on the microwave, on the telephone keypad, in flyers and media, on signs and on team sweaters.
- Play a number version of I Spy. For example, "I spy something that has the number five on it," or "I spy something in this room that there are three of."

Ask for your child's help to count items in your home. "I wonder how many chairs we have around the table In this room? In the house?" Count windows, light switches, lamps or beds. You might record "how many" by using a combination of numbers and pictures.

Families in Need

Our school through the generous efforts of staff and our parent community via School Cash online are supporting families in need to make Christmas shine a little brighter. This program is about more than gifts under the tree; it is about providing families with support and hope during the Christmas holidays. While children's wish lists include all the normal gifts that any child would want, the families' needs very often include necessities such as diapers, bedding, and winter clothing. If you wish to donate these items, please consider donating to St. Vincent de Paul.

Please contact the school office for your own family or a family you are aware of.
519-753-5283

Thank you
Madonna Della Libera Staff