



## MADONNA DELLA LIBERA

✦ CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ✦

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[www.mdlbrantford.ca](http://www.mdlbrantford.ca)

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Mr. D. Pace – Principal

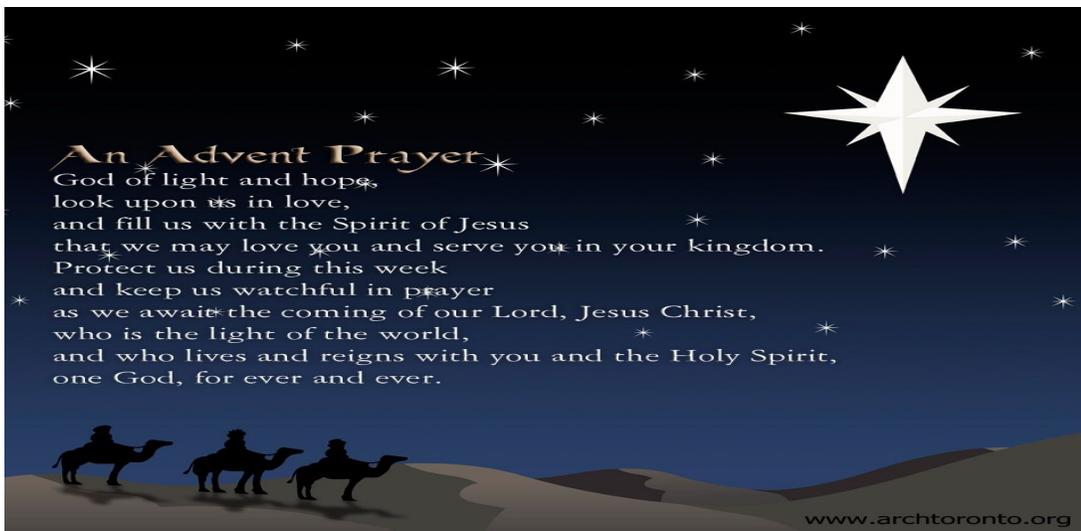
Mr. J. DiFrancesco – Vice-Principal

Mrs. Debbie Cotter – Secretary

### ***LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER IN CHRIST***

## **December 2021 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.



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 Mr. D. DiFrancesco

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 values during the Christmas season. 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.

## **Notes from the Office**

One of the important 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!

## **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 would like to donate, please click on the "Make Donation" button on our school or board website. [www.bhncdsb.ca](http://www.bhncdsb.ca) or [www.mdlbrantford.ca](http://www.mdlbrantford.ca). Please contact the school office for your own family or a family you are aware of.

Thank you

Madonna Della Libera Staff

## **IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES**

### **Christmas Spirit Days. Thank you, Student Parliament, for your input! Your leadership is appreciated**

1. **Mon, Dec 13** - Christmas Sweaters (Door Decorating contest this week) & **School Wide Christmas Lunch** catered by Swiss Chalet. Individually packed ¼ Chicken meal can be purchased using school cash online and is subsidized by the school. Cost to student is \$5 and families can donate as well to support others in need.
2. **Tues, Dec 14** – Christmas Hat Day
3. **Wed, Dec 15** - Christmas Sock Day & Candy Canes
4. **Thurs, Dec 16** - Christmas Colour Day (Red, Green, White, etc...) & (School Wide Bingo)
5. **Fri, Dec 17** - PJ Day & Gingerbread cookie decorating (nut free)

- Please let the classroom teacher know if you do not wish for your child to have a candy cane, a cookie or the school wide Christmas lunch.

## **Participate to WIN a \$25 Tim Horton Gift Card**

HOW????

Simply send an email to [dcotter@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:dcotter@bhncdsb.ca) at the MDL office to confirm entry and you are automatically entered.

Appreciate you reading the newsletter! Lol

Mr. Pace

## **Christmas Concert**

This year, we will once again be hosting our annual Primary Christmas Concert by creating a video presentation that will be shared with families before Christmas break! Thank you to all of the primary teachers and students for their hard work in preparing for this MDL tradition. A big thank you as well to the many volunteers from Grades 7 and 8 who will be writing and filming the Christmas Concert play, presenting the performers, and editing the final presentation. We look forward to sharing it virtually with families and the rest of the school on the week of Dec. 13-17!

## **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.

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME  
GRADE 8 STUDENT & PARENT

# OPEN HOUSE

## JAN 12



**St. John's**  
College

[sjconline.ca/futurestudents](http://sjconline.ca/futurestudents)



**Assumption**  
College School

[assumptionlions.com/futurestudents](http://assumptionlions.com/futurestudents)

# ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JAN 3 - FEB 25

[catholiceducation.ca](http://catholiceducation.ca)



**Kindergarten French Immersion  
Program Spots Limited**



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK  
Catholic District School Board

**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.