



**Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School**  
78 Glenabbey Drive  
Courtice, Ontario  
L1E 2B5  
905-433-5512



**"do ordinary things with extraordinary love"**

## JANUARY 2012

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*"We are, each of us, and all of us,  
responsible for one another, friends, family and strangers.  
We are brothers and sisters because God has created us that way."  
Genesis 4:9*

Happy New Year to one and all! On behalf of the staff and students of Mother Teresa Catholic School, allow me to thank you for your continued support throughout 2011 and wish your families continued blessings and good health in 2012.

January brings renewed energy and commitment to our many responsibilities. Classes will be very busy with their studies. Please assist your children to complete homework to the best of their abilities and continue to communicate with their teachers via the Agenda book, letters, and phone calls. Together we can make the remainder of our school year most successful.

With warmest regards,

Cathy Dykeman. Principal

**RESPONSIBLE PERSON IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS OR HER ACTIONS AND CHOICES  
(AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES) WITHOUT BLAMING OTHERS.**

### **CATHOLIC VIRTUES INTO ACTION—Responsibility**

January and making resolutions are age old friends. Resolutions and the virtue of responsibility are a natural fit. In this month of new beginnings our Catholic School Community will practise and celebrate how we honour God when we act responsibly.

We will work to find practical ways to demonstrate three important Catholic Graduate Expectations. We resolve to become:

- A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.
- A caring family member...who attends to family, school, parish and the wider community.
- A responsible citizen...who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

### **WIRELESS GUEST NETWORK**

Beginning in January with the Grade 8 students a "Wireless Guest Network" will be available for student use. More information will be coming home.



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Principal:  
**Cathy Dykeman**

Parish Priest:  
**Fr. Anthony Ezeonwueme**  
**Fr. Collins Okasor**

Secretaries:  
**Donna Owens**  
**Donna Minnema**

CSC Chair:  
**Amany Bastien**  
**Johnene Milan**

Superintendent:  
**Deirdre Thomas**

Trustees:  
**Granville Anderson**  
**Peggy O'Toole**

Director of Education  
**Greg Reeves**  
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**LOCKDOWN! LOCKDOWN! We will be holding a school lockdown practice on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 1:45 p.m. Students and staff will have a review of the procedures for this event. The doors to the school will not be opened during this time.**

## ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING (AfL)

### What is feedback?

Feedback is where someone focuses on the success criteria of the work and makes comments accordingly. The feedback refers to the difference between the piece of work the student has completed and the success criteria. When giving a comment on the work, the teacher or peer will not just put “Well done” (although there might be times when this would suffice.) Instead, the teacher or peer highlights areas where the student has been successful and also on areas where an improvement could be made. A crucial element is ensuring the students have time to respond to the feedback in order to actually make the improvements to their work.

### What is self assessment?

Teachers are beginning to train students to assess their own work against success criteria, encouraging them to be open and honest.

- Teachers list the success criteria, which the students mark against their work, checking whether each criteria is met or not.
- Children can use faces, colours or check marks to indicate how well they think they have achieved at each step.
- Teachers then respond to this self assessment and highlight successes and areas for improvement verbally with the children, or in their written response when they are marking work.

## Wind Chill Hazards

Through out the winter months, parents and students are reminded to check the wind chill hazards before going outdoors. Students are reminded that they must wear for recess all the outer clothing they wear to school. Parents are asked to ensure that the students are well prepared for the weather as even moderate wind chills can be dangerous if a person is going to be outdoors for varied periods of time when not properly dressed.

The following chart produced by Environment Canada summarizes the main points:

<p><b>0° to -10°</b> Dress warmly, with the outside temperature in mind.</p> <p><b>-10° to -25°</b> Dress in layers or warm clothing, with an outer layer that is wind-resistant. Wear a hat, mittens, and scarf and keep active outdoors.</p> <p><b>-25° to -45°</b> Dress in layers of warm clothing, with an outer layer that is wind-resistant. Cover all exposed skin, particularly your face and hands. Wear a hat, mittens, scarf, and neck tube or face mask. Avoid exposing the skin directly to the wind and keep active.</p>	<p><b>Effects of Wind Chill:</b></p> <p>Anyone who has every experienced a Canadian winter knows that he/she feels colder when the wind blows. The wind takes away the thin layer of warm air that is being repeatedly built up close to our skin, causing the skin temperature to drop and our bodies to feel colder. Wind also makes us feel colder by evaporating the moisture on our skin, thus drawing more heat away from the body. Good quality clothing with high insulating properties traps air creating a thicker boundary layer around the body, keeping in the heat. Further information may be found at the Environment Canada web site <a href="http://www.ec.gc.ca">www.ec.gc.ca</a>.</p>
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## School Procedures re: Weather

The school checks the conditions on the weather network on those days when the temperature falls into the low numbers. Using the temperature and wind speed, we will use this chart to determine if there will be outdoor recess or not. On those days that there will

be outdoor lunch recess, this information will be used to determine the length of time the students will stay outside. At all times, the safety of the children will be the determining factor. As Canadians, we feel that it is important for the children to be comfortable in the environment

In which they are growing up, so we encourage them to learn to dress for Canadian winters and to enjoy the gifts they bring. Over time, our bodies learn to adapt to the cold. People who live in a cold climate are often able to withstand the cold better than those from warmer climates.

Our guideline for outdoor recesses on cold weather days is as follows: (including wind chill)

0 to -10- students will go outdoors

-10 to -19—students will go outdoors for 20 minutes maximum

-20 and below—students will stay indoors

### Ski/Snowboard Club

Our Ski/Snowboard Club begins on **Tuesday, January 10**. We will be leaving right after school. Students are asked to make sure they have all their equipment at school and ready to go. **Make sure to dress for the weather.** Extra mitts and socks are always a good idea. You don't want wet hands and feet! Make sure you also pack some dinner and snacks. There is a cafeteria available for those who wish to purchase their dinner.

Parents are asked to be at the school to meet the bus by 8:40 p.m. Please be prompt as the supervisors have been outside all evening and want to get home after a cold evening on the slopes.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Hickey at 905-433-5512.

**PARENT/POLICE COALITION  
MEETING**

**Monday, January 30, 2012  
7:00—9:00 p.m.**

There will be a Parent/Police Coalition Meeting on Monday January 30th, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic School,

The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss various topics, cyberbullying, drugs and substances, the youth criminal justice act, community problems and other areas of interest based on the teams suggestions.

Confirmation of topic has not been released as of this newsletter.

All are welcome to this meeting.  
Looking forward to meeting with you.

Constable Stacey Sullivan #3401  
Elementary School Liaison Officer-Clarington



**POLICE RECORDS CHECKS**

A POLICE RECORDS CHECK IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE. PRINCIPALS MAY ACCEPT A POLICE RECORDS CHECK FOR A VOLUNTEER UP TO ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF ISSUE.

FOLLOWING THE RECEIPT OF A POLIC RECORDS CHECK, THE PRINCIPAL MAY ACCEPT A DEFENSE DECLARATION FROM A VOLUNTEER FOR EACH OF THE FIVE FOLLOWING YEARS. IF THE VOLUNTEER DOES NOT SUBMIT A DEFENSE DELCARATION FOR ONE OF THE YEARS IN THAT TIME PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS, THE PRINCIPAL WILL REQUEST A NEW POLICE RECORDS CHECK.

***From the library***

January is literacy month with January 27<sup>th</sup> being Literacy Day. Please take the time to read with your child and have them read to you.



Children aged 2 to 3 who are read to several times a day do substantially better in kindergarten at the age of 4 and 5 than youngsters who are read to only a few times a week or less (National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997)

Family literacy refers to the many ways families develop and use literacy skills, from enjoying a storybook together at bedtime and during the day, to playing with word games, singing, writing to a relative or friend, sharing day-to-day tasks such as making a shopping list or using a recipe, and surfing the Internet for fun and interesting sites (Family Literacy in Canada: Profiles of Effective Practices, Adele Thomas, Soleil Publishing Inc., 1998).

I am always pleased when students give their books to me to put in the library for others to read. If anyone does have any school-aged books (K -8) that they are not reading anymore, by all means I would be happy to put them in here for others to read.

Mrs. White

**THANK YOU**

Our “Be an Angel” food and gift drive was truly an outpouring of love and care from our school community this year! Six vehicles full of gifts and food were taken to St. Therese Church last Monday. Beautiful hampers of food and gifts have been distributed to our parish families in need.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School**

**Grade 8 Parent Information Night Thursday,**  
**January 12, 2012**

**7 p.m.**

**Parents and students are encouraged to attend.**

Hot Chocolate Day \$1.00  
**January 20, 2012**  
In support of CHANCE STABLES  
Help Rebuild the Barns



Thank you for your support!



# Important Bus Safety Reminder

## WINTER SAFETY REMINDERS:

- Students are reminded to be waiting at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time.
- Winter conditions may cause the sidewalks to be very slippery. Students must always walk to board the bus safely.
- Parents, please listen to local radio stations for inclement weather reports, bus delays and cancellations.
- Students are reminded to dress warmly when waiting for the bus.
- Students must refrain from playing on snow banks to prevent slipping into traffic.



## “Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) seeking feedback on bus service:

STSCO has recently advised the school that an online transportation service survey is available for families, parents and students to complete at their convenience. The intention of the survey is to obtain feedback and input on the bus and transportation service being provided to students this school year. Information collected will be used by STSCO to help meet its goal of continuously monitoring and improving the service provided to students, families and schools. Please follow the steps below and take a few minutes to complete the survey.



Step 1. Go to [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) and press the “Enter Parent Survey Here” button.

Step 2. Fill in the STSCO Parent Survey and press the submit button at the end.

Any questions regarding the survey can be directed to Joel Sloggett, C.A.O., or Steve Jackson, Operations Manager, with STSCO. Your participation in the survey will be most appreciated.”

## Bethlehem Comes to Life at Mother Teresa

**On a clear, crisp December night angels appeared under the stars, the shepherds guarding their flocks were the first to hear the news that a very special Baby was born in a humble stable...**

We would like to thank everyone for attending the Primary Nativity Pageant that took place on Wednesday, December 21st. Your support at these events is greatly appreciated by the students and staff.

Events of this magnitude could not be successfully carried out without a lot of work behind the scenes. We would like to thank the primary staff, custodians and the Grade 8 Crew for all of their assistance.

Thank you to those who donated materials and costumes for this dramatization. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for donating hot chocolate and snacks!

## Back to School In The Zone Traffic Initiative

The Back to School In The Zone Traffic Initiative will be taking place during the weeks of **January 9 –13 and 6-20, 2012.** Officers will be issuing tickets for speeding, stop signs, parking and other traffic violations during that time period specifically in around the schools. We have had two tragic traffic related accidents involving young people recently.

**THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURES. LET’S TOGETHER KEEP THEM SAFE!**

### The Adventures of Tintin

—SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOWING—CHECK IT OUT  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7 AT  
10 A.M.



AMC Theatres® is bringing families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favourite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

With Sensory Friendly Films, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down.



# HAPPY NEW YEAR



St. Therese  
Parish News!  
January 2012.



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Well a New Year is upon us and we look back at all the things we have done this past year. We are so glad to see so many of you attending our Youth Group and Youth Dances and were delighted to see so many little ones at our Christmas Party in December. It warms our hearts to see so many of you each Sunday here at the parish masses and we look forward to seeing you each week. Thank you to all who helped at the parish this Christmas with altar serving, feeding the animals, singing, greeting and more. We wish you and your families a very Happy New Year. Please check our website for upcoming events and give us a "high five" when you see us. May God bless you all  
Father Anthony and Father Collins

## MOVIE

**AFTERNOON**  
We will be having a family movie afternoon in the Church hall on Saturday January 14th from 1-3pm. Come and join us!



## SACRAMENT UPDATES

### FIRST COMMUNION NEWS

February 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 @ 12:30pm- Baptism for First Communion Students and other members of their families who have not yet been Baptized.  
March 17, 2012- 10:30-12:30pm-RECONCILIATION for All Students Preparing for First Communion- (will be heard in alphabetical order-not by school order) Times will be assigned at a later date.

### CONFIRMATION NEWS

Saturday Confirmation Classes ~Jan 21, Feb,4,11, March 31, May12,19. The times are from 10:30 - Noon.

### CONFIRMATION ENROLLMENT MASSES

January 14-15, 2012 - (At all four of the masses)  
Saturday January 14, 2012 @4:30 pm-Good Shepherd  
Sunday January 15, 2012 9:00 am- Msgr. Leo Cleary  
Sunday January 15, 2012 @ 11:00 am-Mother Teresa  
Sunday January 15, 2012 @7:00 pm- All others.

Students will be handed their Contract during the enrollment ceremony. The signing of the contracts will begin the following weekend and will continue right up until the week prior to Confirmation. Students are reminded to bring their sheets to mass each week, as they will be signed in the church hall after each mass.

**Don't forget to check out our parish website at [www.sttheresechurch.ca](http://www.sttheresechurch.ca)**

## TALENT SHOW IN THE NEW YEAR

Please keep an eye on our Sunday bulletin or check our website for updates on our upcoming Talent Show in the New Year.

## A HUGE THANK YOU

Thank you to all the Staff, Students and Parents of our schools for the tremendous support you gave with our food hampers this Christmas. We had more families this Christmas than we have ever had before and your help is sincerely appreciated. It is truly overwhelming to see how giving the people of our parish have been. The families that you have helped were very thankful and truly felt your love and support.

