



# St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School

1575 Glenforest Boulevard • Peterborough • ON • K9K 2J6

Tel: (705)742-6109 • Fax: (705)742-4549

## December 2011 Newsletter

**Believe, Love, Act: "the greatest among you will be your servant."**

Matthew 23:11

### December is Catholic Virtue of PATIENCE

During the month of December, in the time of Advent, our school will reflect on the virtue of PATIENCE which is the ability to wait calmly without complaining. Patience is a learned and valuable virtue. This month, patience will be reinforced and taught through prayer, reflection, and classroom activities.

We are all "plugged in" to the modern fast-paced world - a pace that can be overwhelming. As Christmas nears, the pace of life seems to speed up, presenting us with the perfect opportunity to slow down and be patient. As a school we will build a sense of quiet as we prepare our hearts for the coming of baby Jesus. We will also be reminded of how patient God is with us.

This season, make it a point to look for signs of patience as you go about your busy day, the loving mother with a tired toddler, the proud grandfather with a distracted grandchild, a smiling care giver with an elderly resident. These individuals are guideposts, beacons, for us all. The staff and I would like to extend to you our heartfelt wishes to have a blessed, safe, relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday.



### St. Catherine Christmas Hamper Program: Be An Angel



We are having a Christmas Hamper Drive for our school community, local community, and abroad from November 28 to December 16. Donations of food (cans, pasta, drinks), new or gently used clothing, or new toys would gratefully be accepted.

This year, we are encouraging those who donate to write their name on Angels' wings for a display in the front foyer.

Thank you for blessing all students in our community with a special Christmas.

#### Christmas Hamper Recipients

If you could use some support this Christmas, please call or email Sheila Piggott or Karan Leal at:

spiggott@pvnccdsb.on.ca  
kleal@pvnccdsb.on.ca  
or phone 742-6109.

All contacts will be confidential. Please let us know the age and gender of each child living in your household. Deliveries will be handled most discretely.

### Who We are for 2011-2012

- ⇒ Sheila Piggott, Principal  
spiggott@pvnccdsb.on.ca
- ⇒ Karan Leal, Vice Principal  
kleal@pvnccdsb.on.ca
- ⇒ Natacha Couillard  
CSC Chair
- ⇒ Father Rae  
John Perdue, Seminarian  
St. Alphonsus Parish
- ⇒ Christine Dunn  
Lorne Corkery  
Trustees
- ⇒ Dale Godin,  
Superintendent of Schools
- ⇒ Greg Reeves  
Director of Education

#### School Bell Times

Start Bell	8:55 a.m.
AM Recess	10:25—10:40 am
Lunch	12:05—1:05 pm
PM Recess	2:30—2:40 pm
Dismissal Bell	3:20 pm

# THANK YOU STUDENTS

## Office Helpers

Thanks to our office helpers during the month of November and December.

Mykelti Stephens,  
Briar O'Keefe,  
Victoria Harrington,  
Cynthia Luu, Emma Corcoran,  
Laura Elmhirst,

## Kindergarten Helpers

Thank you to each and every kindergarten helper for helping for the month of November and December.

All of your hard work is very much appreciated by Mrs. Tucker, Mme. Lavoie, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Bronson and Mlle. Barrie.

Isabella Francz,  
Emma Dimock, Kyle Morton,  
Ashley Armstrong,  
Anna Quibell,  
Angelina Haines,  
Monina Miraflores,  
Michaela Shaughnessy,  
Alyson Kehoe, Kristen Devlin,  
Lindsey Brodie, Julia Disbrow,  
Kennedy Bendall,  
Emily Hughes,  
Zachary Hatton, Bria Pigeon,  
Erin Fancy, Emma Woods,  
Isabella Rudolf-Ferreira,  
Jessica Nilsen,  
Vanessa Castano,  
Natahsha Sokolon,  
Hannah Trylinski,  
Kaitlin Glab,



mabel's labels™

**NEW!** As a way to target the problem of lost belongings, and a large lost and found area, St. Catherine is fundraising with **Mabel's Labels**. This is a company with all types of Labels. That are colourful, indestructible, easy-to-use and fun!

Visit [www.stcatherine.mabel.ca](http://www.stcatherine.mabel.ca) to place your order and our school will receive a portion of each sale.



## **Reporting Student Absence and or Illness**

The Peterborough City/County Health Unit is collecting data on student absences at all schools. It is important that parents/guardians report the nature of the student's absence to the office at (705) 742-6109. If there is no answer, please leave a message.

**Clearly specify** if your child is absent due to a sporting activity, dental appointment, missed bus, **cold and/or flu symptoms, etc.**

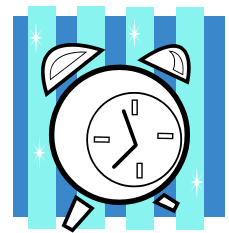
## **Allergy Alert**

Due to the various allergies at the school, please discuss with your child the importance of NOT sharing food with others.

We want to make this school a safe environment for all.

## Attendance and Punctuality

A student's success is directly related to his or her attendance and punctuality. A student who is not in class cannot learn. A student who is late for class is disruptive to the teacher, to fellow classmates, and to his own learning ability.



Regular absences or tardiness shows poor planning and preparation, and lack of motivation and commitment on the part of the student.

Primary students rely on parents to get them to school on time. A Junior or Intermediate student can be the one responsible for being punctual.

**Remember, our school day begins at 8:55 a.m.**

## St. Catherine is going tech!

We are trying to reduce the amount of paper that is used for school newsletters. Today we are sending home our last paper copy of the school newsletter to all families. We have also sent an electronic version to families that have requested electronic copies in the past.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send an email to [spiggott@pvncdsb.on.ca](mailto:spiggott@pvncdsb.on.ca). In the subject line please type **newsletter**.

The school newsletter is also posted on line at <http://schools.pvncdsb.on.ca/stcat03/>

If you do not have access to the Internet, please write note in your child's agenda that you require a paper copy of the newsletter.

Please note that we have added a new link to our school website entitled 'Youth in Action'. The Youth in Action students at St. Catherine School are continuously updating this link to keep parents informed on different social initiatives happening at the school. The following is the link to the school website: <http://schools.pvncdsb.on.ca/stcat03/>

### HALLOWEEN FOR HUNGER: BE THE DIFFERENCE

Congratulations to the Youth in Action group who took part and helped collect food for St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you Mme. Dickey, Mr. Mackey, Mr. White and Mme. Bouillon for encouraging this fundraiser. The students collected more than 800 food donations! Job well done.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



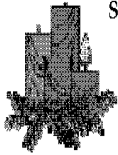
# The Advent Wreath

Tony Cosentino, Renfrew County CDSB

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Compassion, Discipleship, Reverence, Solidarity, Stewardship

The Advent wreath is rich in Christian symbolism. It is made of evergreen boughs formed in a circle. The Advent wreath holds four candles: three purple and one pink; some wreaths also have a white candle in the centre.



## An Ancient Tradition

The Advent wreath has its roots in traditions practiced by the early Germanic peoples. As winter's short and dark days began growing brighter, they would celebrate the coming light by making wreaths of green and lighting fires. When these people became Christian, they began using wreaths in their churches, to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus, Light of the World.

## The Circle: No Beginning or End

The wreath is formed in a circle, which has no beginning or end. This reminds us of our God, who is eternal -without beginning or end. The shape of the Advent wreath also represents the gift of eternal life won for us by Jesus' dying and rising to new life.



## Green: The Colour of Life and Hope

The wreath is made of evergreen boughs. Green is the colour of *life*. It reminds us of the newborn life of Jesus our Saviour. It also reminds us of the gift of new and eternal life we received at baptism. The colour green is also the colour of *hope*. Christian hope tells us that we can build a better world by living the Good News of Jesus' Gospel. Christian hope also tells us that nothing can overcome God's love for us in Christ.

## Candles: Light of the World, Faith

The candles represent *light*: Jesus, the Light of the world, who shines in our darkness, and shows us the way to the Father. The candle also symbolizes God's gift of *faith*. By faith, we say "I trust you" to God; by faith, we know we are God's beloved children; by faith, we walk with Jesus as members of his body, the Church.



## Purple: Royalty and Penance

There are three purple candles: one for the first, the second and fourth weeks of Advent. Purple is the symbol of *royalty* and *penance*. Purple reminds us of Jesus' coming as Prince of Peace, and King. Our Advent prayer, acts of kindness and self-

denial help make our hearts ready to welcome Jesus our Lord, as he comes to us on Christmas Day.

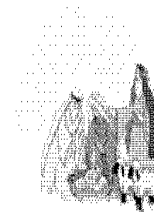


## Pink: Joy

Pink is the colour of *joy*. The pink candle is used in third Sunday of Advent, called *Joyful Sunday* (*Gaudete Sunday* in Latin). On this day, people traditionally relax their penances and joyfully sing the Gloria at mass as a foretaste of the coming joy of the Christmas season.

## White: Jesus

The white candle at the centre of the Advent wreath is lit on Christmas day. The white candle represents Jesus, the pure and spotless Lamb of God, born of Mary to lead us to the house of the Father. He is the fullness of our Christmas joy!



## School Mass

On Tuesday, December 13, 2011 the St. Catherine School Mass will take place at St. Alphonsus Church. Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. Students will be bussed to and from the Church. Parents, as always, are welcome to attend. Due to the fact that School Masses either at the school site or the parish are part of the curriculum in a Catholic School, written parent consent is not required.

## PARISH NEWS

**Sacraments:** Letters will soon be mailed out from the parish for information on First Eucharist, so please watch your mail! Parish Session 1 for First Eucharist is January 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

**Fun Stuff:** Our Christmas Dance will be Friday, December 16 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Admission is \$4.00. If you would like to help chaperone, you must have a current police check and complete a volunteer screening form from St. Alphonsus. Please contact Sheri at (705) 745-8623 to obtain a screening package and memo to take to the police station.

Our Christmas recreation sign-up sheet will be posted on the Family Mass board at the front doors of the church. Please leave your phone number as well so we can contact you for a rehearsal date and time.

## **STSCO Winter Newsletter**

The winter season is once again fast approaching. Prior to the beginning of the school day, inclement weather or poor road conditions may force the cancellation of school transportation services. In this event, bus delays and cancellations will be posted on the [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) website. Also, area radio stations and media outlets will broadcast related information (The Wolf, The Kruz, Country 104 and Energy 99.7).

**Remember that if a bus is cancelled in the morning,  
it will not run in the afternoon.**



As a parent/guardian, it is recommended that you:

- ⇒ Know your child's school bus route number and know the name of the bus company operating the route
- ⇒ Listen to your local radio station or visit the [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) website in the morning for delays or cancellations
- ⇒ Ensure that your child is at the school bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time of the bus

**The STSCO telephone information line 748-9240 or toll free 1-866-433-4441 can also be used to check if there are any large scale bus cancellations.**

# Catholic School Council News

## Did You Know?

**QSP** – The magazine fundraiser raised over \$10,500 for the school. These funds will go towards the school’s new playground.

Don't forget magazines make the perfect Christmas gift. You can continue to order magazines by going to [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca) to place your order. Don't forget our group number: 10648.

**Poinsettia Fundraiser** - Thank you to everyone who supported our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser sponsored by Hotner's Greenhouse & Garden Centre. We raised \$564.50 !! A huge thank you to the Hotner family for their continued support of St. Catherine School.

## Upcoming Events:

**Turkey Lunch** – Our annual turkey lunch will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup> for all staff and students. Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten students will be served their lunch on December 9<sup>th</sup>. School Council is covering the cost of the dinner. Volunteers are welcome. Please call Becky Beavis at 743-2275.

**Pizza Day** – Friday, December 2 is the only Pizza day for the month of December.

Order forms will be sent home shortly for pizza days in 2012. The first set of dates will be: January 13, 27, February 10, 24 and March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please note: to facilitate orders and payment processing individual payment per child is required. Please no family payments.

**Lunch Lady** – The Lunch Lady will run every Wednesday in December. For additions or changes please contact the Lunch Lady at 750-0222 or [Aileen@thelunchlady.com](mailto:Aileen@thelunchlady.com). Orders can be placed on-line. REMEMBER if your child will be away from school on a Wednesday contact the Lunch Lady by 8am to receive a credit.

**Sobey's Receipts** - Please remember to send in your Sobey's receipts to the office. School Council receives a portion of the total receipts collected.

## THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

- ⇒ To our parents of the School Community for purchasing flowers from Hotners as part of our St. Catherine School poinsettia fundraiser.
- ⇒ To Natacha Couillard, Chair of the Catholic School Council for organizing the fundraiser.
- ⇒ To Hotners Greenhouse for their generous contribution and beautiful plants.



# Thinking Matrix

We continue to work at St. Catherine Catholic School to improve student achievement, reduce learning gaps and build public confidence in Catholic Education.

Our EQAO scores, report card marks and assessment data from teachers indicate continued growth in the area of language.

As in the past you will hear about:

*Making Connections*

*Inferring*

*Questioning*

*Visualizing*

*Synthesizing*

We realize that students learn differently today than we did. Information is readily available for the students. We must work with students however, to think critically about what they are reading, seeing, and hearing.

To support students to think critically, we have created student tools in all of our classrooms called the Thinking Matrix.

The Thinking Matrix supports our reading expectations in Grades 1-8

- 1.4 Making Inferences
- 1.5 Making Connections
- 1.6 Extending Understanding
- 1.7 Analyzing Texts
- 1.8 Responding to and Evaluating Texts
- 1.9 Point of View

The Thinking Matrix looks similar in all classrooms but not exact, because it is created by students. The Thinking Matrix board in each classroom becomes a tool for students to use to determine what is being asked of them, how they might organize their thoughts, as well as the success criteria and actual samples of student work from members of the class.

Here is a sample of the Thinking Matrix:



Please talk to your child about the Thinking Matrix.

'MAKING ST. CATHERINE  
A GREAT PLACE TO BE!'

# Student Government

## THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Mykelti Stephens  
Minister of Youth
- Kaitlyn Buckborough  
Minister of Communications
- Blake Collins  
Minister of Finance
- Elyse Pind  
Parliamentary Scribe
- Emma Keat  
Deputy Minister
- Simon Woodgate  
Prime Minister
- Adam Wisco  
Prime Minister

## CABINET MINISTERS

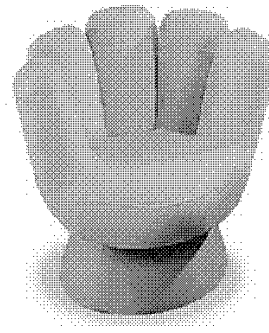
- Jada O'Keefe
- Maya Pawelek
- Robbie Halka
- Ryan Brodie
- Tristan Gammon
- Zachary Crowley
- Anna Quibell
- Ashley Armstrong
- Paige Piche
- Alyssa Batholomew
- Kari Lynde
- Elijah Guzik

## Supporting United Way

### GREEN HAND CHAIR

On November 28th, 2011 we started selling tickets for the best chair ever! It is a green hand chair. All proceeds from the raffling of the chair will go to United Way. The cost of tickets is 50 cents per ticket and \$1 for 3 tickets.

The chair will be drawn at the TRIBE meeting on December 6. Best of luck to everyone!



You could win this chair!

By Simon Woodgate and  
Adam Wisco St. Catherine  
Prime Ministers

### PRINCIPAL AND VICE PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

COMING SOON!

January 2012 everyone will have the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket to be the Principal or Vice Principal for day.

What a great way to start the new year! Extra gym! No homework! The exciting things that you can do when you are in charge is endless!

## Christmas Fun



fun activities.

Starting December 5, Christmas Candy Grams will be going on sale. They will be .50¢ each or 3 for \$1.00. Proceeds will go to the school. Make sure to give that special someone a Candy Gram!

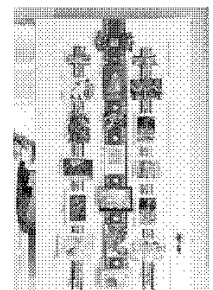
This coming Christmas season will be really awesome! We will be doing many

That's not the only thing we'll be doing! We'll also be doing Christmas Windows. Christmas Windows is a chance for the parents to come in and have a fun night with their kids at our school. Prepare to be entertained!



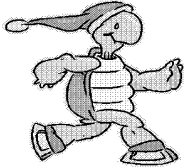
Another fun activity we will be doing is door decorating. It will be a competition between all classes in the school. The winner of this contest will get a scrumptious pizza party. Get decorating!!!

As you can see, the month of December will be a great month.



**Attn. All Ice Skaters!**  
**Christmas Skating Party**

**Sat. Dec. 10, 2011**  
**Evinrude Centre from 12:15-1:15pm**  
**Cost: FREE**

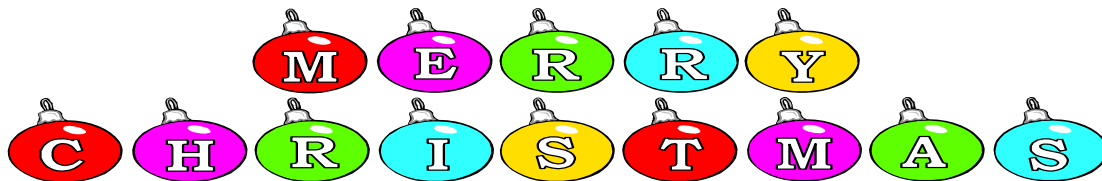


**Everyone Welcome for**  
**a 'Social Time' Hot Chocolate and Treats**  
**12:15 -2:00pm in the Front Board Room**



**Sponsored by Knights of Columbus #798 (Ernest J. Wolff) and**  
**#11086 (St. Alphonsus) and # 10785 (St. Anne's)**

- ❖ **Please bring a non perishable food item for the food bank**
- ❖ **Helmets strongly recommended for youth**



**Join us for a VEYO Christmas Social!**

**Potluck - Live Music - Games - Dancing - Fun!**

Saturday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall  
317 Hunter Street West  
Peterborough, Ontario

**Who is invited?**

Volunteers; Families; Prayerful Supporters; Donors; Library Patrons; YACs; CORCs; CCoT

Anyone who has participated in: SONfest; LJHR; MW; BXVI Retreat; WYD; WOTC or any other VEYO related activity.

Plus anyone else who wants to join us! Everyone is welcome! For more information contact Rev. Craig at

(705) 749-0330.



We are seeking your cooperation in helping us gather information on service and to also help us spread the word to families and the wider school community regarding the survey being available and STSCO being anxious to receive their feedback.

### **Completion of Survey by Families:**

Please insert reference to the survey in your next newsletter or other communication and inform and encourage your parent community to go to [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) and enter the “**Parent Survey**” online. To this end, you can cut and paste the following wording into your newsletter word processing document:

#### **“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.”

In closing, please do your best to have the appropriate school staff at your end complete our survey and also insert the notice in the soonest possible publication to parents.

Thank you for your help on this important project and have a great day!

Regards,  
Stephen Jackson  
Operations Manager, STSCO

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 1 of Advent <b>PEACE</b>						
	Come Lord Jesus Come and be born in our Hearts					
Week 2 of Advent <b>HOPE</b>	4 5	6 TRIBES Gr. 8 girls for HPV 2nd shot Skills Canada for Gr. 7	7 Pediculosis check for the school	8 Turkey Lunch for the school  Pediculosis check for the school	9 Monday/Wednesday	10
Week 3 of Advent <b>JOY</b>	11 12 Grade 1/2 E & 2/3 E at the Peterborough Museum	13 TRIBES—Mass at St. Alphonsus Church	14 John Perdue class visits	15	16 Gr. 2 F going to the Museum  Tuesday/Thursday	17
Week 4 of Advent <b>LOVE</b>	18 19	20 TRIBES	21 John Perdue class visits CASA going swimming Christmas Windows at 6:00 p.m.	22 John Perdue class visits Christmas Windows snow day	23 Last Day of School Monday/Wednesday	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

