



December 2011 Newsletter

St. Francis of Assisi School

Spiritual Theme:

Believe, Love, Act:

“The greatest among you will be your servant.”

Matthew 23:11

PRINCIPAL

Linda Bier

VICE PRINCIPAL

Guy Charette

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. P. Seabrooke

SECRETARIES

Pat Ryckman

Sheila Blainey

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

COUNCIL CHAIR

Susana Gomes

SUPERINTENDENT

Deirdre Thomas

TRUSTEES

Granville Anderson

Peggy O’Toole

In Peace, Hope and Joy

Catholic Virtues Into Action: The 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 will also be reminded of how patient God is with us.

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 look forward to reinforcing “quiet times” during the final weeks before Christmas break. This will help to create a peaceful community to welcome our saviour.

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

Mrs. L. Bier,
Principal

Mr. G. Charette
Vice Principal



CHRISTMAS CONCERT—Join Us

Wednesday, December 21st
7:00 p.m.

Students in Junior Kindergarten to grades 4 will be performing at our Christmas Concert. Students in grades 5 to 8 will have the opportunity to volunteer as classroom helpers for the evening. Please mark your calendar and join us for our evening of performance. Students should be delivered to their classrooms by 6:45 p.m. Take your seats and then pick them up at the end of the evening. You are sure to be in the Christmas spirit by night’s end!

Our dress rehearsal is on Tuesday, December 20 at 8:25 a.m. Parents who are unable to attend the concert are welcome to view the dress rehearsal.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to the concert.

SCHOOL THEME: “At St. Francis of Assisi we will fill our Buckets with God’s Love.”

St. Francis of Assisi Bucket fillers: Megan Waters, Liam Andrews, Mackenzie Fitzpatrick, Siobhan Ward, Krizia Coronel, Travis Sinclair, Kevin Pigden, Sarah Theberge, Sam Kennedy-King, Kiersten Canfield, Mrs. Kearney, Jordan Therrien, Jenna Terveld, Hannah McGill, Quinton Gibson, Tanner Watt, Tatyanna Morrow-Barbarics, Aibhlin O’Brien, Anna McCarthy, Tuscany Kidd, Georgia Martel, Sierra Yaskow and Benjamin Hooper



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Check out our school website: <http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/stfra14>



WATCH, WAIT, RECEIVE, REJOICE

Fr. Peter Seabrooke

Your brothers and sisters in St. Francis of Assisi Parish invite you to join them for our Advent and Christmas Liturgies.

Friday Dec. 9, 1:00 pm
Healing Mass (sacrament of the anointing of the sick within Mass)

Monday Dec. 12, 7:00 pm
Penitential Celebration

Monday Dec. 19, Taizé Prayer Service (a quiet restful prayer service)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Dec. 24, 5:00 pm (for families with young children) & 8:00 pm

Dec.25 10:00 am

Dec.31- New Year, Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, regular weekend Mass schedule

Sat. 5:00, Sun. 9, 11, 6:00 (led by young people and followed by a youth meeting-9:00 pm)
When you join us for our Advent Masses, choose from a variety of new resources for children, teens and families to help you prepare for Christmas around the dinner table.

Want some interesting Christmas shopping ideas? The Catholic Women's League invites you to their bazaar December 3, 10:30-2:00 and to purchase gift cards, the proceeds of which assist the league with their charitable work.

Checked out our parish website recently?
www.sfarcc.org

At the beginning of November information and permission forms were sent home with students. If you have misplaced this information and would like your child to participate in the program, please call the school and leave your name, your child's name and their teacher's name with the secretary. The information will then be sent home with your child.

Mary Hegarty, ASD Worker

Fitness Friends

Last month marked the start of our Fitness Friends program. This year we have approximately 60 students taking part in the program from grades 1 to grade 8. The buddies make a huge commitment to their Fitness Friends. They agree to spend four morning recesses and one lunch recess per week with them until the end of the school year. We have awesome buddies here at St. Francis and we are very proud of them for the Catholic Virtues they display. Thanks to the donations last year from the Catholic School Council, the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus, we are able to offer the children involved in this program different activities when we meet in the gym. We have had a lot of positive comments about our group lunch time. Thanks goes out to administration, staff and support staff for their continued support of this program.

Mary Hegarty, ASD Worker

"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."

Emma & Siobhan are going on a Mission trip to Sri-Lanka

For the last 6 years, Emma and Siobhan have been raising money for school supplies, school uniforms and back packs for underprivileged children in Sri-Lanka. Money was raised by selling craft items they made, with their friends, in local stores, churches and schools. On February 12, 2012, Emma and Siobhan, along with mom and family friend Ben, will be going on a mission's trip to Sri-Lanka. They will be giving the uniforms, school supplies, back packs, seeing the schools and meeting the children they have supported all these years. They are presently raising money for their mission's trip. Please help their dreams come true by purchasing a yaluwa bracelet or magnetic memo holder at the Christmas concert on December 21. God bless Siobhan and Emma Ward.

Catholic School Council

We Did It! In October, Council set three goals to achieve this school year. Your Council is working hard to achieve these goals: in October, Council voted to support Me to We with a monetary contribution and a new title was purchased for the Parent Lending Library: *Building Better Families: 5 Practical Ways to Build Family Spirituality*, by Matthew Kelly (CD). To learn more about the 2011/2012 goals and the plans to achieve them, visit the Catholic School Council area of the school website: <http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/stfra14/CSC.html>.

Magazine Fundraiser. The numbers are in! You raised \$4316.65 for your school!! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Magazine Fundraiser for your generous support. Special thanks to the Fundraising Committee and in particular to Danette Crawford for organizing and implementing this fundraiser.

Coming Soon. In January, Council will be launching a new electronic newsletter: *The Council Quarterly*. This newsletter will shine a light on what Council is doing at the school and keep you informed on policies, activities and plans from the school to the school board. To find out more and subscribe to the newsletter, visit the Council area of the school website: <http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/stfra14/CSC.html>.

Supporting Our Students. At the November meeting, Council voted to support our students in two ways: by contributing \$200 to the purchase of First Reconciliation and First Communion books for students celebrating these sacraments this year; and by donating \$300 to Emma and Siobhan Ward to assist them in their ministry of sending underprivileged children in Sri Lanka to school. We are delighted to support these students who are learning and living God's word.

Nice to Meet You! At the November meeting, we were visited by school board trustees, Granville Anderson and Peggy O'Toole. It was a pleasure to meet them and learn that they are a resource for parents. They let us know how they are working for us in the community and reminded us that they are advocates for parents and will take our concerns to the school board. Learn more about our trustees and their role by visiting the school board's website at <http://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/board/your-trustees.asp>.

See you next time! The next Council meeting will be held on January 16, 2012 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm in the school library. Everyone is welcome! If you require childcare to attend, please contact the Chair no later than the Friday before the meeting.

From everyone on Council: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Susana Gomes
Chair, Catholic School Council
st.franciscsc@gmail.com



Christmas Baskets

Our entire school is teaming up with our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society to prepare Christmas Baskets for needy families. Mr. Foley's class is in charge of organization as their Social Justice Community Service Project. Please be generous. Send your non-perishable food items to school by **Friday, December 16th**. Please refer to the Christmas Food Drive note included in this newsletter. Thank you.

Every time you fill a bucket you set something in motion.

Birth Congratulations!

Maureen MacLean (teacher at St. Francis), husband Mike and big brother Ryan are happy to share the news of their new baby girl, Grace Ella. Grace was born on Friday, November 18 and weighed 8lbs 9oz. Everyone is doing great!



Another successful Scholastic Book Fair!



Many thanks to all the Parent and Student Volunteers who helped to make the book fair a success!

Just to let you know.....

Our total sales were \$4,678.90

Our book profit is \$2,608.02

Total book gifts given to Teachers through Classroom

Wish List: \$127.50

Thanks to everyone for supporting the book fair.

Mrs. L. Cormack,
Library Support Specialist

PITA LUNCHES

Students will be offered Pita lunches on Tuesday's starting Dec.



6, 2011. This is the grade 6 fundraiser for their Bark Lake trip. Order forms will go home for each student and must be returned by the due date. If a student is away on Pita Day their pita will be refrigerated and given to them the next day.

Thank you for your support, from the grade 6's

Graduation Fundraiser

Snacks and drinks will be available for sale at the Christmas concert on Dec. 21 with proceeds going to the grade 8 graduation.

Thank you for your support.

December 2011—Patience

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Looking Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School resumes Monday, January 9, 2012 School Mass Tuesday, January 17—Everyone is welcome Grade 8 Grad Meeting, January 17, 4:30 p.m., library HPV—Gr. 8 Girls, January 30 				1 Food Drive begins 	2	3
4  Advent	5	6 9 am—Advent Mass—St. Nicholas—in school gym 	7 Am—JK-Gr. 3 trip to Sleeping Beauty	8 	9 Violence Prevention Workshop Gr. 7, 8—pm in library 	10
11  Advent	12	13 8:25 School Meeting Am—SK trip to Sleeping Beauty Poinsettia pick-up 	14 Poinsettia pick-up	15  Poinsettia pick-up 	16	17
18  Advent	19 Selling Candy Grams 	20 8:25 Christmas Concert dress rehearsal Selling Candy Grams 	21 7 pm Christmas Concert—bring a canned good  Selling Candy Grams	22 NO PIZZA TODAY	23 1 pm School Christmas Celebration 	24 Christmas Eve 
25 Christmas Day 	26	27	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 			31 New Year's Eve 