



January 2012 Newsletter

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School

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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

Inside this issue:

Catholic School Council	2
School Supplies	2
Library News	3
Parish Message	3
Looking Ahead	4

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

In Peace, Hope and Joy

Catholic Virtues into Action

The Virtue of Responsibility

This month we celebrate the Catholic virtue of RESPONSIBILITY. Students have a long list of duties which can sometimes become a source of stress: homework, chores, part-time jobs, music lessons, teams, and babysitting, parish and community responsibilities. School staff attend to an ever-growing list of tasks. Parents struggle daily to balance work and family commitments. It is essential in this modern world that we try to do our best while understanding there are limited hours in each day. We need to give each other permission to enjoy each other and God’s blessings and bounty, rather than always worrying about completing our “to do” list. Thank-you for raising such wonderful, responsible children, and sharing them with us each day. We wish everyone good luck with those New Year’s Resolutions!

Dear Mary,

Throughout this month of January, we pray for the gift of responsibility in our lives. May we learn to accept that we are accountable both for all the decisions we make as well as for the consequences of our choices. Good decisions bring us good consequences. Poor decisions bring us consequences that teach us to make better choices next time. For the gift of responsibility, we pray to the Lord, our God, through you, our Blessed Mother. Amen.

Mr. G. Charette,
Vice Principal

Mrs. L. Bier,
Principal.

Prayer for the New Year

To all the families of our St. Francis School Community, let me take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and Holy New Year.

I thought I would share this little prayer with you. It certainly reflects the blessings bestowed on us throughout the winter season.

Blessed are you, God of the Universe, who has preserved us and enabled us to reach this season of winter.

For the gift of a new day filled with possibilities;

For the gift of seeing a rainbow, the sign of your eternal promise in the sky;

For the joy of putting on this new clothing;

For the beautiful white snow and the frost on my window;

For the gift of music that delights my ear, my heart and my soul;

For the ability to read and for the wonder of words that speak to my heart.

For the expression of love I have just shared;

For this gift of winter.

Mrs. L. Bier,
Principal.

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



St. Francis of Assisi Bucket fillers: Julia Hart, Liam Roane, Gavin Damant, MacKenzie Fitzpatrick, Matthew Marston, Georgina Martel, Matt Edwards, Chloe Rowe, Emma Dellapina, Jessica Hart, Mrs. Bier, Victoria JnBaptiste, Ethan Cavers, Nicholas Allin, Matilda Bieniaszewicz, Ethan Subotch, Justin Brown, Kiersten Canfield, Rosie McCarthy, Nadia Mazzocchi, Grace Hart, Sydney Buller, Cole Beauvais, Tyler Haliburton, Justin Theberge, Georgia Bonura, Grace Kelly, Skylar Spratley, Julia Black, Cole Cottam, Nathan Vickery, Dylan Towler, Ella McBrearty, Kailyn Haliburton, Ian Carmichael, Joseph McGill, Violet Gibson, Sarah Waddell, Amanda Kraemer

School Supplies

This is a good time to replenish those September supplies. Fresh erasers, pencils, rulers and crayons are always needed. Time to check if our indoor shoes still fit, too. The lost and found box is very full!!



Criminal Background Checks for Volunteers

Parent volunteers require a Police Check. If you already have one, a "declaration" must be signed. Please contact Mrs. Ryckman, our secretary, for forms.



Parent Police Coalition Meeting

Date: Monday January 30th, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Holy Family Catholic School
125 Aspen Springs Drive,
Bowmanville

Catholic School Council News

Welcome Back! We hope you had a refreshing break!

Coming Soon: The Council Quarterly. Have you signed up for Council's new electronic newsletter?. The 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. The first edition is almost ready! Subscribe today so you don't miss the very first issue, expected February 1st. Visit the Council area of the school website to subscribe: <http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/stfra14/CSC.html>.

Easier Access on Its Way! Over the years, the Council, and Mrs. Cormack in particular, has worked hard to bring a wonderful resource to our school: The Parent Lending Library. The library is located outside the office and books can be signed out by filling in the card at the back of the book. We know that many parents may have trouble accessing this resource, so our librarian is coming up with a plan to allow parents to view the catalogue and sign out books remotely. The details are still in the works, but this school year, parents will have easier access to the books, CDs and other literature available.

Any suggestions? Did you read a great book on parenting, education, religion, social justice or other relevant topic that you would recommend? Is there a title you would like the Parent Lending Library to carry? Send your suggestions to st.franciscsc@gmail.com and they might find their way into our library.

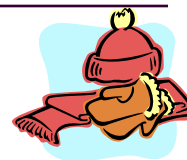
The Enduring Gift. Catholic education is a gift to be treasured and preserved. At the next Council meeting on January 16th, a short film, *The Enduring Gift*, will be shown. This film gives an overview of the Catholic education system in Ontario, where it began and where it is today. You are invited to attend the meeting and view the film.

See you next time! The next Council meeting will be held on January 16, 2012 from 6PM to 7:30PM 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.

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

Baby, it's Cold Outside!

With the winter weather arriving, St. Francis School yard experiences stiff Lake Ontario winds and open fields to the west. Please send hats, mitts and boots each day as temperatures can fluctuate. We try to get some fresh air each day, if the yard is not too slippery, and monitor wind-chill degrees on line @ www.theweathernetwork.com. When the wind-chill temperature is minus 20 or lower, we do not go on the yard; from -15 to -20, we go out for 20 minutes maximum; warmer than -15 we are out as long as 40 minutes at a stretch. Boots are a must all winter as the yard is messy mostly all winter.



Mr. Dafoe leads the choir with Christmas music for the school Christmas concert. What a success and thanks to all students, teachers and support staff who made everything fall into place with such grace.

Library News

Students at St. Francis are invited to join one of the OLA "Forest of Reading" Book Clubs in January. Red Maple Club is for Gr. 7 & 8, Silver Birch - Gr. 5 & 6, and Silver Birch Express - Gr. 3 & 4. These book clubs revolve around nominated books from the best Canadian authors & illustrators. Students read a total of 5 to 10 titles, discuss the books with others in the club and have the opportunity to vote for their favourite book and author! Please listen for an announcement for your chance to join the club! The Primary Students will be involved in the Blue Spruce Program. These books will be read aloud to the classes and students will vote for their favourite in April.

Mrs. Cormack
Library Support Specialist



Proclaiming to You Good News

Today a Savior has come,
Christ the Lord.
By Fr. Peter Seabrooke

Because we are still in the Christmas season, I would like to recommend some family gifts that can help deepen the joy and peace of this beautiful season.

First of all, wives when your husband is feeling discouraged or like a failure you can give him love and encouragement.

When he is feeling strong, your best gift will be approval

Secondly, husbands the best gift you can give your wife is considerate and affectionate love.

Thirdly, parents, the best gift you can give your children is constant praise and encouragement. If they are teens, they will need your approval and understanding. These gifts can be wrapped in the gift of a loving, interpersonal relationship.

Fourthly children, the best gift you can give your parents is reverence and respect.



Heavenly Father,

Thank you for gathering us together again as a school. We thank you for our Christmas holidays in which we had so much fun. Now, that we are back at school, we are responsible for taking advantage of the opportunities to love and grow. Remind us to do our best, to complete our assignments, to interact peacefully with our classmates, and to respect our school. Let us each fulfill our responsibilities to the best of our abilities. Amen.

Thanks to all the students who helped out at the Christmas Concert. Without your support we would not have been so successful.

Thanks from St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you so much for your donations that make our hampers possible. We know how grateful our "neighbours in need" are when they receive your donations. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

The Members of the St. Vincent de Paul, Newcastle

Positive people go to the doctor less.



Mrs. Trolley's class sing "12 Days of Christmas" at the Christmas Concert.

"Back to School Traffic Initiative"

We will be expecting parents to abide by appropriate signage on the roadway speeding, parking etc. We have had two tragic traffic related accidents involving young people here in Clarington alone in December. Officers will be enforcing these laws and will be ticketing with no cautions.

Constable Stacey Sullivan #3401
Elementary School Liaison
Officer-Clarington
Durham Regional Police Service

January 2012—Responsibility

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy New Year	2	3	4	5	6	
	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS					
8 Baptism of the Lord Ordinary Time Week 1	9 Welcome back!  Check for bus cancellations and delays @ www.stsco.ca	10  8:25 School Meeting	11	12 Gr. 1 to Safety Village NO PIZZA Ski Club 	13 Violence Prevention Workshop Gr. 7 Gr. 8 Retreat at Church	14
15 Ordinary Time Week 2	16 	17  Feast of St. Anthony Mass—school—9 am 4:30 Grad Meeting 7 pm Gr. 8 Parent Night at St. Stephen's Secondary	18 Volleyball SSS	19  Volleyball alt. Ski Club 	20 1:30 Air Cadets Presentation to Gr. 7 & 8	21 
22 Ordinary Time Week 3	23 6:30 -Gr. 8 Trip Information Meeting—Library	24  8:25 School Meeting	25	26  Ski Club 	27 National Family Literacy Day 	28
29 Ordinary Time Week 4	30  HPV Gr. 8 girls	31  8:25 School Meeting	LOOKING AHEAD			
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ February 3rd— P.D. day—no school ◆ February 14th—Report cards go home ◆ February 16th—Student-Led Conferences ◆ February 20—Family Day—no school ◆ February 27—6-7:45—Catholic School Council Meeting

School Board Survey—next year calendars

The proposed 2012-2013 school year calendar is now available for review on the Board's web site under 'What's New' at www.pvnccdsb.on.ca. The public is invited to provide their input through a survey link at the same site.

We encourage parents to consider the two options and participate in the survey. Please note, deadline for input is January 27, 2012.