



POPE JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

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Mrs. Maureen Frankcom – Principal
Mrs. Judy Cooper – Finance Secretary

Ms. Jackie Robinson – Vice Principal
Mrs. Tracey Rocca – Student Records Secretary

Upcoming Events

Nov. 29th First Reconciliation @ Notre Dame du Portage Parish - 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 29th Advent Prayer Service - 9:15

Nov. 30th- Dec 2nd Festival of Trees

Dec. 9th Advent Penitential Prayer Service with Sacrament - 9:15 a.m.

Dec 11th First Reconciliation @ St. Louis Parish 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 21st K and K/1 Christmas Concert - 1:15 p.m.

Dec. 22nd Advent Christmas Celebration - 9:00 a.m.

Dec. 22nd Gr. 1-6 Christmas Concert - 1:30 p.m. Evening

Principal's Message

We have begun our Advent season, a time when we joyfully prepare our hearts for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our students have shared the gift of Hope with others in our community through their support of the Salvation Army's Miracle Marathon. We thank you for your generosity and support of our school projects. We have many special events this month to celebrate the Advent and Christmas. We hope you are able to join us to celebrate as a school community.

On behalf of the students and staff at Pope John Paul II School, I would like to wish you and your families a blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

Welcome

A special welcome to the following staff members who have joined our school community: Miss Edwards – Grade 4 teacher (LTO); Ms. Degagne – Librarian (LTO); Miss Cimprich (LTO) – Learning Resource Teacher (mornings).

First Reconciliation at Notre Dame du Portage and St. Louis Parishes

Congratulations to all students who received this Sacrament: Paige Bechard, Cameron Fraser, Hannah-Beth Fraser, Kallie Hager, Brooke Hatfield, Molly Hayse, Mackenzie Herbacz, Ryland Huges, Emma Kakeeway, Drayton Kejick-Fair, Ainsley Kokopenace, Antonie-Marie Skead, Reid Zurkan.

Remembrance Day and Walking in the Light of Christ with the Saints

In celebration of All Saints Day on November 1st, Mrs. Hick's Grade 3 and Ms. Melenchenko's Grade 6 classes wrote about the Saints and their lives, and how they walked in the light of Christ, and of being shining examples of how we too can walk in the light of Christ.

Loving In The Light Of Christ - The Wall Of Remembrance

For Remembrance Day on November 11th, Student Council honoured the veterans and those currently serving in Canada's military by displaying their names on poppies as a remembrance for those who fought to preserve our way of life and freedom. We must remember their love and sacrifice.

Christmas Concert

We are excited to be hosting a Christmas Concert this year focusing on our Catholic Education theme of "Walking in the Light of Christ". The Kindergarten and K/1 Classes will be performing on Wednesday, December 21st at 1:15 p.m. The Grades 1-6 will have two performances on Thursday, December 22nd. The afternoon performance will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the evening show will start at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

Prayer Services

Advent Prayer Service – Please join us in prayer and celebration:

Advent Prayer Service – (Week 1) – November 29th at 9:15 a.m.

Advent Penitential Prayer Service with Sacrament – (Week 2) -December 9th at 9:15 a.m.

Advent Prayer Service – (Week 3) – December 16th at 9:15 a.m.

Advent Christmas (Week 4) Prayer Service – December 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

Student Council News

Student Council is off to a great start at Pope John Paul II School. The Council has been involved with recent school projects such as hosting a Haunted House and Hallowe'en Dance. A large amount of canned food and \$204.00 cash was collected as admission which will go to the Miracle Marathon. Student Council held a Hat Day to raise money for the Salvation Army's Miracle Marathon, which brought in \$159.00 for Miracle Marathon. Further, the Council arranged for the school to participate in Operation Christmas Child, for which the school was able to put together over 55 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children around the world. The students are busy planning a fun filled schedule of events for the school approaching Christmas. Student Representatives are preparing for participation in upcoming Advent Prayer Services. They are currently planning some fun filled events as we get closer to Christmas.

Yo-Yo Club

Dylan, Nick, and Cooper thought it might be a great idea to start a Yo-Yo club. So they met with Ms. Mel and the Yo-Yo club for both junior and primary students to meet and show off their yo-yo tricks was born.

Do you love to do cool moves with your yo-yo? Do you love to hang with awesome people? Then the Yo-Yo club may be for you! It will start December 2 at the first recess, 10:30 to 10:45 in the gym and will be every Friday. What do you need? Well....a yo-yo, an interest to participate in yo-yoing and self-regulation. See you at Yo-Yo club!!!!

Grade 1 and SK Family Literacy Night

On October 5, 2011, the Kindergarten and Grade One teachers hosted a Family Literacy Night for families of Senior Kindergarten and Grade One students. The night began with a presentation by Crystal Alcock from the Kenora Public Library on what our local library has to offer families in our community. Thank you to Crystal for this very informative presentation. This was followed by a short presentation on what Balanced Literacy looks like in the classroom and how parents and guardians can best support their children with literacy activities at home. After completing a craft activity, children joined their families to share some snacks and practice some of the reading strategies to be used at home. Families went home with a Family Literacy Handbook and an apple for the parents to remind them that they are teachers too! This was a wonderful evening of reading, learning together, and getting to know each other. Thank you to those families who participated in our special evening of literacy fun!

School Day Schedule

Please note that the first bell rings at 8:50 a.m. and that is when all the children should enter their classrooms. For safety reasons, children cannot be dropped off prior to 8:10 a.m., as supervision is not provided until then.

Picking up students early/Stopping in the office

All parents, guardians and visitors entering the school are asked to report to the office. We will gladly deliver forgotten materials to your children. If you are volunteering at the school, or heading to an area other than the front entrance, please stop at the office to sign in. Thank you for helping us keep Pope John Paul II School a "Safe School" and minimizing interruptions in the classroom to teachers and children who are busy with learning activities.

Picking up students at the end of day

Thank you for waiting for your child(ren) in the main foyer. The students will meet you there after the bell rings at 3:24 p.m. This continues to allow us to eliminate confusion as our hallways are less congested. Together we can establish a warm and inviting environment that does not compromise student safety.

If your children need to leave class for an appointment before the bell time, please come to the office, and we will have them meet you in the foyer. This helps us account for all students at this very busy end of day!

Late Students

If your child arrives late to school, please ensure that they are stopping at the office first to let us know they have arrived. Children who arrive late for class miss valuable instructions to the lessons, and miss out on the full learning opportunities. We appreciate your effort to ensure children arrive at school on time.

Oak Hammock Marsh Presentation

On December 13th our Grade 2/3 & 4 Classes will benefit from three one hour presentation by the Oak Hammock Marsh. Thanks to Carolyn and Larry Hursch who sponsored these presentations.

Dressing for Winter

Please ensure that your children come to school with mittens, hats, boots and jackets that will keep them warm and dry. Students are outside for recesses (15 minutes each), lunch (40 minutes) and on some days for 30 minutes of Physical Education classes. Please help us by encouraging the students to dress warmly.

Lost and Found

There are a many items in our lost and found. Please take a moment to stop by and look through them. All unclaimed items will be donated to the Salvation Army on December 22nd.

Allergy Safe Environment

We have several students attending our school who suffer from life-threatening allergies to PEANUTS, ALL NUTS, and FISH. In order to keep these students safe while they attend school, we ask that you do NOT send any foods that may contain these products. If you are unsure whether or not a product contains peanuts or nuts, please take a minute to read the label. The importance of reading labels cannot be overstressed as manufacturers often change ingredients in foods. There is an increasing number of allergies to perfumed and scented products that bring on an allergic asthma attack so we ask that you be aware of this also. Thank you for your efforts in keeping our school an allergy safe environment.