

NOTRE DAME DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update



Ms. T. McNicol Trustee	Mr. L. Paonessa Superintendent	Father Landoff Pastor	St. John Chrysostom Parish
Mr. T. Wilkinson Principal	Ms. T. Paniculam Vice Principal	Ms. L. Bertuzzi Head Secretary	Ms. L. Brown Secretary

Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School: Nurturing young minds with faith-based education. Join us for excellence in learning!

<https://nde.ycdsb.ca/>

X (Formerly Twitter)

[@NotreDameYCDSE](https://twitter.com/NotreDameYCDSE)



REMINDERS are found at the end of the newsletter, they outline upcoming events for the month!

God of Hope;
We praise you during this season
of Advent and always.
Draw us into your light as we journey.
May we be filled with trust.
May our anticipation of the joyful coming
Of your Son ever increase.
May our hope grow with each passing moment.
We ask this through your Son,
Who was born in a stable in Bethlehem.
Amen

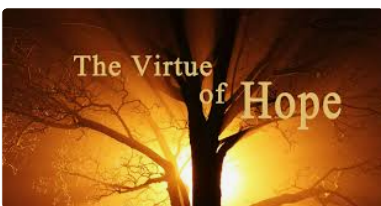
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH



St. John Chrysostom Parish, Newmarket - St. John Chrysostom Parish, Newmarket

St. John Chrysostom is a Catholic parish in Newmarket, Ontario. We are a bilingual parish, with services in English and Spanish

📧 stjohnchrysostomne.archtoronto.org



Virtue of the Month: Hope

This month we celebrate the virtue of hope, one of the theological virtues listed in 1 Corinthians 13. Hope is very much a spiritual virtue. Hope is the theological virtue by which we place our trust in Christ's promises and rely not on our own strength alone, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. Hope is strongly associated with the Advent Season: the readings from the Hebrew Scriptures and the early Gospels look forward in hope to the coming of Christ.



Advent Mass

Please join us on **December 12 at 10:00 am** for a special Advent Mass. Thank you to Ms. Garofalo and Ms. Visconti and their Grade 5 students for organizing it.

Kindergarten Christmas Craft Day - December 3rd

What's busier in December – Santa's Workshop or Notre Dame's Kindergarten classrooms? It might be a toss-up! On December 3rd, our Kindergartners were hard at work creating beautiful Christmas crafts and ornaments, with a little help from our wonderful "helpful elf" volunteers. A huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents who lent a hand to help us bring some extra Christmas magic to our classrooms. We truly appreciate your support in making this a festive, memorable day for our students!



Christmas Concert December 18th, 2024

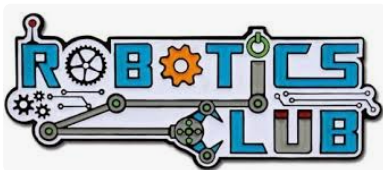
We welcome parents to attend our Notre Dame Christmas Concert! The following are the times to attend for your child's class presentation. We look forward to a great, joyous and merry event!



10:00 am - JK to Grade 3

12:30 pm - Grade 4 to Grade 8

We ask for donations of money or non-perishable food items as entry to the Christmas Concert. All money donated will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Charity and all non-perishable food items will go to the Newmarket Food Pantry. Thank you in advance for your donations.



Robotics Club Update

Notre Dame's Robotics Team is diving deep into the 2024 First Lego League challenge themed "*Submerged*," where they are using creative thinking and LEGO® technology to explore the layers of the ocean and bring their learnings and ideas to the surface as they "sea" into the future. The YCDSB is planning on holding a board-wide First Lego competition, which we are sure our robotics team will *make a splash* on the road to victory. In addition to practicing with LEGO® Robotics, our team is also training with VEX robotics, and training for the VEX robotics competition in the Spring. The creativity and teamwork our students are bringing to these challenges are truly inspiring! Fantastic work!

Scholastic Book Fair

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school!

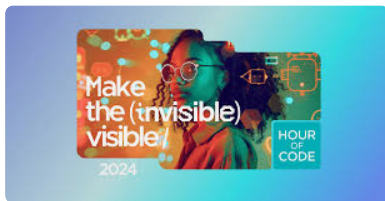
Our Book Fair will be happening **Monday, December 9th - Friday December 13th** during school hours for our students. The book fair will be open to parents on **Wednesday December 11th, from 2:50 - 6:00 pm.**



We are looking for parent volunteers to help with our book fair during the day on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you have a morning or an afternoon free and would like to help, please email Theresa Gorman at Theresa.gorman@ycdsb.ca. We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting our school's **Big Box of Cards Fundraiser**. A final tally has yet to be calculated for our grand total, but all monies will be used to support student learning and school experience. All orders will be sent home on, or before December 16th



Computer Science Week

The week of December 9th is Computer Science Education Week and the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is a worldwide initiative to celebrate computer science. Thank you to our librarian Ms. Gorman for providing fun coding activities and coding awareness

for the week!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvyTEx1wyOY>

Guest Speaker: Paul Davies

Our Lady of Good Counsel CES, welcomes parents from neighbouring schools to attend a night of parent engagement with guest speaker Paul Davies. He is a self-described "IT cyber father-figure."

"The way that my message has evolved, mostly, has been instilling the responsibility for their actions – literally each and every day – when they're online."

Davis has crisscrossed North America over the past 12 years visiting schools in-person and virtually, distilling the raw facts about online safety.

Date: December 10, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel School, 801 Murrell Blvd. East Gwillimbury

Please RSVP if attending [Here is the link to RSVP.](#)



Merry Christmas from the Catholic School Council

On December 12th the CSC has arranged a surprise visit from the North Pole.

Could it be Santa? Mrs Claus? An elf or 2? Whoever it is, they'll definitely be in festive mood and surely leave a gift or two.



Snack Shack - Christmas Edition!

We are happy to announce that the Snack Shake is making an appearance for a special Christmas Edition. Christmas treats will be sold for those interested in purchasing. More details to follow on items and prices. Thank you to the Luke 4:18 Committee and our lead supervisor Ms. Lupo for organizing and running the program.



YCDSB Continuing Education Winter Program Flyer

Please see the enclosed flyer for fun Winter Programs offered to students from the YCDSB Department for Continuing Education.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Po0z_1lxmCG8zNeHGU0iXjd-srh-vtu/view?usp=sharing



Active Travel to School

December is an exciting time of year!
The first day of winter falls in December!
Start of School Christmas holidays!
Spending time with Family and Friends!
It's the start of the season of giving, sharing and loving!

December is also a great time to begin to enjoy the snow and cooler weather while wearing all your warm and cozy winter gear. As the cold months approach us the time spent outdoors is often limited. When the cold weather hits it is common for parents to want their kids to stay indoors and for youth to not want to go outside. However, there are many benefits to being outdoors in the winter including:

- Encouraging creative play,
- Increase in exercise using different muscle groups
- Getting fresh air and avoiding illness from bacteria indoors
- Improving problem-solving skills and exposure to vitamin D.

Let's bundle up, get outside and be active! Active School Travel is simple and can easily be added into your daily routine!

- Walk and/or wheel to school or to the bus stop
- Park and walk a block to school
- If Active School Travel every day is a challenge, choose one or two days a week to try and make a change.

Sincerely,
YCDSB Active School Travel Team

Parent Resources:

Parents are the first educators of children and as such have a prominent place in the education of their children. Parental involvement is one of the most significant factors contributing to a child's

success in school. Research suggests that where parents are involved in a significant way, children learn better and achievement levels increase, children develop a positive attitude toward school, and attend school more regularly. Please visit our board website at <https://www.ycdsb.ca/parents/parent-resources/> for a list of parent resources provided to assist parents in supporting the well being and success of their child(ren).

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES



Student/Staff Wellness

As with other times of the year, but more predominant during the winter months, students may battle colds/flu. Please encourage your child to practice proper hand and respiratory hygiene (e.g. washing hands, disposing of used tissues, sneezing into the elbow, etc.). If students are ill, parents should allow them the

opportunity to rest and recuperate at home. This will also serve as a preventative measure to maintain the health of other students and staff.

Items to Note:

Punctuality: Students are expected to enter the school using their designated doors by 8:20 AM. Doors are locked once the bell rings and students who are late will need to enter from the front doors. Students arriving late in the morning must sign in with the office. Parents will be called and a letter will be sent home if your child is consistently late.

Leaving Early: If a student must leave school early, a note from a parent or guardian is requested. We strongly discourage calling 10-20 minutes before the end of school to pick up children early. This creates class interruptions. If you are picking up your child early, please let the secretary know when you ring the doorbell and sign him/her out in the book at the door entrance.

No Dogs Allowed: According to the York Catholic District School Board, please be reminded that there are no dogs allowed on school property during the school day, including arrival and dismissal time. This includes dogs on a leash or in your arms. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



Reporting a Child's Absence:

It is of **utmost importance** that you call the Safe Arrival System if your child will be absent from school. Please call the Safe Arrival System to **report absences and lates before 8:20 a.m** by calling 1-855-856-7862 or online at [go/schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca) or by using the School Messenger app on your smartphone.

Traffic Congestion and Safety

With a number of students being picked up and dropped off at school, and our buses that transport students, the immediate streets and parking areas around our school become congested. Dropping off your children a block away from the school might be a good solution as long as they are walking in groups.

- Drive with extreme caution
- Assume **children have “the right of way” at all times**
- Park only in designated areas
- **DO NOT STOP OR PARK IN THE FRONT DRIVEWAY**
- **DO NOT PARK IN THE AISLES OF OUR PARKING LOT**
- When parking on the street, leave enough space for turning buses
- Respect our neighbours’ properties by leaving their driveways unobstructed
- **Walk your child to the sidewalk; do not have them walk on their own**
- If your child is walking, please have them go around to the south sidewalk, as this way they will not have to cross over at the ends of the parking lot (loop)
- **If you are waiting in your vehicle for your child on the street, please come to the school so you can escort your child safely back to your parked vehicle**

At no times, should there be a vehicle left unattended that isn't in a parking space. Please ensure when picking up your child that the line continues to move and you pick up your child at the East loop or on your way back up to the exit (West) of the parking lot.

Pediculosis (Head Lice):

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes concerns related to pediculosis (head lice) at the school and community level. Pediculosis (head lice) are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice

or nits. If you do find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents in your child's class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. A student's readmission to school is contingent upon the Parent/Guardian submitting a completed and signed "Pediculosis Treatment Form" communicating to the Principal that treatment for pediculosis (head lice) has been administered. More information on the identification, treatment, and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) from the Canadian Pediatric Society

(<http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/headlice>) and Toronto Public Health

(toronto.ca/health) is available on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.



Medication at School:

If your child requires medication, please make arrangements with your doctor to schedule the medication to be administered to your child before or after school. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may make arrangements to come to school to administer the medication to their child. If this is not possible, and medication must be administered during school hours, parent (s)/guardian(s) must come to

the office to pick-up, complete and return two forms: S16 and S16a. Both forms must be signed by your family physician. All medication must be kept in its

original container with your child's name clearly visible; medication will be stored in the school office. Students are not to have their medication with them.

Personal Electronic Device/Cell Phones:

Policy 311 Digital Discipleship: Student Use of Technology The York Catholic District School Board is committed to safe, secure, equitable and effective use of technology to enhance learning for all students within a Christ-centered school environment. In support of its ongoing commitment to excellence in Catholic Education and to ensure that all become responsible digital disciples of the 21st century, the Board regulates the use of technology on all school board premises, and during sanctioned activities. Parents are asked to review with their child the Annual Technology Consent Forms that were sent home and to sign and return them to the school in a timely manner. Your co-operation and support will help us to ensure that our students comply with board policy regarding the use of personal electronic devices as direct by teachers and the principal. Any violation of board policy may result in the loss of a student's privileges or disciplinary action.

Please assist us by reviewing and supporting this policy with your child. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) - Includes any device in the possession of a student which electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, reproduces, or displays voice, text, and/or digital communications or data. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones, pagers, smart phones, music and media players, gaming devices, tablets, laptop computers, cameras, video cameras, smart watches, headphones, earbuds, personal medical devices (PMDs), and personal digital assistants. The word "technology," is often used as a synonym for personal electronic device.

Please see letter that was sent via School Messenger regarding the new Ministry guidelines about the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices.

Concussion Protocol:

The YCDSB takes all injuries to students very seriously. If your child injures their head, the following protocol will be followed and shared with you as outlined in Policy 212: Concussions.

- You will be directed to have your child receive medical attention;
- Be aware of and monitor for signs & symptoms that may develop or worsen;
- You will be given a copy of Concussion Management- Appendix C;
- Initial treatment for a concussion is both physical and mental rest (no exercising, bike riding, playing video games, reading, using a computer...etc);
- Signs and symptoms (headaches, fatigue, sensitivity to noise) must be considered when recovering at home and reintegrating to school;
- It is recommended the student initially stays home from school because regular activities could make their symptoms worse.



The Safety of Students with Anaphylactic Allergies:

The York Catholic District School Board has a comprehensive policy to help protect students with life threatening allergies. Protecting students with anaphylactic food and non-food allergies is our priority. As outlined in the Policy, Parents/Guardians are asked to inform the school of such allergies immediately and are required to complete the S15 and S15a Forms which are available in

the office. As doctors now require a fee to sign forms each year, if there are no medical changes, parents/guardians may sign off on last year's form. Each form must have a passport sized picture attached so that the student is easily identifiable to all staff members. Parents/Guardians are asked, if possible, to provide the school with two Epi-Pens. Twin-jet Epi-Pens are not acceptable for school use. It is recommended that students wear an Epi-pen in a fanny pack at all times, which includes the school bus, recess, in gym class and on school excursions. The second Epi-Pen is stored in the Office Health Room. Due to the wide range of food allergies, in addition to nuts and peanuts, and health issues, we remind students that food is not to be shared and that "food" items (ie., cake, cupcakes) not be sent to school, for the class.

For students who may not have a currently dated EpiPen as a result of the shortage, and to ensure a safe school environment for students with anaphylaxis, we are advising that the following be adhered to:

- Keep the student's expired EpiPen in the office until a replacement can be provided;
- Health Canada is reminding EpiPen users that the devices expire on the last day of the month as indicated on the packaging. Expired EpiPens may be used as indicated by Health Canada (although the efficacy of the EpiPen may be affected depending on the date of expiry).

We will continue to adhere to the current protocol, which includes:

- Always call 911;
- Implement the steps outlined in the student's Individual Action Plan (S15(a) Form);

Reminders:

- **January 6 - First day back to school**
- **January 10 - BRAVE workshop for Primary classes**
- **January 15 - Junior Boys Volleyball Tournament**
- **January 16 - Junior Girls Volleyball Tournament**
- **January 17 - PA Day - No school for students**
- **January 20 - 24 - Jungle Sport**
- **January 23 - Junior Classes Snow Tubing Trip**
- **January 24 - Dairy Farmers FDK presentation**
- **January 31 - PA Day - No school for students**
- Please ensure your child(ren) have their necessary school items before leaving for school each day (e.g. books, lunch, water bottle, snacks etc.).
- Please remember to drive to the front of the line in the Kiss and Ride loop so that we can minimize cars from being held up on the road.



