

Sacred Heart School Updater

We are Gifts to Each Other

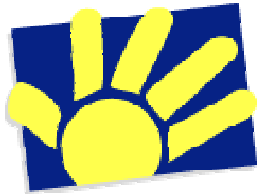
357-1090 or 357-2289

<http://sacredheart.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca/>

Greg McLean, Principal

LSAC Co-Chairs: Amy Cronin, Rina Jacobs

Trustee, North Huron : Jim McDade



Wingham, Ontario

December 2008

From the Principal's Desk:

The month of December will undoubtedly be a busy one with Advent celebrations, Christmas activities, and of course our school Christmas Celebration at church on December 17th at 7:00 p.m. It is with much excitement and anticipation that we prepare for the Holy Christmas Season.

Happy New Year! Our Church's new year has begun with the season of advent. Sacred Heart community certainly displays the spirit of giving through their generosity with school projects. During these days of Advent let us remember Jesus' first coming in Bethlehem and review and reflect on our lives in preparation for his coming at Christmas.

On behalf of the staff and students of Sacred Heart School, I wish you a blessed, peaceful and safe holiday season amongst family and friends.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen

Virtues for December

Our Virtues for the month of December are: Enthusiasm, Confidence and Joyfulness. We strive to practice the virtues on a daily basis. In doing so, we strive to be the best we can be for ourselves and others.

What is Enthusiasm?

Enthusiasm is being inspired, cheerful and happy. It is giving 100% to what you do. Being enthusiastic is being excited about something and looking forward to it. It is having a positive attitude. Without enthusiasm things are boring. It makes life more enjoyable.

What is Confidence?

Confidence is having faith in someone or something. When you have self-confidence you have what it takes to handle any situation. You feel sure of yourself and enjoy trying new things. Without it, fears and doubts will hold us back and we would never try or learn new things.

What is Joyfulness?

Joyfulness is being filled with happiness. It comes from appreciating all the gifts that each day brings. It is laughing and seeing the humour in things. Joy is the inner sense that can carry us through rough times. Without joy, all our feelings are determined by what happens to us. The fun stops and happiness stops. If we are joyful deep down we stay calm and changing things for the better.

Please join us at our next recognition assembly on Wednesday, December 15 at 2:00 PM. Note the change in time from previous assemblies.

School Goal: Inferencing

Classes have been working hard to improve achievement in the area of inferencing and making connections to deepen understanding of text. We are nearing the end of this first school improvement

pathway and students over the next few weeks throughout the school will write a response to an inferencing question as their culminating task. We will then examine the data to measure our progress in this area. Our overall school goal is 70% at level 3 or above.

Some examples of inferencing questions to use at home with independent reading:

1. *What are your first thoughts about this text? What in the text caused those thoughts?*
2. *What emotions or feelings did you have while reading the text? Identify the parts that caused those feelings.*
3. *Did this text remind you of any other texts? Movies? Plays? Why?*
4. *If this story were to continue, what do you think would happen next? Why?*
5. *What message did you take away from reading this text? Why?*

We will keep you updated as to our progress and next steps.

Virtue Winners for November

Congratulations to the following students for their demonstration of the virtues of the month:

Assertiveness	Courage	Loyalty
Gayle M Olivia H Ben T Maitland H Jefferson H Rochelle F Jeanna S Alicia S	Bryce J Celeste P Wyatt M Danielle H Wyatt M Brodrick S	Rylee S Andrew F Jayden A-J Victoria H NathanS-S Chelsea H

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Advent Celebrations

On Sunday, Advent begins. Advent is a time of preparation and prayer in anticipation of the birth of our Saviour. The first coming of Jesus, at Bethlehem, will not happen again but at Christmas we remember and celebrate that coming. Each Monday during Advent our school community will join together for a brief Advent celebration in the gym. Each class will take turns leading the prayer services. The celebrations will begin at approximately 11:35 a.m. Parents and community members are invited to join us for any of these special celebrations.

First Term Parent Conferences

Our first term parent teacher conferences are December 4 and 5th. As this conference is about your child, it is recommended that your child attend to discuss his/her work. Research has shown conferences with students in attendance as part of the process are effective in improving learning. If there are other issues you wish to discuss without your child being present, arrange for a subsequent meeting time. Here are some tips to prepare for an effective meeting with the teacher:

1) Review your child's most recent report card, together with past report cards and most recent school work. . Look for any trends or common themes that are repeated from the previous report card. Look to see if the same challenges exist or new challenges have developed.

2) Discuss your upcoming parent-teacher interview with your child.

Ask your child: What is your teacher going to say about your work? What will the teacher say about you? What do you think you do really well? What do you need to focus on?

At the conference, listen carefully to what the teacher is saying about the progress of your child. If information is unclear, ask the teacher to elaborate on his/her view point and assure the teacher that you are not there to criticize but rather to work closely and foster a team approach to your child's education

3) Agree on an action plan

Summarize the key learnings and identify next steps. It is important that you and the teacher agree on the same goals for your child

- **Achievable:** Goals need to be set at a level that is more advanced than the level the child is currently working at, but not so advanced that they are unachievable or beyond reach.
- **Measurable:** Goals need to be measurable so that parents, students and the teacher are able to track progress and success.
- **Believable:** and outline the next steps that need to be taken. Successful goal setting means that goals are achievable, measurable and believable. Children must believe in the goal and believe in their ability to achieve it for success.

4) If need be, arrange for a follow up meeting before the holidays to monitor progress towards the goal.

Our mission is to improve student learning so that all students succeed. Your partnership with the school is essential to ensuring the best possible education for your child.

Restorative Practice Workshop

Leadership is an important skill in young students and our school. Sacred Heart has many students with this skill. It showed on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 when we held a Leadership Program put on by the Ontario Peer Helpers Association. Our school had 13 participants. Three schools attended the session: St. Joseph's, Clinton and St. Mary's, Listowel shared the experience of peace building and cooperation.

On Tuesday, we did a lot of activities with building peace everywhere in the world, in your family, in the community, and at school. We would share all our individual ideas with our "sticker buddies" throughout the day which made it much more fun. We did some activities that needed lots of cooperation to make the end product wonderful! We also learned that feelings are very important for a good leader to identify and that it is very hard to see some one through another person's eyes. The last but definitely not least we learned Restorative Practice. It is very similar to Mediation but much more cooperative.

Overall the day was great and I can't wait to do the follow up activities for our students here at Sacred Heart that they gave us to practice.

Peer Helpers are:

Sarah H, Liz D, Sydney Mc, MaryKate H, Celeste P, Julia J, Liam G, Wyatt M, Luke M, Scott J, Jayden A-J, Stuart H, Alyssa C and Alex S.

Submitted by Mary Kate Higgins

Legion Remembrance Day Contest

Congratulations to the winners of our Remembrance Day literary and poster contest. We were well represented with the following students winning awards:

Intermediate Essay

2nd Scott J 3rd Nathan S

Intermediate Poem

2nd Victoria H 3rd Alex S

Intermediate, Black and White Poster

Scott J 2nd

Junior Poem

1st Wyatt M

3rd Jeanna S

Primary, Colored Posters,

3rd Emma S

The winner in each area will receive \$20. First runner-up will receive \$10 and 2nd runner-up will receive \$5. as awards.

Thanks to all students that contributed work. A fine job by all. We are proud of all of you.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is a type of aggression defined by Childnet International as the 'sending or posting of harmful or cruel text or images using the internet or other digital communication devices. The Anti-Bullying Association has identified seven types of cyberbullying, ranging from abusive text messages, emails and phone calls, to bullying in internet chatrooms, social networking sites and instant messaging:

Text messages – unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.

Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras

– images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.

Mobile phone calls – silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing the victim’s phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible.

Emails – threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else’s name.

Chatroom bullying – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chatroom.

Instant messaging – unpleasant messages sent as children conduct real-time conversations online.

Bullying via websites – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites.

Cyberbullying is insidious; it can be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week, following children into their private space and outside school hours. It can be anonymous. The audience is large and can be reached rapidly.

Unlike other forms of bullying, a single incident can be experienced as a multiple attack – a video posted to a website can be copied to many different sites. Bystanders can become accessories by passing on a humiliating message. Messages on social networking sites remain there to damage social life and friendships.

Source: Iamsafe Newsletter Dec. 2008

The Huron Perth CDSB has a comprehensive policy regarding the use of technology at school. Students are aware of Sacred Heart’s guidelines in using computers and have signed an acceptable use agreement in order to be able to use the internet.

However, most cyberbullying occurs at home on personal computers. Here are some steps that you can take to protect your child:

1. Make bullying a more “talkable” subject.
2. Place and keep the computer in an open, common area.
3. Inform Internet Service Provider (ISP) or cell phone service provider of abuse.
4. Do not erase messages; keep for evidence.
5. Software help – McAfee Parental Controls filter both IM and Chat Rooms. Tracker programs.

Source: OPP Cyberbullying website

Bullying Prevention and Awareness Presentation

All parents and caregivers are invited to an informative and interactive presentation on Bullying Awareness and Prevention on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 (7:00-8:30 pm) at Sacred Heart School. As an educator, Therese Bowler has over 20 years of experience, from which she will share bullying facts, signs and prevention strategies for parents to help their children.

Every child deserves a safe and supportive learning environment, both at school and at home. As members of Sacred Heart school community, we invite you to do your part to ensure that is the case for the children of Sacred Heart. We hope to see you on December 2nd!

School Mass

Our December School Mass will be celebrated on December 19th at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. All parents and community members are invited to join us for this last celebration before the Christmas break.

LSAC NEWS:

The next meeting is a short one. We are meeting from 6:30-7 on December 2 and then will be ready for the anti bullying presentation at 7 with Therese Bowler. Please take the time to come out.

Cinderella Trip

A special thank you to Mrs. Waechter for organizing the trip to Cinderella. A great time was had by all.

Winter Safety at Sacred Heart

It seems winter is upon us rather quickly this year. This is a reminder that it is extremely important that students take extra caution in walking to and from school. Students are reminded not to play or slide down snow banks along the road. Also if sidewalks are not accessible, students should walk as closely to the base of the banks as possible.

.Parents must drop off children only at the bus unloading area. Do not pass buses. Do not let your children off at any other location.

Younger children will be escorted around the back of the school to the Primary Playground area. Your child’s life is at stake. Also just a reminder: No

vehicles are to park in the school turn around area. **This is a fire route!!** Thanks for your cooperation.

Scarves

Parents are asked to not allow children to wear scarves to school. We suggest neck-warmers only. Scarves, especially when children are using our playground can become a choking risk.

Supervision

Parents are reminded that no yard supervision is provided before 8:30 a.m. or after 3:30 p.m. Students are encouraged not to linger on the yard before or after those times.

Upcoming Curricular Events

Although we have just entered the second term, the planning process for the academic year 2009-10 is already underway. Our grade 8 class will be visiting St. Anne's Secondary School on Wednesday, December 3rd to take part in orientation activities there. On Thursday, December 4th. The same students return to participate in St. Anne's School Celebration of French and the Arts.

Science Fair

Since we had great success with Science Fair Club last year, we will be beginning it at the end of this month. It is a lengthy process, so it is important to start early. This year, the club will be open to students in grades 4-6 and 7-8. The Science fair will be held in Seaforth on April 1 for Senior students and April 2 for Junior students. There will be a meeting with Mrs. Weiler this month for students to get information. If this is something that you and your child would like to explore, encourage him or her to come to the meeting later this month.

We are also looking into starting design and technology club as well. More information will be available after Christmas break.

Christmas Gift Idea

Looking for a Christmas idea?

Children from grades 4 to 8 need a French dictionary. Please ensure your child has a dictionary for 2009! It could make a great stocking stuffer too.

Madame Ippolito

Early School Closure

Although we would not normally dismiss students early due to weather, there are circumstances

which may necessitate an emergency dismissal, such as power outage, heating problems etc... In such an event, we would attempt to contact you by phone and an announcement would be made on CKNX. If you are unable to be reached, we will contact the emergency number we have on file for your family.

Be advised that students who would normally take the bus would experience a 2 hour delay in being picked up and dropped off. All others would be dismissed following our communication with you (or the emergency contact if you cannot be reached).

Our emergency evacuation location is the church basement. If there is any special circumstance of which we should be aware, please contact the office.

STUDENTS' CORNER

Grade 5/6 Cinderella Writing Task

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Writing from a Point of View of a Character from Cinderella.

I am so worried that I will not find my true love. I am so sad because Princess Starlight left. I was just about to propose to her but she left before I could. I am so anxious to find Princess Starlight because I have the slipper and whoever fits it will become my Princess.

by Wyatt Grummett

Oh, I was having the most beautiful and special time at the ball. The prince and I were dancing like there was no tomorrow. I was coming around to partner dance with him again when I heard it . . . that sound . . . so unwelcomed by my feelings, but . . . it was time to go. I ran off. I didn't want to but . . . that was how it was to be. It was midnight and my fancy, and eye-catching dress was turning back to my regular old rags once again. I wanted to go back . . . I just couldn't. Ouch, I lost my slipper on the way out. I just keep going it would turn out okay, wouldn't it? Oh, dancing with him was so, so, so special. If only it lasted forever. I have to find a way to talk him, or at least get him to find me. Someday we will live happily together, without the rude and horrid stepsisters and I need Buttons and Father there too. If only he had something to track me down with. Something unique, something that no other girl could manipulate him into thinking it was hers. Father seemed so proud of me, if I turned back into my rags I wonder what he would think.

By Kerri Campbell

December 17 Christmas Concert at the church
7 PM

December 18 Skating JK-4 from 10:00-11:00

December 19 Mass 11:00

Oh this dream was meant to come true. I didn't believe you fairy god mother when I had to leave the ball but he found me. I couldn't wait to tell everyone when the slipper fit perfectly....but what about Buttons, but I will never leave Buttons. My wedding was beautiful everyone came....well almost everyone. I feel great. I met the love of my life I felt beautiful, like at the ball and I wasn't going to be beautiful for just awhile I would be beautiful forever. My father was so proud of me. And I was too, I had the best dream of my life, and it came true.

Rachel Brophy

Donna and Andy Review

Donna and Andy had a very good performance. Some of the things I really liked is : when they called different students to volunteer I thought that was a good experience for us . I couldn't believe they came all the way from Nova Scotia . My favourite part was when Andy kept on dancing behind Donna's back. I thought Andy was funny Donna wasn't as funny . I thought it was a good last day for Alex . I hope they come again to our school with more silly songs to fill us up with laughter.

By : Jeanna Skinn

Grade 7: How Can I Make a Difference in the World?

I am going to make a change in the world by.....

1) Making one act of random kindness at a time. I believe if everyone makes an act of random kindness in their daily life then we will realize the importance of helping each other and be more willing to help our next generation.

2) Also I plan to be as globally friendly as possible by:
* Instead of turning up the heat in my house I will wear more layers
* I will choose to make homemade pudding , applesauce , etc. instead of buying individually packaged products. I will also use different ways of transportation instead of just using cars. If cars are to be used we should try to car pool to reduce the number of polluting vehicles on the road.

These are just a few ways I plan to make a change. If everyone made a little difference in their everyday lives there would be a wave of change.

By Sarah Hoy

Some Upcoming Activities/Important Dates

December 4 Interviews 3:45-7:00 pm
December 5 P.A. Day and Interviews 9-12
December 5 Interviews 9:00-12:00
December 8 Christmas Bureau donations due
December 9 Volleyball Tournament