

San Marco C.E.S. School Newsletter

December 2017
Safe Arrival Number:
1-855-856-7862



250 Coronation Street
Woodbridge, Ontario
L4L 6H3 (905) 850-2230
School Website: smo.ycdsb.ca
Follow us on Twitter
@SanMarcoCES

Principal's Message

Trustees:

Mr. D. Giuliani

Superintendent:

Ms. M. Fedrigoni

Pastor:

Fr. Michael
Corcione

Principal:

Ms. R. Gravina

Catholic School Council Chair:

J. Merianos

Head Secretary:

Ms. A. Linardi

Office Support:

Ms. T. Gismondi

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The first Sunday of Advent marks the anticipation and hope of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. During the season of Advent, we ask that the children focus on preparing for the birth of Jesus through their daily interactions with others.

As part of our daily reflections and prayers, we also focus on the significance of the Advent Wreath along with the three purple candles and one pink candle. The circular unending shape of the wreath reminds us that *God's love for us is everlasting*. The purple coloured candles remind us to *change our hearts and return to the love and kindness of our Saviour*. The pink coloured candle represents Joy. On the third Sunday of Advent we rejoice in the fact that the celebration of *the coming of the Saviour is almost here*.

Jesus is the light of the world who guides us as we wait in anticipation of his birth. He is God's gift to the world. Let us rejoice!

Wishing you all the blessings and joy of the holiday season.

Yours in Catholic Education,
R. Gravina,
Principal.



Luke 4:18 Club "Christmas Store"

Tis' the season for giving with our hearts! To celebrate the spirit of giving the Junior division together with Luke 4:18 will be opening San Marco's very first "Christmas Store". For the next two weeks, we are kindly asking for your donations! Please send to school ANY unwanted, new or gently used clothing, books, toys and other knick knacks that can be sold in our store. Beginning Dec. 14th, the store will open for business. At that time, students in the PRIMARY division will have an opportunity to shop at the store and purchase gifts for their loved ones at a small fee, ranging from \$0.25 to \$5.00. Purchased items will be wrapped by our little junior elves and our intermediate stewards and delivered to the primary customers just in time for them to bring home for the Christmas Break. On Christmas morning our primary students will truly feel the joy of giving as they see their loved ones open the gifts they have thoughtfully chosen and purchased for them. Proceeds for the Christmas Store will go to benefit needy families at Christmas.

Thank you for supporting this worthy cause! God Bless You and Merry Christmas from San Marco's Luke 4:18 Committee

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values



Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

Effective Use of Our Resources

Engaging Our Communities



Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will be **Wednesday December 6, 2017 at 6:30pm**. All meeting dates are posted on our school website. *All are welcome!*

Civvies Day

Our next Civvies days will be held on Friday, January 12th, 2018 and Thursday February 1st (since Friday Feb. 2 is a PA Day).



Advent Mass and Advent Reconciliation

Please join us for our Advent Mass on Thursday, December 14th at 9:15 am. Advent Reconciliation for Gr. 3-8 students will take place on Wednesday, December 13th at the school.

Holy Sacraments - Dates

Please refer to St. Peter's Church Bulletin for special notices regarding Sacraments.

First Reconciliation: Feb. 26, 2018 at School

First Holy Communion: April 21, 2018 at 5pm

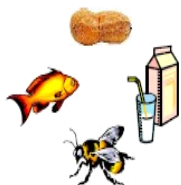
Confirmation: May 8, 2018 at 7pm

ANAPHYLAXIS *****

A Life Threatening
Allergy

Anaphylaxis

As we continue to take a proactive approach to make our school a safe environment for our students with life-threatening food allergies, please be reminded that the school is a Nut-Safe environment. It is a good practice to wash your hands thoroughly before and after each meal to avoid cross contamination, particularly after breakfast and before coming to school. We thank you for your continued effort in keeping our school a safe environment for all the students.



Catholic Virtues

This month, we celebrate the **Virtue of HOPE**. Hope is very much a Christian value. We prepare for Christmas by waiting with hope, faith, joy, and love. As Christmas approaches, we pray that the Christmas miracle of love, hope, peace and joy will enrich our lives and those of our loved ones.



San Marco Christmas Concert 2017!

Please mark your calendar for Monday, **December 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm**. (Inclement weather date is Dec. 13th). Our JK to Grade 8 San Marco students will be performing live in concert! Doors open at 6:00 pm and we ask that students be in their own classrooms by no later than 6:15 pm. **Due to limited seating each family will be guaranteed a maximum of THREE tickets.** Tickets MUST be presented at the door prior to entrance to the gymnasium. Students will remain in their own classroom for the duration of the concert and we ask that parents please pick up their children from their classroom at the end of the concert. Please note, students will have an opportunity to watch the concert during our dress rehearsal.



Medication

If your child requires medication (prescribed by a physician), please notify the school and complete the necessary S16A form (available at the office). All medication must be sent to the office for safekeeping. Please note that medication cannot be administered by Administration without completing the necessary forms.

Reporting Student Absences/Safe Arrival

We will continue the Safe Arrival Program which allows parents to report student absences for the current day prior to bell time which is 8:50 a.m., as well as future absences via the internet or telephone. **The Safe Arrival Phone Number is 1-855-856-7862 and the Safe Arrival Parent Portal website is:**
Yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com

Please be aware that if you do not report your child's absence you will receive automated phone calls and emails requesting your confirmation that you are aware of your child's absence and to provide an explanation for the absence.

Grade 4 Visit to Casa Loma and Grade 5 Visit to Kortright

Last month, our grade 4 students visited Casa Loma and our grade 5 students visited the Kortright Centre as part of their external learning opportunities. Our grade 4 students learned about the Middle Ages and early societies while our grade 5 students explored the Kortright Centre as part of their class unit on Heritage, Identity and First Nations Peoples. We thank all our parent volunteers for assisting us on these learning experiences for our children.



Santa Pictures are back!! Friday December 15th

Once again, we will have a visit from Santa himself! Our Catholic School Council will be organizing **Pictures With Santa** in our school library on Friday, December 15, 2017. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for organizing this event for our students.
Students are welcome to dress in Christmas colours that day.



Christmas SPIRIT WEEK beginning December 18th

Our Christmas Spirit Week will run from December 18th to December 22nd. Each day that week students are invited to participate in a themed day. Please scroll down to our calendar section for a list of themed activities for each day. **Thank you for showing your Christmas Spirit San Marco!**

Drop Off Zone

Drivers are reminded to continue to be cautious of students who are crossing the sidewalk on either side of the loop and to obey the stop sign which is located at the end of the loop.

Please do not pass vehicles that are unloading students. **Treat it like a "drive thru"**. Please move your vehicle as close as you can to the stop sign, rather than stopping in front of the doors when unloading your child even if there are no cars in front of you. Also please do not enter/exit the parking lot at the end of the day.

Please obey all safety signs and do not pass or drive by the school buses. Thank you all for your cooperation.



Hallowe'en Dance-a-thon: Fundraiser UPDATE

Our annual **Hallowe'en Dance-a-thon Fundraiser** was a tremendous success. Students had a wonderful time and enjoyed a fun-filled dance-a-thon and Haunted House! We had our Halloween Assembly on Wed., November 22, 2017. Children received prizes, visited with **Marco the Lion**, our beloved school Mascot and watched their teachers and Principal dance on stage!

**Special THANKS to the ENTIRE SAN MARCO COMMUNITY for
your generous support of our Catholic School Council and School
Fundraiser.**

Together we grossed \$11,369.00

Top Pledgers

1. Alexandra S.
2. John Paul D.
3. Adam F.
4. Leila S.
5. Adam P.
6. Gemma V.
7. Isabella A.
8. Gabriela L.
9. Thomas M.
10. Daniel Y.
11. Matthew Y.

****Class Pizza Lunch**

(Raising \$1000 or more)

1. Ms. Rea, Grade 4
2. Ms. Falbo, JK/SK
3. Ms. Vigliatore, Grade 5
4. Ms. Russo, JK/SK
5. Mr. Ziobrowski, Grade 8
6. Ms. DiBello, Grade 7

****Class Pizza Lunch will be ordered on
MONDAY, DECEMBER. 11, 2017.**

Children will receive a slice of cheese pizza and
a nut free cookie.

We continue to use these funds to support school initiatives, goals and activities that enhance student learning and we will update the community regularly on new resources, activities and programs at San Marco.



Colder weather on the way . . .

Colder days are on their way so please ensure your child(ren) is warmly dressed for outdoor recesses. **It is also very important to please send extra socks and a change of clothes for wet/cold weather.** Please note that in accordance to YCDSB Policy 221 and in collaboration with the San Marco CSC, it was determined that in extreme cold weather **temperatures of -15 degrees Celsius or colder, students will be directed to remain indoors for recess.**

Please note that other winter factors such as high winds, icy conditions on the pavement and/or field, or wet snow will be taken into consideration.



Pediculosis

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 find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents 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/hea>)

Bullying Awareness Presentations

November was Bullying Awareness Month and we had some special activities and presentations organized for our children. The highlight of the week was our bullying awareness presentation and community building drumming workshops for the whole school based on the African philosophy of UBUNTU, I am You. Our students also made friendship bracelets as they explored the question, "What Kind of Friend Are You?" Our Kindergarten students created a large banner entitled "Helping Hands" and our entire school created anti-bullying posters.

We would like to thank our Catholic School Council and our parent community for supporting these school initiatives through our school fundraising efforts. Thank you for your continued support!



Junior SMO ART Club

The SMO Art Club for Grades 4 and 5 students continues. The club will meet every Tuesday to hone their creative skills! We hope our students are enjoying this creative opportunity!



Primary Dance Club

Our Primary Dance Club continues to meet weekly during recesses and students are already practising their routines just in time for our Christmas Concert! YOU SHOULD BE DANCING!!!!



MAGIC Math Club

Our Magic Math Club continues to meet every Thursday during lunch recess. Our Junior students are doing an excellent job of leading this club for our younger students!

Luke 4:18 POPCORN SALES

Every FRIDAY at lunch in the servery our Luke 4:18 Club will be selling nut-safe popcorn for \$1.50 per bag. There are two flavours available for purchase: Butter Salt and White Cheddar. Thank you for supporting our Luke 4:18 efforts!



HOT LUNCH - Wed and Thurs

Our Hot Lunch Program continues every Wednesday and Thursday. **Many thanks to our dedicated Catholic School Council and parent volunteers, without whom, this program would not be possible. THANK YOU!**

Snacks Sales -Wed and Thurs

We continue with selling nut safe snacks at lunch on Wednesday & Thursdays which coincides with our **Hot Lunch Program**. Students may come down to the servery after eating their lunch.



“It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” Christmas will soon be upon us and in honour of this most festive and holy celebration, numerous Christmas and Advent resources will be available for check out. Also, since the holidays are fast approaching all overdue books must be returned prior to the break. Parents, thank you for continuing to encourage your students to return their books on time. I wish you all the very best this Christmas season and a very healthy and happy New Year. ***Read! Learn! Grow! Inspire!***



Ms. C. Boragina



San Marco CES – DECEMBER 2017



Important Information

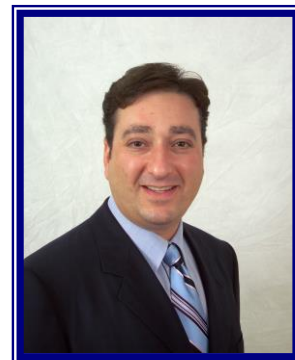
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Civvies Day	2
3	4 Bricks 4 Kidz Club Christmas Store Collection Continues all week!	5 Gr. 4&5 Art Club	6 Catholic School Council at 6:30 pm in the library	7 Magic Math club	8	0
10	11 Christmas Concert at 6:30 (Inclement Weather Day Dec. 13) Halloween Pizza for top classes today	12	13 Advent Reconciliation Gr.3-8	14 Magic Math club The San Marco Christmas Store is open for business! ADVENT Mass at 9:15 am	15 Santa pictures at SMO today! Students are invited to wear Christmas colours!	16
17	18 Spirit of Christmas Week Christmas Sweater Day	19 Red/White & Green Day	20 Santa Hat/Elf Hat or Reindeer Ears Day	22 Cozy Pajama Day	22 Last day of School - We resume Jan. 8, 2018 Festive Christmas Accessories and Sock Day !	23
24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS SAN MARCO!	26	27	28	29	30
31	 Have a Safe and Blessed Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!! See you on January 8, 2018! 					



York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
Telephone (905) 713-2711, 476-2055, 830-6803, (416) 221-5050, 1-800 363-2711
Fax (905) 713-1272 Voice Mail Box: 17132

*"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)*



December 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During this Advent Season, students and staff in our schools have been enthusiastically preparing for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our faith traditions help us to think about Jesus' humble birth in a manger, and our Catholic schools provide all members of our Catholic learning communities with a wonderful opportunity to reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas. We are reminded to keep Christ close to us for He is our strength throughout our lives.

In our Catholic schools, students proudly display their faith in action. Whether it is by singing about the coming of our Saviour, organizing food drives, toy drives and clothing collections for those most vulnerable, or celebrating the Eucharist, our students demonstrate the true meaning of the season.

As your Trustee, I thank you for choosing Catholic Education. Your support of our school system is a blessing that allows our students and staff to grow in the love of Christ.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with peace and joy as you rejoice in our Saviour's birth. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dino Giuliani".

Dino Giuliani, Trustee

Dino Giuliani, Trustee - Vaughan - Area 2, Ward 2

Telephone: Res. Tel. (905) 893-3300 Fax (905) 893-3301

BOARD NOTICE

Dear Supporters of Catholic Education,

In November, the Ontario Liberal Party launched their “Common Ground” website: <http://commonground.ontarioliberal.ca>.

This website invites the public to put forward proposals that address particular provincial needs and priorities. One of the current suggestions is a proposal for the amalgamation of all Ontario schools under one non-denominational school board. It is important that we, as Catholic school ambassadors, strongly voice our Constitutional rights, and continue to stand steadfast in supporting our 175-year-old Catholic school system.

In our Catholic schools, we continually focus on developing our students into confident, faith-filled and charitable citizens. In addition to excellent academic programming, our students are enriched through Parish and community partnerships, which nurture students in mind, body and spirit by giving witness to Gospel values. Catholic school graduates are called to love their neighbours and contribute to the common good of our society.

As stewards of Ontario’s publicly funded Catholic schools, your Board of Trustees is united in our mission to protect our Catholic identity. Collectively, we can make our voices heard to preserve our right to publicly funded Catholic Education.

We encourage you to visit the Common Ground website and register to cast your vote in favour of Catholic Education. During the upcoming election year, media outlets may also run “online polls” on this issue, please participate in them to affirm our message and defend our precious heritage.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Education.

Board of Trustees, YCDSB

