

DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S NEW, ST. JOHN XXIII?

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VISION STATEMENT: Inspired by our rich heritage and inspired by the struggles of our past, we at St. John XXIII Catholic School are called to express our mission as church, to pass on the good news of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today and to be the hope for the future.

ADVENT 2015

As the month of December begins, so does the season of Advent. It is a holy season in which Christians look forward to rejoicing in the coming of the Son of God into the world. We use these four weeks to prepare ourselves to celebrate His joyful birthday, so that at Christmas He might be born once more in our hearts. Here at St. John XXIII we will help each other to grow in the hope, love, joy and peace of this season by gathering once each week for an Advent prayer service.

Thank you to Mme Pilon for leading these prayer services.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2015

For the last few weeks, Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Ivory have been preparing our students for St. John XXIII's annual Christmas concert. This year the school will be presenting "**The Night Shift Before Christmas**". **Our day-time performance is on Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. Due to our small gym size, we encourage any parents and grandparents to come to this full performance instead of the evening performances. There will be two performances on Wednesday evening, December 9th. One at 5:45 p.m. and the second at 7:15 p.m. Please ensure that you and your family only attend one performance as we will be at attendance capacity.**

Kindergarten Parents: Mrs. Schroder/Mrs. Jeror's class will be in the 5:45 performance only and Mrs. Pennock/Ms. Duhn's class will be in the 7:15 only. Mrs. Rebertz's SK/1 class is in both performances.

If December 9th happens to be a snow day and busses are cancelled then the play will be held on the evening of Thursday, December 10th at the same times.

All students will be viewing the performance during our dress rehearsal on Monday, Dec. 7th. This performance is for the students only.

PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING A TOILETRY (e.g. tooth paste, deodorant) DONATION AS OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING TOILETRIES.

CHANGES AT ST. JOHN XXIII

First, we would like to welcome Mrs. Stephanie Engelberts to St. John XXIII. Mrs. Engelberts will be one of our grade five classroom teachers. We know she'll be a great addition to our school.

Second, we also welcome back Mrs. Tracey Jeror, as an interim ECE in Mrs. Schroder's Kindergarten class until Christmas holidays. She will be replacing Mrs. Krista McKay as she goes off on maternity leave.

Lastly, we wish Mrs. Krista McKay well as she will be off on maternity leave enjoying her new bundle of joy!

CPAN—OPERATION SNOWSUIT



St. John XXIII is collecting new and/or gently used snowsuits and footwear on behalf of CPAN (Child Poverty Action Network). Currently CPAN has a request from 400 families from Renfrew County for winter clothing support. If you have anything to donate, please drop it off at the office and we will gladly see that it gets picked up by CPAN. In addition, if you need assistance please do not hesitate to contact CPAN at 613-735-2374 ext. 250.



THANK YOU

We need to send our thanks out to many people/organizations:

Thank you to the Northern Credit Union for the monetary donation.

Thank you to the ladies who assisted in tidying up the library and computer lab.

Thank you to anyone who made a donation to CPAN so far and to the Knights for donating coats to our school.

STAFF PARKING LOT

Parents, please do not park in the staff parking lot for drop off or pick up purposes. The lot is for staff, who may be coming or going throughout the day. Parents dropping off or picking up are to park along Edey street in the parking area. Thank you.

WINTER CLOTHING (LABELS & EXTRAS)

With the arrival of winter weather, parents need to ensure that their child's belongings (e.g., hats, snow pants, jackets, mitts, scarves and boots) are clearly labeled to avoid any confusion with the ownership of any items. Parents could consider purchasing Mabel's Labels or they could use a permanent marker to clearly label a tag in the clothing items. In addition, it might be a good idea to put an extra pair of socks and/or mitts in your child's school bag. That way, he/she can change into clean, dry apparel if the need arises.

FRENCH INTERVIEWS

As you are all aware, we made changes to the format of our French interviews on interview night. French teachers can't possibly meet with all of their students. As a result, we moved to a request by the French teacher for a specific interview and otherwise, it was a first come first serve basis for all others. As we are always looking to improve our practices, I would welcome any feedback from parents on this new format.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The last day of school for students this year is **Friday, December 18th, 2015.** Our first day back after the holidays is **Monday, January 4th, 2016.**

The staff of John XXIII wish you all a happy and holy Advent season, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Peaceful, Inclusive, Noble and Kind—St. J23 Celebrated Bullying Awareness Week Nov. 16-20. P-I-N-K!

A MESSAGE FROM THE NIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Children's Christmas Party at the Parish Hall following the 10 AM Mass on Sunday, December 13, 2015. A light lunch of hotdogs and chicken nuggets will be provided free of charge. Following the lunch, Santa will present a gift to each child.

Parents, please contact Blaine or Suzanne Mullins at 613-623-6006 to let them know how many children you are bringing. Any dad's who can help set up the hall, please contact Bob Lee at 613-623-9961.

NOVEMBER RECYCLING CLUB MEMBERS

During the month of November the following students helped Mrs. Rebertz and Mr. Hill recycle various materials around our school:

Cole Hordichuk, Ava McKay, Abbey Murree, Tarin Davidson, Mavrick Black-Chevrier, Alivia Butterly, Allison Niblett, Cohen Cardiff, Noah Diotte, Jeremy McCanna, Ashley McCorkell, Amber Davidson, YaQi Zhang, Avery Barr and Abby Patrois.

CONGRATUATIONS

Congratulations to Abby Patrois for winning 2nd place in the Christmas Card Contest for the Pembroke Regional Hospital. Abby has won a couple of movie passes and her picture will be made into Christmas Cards.



EQAO

To the right, you will see St. John XXIII's results for the EQAO Primary and Junior assessment for last school year. We scored very well on both the Primary and Junior Assessment, scoring above the Board average in all categories. You will note that there is no provincial data this year as the public board didn't complete the test due to labour unrest.

We know that a number of supports such as the after school tutoring program, the small group instructional practices, the smaller class sizes, and the great teaching staff all assisted in our overall results.

Great job John XXIII!

For more information, go to www.eqao.com

NEWS FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL

Dear Parents:

November was a quieter month for school council. We are currently running our SENS tickets sale. You have a few more days to purchase tickets at a discounted price. \$5.00 per ticket purchased comes back to the school. So think about these as a possibility for someone's Christmas gift!

We did well with the Domino's Pizza Cards. We sold 170 cards which made us approximately \$1360!!! Thank you to everyone who purchased a card.

We are starting a new raffle this year in conjunction with our Christmas concert. You could win 4 front row seats to one of the three performances! Information is being sent home today. Tickets are a \$1.00 each for this raffle and will only be available for a week. So make sure to get in on the draw.

We are working on planning a movie night on January 28th, 2016, the Thursday night before the PA day. Be on the look out for more information in the new year.

When you are at the Christmas concert, check out the new black back curtains. This is our school council monies put to great use. School council paid for half of this sizable cost to have them made and installed in time for our concert.

Our next meeting is January, 13th, 2016. For members—remember it is a potluck.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas!

Tracey Jeror, Chair

CELTIC RATHSKALLIONS—A MASC PERFORMANCE

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, the students and staff had the opportunity to experience the Celtic Rathskallions.

It was a great presentation filled with wonderful music and dancing. The hour long performance provided students with the opportunity to learn more about instruments, celtic culture, science, humour etc.

Thank you to TD Canada Trust and our own School Council for providing the funds to have this presentation at St. John XXIII.



FRI., DEC. 11TH - PJ DAY!!!!

St. John XXIII December 2015

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 After School Sports is cancelled	2	3 J23 School Choir singing @ Tree Lighting @ Hospital 6-7 pm 	4	5
6 Second Week of Advent 	7	8 After School Sports is cancelled Christmas Concert Afternoon Performance—1:30 pm—gym	9 Milk & Food orders—home Christmas Concert 2 Evening Performances	10 Christmas Concert snow date for Evening Performances 	11 Spirit Day—PJ Day!!	12
13 Third Week of Advent 	14	15 Milk & Food orders due	16	17 	18 Last day of school before Christmas holidays	19
20 Fourth Week of Advent 	21 Christmas Holidays begin	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		First day back at School is Monday, January 4th, 2016