



Dear Parents and Students,

December is an exciting time of year as we begin our Advent celebrations. Advent is the season filled with hope, anticipation and excitement as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ. On December 5th, we will be celebrating the season of Advent with Mass. As always, parents are welcome to join in our celebration. Our Mass times are 8:30am and 9:45am.

Christmas can be a wonderful time for many families; unfortunately, for others it can be a very difficult time. Our Christmas Angel Program strives to support families in our community who are in need. The program will begin in December. We are extremely grateful for any support you can provide to help a family in our area. Our school will be fundraising in December.

On November 23rd, we hosted our annual November Dodgeball tournament. It was a huge success. We had 35 teams representing both the elementary and high school panels. Thank you to all students and staff who participated.

Please join us for an evening of music hosted by our Music Department on December 19th at 7pm. As always, Mr. Curtis and his music students have been working hard all semester to put on a fantastic show full of wonderful music and Christmas cheer.

On behalf of Mr. Doucette, myself and the entire staff of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, we wish you and your family an Advent and Christmas season filled with hope, peace, joy and love. May the gift of God's love, the gift of peace and the gift of happiness be with you through the New Year.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Danny Palumbo, Principal



The Chaplain's Corner

Christmas Angel

STA staff and students are excited to make an impact in our local community as we begin our season of Advent! During our Thanksgiving food drive we learned that food shortages affect many families throughout Canada, and we know that as Christmas approaches many families in our area feel the pinch even more. It is our goal to relieve some of this pressure felt by our community by giving food vouchers to those in need, and we thank you for your donations to this great cause. Remember, if you donate \$20 or more for this project we can give you a charitable tax receipt! Just make your cheque out to CDSBEO, or if paying in cash be sure to give us your name and mailing address. Thank you for your help!

Backpacks for the Homeless

This year we are embarking on a new project to help the homeless in Ottawa and Gatineau! Backpacks for the Homeless was started by Ron Pitre of Embrun, ON in 2013 after his home burned to the ground in 2012—the rebuilding process left him feeling compelled to give back and help those most in need. We are excited to join Ron in this endeavour!

Here's how it works: Ron supplies the backpacks, and we stuff them! Here is a list of items we are looking for:

- Mittens or gloves
- Hat or Toque
- Ear muffs (optional)
- Tooth brush
- Tooth Paste
- Scarf
- Tissues
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Socks
- A personal note (optional)
- A treat (like a chocolate bar, etc.)



I hope this Advent brings you and your family closer together, and closer to the heart of Christ.

God bless you on your journey,

Mr. Chris Vonesch
Chaplaincy Leader

December Dates to Remember:

Dec 01, Casual Day—proceeds to the Mission Team
Dec 01, Scholastic Book Fair
Dec 04, Scholastic Book Fair
Dec 05, Advent Mass at 8:30 AM and 9:45 AM
Dec 05, SHSM Health & Wellness SAFETalk from 8:15 AM to 1:20 PM
Dec 06, Nutcracker Field Trip with Mr. Curtis
Dec 07, Grade 12 Graduation Photos
Dec 08, Grade 12 Graduation Photos
Dec 15, Wear Orange for Matthew—all donations greatly accepted
Dec 19, Christmas Music Concert at 7 PM
Dec 21, Winter Formal Dance for Grades 9 to 12
Dec 22, Christmas Talent Show
Dec 25 to Jan 05 Christmas Break



Library News

The Library is hosting the annual Scholastic Book Fair on November 29 to December 4 during school hours.



EQAO Math Assessment

Attention all grade 9 students/parents and guardians. The EQAO math assessment dates have been set: Students taking **MPM 1D** will write their assessment on **Wednesday, January 17th and Thursday, January 18th**.

Attendance is mandatory for these dates. Please do not plan any holidays or appointments during these dates.

PROM NEWS...

Grade 12 Graduates:

This year's prom will be held at the Infinity Convention Centre in Ottawa on Thursday, May 31st. (Friday June 1st is a PD day!) As we prepare for Prom, we have many financial commitments and deadlines that must be met. To ensure that we meet the financial deadlines, we are requiring a deposit from all graduates attending prom. A deposit of \$50.00 must be made by Thursday, January 18th, 2018. This payment must be made through School Cash Online (link can be found on the STA home page). The balance owing on the ticket will be determined at a later date as it is dependent upon the success of our fundraising activities. Graduates do not have to put a deposit on a ticket for a guest attending from another school but the option is there if you wish to. If you have any questions, please speak with Ms. Cox in Room 213 or Ms. De Coeur in Room 127.



St. Thomas Aquinas Christmas Ornament



The ornament, as pictured, is burgundy with the school's crest on one side and the raven's logo on the other side in silver. The cost per ornament is \$5.00. All proceeds go to benefit various school activities.



If interested in purchasing an ornament please contact Ms DeCoeur (trisha.decoeur@cdsbeo.on.ca)



Methods of Communicating School Vehicle Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO) would like to advise students, parents and guardians that there are several methods that can be used to check for school vehicle cancellations:

1. Access STEO's website at www.steo.ca and click on the link "Delays and Cancellations". Cancellations will be posted by 6:15 a.m.
2. Subscribe to STEO's Parent Portal for updates on delays and cancellations, specific to your child's transportation. Sign up at www.steo.ca under Parent Login.
3. Follow STEO on Facebook for updates on delays and cancellations and messaging.
4. Follow @steo.news on Twitter for updates on delays and cancellations.
5. Follow @steocancel on Twitter for cancellation notifications.
6. Call 1-866-629-0629 to access a pre-recorded message.
 - During inclement weather the message will be posted by 6:15 a.m.
 - **Please note that the message for this phone line is only updated on inclement weather days.**

Announcements regarding the cancellation of school vehicles and special vehicle transportation will be aired on local radio and television stations, beginning at 6:15 a.m.

Please do not call the bus companies for cancellation information, as the radio and website reflect the most accurate information.

If transportation is cancelled in the morning, afternoon transportation will not operate.

Wishing you safe travels!

