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sch.schools.smcdsb.on.ca/](http://sch.schools.smcdsb.on.ca/)

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## SCHOOL HOURS

8:30 am	Supervision
8:45 am	Entry Bell
10:45 - 11:05	Nutrition Break
11:05 - 11:25	AM Recess
1:05 - 1:25	Lunch
1:25 - 1:45	PM Recess
3:05 pm	Dismissal

## The Story of the Advent Wreath

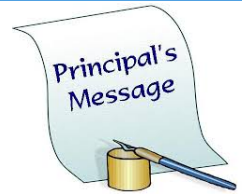
Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. Legend has it that Saint Boniface first gave the wreath its Christian meaning in the eighth century, and we have been using these wreaths as part of our Advent preparation ever since.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. The evergreens signify continuous life. Each of the four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the prayer, penance, preparation, and good works we are called to do during Advent. The color purple signifies the "royalty" of Jesus Christ.

The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is the Sunday of rejoicing. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. We gradually add more light each Sunday until Christ, our Light, comes at Christmas.

## Principal's Message:

On Sunday November 27th, we began the season of Advent. Advent is a very important time in our faith as we begin a new liturgical year and prepare for the coming of Jesus. The Advent wreath is a symbol of our waiting. As each week passes, we light another candle as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. A deliberate observance of Advent prepares us for a richer experience of Christmas.

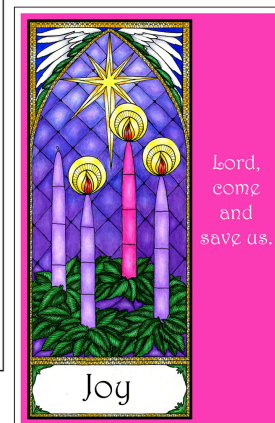


Our board theme this year focuses on the importance of family – those closest to us, and our connections to one another as sisters and brothers of one God. Just as we each have a family tree, Jesus had a family tree too, and the Advent tradition of the "The Jesse Tree" tells the story of his family members.

On behalf of the staff of St. Charles Catholic School, I would like to wish you all an Advent season full of hope, joy and peace. For those of you who are traveling over the holidays, may God bless your travels and return you home safely.

Merry Christmas,

~ Ms. Cassandra Medve-Racine & the Staff of St. Charles



## Electronic Communication Tools:

There are different ways to stay informed about the exciting events happening in and around SCH:

### 1. Sign up for eNewsletter

If you are not currently receiving our eNewsletters please sign up by visiting our website <http://sch.schools.smcdsb.on.ca/> and clicking on then clicking the "Subscribe" button.

### 2. Follow us on Twitter

Follow us @SMCDSB\_SCH to stay informed about upcoming events and interesting information about teaching and learning.

### 3. Sign up for Remind

Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps schools and classes share quick, important updates and reminders with students & parents. All personal information is kept private. To receive messages via text, text @stchar to (705) 243-4392 .

### Board Holiday - School Closed

A reminder that Friday Dec. 23, 2016 is a Board Holiday. All schools are closed on this day.



## St. Charles Gives Back at Christmas:

As we enter the season of Advent, the St. Charles community will work to answer God's call to serve those in need:

- \* **Coats for Kids** - we are collecting gently used and new winter coats for children. All donations will be delivered to children in need within our community. Together we can ensure all children have a warmer winter. We are accepting new and gently used (and laundered) coats, along with hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and snow pants. We ask that all donations be made by Thursday December 15, 2016.
- \* **Food Drive**- we are collecting non-perishable food items to help out the Bradford Food Bank and neighbouring shelters. If you wish to contribute please send in your items by Thursday December 15, 2016.
- \* **Toy Drive** - In conjunction with Simcoe Paramedic Services we are participating in a toy drive to help those in need this Christmas. We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for children from birth to teens years. We ask that all donations be made by Thursday December 15, 2016.



## Christmas Concert:

There is nothing like a concert to put everyone in the mood for Christmas! Please join us on December 14th (inclement weather date will be in the New Year) at 6:30 pm in our gym for the sounds of Christmas! Our students will be presenting songs, dances and much more in the hopes of raising our spirits for the holidays. Students are asked to arrive at 6:00 pm and go to their classes to prepare for the event.

## Dressing For Winter & Inclement Weather:



Winter has arrived! Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions throughout the day. Hat, mitts or gloves, snow pants and boots are necessary. Please label all clothing items. Students will be outside for recess during the winter months as weather permits - please always send your child to school dressed for outdoor recess.

Bus cancellation announcements can be heard on our local radio station or viewed on our board website at [www.smcdsb.on.ca](http://www.smcdsb.on.ca) or [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). We are in the South Weather Zone. The school will also send out a Remind notice as soon as it is aware that buses have been cancelled.

In the event that the buses are cancelled, the school is open for drop off at 8:30 am in the main foyer and students must be picked up at dismissal no later than 3:05 pm. Please note that your child will require a lunch on inclement weather days as food orders are cancelled and re-scheduled for the following school day.



# CHRISTMAS CAROLLING INVITATION

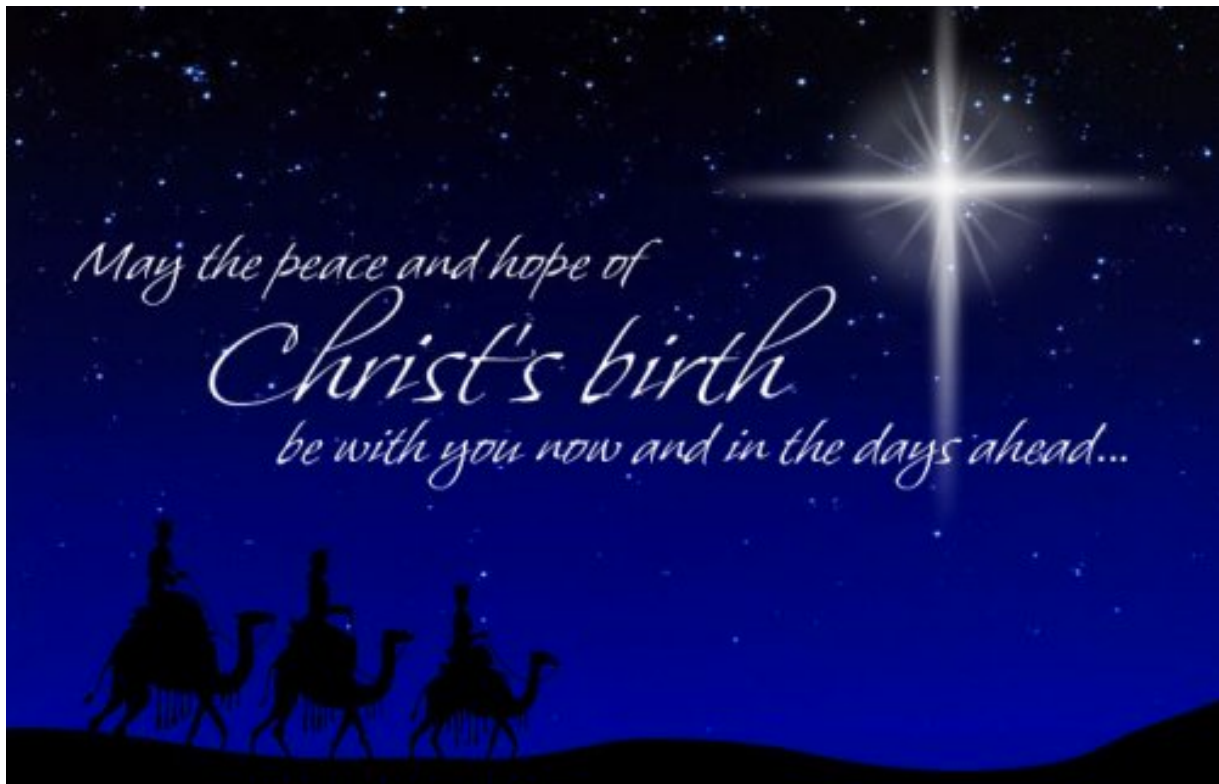
On Saturday December 17, 2016 Holy Martyrs parish is hosting an evening of blessings starting with the blessing of our Church's Christmas Tree at 6:30pm followed by music, carolling, hot chocolate and treats. You are invited to come sing or just listen and partake in the festivities of the evening. Please note, we are looking for solos, duets, trios or small groups including school choirs to participate. Children are welcome! Anyone wishing to play an instrument or sing during our concert can contact Carol Belanger at 905-775-7068 before December 1, 2016.

## Catholic School Community Council:

Thank you to everyone who came to our meeting on October 27th. Items discussed included a principal's report, the chair's report, a treasurer's report, parish report and a fundraising committee report. We also discussed some of our upcoming school and charitable events such as Coats for Kids, Christmas Food & Toy Drives, the December Mass and our school's Christmas Concert.



Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 12th, at 6:00 p.m.** in the school library. We hope to see you there. Please note you can access all CSCC meeting minutes on the school website.



## Important Dates & Events

- Nov 27 Beginning of Advent
- Dec 8 Gr. 7/8 Science Team Olympics @ St. Marie of the Incarnation
- Dec 9 Advent Mass - Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish @ 9:30 am
- Dec 13 First Reconciliation @ 7pm - Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish
- Dec 14 St. Charles Christmas Concert @ 6:30pm
- Dec 15 Final day to send in donations for Coats for Kids, Food & Toy Drives
- Dec 15 MADD Presentation to Gr. 7 & 8 Students
- Dec 22 Last day of school before Christmas Holidays!
- Dec 23 Board Holiday - all schools are CLOSED
- Jan 9 First Day of school
- Jan 12 Catholic School Community Council Meeting @ 6pm - School Library