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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

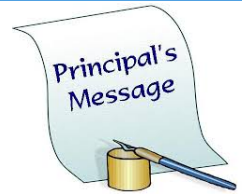
Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. Legend has it that Saint Boniface first gave the wreath its Christian meaning in the eighth century, and we have been 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 December 3rd, 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.

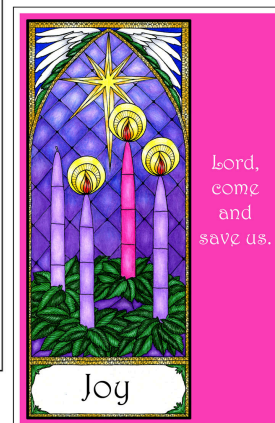


Our board theme this year focuses on the importance of our shared history – our connections to one another as sisters and brothers of one God. Just as we each have a family tree, Jesus had a family tree too, and the Advent tradition of the "The Jesse Tree" tells the story of his family members.

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 .

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 Friday December 15, 2017.
- * **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 Friday December 15, 2017.



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! School front doors will open at 6pm. Students are asked to arrive at 6:00 pm and go to their classes to prepare for the event. Due to seating limitations, we respectfully ask no more than 3 guests per family. Families are welcomed to park at the Danube Centre.

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 or 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 Spirit Days!

Dress up on the following days and earn spirit points for your class!



Friday, December 1
Friday, December 8
Friday, December 15
Monday, December 18
Wednesday, December 20
Friday, December 22

Advent Colour Day: Pink, Purple, White and/or Green
Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
Red & Green Day
Christmas Character/Christmas Hat Day
Sparkle Day
Christmas PJ/Sock Day

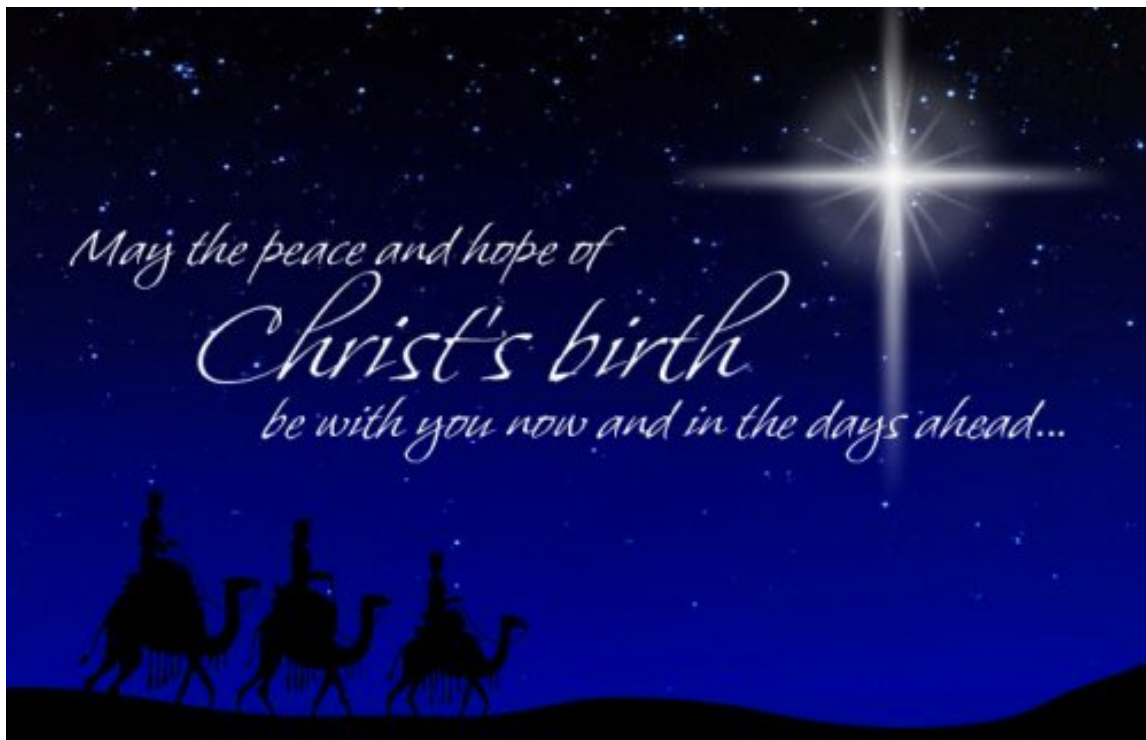


Catholic School Community Council:

Thank you to everyone who came to our meeting on November 23rd. 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 Toy Drive, the December Mass and our school's Christmas Concert.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 18th, 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.

School
Council



Important Dates & Events

Dec 3	Beginning of Advent
Dec 5	Advent Mass - Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish @ 9:30 am
Dec 6	Wendy's Night 4:30 - 7:30pm - 10% of proceeds come back to St. Charles
Dec 11	Ms. Hilton, Ms. Boccia and Ms. Mainolfi's classes @ Holy Trinity to see play
Dec 12	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal
Dec 13	Gr. 8 Tiger Day @ Holy Trinity
Dec 14	St. Charles Christmas Concert @ 6:30pm
Dec 15	Gr. 7/8 Science Team Olympics @ St. Marie of the Incarnation
Dec 15	Final day to send in donations for Coats for Kids, & Toy Drive
Dec 18	School Trip to Cineplex in Newmarket to watch "Star"
Dec 22	Last day of school before Christmas Holidays!
Jan 8	First Day back to school
Jan 18	Catholic School Community Council Meeting @ 6pm - School Library