



# January Newsletter 2025

*St. John of the Cross Catholic School*

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**Council Chair**

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## *A BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR*



God of time and of eternity,  
with Christmas joy we praise you  
for the year gone by  
& for the year we have begun.

Your Son comes among us  
to bring glad tidings to the poor;  
to proclaim a year of grace for the world.  
Strengthen us to follow you more closely  
during this coming year.

Amen


## Virtue of the Month

**PEOPLE OF  
SELF-CONTROL...**

- FOLLOW THEIR CONSCIENCE
- ARE PATIENT WITH THEMSELVES AND OTHERS
- SHARE AND TAKE TURNS
- ARE ABLE TO USE PRAYER TO CALM THEMSELVES DOWN
- THINK BEFORE THEY REACT (W.W.J.D.®)
- LOOK FOR PEACEFUL WAYS TO SOLVE CONFLICT
- TRY TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR EVERYONE
- HAVE THE POWER TO STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

\*WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

**SELF-CONTROL**



**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY**  
**Monday, January 20**, teachers will be involved  
in the assessment and evaluation of pupil  
progress.  
*There will be no classes for students.*



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Christmas concert and contribute to Share Life through our on-line ticket sales. We raised \$1142.00!

## Angel on The Tree Donations

Thank you to our extremely generous school community! We raised \$2065.00 in gift cards to support the families within our Parish boundaries. A heartfelt thanks was asked to be shared on behalf of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conference of St. John of the Cross Church.

## Full Day Kindergarten Registration for 2025-2026

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year is open. Parents/guardians can register online at [dpcdsb.org](https://dpcdsb.org).

Inquiries about home school locations/boundary areas should be directed to the DPCDSB Planning Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24440.

Registration is open to Catholic children and children of Catholic parents. Kindergarten students must be at least 4 years of age by December 31, 2025.

For more information, parents/guardians should contact their local Catholic school, visit the [DPCDSB website](https://dpcdsb.org), or call DPCDSB's Admissions Department at 905-890-1221.

## Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will take place on Thursday, January 16, at 6:15 pm in our school library or via the Zoom link provided below. As always, all are welcome to attend. Please join us!

<https://zoom.us/j/97288530525>

### ***Changes to Emergency Numbers***

Please ensure that the school **always** has current home, work, and cell phone numbers. If there have been any recent changes to your contact information, we kindly ask that you notify the school as soon as possible. It is also important that you have a network of support contacts for your children, in case you are not available. Our first concern is always for the well-being and safety of our students.

Also, if you have changed your email address, please contact the office so that you do not miss any important communications from the school.

*Term 1 Report Cards* will be sent home with students on *Tuesday, February 11*. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on *Thursday, February 13, in the evening* and on *Friday, February 14, during the day*, therefore there will be no school for students that day.

### ***Cold and Flu Season***

Please use discretion when sending your child back to school after they have been ill. A child who is coughing, wheezing, etc., is not in a state to learn and will only infect others.

**As well, please understand that if your child is well enough to attend school, they should be well enough to go outside at recess.** We do not have the staff availability to have some students inside and some students outside. Therefore, all students are required to go outside, weather permitting.

### ***Head Lice (Pediculosis)***

Unfortunately, in recent years, head lice have become increasingly common throughout North America. They are parasites which have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected in any way with dirt or neglect. Anyone can be infested by them.

In order to control these pests, we request that you please:

- ✓ Check your own children and, if you find them to be infested, we would ask that you let us know. *If your children do become infested by head lice, we will ask you to keep them out of school until after they have been treated with the correct treatment solution and their hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs).*
- ✓ Check your children's hair periodically.

There is additional information on the Peel Public Health website or you may contact Health Line Peel at:  
905-799-7700.

If we all cooperate in these procedures, we may not entirely escape outbreaks, but we will be able to keep them under control.

### ***Christmas Cookie Day***

Thank you to those who supported our Christmas Spirit Week by purchasing Christmas cookies. Proceeds from the sales of the cookies will be used to help pay for our annual Volunteer Appreciation.

## Winter Weather

Now that winter is here, we ask that students dress appropriately, i.e. hats, gloves, boots etc. When students are dressed warmly, they are better prepared to participate in outdoor activities during recess.



On extremely cold days, when the wind chill factor lowers temperature considerably, we will limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors. *The Dufferin Peel C.D.S.B. Policy uses a wind chill factor of  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  as the determining temperature for having students remain inside.* We will monitor the weather conditions daily and make decisions based on hourly weather reports.



## Snow & Ice Stay on the Ground

Students are reminded that “snow and ice stay on the ground”. Every student is aware of the importance of this rule in preventing injury to others. Students are encouraged to constructively use the snow to build snowmen and snow sculptures. Please assist us by reviewing with your child the dangers of throwing snowballs and the importance of preventing injury to other children. It is also important that students respect the efforts of others, and students are reminded to leave the snow forts and snowmen standing for all to enjoy.

## Reminder ~ Indigenous Logos

From time to time, words, objects or traditions that were once widely accepted become recognized as being hurtful, disparaging or disrespectful to others. They are no longer in keeping with practices or ideas that support our Catholic Social Teachings on Human Dignity. As the Catholic Bishops note, the “Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.”

As part of the journey of reconciliation, societies reflect on practices and question their origin and purpose. One such tradition that has been widely used is related to Indigenous-inspired logos. While the intent may have been to ‘pay respect’ or ‘honour’ Indigenous cultures, members of those communities feel that these logos are not considered to be an honour. In the context of inclusion, impact is more powerful than intent. So, while the intent might be to honour, the impact on community members must always be considered.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board students and staff are expected to ensure that any garments worn are inclusive, and not offensive with regard to nationality, race, gender, religion, ethnicity, culture, ancestry – including Indigenous symbols and imagery. This may result in a change of practice. In particular, certain sports teams’ uniforms, equipment and accessories, specifically ones with Indigenous logos, are no longer permitted as appropriate attire. We would ask for your support to ensure that our schools are faith filled, safe, inclusive spaces for all our students and staff.



## ***January 16 & 20 - DPCDSB Entry Planning Information Sessions for students with Differing Abilities (In-Person & Virtual)***

The DPCDSB Special Education and Learning Services Department invites parents/guardians to an information session to support the entry planning and transition for students with differing abilities who will be new to the DPCDSB and beginning September 2025.

Parents/guardians will have the option to attend the in-person or a virtual session of this event. During the in-person session, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to meet with board staff and to learn more about the entry planning and transition process for students with differing abilities. The same information presented at the in-person event will be shared at the virtual evening session for those families who choose to attend online.

In-Person Session: Thursday, January 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., St. Marcellinus Secondary School, 730 Courtneypark Dr. W. Mississauga

Virtual Session: Monday, January 20, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Virtual Presentation via Microsoft TEAMS

REGISTRATION: [Register online](#) by Thursday, January 16, 2025.

Please refer to the [event flyer](#) for registration and information. Inquiries regarding registration for the parent information session may be directed to Fara Miranda Fernandes, Resource Secretary, Special Education & Learning Services at 905-890-0708 Ext. 24011 or [Fara.MirandaFernandes@dpcdsb.org](mailto:Fara.MirandaFernandes@dpcdsb.org).

## ***Intermediate Volleyball***



Congratulations to the 2024 Intermediate Boys' Volleyball Team who had an amazing season this year. They placed 2nd at the Family Level competition, received medals and brought home a banner that will be displayed proudly in our school gymnasium. The students not only developed their volleyball skills, but they learned how to work as a team and showed tremendous school spirit. Go Mustangs go! A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Tomazela and Ms. Santangelo for coaching this year's team.

### ***Attachments:***

- 1. Thrive in Community 2025***
- 2. One Stop Talk***