



ST. JAMES



CATHOLIC GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE

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School Website: <http://dpcdsb.org/jamee>

December 2024

Catholic Trustees:

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Principal: M. Cloutier McCann

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A. Litster	A. Patola N. Popova

School Parish: St. Mary Star of the Sea

Pastor: Father Michael Simoes

*Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.*

Virtue: December - Hope

This month we will celebrate the virtue of HOPE.

A person with hope...

- Expects the best to happen for everyone
- Hold on to their dreams
- Always count on God to help them in tough situations
- Trust that things will work out in God's way
- Look for something good to come out of problems
- Are looking forward to life's blessings

We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life.

We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

Year after year, we are reminded that God chose to send His Son to us because we are worth it. God knows how great we can be when we all come together.

Family Advent Mass

Please join us as we celebrate a
Family Advent Mass
being held for all families from the
St. James C.G.L.C. & St. Luke School
communities on

**Tuesday, December 10th, 2024, at 7:00
p.m.**

**St. Mary Star of the Sea Church
11 Peter Street S., Mississauga**

There will be a small reception after mass in the church hall organized by the Catholic School Councils of St. Luke and St. James.

Principal's Message

December marks both the end of the 2024 calendar year and, with the season of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year and the Gospel of Luke.

On December 24, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica to usher in the beginning of the Jubilee Year. The Jubilee of Hope will take place from December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve to January 6, 2026, the feast of the Epiphany.

The Jubilee Year is especially connected to the Holy Doors in all of the papal basilicas in Rome, which are bricked up in between jubilee years and only opened for these special periods, when prayerful pilgrims have the opportunity to gain special blessings (called indulgences) for themselves and their loved ones.

In total, there are seven Holy Doors around the world. Four in Rome, one in Spain, one in France and one in Quebec City at Notre-Dame de Québec Cathedral-Basilica.

In keeping with our promotion of our Catholic identity, Pope Francis encourages us to place Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic church at the centre of our Pilgrims of Hope journey during this Jubilee Year. To be pilgrims, represents our journey in this life as we connect to our faith and relationship with Christ. We are called to "pilgrim" with one another building relationships of love, peace, and our solidarity towards each other. Hope is found through the actions of those who Pilgrim following Jesus' example. God's Pilgrims bring communities hope, peace and strengthened faith.

As a major part of each Jubilee Year, themes of social justice are prominent, and thus we invite our school community to journey with us in supporting those who may be struggling this season. St. James has connected with schools in the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board to help families in need during this Advent season. We hope, with your support, we can alleviate some of the stress felt by these families. Please consider donating gift cards. Our goal is for each class to support one family. All classroom teachers will be collecting gift cards until Friday December 13th.

We look forward to our Christmas Concert scheduled for December 18. Students from FDK to Grade 6 will be performing in the Christmas concert. In the spirit of helping others, the Grade 7 & 8 students will be hosting a Christmas Craft Marketplace to raise funds for charity. The market will be held on Wednesday December 18th after the afternoon concert until 3:30 pm and before the evening concert from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please refer to the December 2-6 Community update for more details and ticket information.

Families are invited to bring a soup can donation for our Christmas Tree of Hope. Last year we delivered over 200 cans to Compass.

As we enter the season of Advent, thank you in advance for your generous support in modeling our collective pilgrimage of mercy, compassion and witness of God's love for each other.

*M. Cloutier McCann
Principal*



The staff of St. James C.G.L.C. would like to extend our best wishes during this Advent season to all our families. We hope that you will be blessed with the spirit and gifts of that first Christmas; peace, love and goodwill toward all. May the promise of Christmas help to show God's boundless love for both you and your family. May you be blessed with good health, prosperity and happiness throughout the New Year.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open



Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year at Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) schools is now open. DPCDSB offers the Kindergarten program in 125 Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton and Orangeville.

Parents/guardians can register online at [dpcdsb.org](https://www.dpcdsb.org) for all home schools. **St James CGLC, a regional IB programme registration will take place January 13th to 16th.** As there are limited spots, families are encouraged to register at the home school first.

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

The following documents are required to complete the registration process:

- Proof of age of the child
- Original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) or original baptismal certificate from a church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome or an Eastern Catholic Church.
- Immunization Reference #'s from the local Public Health Unit
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status
- Proof of home address
- Proof of English Separate School Support

Please refer to the [Register for School webpage](#) for accepted forms of documentation.

Entry Planning Evening for Students with Differing Abilities (In-Person Session)

The DPCDSB Special Education and Learning Services Department invites parents/guardians of students with differing abilities to attend an in-person information session on Thursday, January 16, 2025 to support the entry planning and transition process for students who will be new to the DPCDSB beginning September 2025. 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.



See

<https://www3.dpcdsb.org/Documents/Thrive%20in%20Community%20-%20December%202024.pdf> for:

- 5 ways to manage holiday stress from CMHA
- Strategies to help develop a positive mindset
- The Pope Francis Five Finger Prayer
- Resources for students & families



What you'll find in this edition:

For Parents/Guardians

- Pertussis and Vaccination Reminder
- Ho-Ho-Holiday Fun: Get Active and Beat Screen Time!
- Tips for Healthier Holidays

Please see the attachment for the above details.

Advent

The season of Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This year, the liturgical season of Advent begins Sunday, December 1st.

“Advent” is a Latin word meaning “the coming”. During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord into the world through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness, as symbolized best by the Advent Wreath.

At St. James, we emphasize the implications of the birth of our Saviour through our Christian actions. It is a time to prepare the way, to make God real each and every day through prayer, charity and social justice.

Christmas Concert

We are proud to announce that the students from **JK to Grade 6** will be putting on a spectacular performance on Wednesday December, 18th at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Fire Capacity regulations will allow **2 tickets per family** for each of the performances. Ticket requests will be available through the School Interviews program, December 3 to 12.

Booking link for the concert tickets:
<https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/stjxm>

Booking link for additional tickets draw (if available): <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/stjw>

Christmas Craft Marketplace

In the spirit of helping others the Grade 7 & 8 students will be holding a Christmas Craft Marketplace to raise funds for charity. The market will be held on Wednesday December 18th after the afternoon concert until 3:30 p.m. and before the evening concert from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please Label Belongings

Please label your child’s belongings so that when hats, mittens, gloves, boots or jackets go astray they can be found. Many young children have similar belongings and we want to ensure that your child has their own boots and clothing.

Winter Wear

Please ensure that the snow pants and gloves/mittens that your child is wearing are water resistant as many students come back into class with wet clothing. In some cases the items do not have an opportunity to dry before the student goes back out for recess. Having an extra pair of gloves/mittens is advisable.

Cold Weather Temperatures

The Dufferin-Peel C.D.S.B. in consultation with Peel Health has developed guidelines for periods of extreme weather conditions. At rest, an unprotected person is able to maintain their core body temperature until the temperature falls to or below minus 25 degrees Celsius. Someone who is protected by clothing or is physically active may be able to withstand exposure to colder temperatures. Therefore, consideration is given to reducing the amount of time outdoors for children (grade 8 and under) when the temperature is -20 degrees Celsius or colder. When the temperature or equivalent wind chill temperature is - 25 degrees Celsius or lower children will be kept indoors.

Inclement Weather Procedures

If school buses are cancelled in a specific zone or in multiple zones, the school will remain open in that zone. St. James is in zone 1. Although St. James does not have busing, when busing is cancelled to zone 1 we will remain open. There is no distribution of learning devices in anticipation of inclement weather-related bus cancellations. For students unable to attend in person, no remote access to the classroom will take place. Students may access the Learning Management System (LMS), if they choose to.

If there is a full system closure, where all DPCDSB schools and facilities are closed to students and staff, there is no switch to synchronous learning for the day. Students may access the Learning Management System (LMS), if they choose to. The decision to cancel will be posted on the Dufferin Peel Board website: dpcdsb.org. This board decision is normally made by 7:00 a.m.

Catholic School Council

Mark Your Calendars

Please join us for the Catholic School Council meetings. All parents are encouraged to participate in council meetings. You do not have to be an executive member of the council to attend. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. in the library and can be attended in person or virtually. The link to the Google Meet meeting will be emailed to the community on the day of the meeting.

Thursday February 6th
Thursday April 3rd

Ongoing Fundraisers:

Mabel's Labels

Step 1 - Visit campaigns.mabelslabels.com
Step 2 - Search for **St. James (Mississauga)** & select our school. **Always** select our school so we earn 20% back to raise funds for our students!
Step 3 - Order labels & Mabel's Labels mails them directly to you!

KIDSENTIALS is pleased to be catering lunches fresh at St. James School. Ordering deadline for the week of service is the WEDNESDAY PRIOR.

www.kidssentials.com

One Time Donation

As we are reaching the end of our fundraising campaign, we would like to express our thanks to all families who have chosen to donate. We have collected a total of \$7550.00. When making our selections, we will endeavor to use these funds wisely, under the guidance of the school and the parent community, and in ways that will enhance the learning and school experience of all the students. Thank you for your support.

Stay In Touch:

For meeting minutes and other council information, visit us at www.dpcdsb.org/JAMEE/Parents/

****All council information will be communicated with the school community through the newly created council email address**
jameecscinfo@educ.dpcdsb.org



(PYP) The Primary Years Programme

In November's newsletter, we explored a few foundations of the Primary Years Programme - *transdisciplinary learning* that focuses on conceptual understandings across various subjects, as well as the 6 broad *themes* covered in PYP classrooms throughout the school year.

The 6 Transdisciplinary Themes:

Who We Are
Where We Are in Place and Time
How the World Works
How We Organize Ourselves
How We Express Ourselves
Sharing the Planet

At the heart of each transdisciplinary unit is a *central idea*; students explore the central idea through the lens of various subjects. Our Ontario curriculum expectations are woven into these themes.

This month, let's take a closer look at what a unit of inquiry looks like under one theme - let's take a peek inside our wonderful Kindergarten rooms!

Classroom Spotlight: FDK A and FDK B

Both of our Kindergarten classes recently completed their unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme: *Where We Are in Place and Time*. In this unit, students explored the following central idea through a variety of learning experiences: *people grow and change over time*.



Mrs. Pellegrino, Ms. Mendonca, Ms. Galea and Mrs. Johnson keeps record of their inquiry explorations through beautiful living walls that are added to as the inquiry cycle unfolds.



As students in Ms. Galea and Mrs. Johnson's class learned more about the circulatory system, they came up with an analogy to help them remember how blood travels throughout the body - check out the blood-mobile!



The inquiry based learning that unfolds in our PYP classrooms encourages many hands-on learning experiences and real-world applications. These photos from Mrs. Pellegrino and Ms. Mendonca's class show students actively engaged in their own learning process. Photo 1) students conduct an experiment to see how soap gets rid of germs on our hands. Photo 2) a student identifies the respiratory system on a life size colouring template.

Tune in next month for more from the PYP!



(MYP) The Middle Years Programme

December Feature: Community Projects

As a core component of the IB Middle Years Programme, Year 3 students are required to complete a Community Project. One of the main goals of the Community Project is to engage students in a sustained, self-directed in-depth inquiry with a global context and exploration point. The project consists of three main parts: the process journal, participation in service as action and the final presentation.

This extensive project is a unique opportunity for students to showcase their skills, strengths, and passions as they develop into independent lifelong learners. The intentions of the project are to allow students to apply and develop their approaches to learning skills (ATL's) as well as learner profile attributes for the benefit of others. This project also provides students with an opportunity to increase awareness of needs in various communities and act through service. Students will also generate creative new insights and develop deeper understandings through in-depth investigation. Each group of students selects a topic that they are passionate about and acknowledges a need to draw awareness to it throughout the St. James C.G.L.C community. Through the Community Project, students have the forum to act through service and bring their concerns and interests to light. Students may raise awareness about an issue, volunteer time, or raise funds for a cause. Project proposals have been approved, conceptual questions have been formulated, and students are in the process of gathering their research and carrying out their plan. In some cases, groups have already completed part of their action piece through community outreach and morning announcements.

Once again there are many excellent project ideas that are current, relevant, and drawing on many strong personal connections. The list of topics include: Supporting Canadian Food For Children, Helping those less fortunate through St. Vincent de Paul, Teaching children about active living through sports, Cyberbullying, World Wildlife Fund, Water pollution, and Deforestation.

Camp Muskoka



During the last week of November our Year 1/Grade 6 students had an opportunity to spend two nights and three days at Camp Muskoka in Bracebridge. Students participated in a variety of team building and challenge activities. Some of the activities included Predator and Prey in the snow covered forest, fire building, shelter building, and several low rope tasks. Over the course of the three days students enjoyed an abundance of delicious meals, amazing outdoor activities and most importantly, made many lasting memories. Thank you to all those that supported this trip through the hot dog fundraiser.



Upcoming Dates

- Dec 1 - Advent Begins
- Dec 1-13 - Gift Card collection
- Dec 6 - Advent Assembly 11:20 a.m., gym
- Dec 10 - Family Advent Mass 7 p.m., St. Mary Church
- Dec 11 - Rosary Apostolate Classroom Visits
- Dec 12 - Samantha Youth Ministry visits Gr. 4-8
- Dec 12 - Final Day: Christmas Concert ticket RSVP
- Dec 13 - MYP Trip to St. Paul "A Christmas Carol"
- Dec 16-20 - Spirit Week
 - Dec 16 - Read with a Buddy
 - Dec 17 - Winter/Christmas Hat
 - Dec 18 - Christmas Concert
 - Dec 19 - Wear Christmas Colours Day
 - Dec 20 - Movie / Comfy Clothes Day
- Dec 18 - Christmas Concert 1:30 pm & 6:30 pm
- Dec 18 - Marketplace after concert until 3:30 p.m. & before concert from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 19 - Milk & Cookies with Santa
- Dec 23 - Jan 3 - Christmas Break
- Dec 29 - Pizza order/payment for January due**
- Jan 1 - Happy New Year
- Jan 6 - School Resumes

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Please be reminded that the school is closed
for Christmas holidays
Monday, Dec. 23rd, 2024 – Friday, Jan. 3rd,
2025.
The first day of classes in the New Year is
Monday January 6th, 2025.