



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Our Virtue focus for December – Hope

During the month of December, we celebrate the virtue of **Hope**. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. God has given us the Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

A hopeful person is....

- † Optimistic
- † inspired and inspires others
- † one who sees the good in the world

Sometimes in life, bad things happen to us that we cannot explain. During these times we tend to get mad at God for putting us through so much pain. We forget God is always there for us and He does not want to hurt us. When you feel sad and alone, remember to never lose **HOPE**, pray to Jesus and things will get better.

Let us pray for the grace and courage to be people of hope, people who can see, participate in and contribute to God's goodness emerging around us. Amen

FIRST FRIDAY SCHOOL MASS - OUTREACH

A reminder that at every First Friday Mass (next one is tomorrow **December 3rd**), we appreciate families of students in Grade K-2 to donate non-perishable food items to assist St. Michael's Parish Food Bank project. This is especially important at Christmas when families in need appreciate extras for the holidays.

Our students in Grades 3 to 7 are asked to donate to the food bank when it is their day for confession. When the Grade 2 students receive the sacrament of confession, they will then be placed in the Grades 3 – 7 rotation to donate.

ADVENT WREATH – THANK YOU

A special thank you to the Lara and Castres family who made all our beautiful Advent Wreaths proudly displayed on classroom prayer tables. Even though the Castres children have graduated, they are still very much a part of our community, and we thank them for their dedication to St. Michael's.

GRADE KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1 – DECEMBER 2nd HOT LUNCH CHANGE

Students in Grades K and 1 are on a Fieldtrip today, December 2nd and therefore will miss their hot lunch. Our Parent Association has moved the delivery of their hot lunch to Friday, December 3rd. In summary, Grades Kindergarten and 1 will have their December 2nd hot lunch **on December 3rd**.

CHICKEN SALES

It's that time of year again! Stock up on the freshest, juiciest Hallmark chicken in time for the holidays. From chicken noodle soup to appetizer wings to chicken strips, Hallmark has the chicken you need! Orders are due **Friday December 3rd** and pickup is Friday December 10th in the afternoon. Please see the school website for your order form!

USED UNIFORM SALE

A reminder that the Used-Uniform Store is open this **Friday, December 3rd** from 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Now is a good time to check your child's uniform to see if there are any items which need replacing.

REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2022-2023

We are interested in knowing our potential numbers for Kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten next year (born in 2017), please let Mrs. De Julius know as soon as possible.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM INITIATIVE

Following the success of last year's initiative, the St. Michael's Student Leadership team would like to announce that our community will once again be partnering with the Focolare and the "Giving Truck" Campaign in supporting the Door is Open. This Catholic organization supports those battling homelessness on the Downtown East side by providing meals, guidance, and hope. We are asking that each Grade bring in a particular item which will then be organized by the Grade 7 class into care packages. Once completed, these will be distributed to those in need through the Door is Open Charity and the Giving Truck non-profit organization. The Student Leadership Team would like to thank all involved for their dedication in bringing the Joy of Christ to those in our community

Please find the items that each grade is asked to bring in below.

Kindergarten: Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Gr. 1: Soap

Gr. 2: Face wipes

Gr. 3: Shampoo

Gr. 4: Combs/Hair Brushes

Gr. 5: Deodorant

Gr. 6: Adult size gloves

Gr. 7: Adult size toques and socks

Please bring these items to your classroom teacher before the December 13th.

God Bless and Thank you,

St. Michael's Student Leadership Team

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT PERFORMANCE

Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no live performances. Instead, the concert will be **filmed**. If you do not give the school permission to film your child for the Christmas concert, please send an email to malberti@smeschool.ca. If you do not give the school permission, your child cannot be part of the Christmas Concert.

Our Dress Rehearsal will be on **Wednesday December 8th**. Information about costume was given to all families last week and can be found on our website at <https://www.stmichaelschool.ca/christmas-concert-information/>. Students should bring their costume in a bag and come to school in full uniform for school Mass for the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception. They will change into their costume to the dress rehearsal.

The filming day will be on **Thursday, December 9th**. When editing is complete, the concert will be sent to you during the week before Christmas break as a YouTube link for families to watch. The Youtube link is *unlisted*, which means that it cannot be searched for through Youtube, but anyone with the link can view it. The link will be sent to families by email.

NON-UNIFORM DAY - DECEMBER

The Student Leadership Team will be hosting a non-uniform day on Thursday, December 16th. The theme for this non-uniform day is "Christmas Crazy". Students who choose to wear items connected with the theme will need to bring in a minimum donation of a toonie or a canned food. Students who do not wish to participate must wear their school uniform.

In library this week, the school welcomed St. Michael's alumni Chris Boyd who co-authored the picture book "The Ugly Christmas Sweater Rebellion". The story describes how a simple and silly holiday tradition can weave connection between generations, reminding people young and old about what truly matters during the festive season. We encourage students to wear their "ugly Christmas sweater" this non-uniform day and carry on this long-standing tradition.

JANUARY HOT LUNCH HEADS UP

Ordering will open for January soon and the cut off date will be before the Christmas break. So please ensure you get your orders in early.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

For those of you who are considering international travel over the Christmas holidays, including travel to the United States, please ensure that you are aware of what this means for unvaccinated children returning to school. As you know, all schools are required to follow government of Canada rules. The government of Canada requires that ***unvaccinated children under 12 years old NOT attend school for 14 days upon arrival in Canada.*** Children are not required to quarantine, meaning that they can leave their homes and do limited activity. **However**, they are not allowed to attend school, camp or day care (among other restrictions). There are also several other requirements that you must follow upon return including maintaining contact information, keeping test results and other documents to provide upon request to the local public health authority, etc.

COVID-19 related questions: covidquestions@smeschool.ca. Please note that, once again, we have a doctor who is a parent volunteer reviewing and answering these questions. **Please do not send personal information specific to your child.**

PARENT PARTICIPATION HOURS WEBSITE UPDATE – IMPORTANT!!

The School Parent Participation Hours Tracking Website will be accessible as of this weekend. A welcome email with a password will be sent out to families between Friday, November 26th to 30th for registration.

Please contact the Participation Tracking System Support team if you haven't receive the welcome email by December 1st, 2021.

Training Video will be available once you login to the website and will be accessible at any time. All families can submit participated hours for this school year after the registration process this weekend.

Please contact participationhours@gmail.com if you have any questions or technical support.

Parent Participation Opportunities

Following Parent Participation Categories are in need of your help! Please contact

ParticipationHours@gmail.com to sign up!

AUCTION (Significant participation hours available!)

Yard Supervision

Crossing Guard Supervision

AUCTION UPDATE

The annual Auction is St. Michael's School's largest fundraiser of the year, and we're gearing up for another great event. Stay tuned for the unveiling of this year's theme!

We need you!

Looking for opportunities to fill your 30 participation hours? Volunteer for the Auction! Some current members will be leaving the school in the next couple of years, so we're looking for some fresh faces to keep the Auction going.

We have opportunities available in donations, communications, decorations, and more.

Contact Cicy Zhang at cicyzhang@hotmail.com to see where you can find the best fit. You can also contact Cicy if you'd like to attend the next Auction meeting, which is **Monday, December 13.**

Check out the Facebook page for all the latest info:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsauction/>

ST. MICHAEL'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

St. Michaels School is now on Instagram!

If you're In Instagram, you can follow us at [@stmichaelsbby](https://www.instagram.com/stmichaelsbby).

In addition to Twitter, we'll be sharing reminders and updates on Instagram to keep the school community connected.

The account is private so when requesting follow the account, we ask that you send us a direct message by tapping on the three dots (...) on the top right of the Instagram page. You must include your family name and children(s) grades so that we can verify you.

WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS

With the cold days of winter upon us, please remind your child(ren) to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, (i.e. **boots, warm jacket, mitts, toques**). If weather conditions are reasonable, students will go outside to get some fresh air during recess and lunch breaks.

In the event of inclement weather, such as snow, tune in to **CKNW AM 980 on the radio** for information regarding any school closure. Information can also be found on their web site, www.cknw.com or on our website www.stmichaelschool.ca. In the case of inclement weather in the morning, closures are usually reported every ten to fifteen minutes.

You will receive an email to let you know if the school is closed.

Please do not tie up the school and parish telephone lines by trying to call these offices. The radio station WILL NOT announce if the school is open; therefore, if you DO NOT hear the name of the school then the school is open. Likewise, if you do not receive an email from your school administration email allparents@smeschool.ca then the school is open.

All emails will be made by 8:00 am.

As traveling conditions vary depending on where you live, please use your own judgment regarding sending your child(ren) to school. The staff, however, will always work to keep the school open when safety is not in question.

SAINT THOMAS MORE BASKETBALL CAMP

The STM Holiday Shooting Camp is a 2-day camp designed to introduce players to the fundamentals of shooting in a fun and competitive atmosphere. It is open to boys and girls currently in grades 3-7. When: December 28-29 Time: 9:00am-12:00pm Where: St. Thomas More Collegiate Gym Who: Boys and girls currently in grades 3-7. Cost: \$60 per camper. Includes 6 hours of instruction, games and prizes
Coaches: Mr. Dominic Zimmermann Mr. Aaron Mitchell

Thought of the week...

Christmas To Do List

1. ~~Buy~~ ^{Be} Presents
2. Wrap ~~Gifts~~ ^{Someone} in a hug
3. Send ~~Gifts~~ ^{Love}
4. ~~Shop~~ ^{Donate} For Food
5. Make ~~Cookies~~ ^{Memories}
6. ~~See~~ ^{Be} The Lights