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| ***DECEMBER 2020 EDITION*** |

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|  | Dear Parents and Guardians,  The Advent Season is already upon us, and we are even more thankful for the many blessings this year as we navigate through this pandemic. Our celebrations of Christmas may not be the same as past years, but it is still a time when we pause and give thanks to God for the greatest gift of all time, the incarnation of the Lord in Jesus Christ. We are asked to ‘stay awake, be ready’ and as society faces challenges this year that we never imagined ever happening in our lifetime, it is important to just sit alone and be cognizant to the silence within us, patiently, and without letting our minds race to the next Christmas chore. It is in this silence that you will be able to hear the pulse of all humanity beating in your own heart, where you will feel the serenity and a sense of oneness with all our brothers and sisters of the earth. It is in this peace and love that we will hear Christmas; and that we will feel the need to extend our love and charity beyond those closest in our lives, to others in need.  With your child’s Progress Report and Parent Teacher Interview complete, continue to work with your child in celebrating their achievements and planning for ongoing success, as you discussed with your child’s teacher(s). Student success is greatly augmented through strong two-way communication between home and school during Hybrid learning this year. Let’s continue walking this learning journey together.  St. Michael the Archangel Staff and students continue to adapt to the Hybrid Learning Model that was implemented during the month of October. This new model has allowed students to access the teacher’s virtual learning environment. Parents please note if you feel that remote learning is what you would like to do, you must commit to 30 days of the modality.  Wishing you all the Blessings of the Christmas season,  **J. Bortolussi, M. Caruso,**  *Principal Vice-Principal* |
| **Christ Our Light,**  **Shine in our lives in hope and promise.**  **Give us right vision so that we remain attentive to this holy season .**  **Remind us to look for you in small acts of kindness and love.**  **We await your coming with wonder and awe...**  **Amen** |



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| ***Catholic Communities of Faith*** |

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| **NOVEMBER VIRTUE RECIPIENTS:**  The virtue of the month for November was Justice. We would like to congratulate the following students for demonstrating this virtue throughout the month: Kindergarten: Andrea M.,Dante C., Arianna S., Allegra C., Michael K., Kaytlin P.; Grade 1: Elena G., Luca D., Nicholas D., Anthony T., Kassandra P..; Grade 2: Libby S., Liliana V., Matteo D., Adrian P., Ava F.; Grade 3: Ava M., Gabriella D., Christian T., Sofia Z.; Grade 4: Teya R., Lucas C., Alyssa G., Chiara M., Jacob G.; Grade 5: Stefania D., Simona I., Christian C., Alessia O., Aldo M., Ava L.; Grade 6: Abigail R., Valentina L., Dina K., Alessandra G., Isabella P.; Grade 7: Ellena Y., Joshua J., Julian F., Emma R., Ethan M.; Grade 8: Nicolas G., Matthew I., Ashley R.  ***Well done, virtue recipients!***  **DECEMBER VIRTUE:**  In the month of December, we focus on the virtue of ***HOPE***. As a school community, we reflect on the following statements: **With God’s grace, I will never give up hope; I will maintain a positive attitude and look for the brighter side of situations.** We look forward to acknowledging our December virtue recipients in the next newsletter.  **ST. CLARE OF ASSISI UPDATE ON CONFIRMATION (for students currently in Grade 8):** We regretfully inform you that as per Msgr John’s letter of November 18 to schools, all Confirmation dates have been cancelled until further notice which will include any parent meetings that were scheduled. As always, please refer to the parish website for further details at <https://saintclareofassisi.ca/the-sacraments.>    **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** May God Bless our Grade 3 students, who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Although we couldn’t be there with you, your family here at school including your friends and teachers, wish you health and continued blessings. May Jesus fill your hearts with His love, and may St Michael the Archangel protect you always.  **INCLEMENT WEATHER :** Every year in November, the York Catholic District School Board activates its Inclement Weather Procedure in order to make decisions and take appropriate actions to keep students and staff safe when weather impacts road conditions and prevents a safe passage to school.  This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the YCDSB Inclement Weather Procedure must change based on direction from York Region Public Health. **What’s new?** If buses and other forms of school transportation are cancelled due to inclement weather, all schools will be closed to students. **DO NOT bring your child to school.** All students are to remain at home and access remote learning for the day. Teachers will provide live remote learning for all students through their virtual classrooms.  Tests, quizzes, as well as, non-virtual parent meetings will be cancelled and rescheduled. Before and After School (B&A) Programs will not operate on inclement weather days, if buses are cancelled and schools are closed to in-person learning. Child Care Centres will remain open at the discretion of the individual operators.  How will parents be notified? When buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, parents are encouraged to listen for reports on the radio and television stations listed below. Parents will receive an email through School Messenger by 7 am. Notifications will be posted on the Board website, all school websites and the Board’s Twitter account (@YCDSB).  Inclement Weather Notifications will be posted to:   * School Website (<https://smal.ycdsb.ca/>) * Board Website ([www.ycdsb.ca)](https://www.ycdsb.ca/) * Student Transportation Services of York Region (<http://net.schoolbuscity.com/>) * Designated Radio and Television Stations | **WE ARE A CATHOLIC LEARNING COMMUNITY…**  of collaborative partners with Jesus as our inspiration. It is the expectation of the YCDSB and St. Michael the Archangel CES that students will demonstrate honesty and integrity; respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions; treat one another with dignity and respect especially when there is a disagreement; respect and treat others fairly;respect the rights of others; take appropriate measures to help those in need; seek assistance from their teachers and resolve conflict peacefully; demonstrate respect for people in positions of responsibility; respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching; and be courteous.  **DIABETES AWARENESS:** We celebrated Diabetes Awareness by wearing BLUE on November 12. This day was devoted to help bring more awareness and education around type 1 and 2 diabetes. Let us continue to bring awareness to diabetes and its effects on children and their families.  **CANADIAN DOWN SYNDROME WEEK:** At St. Michael the Archangel we encourage inclusion and celebrate individuals with Down Syndrome. On November 12, our SMAL community wore BLUE in support of Canadian Down Syndrome Week. Let’s continue to always be inclusive and demonstrate God’s love.  **DECEMBER CIVVIES DAY:** December’s Civvies Day will take place on **Friday , December 18, 2020. BE SURE TO WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS SWEATER.**  **ADVENT CELEBRATIONS:** This year our classes will be provided an Advent Liturgy that they will engage in as a community of believers in their own classrooms. As well, Ms Zuccaro has created a [Virtual Advent Table](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1H0VQ_FyAbzyENs7_1jzvc35dBx0WzkA2dHAvCNl6iNE/edit?usp=sharing) for students to engage with.  **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL:**  Our next Catholic School Council Meeting will take place on **December 3rd at 7pm.**  All meetings will be held virtually this school year. The link to the meeting is <https://meet.google.com/puy-aurq-drv>. SAVE THE DATE: Our next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2021 at 7pm.  **CP24 CHUM CHRISTMAS WISH ONE DAY TOY**  **DRIVE:** The City of Vaughan is excited to be  hosting its 11th Annual Toy Drive in support of  CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish. With your  generosity, we will be able to bring much hope  and happiness to families and children in need  this holiday season.  St. Michael the Archangel CES is pleased to  announce that we too, will be participating in the  One Day Toy Drive which will take place on  ONE DAY: **Tuesday, December 8th, 2020.**  **On Tuesday, December 8, 2020 bins/boxes will be placed outside near the entrance of the school from 8 am until 3:30pm. If you can, please donate a NEW, UNWRAPPED toy to bring joy to another child’s Christmas.**  Please ensure that you maintain physical distancing to ensure your personal well being as well as wearing a mask once you are on school property. |

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| ***Quality Learning for All*** |

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| **PROCEDURES FOR SWITCHING MODALITIES:** (Please note that if a change of modality is requested and granted, the expectation is that it will be a 30 day commitment)  **Hybrid Class- Parent requests In person student to attend remote learning:**  Parent informs principal in writing of a request to change modality. Principal will respond in writing to the request, indicating that, upon change in placement, there must be a commitment to remain in the requested modality for a minimum of 30 days. There is no wait period for this change in modality.  **Hybrid Class- Parent requests remote student to attend school in person:**  Parent informs principal in writing of a request to change modality. Principal will respond in writing to the request, indicating that, upon change in placement there must be a commitment to remain in the requested modality for a minimum of 30 days. A two day minimum waiting period to take place between the date of request and the start date to minimize risk associated with the time lag in the onset of symptoms. If the number of students in the in-person class is fewer than the approximate COVID class caps and safe physical distancing protocols can be maintained, the principal establishes a student start date in consultation with the class teacher. Where the above cannot be established or maintained, principals will consult with their Area Superintendent regarding the request. Where in-person class sizes are reached or appropriate physical distancing cannot be met, principals will maintain a local waitlist of requests for re-entry .  **Fully Remote Class: Parents request fully remote student to attend in person:**  Parent informs principal in writing of a request to change modality. Principal will respond in writing to the request, indicating that, upon change in placement there must be a commitment to remain in the requested modality for a minimum of 30 days. As part of the above communication, the principal informs the parent that a change from a fully remote placement to a face-to-face placement may mean a change in class and teacher. If the number of students in the in-person class is fewer than the approximate COVID class caps and safe physical distancing protocols can be  **Schools Impacted by:**   * **Covid - 19** * **Other School Emergencies**   When a class is dismissed due to COVID-19, students will pivot to a remote learning model; the class becomes fully remote. In the case of a dismissed class where the teacher is ill, an Occasional Teacher will assume responsibility for the remote class. If a student has been quarantined, and they do not participate in the synchronous/live learning, then the student is marked absent using ABSENT - Parent Approved unless a medical note is provided. Where a medical note is provided the student is coded G - MedAbsNote for the period of time covered by the medical note. Students may access synchronous learning when parents choose to self-isolate their children because of COVID concerns at the school. The student must remain remote for the period of isolation established by York Region Public Health. If the student accesses  synchronous learning during their absence, they are to be marked - PRESENT - REMOTE LEARNING. If a teacher is quarantined but not ill, they will continue teaching their class(es) remotely  Parents of Remote students should note the following:     * All student absences must be reported via the Board’s Safe Arrival procedures; * The remote class is imbued with the same sanctity as a regular classroom; * The teacher is the person of authority in the classroom and is responsible for establishing and maintaining class order and management; * When there is any concern (i.e., live feed is not working), the parent will call the school office to report the occurrence and wait for school administrator to respond; * At all times, where there is concern about content, the parent will contact the teacher through established teacher-parent communication protocol including a phone call or email to the teacher. Additionally, the parent can also contact the office with any concerns. **Parents are not to use the chat feature to address concerns.** * Taking pictures, video or audio recording of the live proceeding is strictly forbidden to ensure the privacy of staff and students. | maintained, the principal establishes a student start date in consultation with the class teacher and informs the parent. Where the above cannot be established or maintained, principals will consult with their Area Superintendent regarding the request. Where in-person class sizes are reached, principals will maintain a local waitlist of requests for re-entry.  **Fully Remote Class- A student is absent:**  For attendance, remote students who do not attend synchronous/live instruction are coded as ABSENT unless a medical note has been provided. A remote or in-person student who is absent, with a medical note, and does not access synchronous/live is coded G - MedAbsNote for the period of time covered by the medical note. Where a fully remote teacher is absent without an occasional teacher (i.e., first two days of absence), parents must report all student absences through Safe Arrival. All other students are marked as present  **Fully In Person Class- A student is absent:**  The parent will report student absences through Safe Arrival. In the first two days of absence, the student may access the class virtual learning environment (VLE) to collect homework assigned for the day by their teacher(s). An absent student from this cohort may access synchronous/live instruction on the 3rd day of absences.   * **Providing unwelcome feedback/comments about the proceedings of classroom lessons on social media is inappropriate. Any comments should be addressed directly with the teacher.** * Under no circumstance during synchronouslive teaching will a parent or guardian interrupt the proceeding of the classroom. As outlined in the Education Act s.212 (1), *‘it is an offense for any person to willfully interrupt or disquiet the proceedings of a school or class.’*   **COMPUTER SCIENCE ED WEEK #HOUROFCODE**  It has been documented that in the next decade, over 95% of jobs will include STEM/Coding. That is why we are thrilled that during **Computer Science Education Week, December 7-11** our Junior and Intermediate Classes will be engaged in Coding Workshops (at specified times) to delve deeper into the exciting and intriguing world of Coding. This year, with the introduction of Coding into the Mathematics curriculum, it is even more clear that coding has a place, and coding is important to the lives of our students, and our society as a whole! So...let’s inspire, create and get excited about CODING! |

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| ***Safe and Caring School Community*** |

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| **PARENTS/GUARDIANS ON THE SCHOOL YARD:**  We respectfully ask all parents and guardians to stay off the school yard area. **Please wait behind the fence, kindly wear a mask and maintain physical distance.** Thank you for respecting our school’s entry/exit routines.  **DISMISSAL:** A gentle reminder to all our students and parent community that when the bell rings, students must follow whatever home time safe arrival procedures have been established by parents and guardians.  **COVID UPDATE:**  Please help to remind your child:   * Wear a mask or face covering; * Maintain Physical distance; * Wash your hands; and * Monitor your health.   In adherence to York Region Public Health, please use this [COVID-19 School Screening Tool](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) to determine if your child should stay home from school. Here are some resources from York Region Public Health to assist families in navigating COVID-19 protocols:   * [Common COVID-19 Symptoms](https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/7e3d8bb1-7988-465e-b193-c09a45f8cd9b/86_Children+Common+Symptoms+Poster-Oct13.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nkU.H2V) * [Kids – How to put on and take off face mask](https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/6bde446a-85ec-4d55-8485-85b28e6dfb99/91_Kids+How+to+put+on+and+take+off+Face+Mask-Sept9.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nhPlH8c) * [Kids - How to Hand Sanitize](https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/6d8f4c96-138e-4f3d-ab54-ba9228e22749/96_Kids+How+to+Hand+Sanitize-Sept9.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nhPlCt.) * [School Screening](https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/4bbab3f4-ff95-4259-b177-83dd4386ee2c/School+Screening+Poster.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nkjUI9R) * [When to wash your hands](https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/637a98c6-5ab7-48c8-92d6-9ad97ed1ee5e/87_When+to+Wash+Hands-Sept9.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nhPlXOu)   **GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON SAFELY:** The Ontario Government has recently provided important information on how to protect you and your loved ones this holiday season. Please click [here](https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59338/celebrate-the-holiday-season-safely) to access these recommendations. Thank you in advance for helping to flatten the curve in our communities by following these holiday safety recommendations. | **SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!** The Santa Claus Parade will look a little different this year and although our plans may have changed, we can still be safe and bring Santa’s magic to town! Did you know that the parade was filmed at Canada’s Wonderland right here in our hometown of Vaughan? Incredible, right? Mark your calendars- the Santa Claus Parade will be broadcasted on Saturday, December 5th @ 7pm on CTV. Let’s watch as a school community! <https://thesantaclausparade.com/>    **Wishing You and Your Families**  **A Blessed Christmas and a Healthy, Prosperous**  **New Year!**  **May St. Michael the Archangel Defend us and Protect Us Always!**  Christmas Holiday:  **December 21st, 2020- January 1st, 2021**  Students resume school:  **January 4th, 2021** |

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| **PARKING LOT SAFETY:** Everyone must feel safe and welcome when they come to our school, and that begins in our parking lot. We highlight parking lot safety in our newsletters so our community is aware of our parking lot expectations. We are grateful for the support of our parent community, our community liaison officer, and municipal parking officers for their guidance, cooperation and support.  **KISS AND RIDE:** Thank you to parents and guardians for your efforts to use SMAL’s Kiss and Ride effectively before and after school. You are reminded that this area is not intended for parking or stopping, but rather designated for drivers to pull in, unload safely, and drive through. Parents and guardians, please continue to park in available parking spots or use of street parking where appropriate if you wish to accompany your children to/from the playground or kindergarten pen. Our collective efforts will make a real difference to the efficiency of morning drop offs and pickups, and most of all keep our students safe!  **FIRE ROUTE:** We respectfully remind our community not to park or idle in our bus route, entry or exit gates. This area is for buses and emergency vehicles. Vehicles parked or idling in this area block traffic flow which is a disruption to everyone. Please do not choose haste and convenience over the safety of our children. We also ask that drivers do not drive into the parking lot from the exit gate at the north side of the lot. The front driveway is designed for one way traffic only with vehicles entering, when appropriate, from the south entrance. This space must be kept clear as well for pedestrians and students on bicycles. Thank you for respecting these traffic safety rules. |