



St. Theresa Tribune

Sowing the Seeds of Faith, Blossoming in Knowledge
St. Theresa Catholic Elementary

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FAITH

When you come to the edge of all the light you
have known
and are about to step into the darkness.
Faith is knowing one of two things will happen.
There will be something to stand on or you will be taught how
to fly.

- Unknown

December brings forth a strengthened spirit and
commitment to Jesus in our daily lives. The visual
images of Christmas make it easier for us to reflect on the
many gifts we've been granted. We pray for all of our
families and are confident that our faith will give
everyone "something to stand on" and the courage to
"fly."

It is difficult to believe that three months of school have
passed. These first three busy and productive months
have been filled with great accomplishments by every
student at St. Theresa. I am very proud of all
students; your daily schoolwork and behaviour are
exemplary! Your progress reports clearly note your
strengths and accomplishments. It is time to reflect on the
academic goals you have set to make steady and
consistent achievement for your upcoming first term
report card in early February. Congratulations to all
students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 on your successes
so far.

Advent begins on December 1st, 2024. This liturgical
season provides all of us with the opportunity to prepare
our hearts, minds and spirits for the Christmas season. It
is a time to appreciate all we have been given. It is a time
to harness the joy of children and connect it to our
spirituality. It is a time to reflect on how we can make
positive changes and take on new challenges. Advent is a
prayerful time for evaluating how our life challenges
have made us better, not bitter. Each week we light
another Advent candle, as we prepare ourselves for
Christmas. Enjoy your journey to Christmas.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all staff
members for their commitment to our students. Thank
you for your commitment to the students entrusted to us.
Thank you to all parents for your tremendous support this
past term.

We wish a peaceful and joyous Christmas Season to all.
Yours in Catholic Education,

Dan Trainor

Mr. Trainor
Principal



Season of Advent

As we prepare for Christmas, our faith
gives us the gift of Advent. Advent is a
time to reflect, regroup and rejuvenate
our hope. We will virtually light Advent
candles during the weeks of Advent.



1st Candle = December 2nd at 11:30 a.m., led by our
Grade 6 students

2nd Candle = December 9th at 9:30 a.m., led by our
Grade 4 students

3rd Candle = December 16th at 11:30 a.m., led by our
Grade 3 students

4th Candle = December 20th at 9:00 a.m., led by our
Grade 5 students

St. Theresa School's Advent Mass will be celebrated at
St. Alfred Church by Monsignor Hugh on Tuesday,
December 5th, at 10:30 a.m.

The month of December will be faith filled and will
provide your children with sacramental preparation for
Christmas. Classroom instruction will focus on the
"Waiting of Advent" and the "Joy of Christmas".

JOY DAY

Friday, December 6th will be Joy Day at
our school. Students are able to wear
red, white, and green clothing. Students
will have opportunities to be creative and
reflective, and to harness the joy of Christmas during this
day. Students will excitedly and happily work on themes
and designs to "deck the halls" as the Christmas season
approaches.



Advent Food Drive

Students are invited to donate non-perishable food items
(canned goods, pasta etc.) for our Advent food drive.
The drive will run from Dec. 4th -18th. Donations will
be picked up on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024.

Catholic School Council

Our second Catholic School Council meeting was held on
Monday, November 25th at 3:00 p.m. Our change in meeting
time worked better for our parent members. We are excited to
host visits with Santa during our "Gift of Time" evening on
December 10th, 2024. Our next meeting is on Tuesday,
February 4th, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. All parents are welcome.



Classroom Spotlight Grade Three Grade 3 Adventures!

What an exciting start to our school year! Our Grade three classroom has been buzzing with activity and growth as we work on building independence in following our daily routines. From the end of October through November, we've enjoyed a variety of engaging learning opportunities in Literacy, Numeracy, Religion, and Social Studies.

In Literacy, our young writers have been busy crafting descriptive writing pieces about Halloween settings and characters, diving into the writing process during our Writer's Workshop periods. Daily reading is a key part of our routine, and we've been growing as readers through independent, shared, and guided reading. Word study has been a highlight, as students learn the fascinating 'secret stories' that explain sound behavior, helping us decode new words in both reading and writing.

In Social Studies, we've been exploring Ontario and its communities, gaining a greater appreciation for our province. Meanwhile, in Math, students have been reviewing and discovering new concepts through hands-on activities and technology-based learning. Daily number talks help us visualize problem-solving, apply higher-level thinking, and build flexibility in our strategies. Whether representing numbers, exploring patterns, or diving into measurement, our mathematicians are hard at work!

Our Religion class has been a meaningful space for reflection and celebration. Students were especially engaged while learning about All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, exploring the lives of Saints and honoring them through classroom prayer. As Advent approaches, we are eager to continue our faith journey together.

Grade 3 truly is a year of discovery, growth, and joy, and we're so proud of the effort and enthusiasm our students bring to each day.

Anaphylaxis Awareness and Action Plans



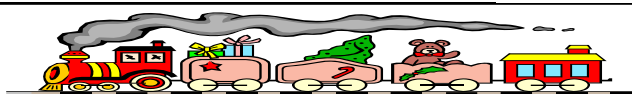
All classrooms at St. Theresa are **peanut, tree nut and milk safe classrooms**. **No peanuts, peanut products, or tree nuts are allowed at any time.** We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and peanut products.

Please do not send in any food items for class distribution. We also have a student with dairy allergies and must ensure we handle all dairy food items carefully.

Students who share the classroom with our student with a dairy allergy have been informed and know that they are to wash their hands after lunches and snacks that contain dairy items. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or dairy products for breakfast/lunch at home. We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safety of all students. Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.

Medication

For safety reasons, no child is to bring any form of medication to school. If medication is necessary, there is a form that must be filled out by your doctor to indicate dosage, instructions, etc., and the prescription container clearly labeled with names (child, parent, doctor), phone numbers and must be left at the office. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.



Gift of Time - Christmas Event

Dear families, we invite you all to a "Gift of Time" with your children at school. We will open up our classrooms to all on **December 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** for an evening of family fun making crafts. There will be three crafts to enjoy. The crafts will be beautiful pieces of art work that you will be able to take home with you and cherish over the Christmas season. The crafts require the assistance of adults so all children will need an adult with them. **Parents must remain with your children for the evening as you move from one craft centre to the next.**

In addition to our craft centres, we will have Santa in the gym! Families are requested to respect a 5 minute sitting time with Santa during "Gift of Time" event. There will not be a booking schedule for Santa, families are to move through the gym and the craft centres in the open area. Please monitor the line in the gym to see Santa as you enjoy the craft time with your children.

We are so excited to have our community together in our school! We are using the whole school building to allow for some social distancing as we are still aware of the "bugs" we don't want to share during this season of sharing and giving.

Christmas Sweater Day

Friday, December 20th will be another alternate Dress Code Day. On this day students may wear Christmas Sweaters.



Intermediate Homework Club

We have been approved again for a funding grant set aside for students in grades 7 to 12, homework help and extra reinforcement of skills. The club runs weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:50 to 4:15 p.m. in the library. Ms. DeLuca, Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Trainor are the staff moderators of the club. As part of the learning students will have access to technology and also use various literacy and numeracy games to reinforce their skills. We currently have over 30 students in the club and are always eager to welcome more students.

Nutrition Program

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Read, Ms. Hall, Mr. Rosano and Ms. Skeoch for their continued diligence in organizing, ordering and preparing the morning snacks for our students. Each child is permitted a fruit, dairy and grain. Thank you to Community Care and the Merriton Lions Club for donations made throughout the year to support our Snack Program! *Did you know you can also make donations for our snack program?* Donations in the amount of \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 can be made through St. Theresa Cash online. Larger donations can be made through the Donation Module located on the top right of the screen when you log onto your School Cash Online account. Tax receipts will automatically be emailed to you when using the Donation Module. Thank you for your continued support. A special "Thank you" to families who have donated to this worthwhile program.

Volleyball Junior Boys and Girls

This volleyball season, both the junior boys and girls teams showed incredible dedication, teamwork, and sportspersonship. They played hard from start to finish, always supporting each other and giving their best effort. Win or lose, they respected the game and their opponents, showing great integrity both on and off the court.

Although both teams reached the semi-finals, they encountered strong competition and fell short. Nevertheless, their effort and determination throughout the season were remarkable. Team members are Isabella M., Kylie S., Everleigh J., McKenna, Eden, Paisley Y., Paisley S., Addison H., Gemma B., Rufta H., and Ethan I., Ayo O., Toloni A., Sam N., Xian C., Seth B., Omi S., Quentin S., Max M., Raymond A.

Thank you for all your time coaching our teams Mr. Dikic, Mrs. DiTillio, Mr. Inman and Mrs. Stephens.

Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Volleyball

We are happy to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our Boys' and Girls' Intermediate Volleyball Teams, who recently competed with remarkable skill and determination. We commend your teamwork, determination, and willingness to push yourselves beyond limits.

The boys played with true sportsmanship and it was amazing to watch them play with such dedication. In the nail biting final matches, the team secured 1st place win in our division. The boys brought home the GOLD medals!

The girls played with great spirit and skill! They showed excellent social grace when they won their games. They cheered each other on and were so respectful of their opponents.

Both teams have made our school community very proud, and we have no doubt that your future endeavors will be filled with further success and triumph.

Team members were:

Kayden (Gr. 8), Sofia (Gr. 8), Natalia (Gr. 8), Bethany (Gr. 8), Jessica (Gr. 8), Kaylyn (Gr. 7), Khyla (Gr. 7), Emma (Gr. 7) and Bryson (Gr. 8), Julian (Gr. 8), Aven (Gr. 8), Jaxson (Gr. 8), Lucas (Gr. 8), Easton (Gr. 8), Ben E. (Gr. 7), Andrew F. (Gr. 7) Benoit (Gr. 7)

Go Timberwolves!

Thank you Ms. DeLuca and Mrs. Rogers for all your time coaching our teams.

*Wishing you and your family
A very Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
Be Well, Stay Safe
God Bless our community
Students return to school on
Monday, January 6th, 2025.*



Parking Lot Safety

Thank you to all parents, grandparents and guardians for your diligence in keeping our students safe in the parking lot.

If you are stopping to assist your children out of the vehicle and need to help them get their back packs etc **you must park in a parking spot** and not hold up the traffic in the drop off lane. Thank you for respecting others' schedules as they drop off their children too.

Parents are cautioned when driving in and out of the school parking lot. Students who walk to school may be crossing the driveway to get to the sidewalk. Student safety is our first priority and we ask that drivers please be vigilant.

If you are picking up your child(ren) at our "Kiss and Ride", we ask that everyone keep the traffic flowing in this space at a slow speed to ensure students are safe. It is preferred that you park your vehicle in the parking lot and escort your child(ren) to the front of the school during morning drop off and repeat the same procedure at the end of the day by meeting your child(ren) at the exit gates.

Thank you for working with us to prioritize the safety of our children .



Outstanding Dance-a-thon Fundraiser

Thank you to all our families for your support of our Dance-a-thon. Our children had a great day dancing! The Country theme was showcased by our students with all their outfits! Congratulations to our top fundraisers:

1st - Cooper M. = \$400.00 Amazon Shopping Spree
2nd - Layla C. = \$200.00 Amazon Shopping Spree
3rd - Jessica S. = \$100.00 Amazon Shopping Spree

Raffle Winner - Abigail J. = \$100.00 Amazon Shopping Spree (every \$10.00 raised gave students a ticket for the draw)

Our Amazon Shopping day was Thursday, November 27th, 2024. The four students had time shopping on Mrs. Read's computer using the school Amazon account. The shopping "trip" included cookies and treats too.

After expenses, our funds raised by Kindergarten to Grade 7 (\$3177.00) will pay for our new jerseys, shorts and cover the costs of the Timberwolves logo wraps on the gym doors, basketball nets and wall. Funds raised by Grade 8 students (\$1213.00) will cover their year end trip and graduation expenses.

Income

Pledges - \$5076.00
Goodie Bags - \$755.00
Total Income - \$5831.00

Expenses

Amazon - \$19.87
Amazon - \$31.29
Amazon - \$297.82
3 top winners - \$700.00
\$10.00 ballot winner - \$100.00
Paper bags - \$10.00
DJ (Jordan) - \$282.00

Total Expenses - \$1440.98

Income - \$5831.00
Expenses - \$1440.98
Total Profit - \$4380.00