

St. Joseph Phoenix News

Pre-Christmas January 2025 News

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Well, we made it! December has been a very busy month, and we aren't even at Christmas yet. I know we are all are feeling the last-minute rush to be ready for Christmas also. My wish is that you find time over the next 2 weeks to take a moment to breathe and relax. I also hope that you have the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. I know everyone here is looking forward to the down time to recharge our batteries, and be ready for 2025.



When we return on January 6, we will be concentrating on finishing Term 1 strong. We still have lots to accomplish within our classrooms, and the students will be jumping right back into their routines here at St. Joseph School.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a fun-filled and safe holiday! Merry Christmas and God bless.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. T. Atkinson

Reflection for the New Year

In the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus teaching his disciples saying,
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven"

Jesus called the disciples, as He calls each of us, to follow Him by living the Beatitudes. Jesus IS the Beatitudes. Looking at Him you see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, and to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say, "Come, follow me!" He does not simply say, "Do what I say." He says, "Come, follow me!"

#Project Plaid

Pathstone is a lead agency for children's mental health in Niagara and the primary provider of children's mental health to the Niagara Region. In the month of November our school supported #ProjectPlaid by raising \$427.40! Thank you for your generous donations...Way to go Phoneix! We have added the link below for anyone who wishes to make further donations.



Donate - Pathstone Mental Health Foundation

We believe you should be able to take care of your child and it shouldn't be so hard to get them treatment for a mental health problem. Pathstone has been providing world class mental health services for children for over 50 years.

pathstonefoundation.ca

St. Joseph Eco Team & Student Council

The St. Joseph Student Council and Eco Team are working together to show kindness to individuals in our community and care for our environment.

The student council will be collecting clean coats and blankets for the homeless. The coats and blankets will be donated to an organization called Niagara Assertive Street Outreach Team (NASO) who will distribute the items on our behalf. We especially encourage the donation of large adult sized jackets, as adults are often the ones who go without.



The Eco Team will be collecting items (mentioned below) for an organization called Recycle for Education. Each type of item will generate a given dollar amount per pound for St. Joseph School which we will use toward Eco projects. Please sort and label items in the following categories: clothing/textiles, household goods, books, and electronics.

We will be doing a “ONE DAY” blitz to collect items for both initiatives on Thursday, January 16th from 10:00AM to 7:00PM. Please consider taking some time over the holidays to put aside items to support these worthwhile causes. We also encourage you to pass this information along to family and friends. We will be advertising this event throughout our community.

The St. Joseph School Council and Eco Team thank you in advance for your support.

Items we do accept:

Textiles and Clothing: Accessories and bags, Clothing and Shoes (all types), Bedding, Linens, Curtains

Toys, books and equipment: Toys, Games in Working Order, Books in Good Condition, Sporting Goods in Good Condition,

Housewares: Housewares, housewares (cutlery, glassware, pots and pans, and so on, Games, Ornaments and any type of knick-knack.

Electronics: Display devices, Drones, Home audio/video system, Desktop computers, Home Theatre in a box (HTB) system, Cameras & security cameras, vehicle audio/video system, portable computers, Personal portable audio/video system, musical instruments & recording equipment, floor standing printers & printer cartridges, video gaming systems & peripherals, computer peripherals (routers, cables, chargers, USB), IT & telecom equipment (hard drives, servers, microfilm readers, binding machines, postage franking machines & check fillers machines, Desktop printing / multifunction devices, 3D printers & printers cartridges, telephones, cellular & smartphones devices, pagers.

Items we do not accept:

Baby Car Seats, Cribs and Strollers, Air Conditioners, Large Appliances (Fridges/Stoves Etc.), Lawnmowers, BBQ's, Anything with a Gas Tank, Doors, Windows or any Construction Material.

DENTAL SCREENING

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be offering [dental screening](#) to grades JK, SK, 2, 4 and 7 on January 16, 2025.

A registered dental hygienist will take a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized dental mirror and light.

The [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#) program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care.

If you do not want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening, you MUST complete the online [School Dental Screening Opt-Out Form](#) or call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 each school year.

If your child(ren) is not in one of the grades listed above, they may have the opportunity to participate in the dental screening. If you would like your child to be screened, please complete the



Online registration is available throughout the school year through the Board website. All the necessary documentation required to complete the registration process needs to be brought into the school for verification. Once you have done the online registration, the school will email you with a list of the required documents. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school

office by phone or email our secretary, Mrs. Humphreys at holly.humphreys@ncdsb.com. The Kindergarten Open House is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. More information about this will be posted on our school's website in the new year.

Public Health Newsletter JANUARY 2025

Access and Update Your Child's Immunization Record

Niagara Region Public Health would like to remind parents and guardians to keep their children's immunization record up to date. This can easily be completed by using [Immunization Connect](#). Immunization Connect is a quick, confidential, and secure system where you can access your child's vaccination record and report vaccines.

Report every time your child receives a vaccine directly to Public Health with Immunization Connect. Health care providers do not do this for you.

Visit niagararegion.ca/vaccines for other ways to report vaccination information to Public Health.

Wintertime Well-Being

As the weather changes and days get shorter, many people, including children and youth, may feel more anxious, depressed, or tired. It's essential to be mindful of our emotional well-being. Beat the winter blues and check out these simple activities to boost your and your child's mood.

- [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](#)
- [Easy and Fun Mental Health Activities for Home](#)
- [Active Play ideas - Active4Life](#)

Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. **Gear Up:** Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.
2. **Choose Safe Hills:** Pick tobogganing hills that are marked as a safe place and free from objects such as trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. **Follow Etiquette:** Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. **Think Safety:** Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.

5. **Stay Visible:** If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.

Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland!

BT CORNER

We are just one week away from Christmas, but Blessed Trinity is still moving forward with many activities and the start of the Winter sports season. Our boys and girls' hockey, girls volleyball and boys' basketball teams have started their regular seasons. Our wrestlers hosted a tournament and our Music Department is touring our Family of Schools spreading the Christmas Cheer. A representative from our Student Services Department has begun doing presentations to all of our grade 8's focusing on the courses they will be choosing and taking at BT next year. Those presentations will continue throughout December and early January. An early plug for our **Grade 8 Open House that will take place on January 16th at 6:30 pm.**

Blessed Trinity would like to wish all of our Family of Schools a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

OPENHOUSE

Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Join our Blessed Trinity family; tour our state of the art facility; hear from our faculty members about our innovative programs and explore our extensive co-instructional opportunities



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Holly Humphreys

Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters