



# St. John XXIII Catholic School

## The Monthly - November 2017

**Trustee**  
C. Cotton

**Superintendent**  
L. Sawicky

**Principal**  
C. Mills

**Secretary**  
E. Marincola

**Parish Priest**  
Monsignor V. Vlasic

**Parish**  
St. Justin Martyr

**St. John XXIII Catholic School**  
125 Krieghoff Avenue  
Unionville, Ontario  
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The month of November is a time of prayer and reflection as it begins with All Saints' Day on November 1<sup>st</sup> and All Souls' Day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, as a school community we remember, commemorate and pray for those who gave their lives so we all could live in peace and freedom – the Remembrance Day assembly is planned for 9:15 a.m.

November is indeed shaping up to being an exciting month with engaging learning experiences, Primary skating, volleyball tournaments and Luke 4:18 initiatives. November 20-24<sup>th</sup> is Bullying Prevention Week and we have a super week planned with 'Making A Positive Difference' as our theme.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, you will receive your child's Progress Report (Grades 1-8) and Communication of Learning Reports (Kindergarten). Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled to take place on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. This parent-teacher meeting is an opportunity for you and your child's teacher to discuss your daughter/son's progress to date and set goals. We are looking forward to another great month ahead!

Warmest regards,  
C. Mills  
Principal

### Prayer for Remembrance Day

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,  
and ask that God may give us peace:  
for the men and women who have died in the violence of war,  
each one remembered by and known to God;  
may God give peace.  
For peacemakers and peacekeepers,  
who seek to keep this world secure and free;  
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve  
in the search for reconciliation and peace;  
may God give peace.  
O God of truth and justice,  
as we honour the past,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

### Celebrating the Virtue of

### *Justice*

- ✓ I will treat others in a just, equitable and unbiased manner.
- ✓ I will play by the rules, take turns and share.
- ✓ I will be respectful of others. I will seek solutions to problems.

#### Mission

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

#### Vision

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

#### Core Values

Catholicity, Excellence, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect

#### Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources, Engaging Our Communities

*"We believe in the power of prayer."*

# Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

## Parent-Teacher Interviews

On November 2nd, an "Interview Request Form" will be sent home for you to complete. This sign-up sheet is used to schedule Parent-Teacher interviews and will be returned to your daughter/son to confirm interview times for either **Thursday, November 23rd or the morning of Friday, November 24th**. Progress Report Cards (Grades 1-8) and Communication of Learning Reports (Kindergarten) will be sent home on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Grades 1 to 8 students are invited to participate in the Parent-Teacher interview. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to communicate what they are most proud of and discuss a plan to set goals for areas of growth. We look forward to seeing you and your child at Parent-Teacher interviews.



## French Immersion Information Parent Night

If your child will be entering Grade One in September 2018, then they are eligible to apply for the French Immersion Program at St. John XXIII. An information night will be held here, at the school on Tuesday, November 21 starting at 7:00 p.m. Please see information at the end of the newsletter.



## Bullying Prevention Week: November 20-24

Bullying Prevention Week takes place the week of November 20th. Our theme for the week and one which we will weave throughout the year is "**Making A Positive Difference**". We will be marking this week with a variety of activities in the classrooms and school, such as the Virtue Morning. Bullying prevention week is part of our larger Bullying Prevention Plan that goes on throughout the entire school year. Information on the various school activities we have planned that week will be sent home shortly.



## Intermediate Volleyball Teams

Intermediate Boys and Girls Volleyball practices are underway. Teams will represent St. John XXIII at competitions on November 21 and November 22 respectively. Many thanks to our staff volunteers who make it all possible - Mr. Silveri and Ms. Fantauzzi for coaching our volleyball teams.



## Grade 8 Parent Information Nights

On Wednesday, November 8, 2017, St. Augustine Catholic High School will host an information evening for Grade 8 parents. This will take place at 7:00 p.m.

Jean Vanier Catholic High School offers the Advanced Placement Program for our area and it will host an information for Grade 8 parents on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



## Fresh From The Farm School Fundraiser

Through the Fresh from the Farm School Fundraiser, St. John XXIII sold 65 bundles of Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables to our school community and raised \$359. Funds raised from this initiative will be put towards the purchase of a water bottling filling station planned for the spring. The water bottling station makes it easier to fill water bottles and supports both our ECO and Healthy school initiatives. Families who participated in this Fresh from the Farm initiative are asked to pick up their bundles on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Information will be sent home in the next week about exact times when bundles of food can be picked up.



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## **Cross Country Team**

Applause to the following Cross Country runners who represented St. John XXIII at the local meet on October 16<sup>th</sup> and regional meet on October 19<sup>th</sup>. A hearty thank you must also be extended to our coaches/supervisors Ms. Lau, Mr. Silveri, Ms. Seymour, Ms. Ofilan, Mme Cardinale, Ms. Fantauzzi and parents, Mrs. Lin and Mrs. Crowe, for all their support and encouragement over the course of the past two months.



## **From the Library Learning Commons ...**

This year, I am hoping that our library learning commons will not only be a hub of learning, but also a hub of social justice. To this end, I have asked students to start collecting the following items:

- Pop-can tabs
- Used Stamps
- Empty, cleaned yogurt/cottage cheese/margarine containers with lids



The tab of a standard soda can is made of high quality, high-grade aluminum. These tabs are then donated to a recycling center who pays for the tabs by the kilogram. This money is used to help make wheelchairs for children.

The fate of our collected stamps is very similar to that of the pop-can tabs. They are donated to an organization called Oxfam Canada who then sells the stamps in bulk. This money is used to “Stamp Out Poverty” around the world.

The plastic containers will be donated to Canadian Food for Children. This organization provides food to communities around the world. These containers help in the distribution of the food.

As we discuss our efforts throughout the year, we will focus on how we can all make a contribution in some way. We will try to remember the words of St. Mother Teresa, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

## **Virtue Houses and Student Engagement**

A tradition for some years at St. John XXIII has been our Virtue Houses. We have four Virtue Houses; Compassion, Courage, Peace and Wisdom. (You may have noticed that each of these is represented in our foyer as stained glass windows.) It’s a wonderful inclusive initiative that recognizes and celebrates student engagement.

Each student in our school is part of one of the virtue houses and throughout the year, students may sit with their houses at assemblies or do activities together.

As students participate in activities in the school, such as; Terry Fox or Cross Country, they receive points that go towards their particular Virtue House. At the end of the year, at the last virtue assembly, we announce which House has accumulated the most points. In addition, students also receive a sticker for each activity they participate in. These stickers are placed on a sheet that goes home with the June report card for each child and serves as a wonderful memory of the past year.

## **Remembrance Day**

On November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m., we will take time in our gym to reflect on and remember all of those who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of peace. Please join us on the 13<sup>th</sup>, for our Remembrance Day assembly. Thank you to Mrs. FitzGerald for leading this special assembly.



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# Integration of Our Catholic Faith

## Luke 4:18

During the month of October, our committee led highly successful Thanksgiving food and Winter Coat Drives. The food items were donated to One for Haiti and coats were donated to St. Vincent de Paul society. Thank you so much to all of our families for their generous donations to these important causes. We are very appreciative of milk bag donations in support of our "Weaving Wednesdays". Many thanks too to everyone for supporting the relief efforts for the earthquakes in Mexico and hurricanes in the Caribbean - St. John XXIII collected \$190.



Luke  
4:18

## Monthly Virtue Recognition and Celebration Assemblies

Living our faith is the spirit of this school-wide initiative. Each month we hold an assembly and recognize those students who have demonstrated the month's virtue. While we know that all students show each month's virtue in one way or another, some students demonstrate the virtue of the month in a particularly special way. We celebrate the following October Virtue of Compassion Award recipients: Athena K., Kate C., Feenyx A., Austin E., Amber W., Riley S., Bryant S., Aiden C., Chloe B., Charles O., Angela N., Isaiah L, Mason D., Adam H., Amanda B., Luke M., Andrew H., Shannon O.



## First Reconciliation

Our Grade two students will be celebrating their First Reconciliation on November 2, 2017. Reconciliation is a very important milestone for our Grade two students and their families and, therefore, we join together as a community in acknowledging this special faith-filled event.



## 2017 School Climate Survey Results

Schools need to be safe and welcoming places so that all students feel comfortable to learn and can be successful. In support of the Board's Safe Schools and Equity and Inclusive Education policies, as well as the provincial mandate to conduct school climate surveys, each school in the Board conducted a school climate survey for students last spring. The surveys were completed anonymously online with the intention of providing students with an opportunity to share their perspective on creating an optimal safe and caring learning environment.

During the previous year, school staff and parents/guardians provided their opinions on what they believed would contribute to a caring, safe and inclusive school. Last Spring, students in Grades 4, 6 and 7 who completed the School Climate Survey identified the following as areas for celebration and improvement at St. John XIII CES:

### **What We Are Doing Well**

- Students indicate that their school community makes them feel respected, welcomed, included and they feel that they get along with others.
- Students note that they work hard in school and enjoy learning.
- Students say that their school principal and teachers expects them to do good work.

### **What We Need to Improve**

- Increase the capacity of staff to respond to students who experience anxiety, anger or frustration.
- Increase the capacity of staff to help students who feel stressed while at school.
- Increase the opportunities for students to develop leadership skills.

Feedback collected from the school climate surveys for students, along with other information gathered about our school, will be used at St. John XXIII, to promote peace, justice and the sacredness of life in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

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# Engaging Our Communities

## Catholic School Council

Thank you to each of our members for their willingness to be part of our Catholic School Council team. Together we will continue to make St. John XXIII a place where our children grow in their faith, pursue academic excellence to the best of their ability, and feel safe in a warm welcoming school environment. All Council meetings are open to school community members and Council would love to hear from you! Our next Council meeting is on November 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.



## A Happy Halloween Spirit at St. John XXIII

Our school spirit was evident at St. John XXIII during our Halloween festivities. We had a Spooktacular celebration with Halloween activities in the gym. Many thanks to Catholic School Council and all of the parents for organizing our dance, and for their assistance with decorations. The gym looked outstanding! Thanks to all who helped create a Happy Halloween Spirit!



## One-Time Donation Fundraising

Our One-Time Donation Fundraising Program will begin shortly. Please look for the information package which will be sent home with your child. Sincere thanks are extended to all the parents in advance for their anticipated support.



## Inclement Weather Procedures

Before we know it, winter conditions will be upon us. We ask you to pay special attention to the following procedures when deciding whether to send your children to school on a day when buses are cancelled. First, listen to one of the radio or TV stations listed below or access [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com), to determine if buses for **York Region** have been cancelled. If the York Region District school buses are cancelled, then York Catholic District School buses are also cancelled as we share the same buses. **Once cancelled, buses will not be running in the afternoon. Schools rarely close, even though buses are cancelled.** TV and radio stations will provide the necessary information beginning at 7:00 a.m. If you decide to drive your child to school, please consider that over the course of the day, weather conditions could worsen, and retrieving your child at the end of the day maybe particularly hazardous.



590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	1010 AM	99.1 FM	104.5 FM	CITY TV
1050 AM	1540 AM	1580 AM	860 AM	99.9 FM	100.7 FM	CTV Barrie
93.1 FM	88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM	101.1 FM	107.1 FM	CP 24
94.9 FM	95.9 FM	97.3 FM	98.1 FM	102.1 FM	CTV TORONTO	GLOBAL NEWS

## St. John XXIII Healthy Snack Program

St. John XXIII is planning to introduce a new Healthy Snack program. Every Wednesday and Thursday, beginning in December, each classroom will receive a bin of healthy snacks consisting of a fruit, vegetable or dairy product. Children are welcome to try the healthy snacks provided. Although students are encouraged to eat the snack provided by parents first, we will offer an additional healthy snack on Wednesdays and Thursdays morning.



**We are in need of volunteers on Wednesday and/or Thursday mornings from approximately 9:00-9:30 a.m. Please call the main office if you are able to help.**

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# St. Justin Martyr Parish

3898 Highway 7 East - Unionville, ON L3R 1L3 (905)-479-2463

November 2017 School Newsletter [www.stjustin.com](http://www.stjustin.com)

## NEW Sunday 7PM Mass

Did you hear the news? As of Oct. 1, our parish has a NEW, weekly Sunday 7:00PM evening Mass. As a parish community, we wanted to allow our families and friends an additional opportunity when they can come and worship with us. Family lives are not easy today in age. We understand that! With so many commitments and expectations, it can be hard to find a moment to just breathe, catch your breath, enjoy each other's company and pray. That's why this particular Mass was instituted. You are invited to join us for "Sundays at 7," as we pray, reflect and get ready for the start of another school/work week. For those contemporary music lovers, we have a jazz oriented ensemble that will help lift you up in song and praise. We ask all of our First Communion and Confirmation students preparing for Sacraments this year to take advantage of "Sundays at 7". Spread the word. We hope to see you every week!

Love and Prayers, Msgr. Vid Vlastic, Pastor



## What's Happening?

**September - June 2017**      **EDGE/LifeTeen**

*Both our EDGE (Gr. 5-8) and LifeTeen (Gr. 9-12) programs have begun! A year filled with prayer, activity, fun and plenty of food. Should you have any children in these grades, know that there is a place for them in one of these programs here at the parish. For more information or to register, contact Andrew Santos at the parish office. Don't miss out!*

**November 18 & 19**      **Christmas Craft Sale**

*It's that time of year again! Mark your calendar as we get ready for our renowned Christmas Craft & Bake Sale. Spend an hour or two with us at any point this weekend. Find something special for your family or loved ones this holiday. All proceeds support the parish!*

*We are in need of parishioners to help with baked goods, silent auction items, items for baskets (soaps, candles, etc) and baking tarts for the Tea room. Call the office if you can help. See you at this year's Sale!*

**\*\* Visit [www.stjustin.com](http://www.stjustin.com) for more information.**

## Sacramental Prep

### Grade 2 Reconciliation/First Communion

If you would like your child to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion, but missed the October 14 family interview, please call Karen Garcea at the parish office immediately. Our program has already begun.

### Grade 7 Confirmation

Family Registration interviews were held on Saturday, October 28. If your child wishes to be confirmed in May 2018 and is not yet registered, please contact Andrew Santos at the parish office immediately. All students in Grades 7 or older this year are eligible to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Your "Letter of Intent" to Msgr. Vid is due Nov. 25/26 at any Mass that weekend.

### RCIC Open House

For children in public/private schools with no sacraments. Call Rachel Martinez via the Parish Office for more details.

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**York Catholic District School Board**  
**ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**IN MARKHAM (UNIONVILLE) IS OFFERING**  
**BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH IMMERSION CLASSES**

French Immersion programs are designed to provide non-francophone children with a high degree of proficiency in the French language. While any exposure to a second language is beneficial, French Immersion broadens and deepens that exposure.

In addition to its excellent English program, St. John XXIII CES offers an Early French Immersion program. The September 2018 online application process for French Immersion will be open as of November 14, 2017.

A parent information night will be held on **Tuesday November 21, 2017**, to explain its Grade 1 French Immersion Program, with online application available from **Nov 14, 2017 to Jan. 25, 2018** at [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca).

Transportation will be provided to French Immersion Students living within the St. John XXIII CES French Immersion Boundary.

- Students in grades 1 to grades 3, residing 1.2 km beyond the school and within the FI boundary will receive transportation.
- Students in grades 4 to grades 8, who live beyond 1.6 km and live within the French Immersion transportation boundary will receive transportation.

Students are required to walk a short distance to and from centralized bus stops.

**A PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**



Parents considering French Immersion are welcome to attend a meeting on:

**Date: Tuesday November 21, 2017**

**Time: 7 p.m.**

**Where: St. John XXIII CES**  
125 Kreighoff Avenue, Unionville  
Between Warden & Unionville By-Pass North  
of Hwy 7 off Village Parkway

**For more information contact the principal at**  
St. John XXIII CES at 905-477-3288



**ONLINE APPLICATION AVAILABLE**  
**FROM NOV. 14, 2017 TO**  
**JAN. 25, 2018 AT**  
[WWW.YCDSB.CA](http://WWW.YCDSB.CA)

**\*\*IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL YR 2  
KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS (SK), EVEN IF  
THEY ARE IN ATTENDANCE IN A FRENCH  
IMMERSION SCHOOL, MUST APPLY ONLINE  
TO INDICATE INTEREST\*\***

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Where the number of applicants exceeds the number of available placements in the program, a public lottery will be held on **February 1, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.** at St. John XXIII CES

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