

Good News Media Release

December 20th, 2022

Arnprior and area schools celebrate the holidays by giving back before Christmas break

RCCDSB schools in the Arnprior area are in the Christmas spirit! St. Joseph's Arnprior has various activities underway. Staff, students, and families are very generous supporters of Teachers Against Poverty (T.A.P) and during the second week of December, the school held a toiletries for T.A.P drive that saw students bring in a wide variety of toiletries.

Mrs. Smith's class had the responsibility of gathering, sorting, and making care packages to be given out to local families. Mrs. Lynch's grade 4 class have been busily collecting change during Advent, and the money collected will be donated evenly to T.A.P and to Chalice to support families both near and far.

Like many other schools within RCCDSB, St. Joseph's Arnprior has been working hard in preparation for their upcoming Christmas concert. Principal Maureen McHale-Enright says: "The wonderful sounds of the season can be heard in the hallways of St. Joseph's!"

The school community is also thankful to Rev. Kelley for welcoming students to Sunday and weekday masses, especially during the season of Advent. Additionally, the school choir, led by Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Rampton, have loved sharing their musical talents with the congregation of St. John Chrysostom and the readers, greeters and offertory collectors are to be commended for their willingness to take on these roles.

As many schools in RCCDSB work toward the Catholic Graduate Expectations, St. Joseph's Arnprior is recognizing students who stand out as Responsible Citizens by promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life. Each month, we celebrate two students from each class by presenting them with certificates and ribbons during prayer services. A wonderful way to recognize responsible citizens!

At St. John XXIII, Advent has been celebrated as a school and in individual classrooms. As a whole school, they have participated in the first Sunday of Advent Mass at St. John Chrysostom Parish. The school choir showcased their beautiful voices, grade 6 students demonstrated courage by reading in front of the congregation and 6 other students were greeters/ushers.

Principal Christina Brown-McGrath shares: "St. John XXIII has also invited families to participate in the Advent Angel project. This project has two goals. The first, being to remember, honour and pray for family and friends who will be with us this Christmas and for those family and friends who can't be with us, due to long distances, deployment, or their passing. This is done by creating an Angel that will have the person's name on it and the name of the student or family requesting the Angel. They will be used to decorate our Christmas Tree in the foyer of our school." She continues: "Secondly, we hope to raise

funds for our Dominican Republic Project. School Council was gracious enough to purchase a new pre-lit Christmas tree for this project." A wonderful way to honour and pray for loved ones this Christmas season.

St. John XXIII had also been working hard on their Christmas concert, based on *A Christmas Story*, that took place on December 14th. Students put on a wonderful performance for the school community to enjoy! With the many Christmas activities taking place, classes have been invited to participate in a Christmas door or bulletin board decorating contest. There has been an abundance of creativity in the building!

With a focus on internet safety, the community police officer assigned to St. John XXIII, Constable Roberge, visited the junior classes this past week and did a presentation on internet safety and educated them on age-appropriate police matters.

At St. Joseph's Calabogie, students participated in a Remembrance Day poster contest, and on December 13th, Paddy Brydon of the Royal Canadian Legion, Brand 148, presented the two winning students with a plaque for their posters and participation. The winners were Julia Beckett, Grade 4 who came in 2nd place in the Junior Division Colour Poster category, and Hunter Galaski, grade 5, who came in 3rd place in the Junior Division Black and White Poster Category. Pictured below is Paddy Brydon and Julia Beckett.

Keeping in the Christmas spirit, St. Joseph's Calabogie had some students from the older grades assist the younger students in writing letters to Santa Claus. The students then walked to the post office together to deliver the letters, and they also had a special package waiting for them!

Students have been working hard on their Christmas concert performance, which is taking place on December 20th at 5:30 p.m. St. Joseph's school community is hoping all students and their families will be able to attend. Additionally, their Christmas raffle fundraiser draw will be held on the evening of the concert and the money raised will go directly to the outdoor education fund at St. Joseph's Calabogie. The school thanks everyone for their support!

There are various prize packages available, with many donations from local businesses and the school community. Some of the packages include: one night stay at the Calabogie Lodge, donated by the Calabogie Lodge; 4 Calabogie Highlands Golf Passes, donated by Calabogie Highlands; Yeti Ramblers, donated by AECON, 2 Oil Changes & Tire changes at Calabogie Motorsports, donated by Jay Fredericks; Anthony's Automotive Winter Vehicle Preparation, donated by the Wimbauer Family; and a House Deep Clean by Calabogie Cleaning Co, donated by Johnny Slack. These are just a handful of the wonderful prizes the community has donated to the school fundraiser.

The RCCDSB wishes all a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year! The Board hopes everyone has the opportunity to rest and recharge this Christmas break.



Julia Beckett at St. Joseph's, Calabogie and Paddy Brydon of the Royal Canadian Legion, Brand 148, presenting Julia with a plaque for her Remembrance Day poster.



Students from St. Joseph's Calabogie delivering their letters to Santa at the post office!



St. Joseph's Arnprior Toiletries T.A.P Drive- This is the result of families caring for families - 66 items in one day from one class alone! The spirit of giving is alive & well at St. Joseph's Arnprior.