



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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G.R.O.W.I - WE GROW WITH RESPECT, OPENNESS, WISDOM, AND LOVE. WE ARE KODIAKS AND WE GROW!

"FOR THE LORD LOVES JUSTICE AND WILL NOT ABANDON HIS FAITHFUL ONES." PSALM 27:28

DECEMBER 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The month of December begins our new liturgical year with the season of Advent. During Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and seek to demonstrate the Virtue of Hope. Advent is the liturgical season that precedes Christmas, during which Christians patiently and hopefully await the Nativity of the Lord.



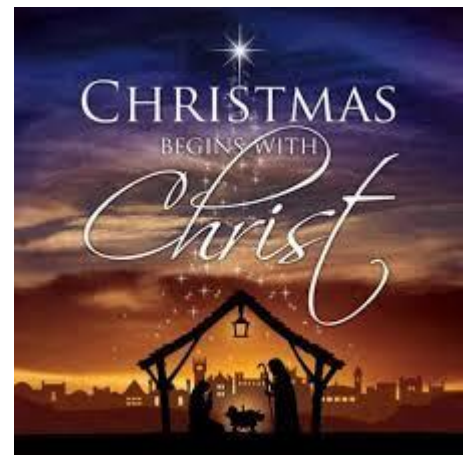
From homes to churches, schools, and offices – the Advent wreath is a common symbol of the liturgical season. Its purpose is *literally* to light the way to the true Light of the World. The circular wreath, typically made of evergreen leaves like pine or fir, represents God's infinite and everlasting love for us. It also holds four candles to light each Sunday of Advent. Each week we light one more candle representing the idea that the coming of Christ is closer. The green of the boughs indicates HOPE - just as the green of spring indicates new life.

We look forward to our School Advent Mass on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Our Family of Schools Advent Evening Mass will be celebrated with Good Shepherd and St. Elizabeth Seton CES at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish at 6:30pm on Thursday, December 4, 2025. Our Primary Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 16th at 10:45am, with our Intermediate Christmas Float Parade on Thursday, December 18th in the afternoon.

I sincerely hope that you are able to make time to relax, pray and celebrate the birth of Christ during this very joyous season. Wishing you and your families the best of Christmas. May God grant you *the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the belief of Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.*

As Pope Benedict XVI said, *"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."*

Yours in Catholic Education,



K. Quan King Thompson

Inclement Weather Protocol

From time to time, it is necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites. These decisions can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto and are not taken lightly. If Environment Canada forecasts poor weather conditions (including ice, significant snowfall, poor visibility, or extreme cold temperatures), the situation will be assessed and monitored overnight and into the early morning in order to determine any necessary bus cancellations.

This decision will be made by 6:00 AM by the Director of Education.

- Stay Informed -

Staff will continue to monitor inclement weather impacts on YCDSB students, families, staff, and operations. Adjustments will be made if necessary.



Visit the following websites to stay up to date on cancellations or closures due to inclement weather:

- [YCDSB Homepage](#)
- For information on bus routes, stop locations, times, late arrivals, cancellation, eligibility, registering a complaint, safety and general information, please contact the York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information Line at 1-877-330-3001, accessible 24 hours a day or [visit the STSYR website](#).

Extreme Weather Set Temperature

This year again, our school's extreme weather temperature was decided with your Catholic School Council for the 2025-2026 academic year. As per Parameter 3.1 of Policy 221 the elected Catholic School Council has given input to Extreme cold set temperature, which triggers indoor routine. As per last year's extreme cold set temperature, we will continue with -18 degrees (with a wind chill) at the discretion of the administration. Students may go outside for a shortened recess for some fresh air and exercise at the discretion of the administration. The principal will monitor windchill effects and other factors when determining a change in recess routines. Extreme high heat temperature of 32 degrees Celsius may also trigger a change in recess routines. Humidex and UV guidelines will be considered when making this school level decision.

Catholic School Council (CSC) News

Our Catholic School Council held their last meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2025. Since then, they have completed their Big Box of Cards Fundraiser and held another successful Holly Jolly Christmas Market evening. Thank you to our families who purchased Big Boxes of Cards. The CSC raised \$1700.00 to go towards supporting our school initiatives. Congratulations to Ms. Parravano and Ms. Poirier's class for being the top sellers of Big Box Cards. They will be receiving a FREE Pizza Lunch next Tuesday. We also have a few families who will be receiving gift cards from the school meeting our second goal.

It was a magical night at the Holly Jolly Christmas Market. Thank you to all who helped to organize the event and for all of the families for coming out to enjoy the music, activities, photos with Santa and support our vendors. It was a wonderful evening of mingling and enjoying the beginning of the Advent season.

Our next CSC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30pm in the library. All parents are welcome! Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A stylized, handwritten-style logo for the Catholic School Council. The words 'Catholic School' are on the top line and 'Council' is on the bottom line, both in a dark, cursive font.

School Mental Health Ontario

School Mental Health Ontario has released a series of resources designed for parents and caregivers. This work is part of a collaborative project with the Coalition for Child and Youth Mental Health and Children's Mental Health Ontario's Family Care Centre designed to enhance parent/caregiver mental health literacy. These are the first of many resources in development, which will be released in their entirety in the form of a Parent/Caregiver Mental Health Literacy Toolkit in the new year. These first broad resources were developed to assist parents/caregivers in navigating and supporting their child's mental health and well-being.

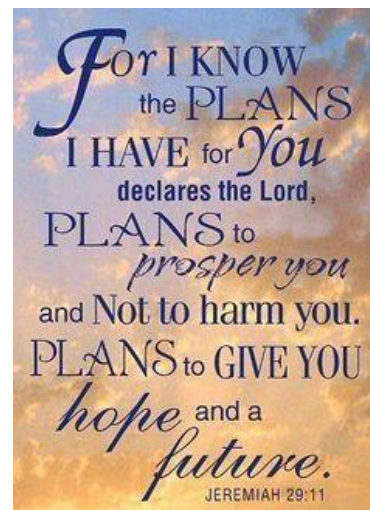
They include:

[Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology](#) (available in multiple languages)

[Noticing Mental Health Concerns for Your Child](#) (available in multiple languages)

[Noticing mental health concerns for your child-worksheet](#) (available in multiple languages)

[Prepare, Prevent Respond - A suicide prevention guide for parents and caregivers](#) (available in multiple languages)



Mathematics Learning

The YCDSB Curriculum and Assessment Department has created the Fall bi-annual newsletter for families, highlighting the Supporting the Math Journey information sessions we ran at the board office. Please find links to resources, strategies and supports that can be accessed at home to promote mathematics learning and facilitate mathematics discussions between students and parents/guardians. Please see the attached pamphlet for more information. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12BcGd0tVG17o1wKtiQ0xkpCqSTb-BJcs/view>



At OLGC, our math goal this year is for all classes to engage with **Knowledge Hook**. Knowledge Hook is a secure, online tool designed to provide useful information to help guide the next steps in mathematical instruction during the learning process. In that regard, getting questions right is not necessarily the goal but rather to better understand your child's thinking and to identify areas where they may need more support. Ask your child about Knowledge Hook today!

OLGC Student Council and Luke 4:18

OLGC's Student Council Toy Drive is continuing! Our school community is being asked to bring in unopened toys between November 28 and December 12. The fire department will be picking up the toys on December 12 for delivery to shelters.

During the week of December 15-19, 2025, the Student Council will be collecting monetary donations for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Society has reached out to us for help! They have shared that they provide support to those individuals and families in the Newmarket and surrounding area who are in most need, regardless of religious belief. The households they support include single mothers, those with mental and physical disabilities, refugees, elderly people living alone, single-income families earning only minimum wage, or those temporarily unemployed due to job loss or illness.

Christmas brings added burden and anxiety for many of the people we serve. Last year, their contributions to the Christmas Appeal made it possible to provide a festive meal and Christmas gifts for our supported families and single adults. So, as has been done for 39 years, with these generous donations, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Newmarket/ East Gwillimbury will continue to assist our marginalized brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. If you can, please donate to help!

Active School Travel

December is an exciting time of year!

The first day of winter falls in December! Start of School Christmas holidays! **Spending time with Family and Friends!** It is the start of the season of giving, sharing and loving!

December is also a great time to begin to enjoy the snow and cooler weather while wearing all your warm and cozy winter gear.

As the cold months approach us the time spent outdoors is often limited. When the cold weather hits it is common for parents to want their kids to stay indoors and for youth to not want to go outside. However, there are many benefits to being outdoors in the winter including:

- Encouraging creative play
- Increase in exercise using different muscle groups
- Getting fresh air and avoiding illness from bacteria indoors
- Improving problem-solving skills and exposure to vitamin D.

Let's bundle up, get outside and be active! Active School Travel is simple and can easily be added into your daily routine!

- Walk and/or wheel to school or to the bus stop
- Park and walk a block to school
- If Active School Travel every day is a challenge, choose one or two days a week to try and make a change.

Sincerely,

YCDSB Active School Travel Team



Student/Staff Wellness: Seasonal Illness

As with other times of the year, but more predominantly during the winter months, students and staff may battle colds/flu.

Parents are encouraged to continue to help their children to practice proper hand and respiratory hygiene (e. g. washing hands, disposing of used tissues, sneezing into the elbow). In the event of illness, allow for the opportunity to rest and recuperate at home. This will also serve as a preventative measure to maintain the health of students and staff.



OLGC Scholastic Book Fair Update



Our OLGC Scholastic Book Fair was another huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated and supported OLGC. Our net sales for the week came out to \$9,210.72, which translates into \$1500 in our Scholastic Reward Bank and \$1500 in cash. This will go towards purchasing literacy resources as well as STREAM related activities for the school. Thank you again everyone! A huge thank you to Ms. Gorman and all of our volunteers who helped to make the Book Fair run so smoothly.

Parent Reminders

Parents in the School

In order to ensure the safety of all staff and students in the school, we ask that all parents/guardians and visitors sign in at the office. Parents are not to walk their children to their classrooms, go to their classroom to drop anything off or speak to the teacher. If you need to drop something off to your child(ren), please leave it in the office and office staff will get the item to your child(ren). If you need to speak with a teacher, please leave your name and contact information and we will inform the staff member to contact you. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

Pick up before End of Day

We encourage all parents to avoid picking up their child from school just before the end of the day. It is quite onerous on Ms. Maira to have to call into classrooms for a number of students after 3:00pm when students are preparing for their routine dismissal. Thank you for your understanding!

Date	Upcoming Events
December 2	School Advent Mass 10:45am
December 4	Family of Schools Advent Evening Mass @ St. Elizabeth Seton Parish 6:30pm – Parents invited to attend
December 10	Gr.3 students to Pioneer Village, Ms. Wagstaff/Ms. Gordon's Christmas Celebration 1:30pm
December 11	Ms. Poirier/Ms. De Jesus's Christmas Celebration 1:00pm
December 12	Ms. Stuart/Ms. Fontana's Christmas Celebration 10:00am, Ms. Parravano/Ms. Ducharme's Christmas Celebration 11:00am
December 16	Primary Christmas Concert 10:45am
December 17	Sacred Heart Christmas Band Performance AM
December 18	Intermediate Christmas STREAM Float Parade PM
December 19	Last Day of School for 2025
January 5, 2026	Happy New Year! First Day of School for 2026

You may also visit us at <https://olgc.ycdsb.ca/> for important dates and events listed on the right-hand side under upcoming events.





O.L.G.C CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK!

ORGANIZED BY OUR STUDENT COUNCIL
LUKE 4:18

MONDAY

CHRISTMAS COLOURS MONDAY!

LET'S KICK OFF THE OLG
SPIRIT WEEK WITH OUR
BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
COLOURS.

COLLECTION FOR ST. VINCENT
DE PAUL SOCIETY BEGINS!

TUESDAY

TUESDAY TINSEL AND TUQUE
DAY!

TODAY IS FOR MAKING THE
HOLIDAYS SPARKLE AND
SHINE!

COLLECTION FOR ST.
VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
CONTINUES!

WEDNESDAY

WINTER WONDERLAND
WEDNESDAY! LET'S GET
INTO THE WINTER SPIRIT
AND WEAR WHITE TODAY!

COLLECTION FOR ST.
VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
CONTINUES!

THURSDAY

CREATIVE CHRISTMAS
SWEATER THURSDAY!

COLLECTION FOR ST.
VINCENT DE PAUL
SOCIETY CONTINUES!

FRIDAY

COZY CHRISTMAS PJ AND FUN
FRIDAY!

ACTIVITIES FOR TODAY TO BE
DECIDED BY CLASS AND
HOMEROOM TEACHERS!

LAST DAY FOR THE COLLECTION
FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SOCIETY!

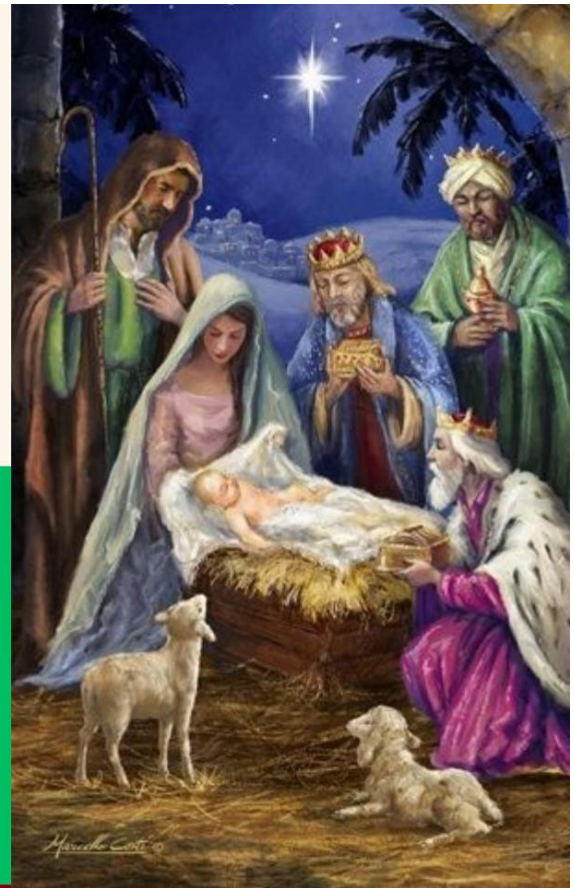
A big **THANK YOU**
for your spirit,
kindness and
generosity this
week and
EVERYDAY!

OLGC Student Council Luke 4:18 Christmas Spirit Week Fundraiser in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society!

From December 15-19, join us as we kick off the Festive Season with our Christmas Spirit Week!

Throughout the week, we ask those who can to please bring in a loonie or a toonie!

All donations are in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Program. This amazing society helps over 350 local households and families who are in need of support.



350+ households supported!

Let's keep CHRIST in Christmas and bring in a loonie or toonie to make a difference and help support local families this Season!

Mark your calendar Kodiaks and please refer to the Student Council Spirit Week schedule to join in on the fun as we help those in need!



"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you." – Mother Teresa