



# Fr. Frederick McGinn CES



61 Brockdale St.

Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4W2

Tel: 905-223-8767

Fax: 905-223-8770

Visit us @ [ffm.ycdsb.ca](http://ffm.ycdsb.ca)



Tweet us @FFMcGinnCES

## December 2017 Newsletter



### Advent Prayer

Father in Heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of Your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are in the Season of Advent. Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation. We await the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ! It is a time of self-reflection, a time of patient and prayerful waiting. Catholic schools are called to be places of hope. Hope is the spiritual virtue by which we place our trust in Christ's promises and rely not on our own strength alone, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. As Catholics we know that the Advent season is about preparing our hearts and souls for the birth of Jesus our Saviour. During this month the students and staff will be preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus through prayer, celebrating liturgy and mass, and by helping others within their classes, throughout the school and the wider community.

We would like to thank the FFM community for their generosity with the Donation Fundraiser. A total of \$7000 was collected and will enhance the learning experience of all FFM students. Our Social Justice committee Luke 4:18 has been raising money by selling coffee on Parent/Teacher Interview Night and by selling Faith bracelets. All money raised will be sent to the WE foundation. By helping others, we live out the true spirit of Christmas! Our students will be involved in various activities throughout the month in preparing for Jesus' birth.

Our Kindergarten and Primary classes will lead our Advent Liturgical Celebration on Wednesday, December 13, at 1:30pm. Our Advent Mass will be held on Thursday, December 14, at 1:15pm. All are welcome to attend. Our last day of classes before the Christmas break is Friday, December 22, 2017. Classes resume on Monday, January 8, 2018.

On behalf of the FFM staff we wish your family a joyous and blessed Advent and Christmas season and a happy and prosperous start to the New Year.

Yours in Catholic Education,

**Ms. M. Sullivan**  
Principal

**Mr. F. De Bartolo**  
Vice Principal

**Area 3 Catholic School Trustee:**  
Dominic Mazzotta  
Ann Stong

**Superintendent of Education  
Area 4:**  
Mary Battista

**Our Lady of the Annunciation  
Roman Catholic Church**  
905-773-5223  
**Pastor:**  
Father Peter Lackmanec



November Catholic Virtue:

### **Hope**

With God's grace, I will never give up hope. I will maintain a positive attitude and look for the brighter side of situations.

### **The School Day:**

Entrance: 9:00 a.m.  
Recesses: 10:20 a.m. & 2:25 p.m.  
Lunch: 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

**To report student absences/lates,  
please dial: 1-855-856-7862 or  
[http://](http://yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com)  
[yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com](http://yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com)  
before 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Mission Statement**

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 Statement**

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

#### **Core Values**



#### **Strategic Commitments**



# Catholic Community of Faith

## Advent Celebrations

FFM is bursting with anticipation as we enter the season of Advent. There are several events planned to celebrate Advent and the Christmas season as a community.

Parents and family members are warmly invited to share in the Advent joy at our Advent Liturgical Celebration led by our Kindergarten and Primary students on Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30pm. Classes from K-3 will entertain us with songs of the season.

Our Advent mass on Thursday, December 14th, at 1:15pm. We thank Ms. Cerzosimo, Ms. Colangelo and their Grade 6 students for organizing the mass. We look forward to the FFM community gathering to celebrate this mass as this is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. All parents and family members are invited to attend.



## Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish News



The following students from our Schools and Parish Family took part in the annual **Bishop's Altar Server Awards** ceremony sponsored by the Serra Clubs in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The ceremony and mass were held at St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Woodbridge. The **Bishop's Altar Server Award**, is an annual celebration to recognize those altar servers who have shown a sense of responsibility, leadership and dedication to their duties on the altar. **The Most Reverend Wayne Kirkpatrick, Auxiliary Bishop** – Northern Pastoral Region held a very high mass and recognized each altar server with the "**Bishop's Award for Service**" medal.

### Students selected from OLA Parish for this year:

Ryland Beaupre	Darcy Blaik	Apollo Cezar
Meghan Cizmar	Jodin Harristan	Andrew Klys
Julia Le Donne	Marco Meinsma	Nicolas Rita
Christian Russo	Thomas Shephard	Ian Vandehogen
Matthew Zullo		



**Congratulations!!!** to each of these students for their dedication and leadership on the altar. To find out more about Serra International, or to become a member of The Serra Club of Toronto Central, please contact Mrs. Antonietta Nitti at 905-773-7978



### **Advent Day of Confession - OLA Parish Thursday, December 14th**

As we prepare for Christmas, now is the perfect opportunity to encounter God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be holding a Day of Confessions this Advent. Please join Our Lady of the Annunciation on Thursday, December 14th after the 7:30 mass, as we will have 5 priests available for Confession's.



### **Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Caroling**

Come out and join us on Friday, December 15th at 7:00pm for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Caroling celebration. There will be a Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of the Church, a short Concert inside, followed by cookies, hot cocoa, hot apple cider and Santa Claus in the Church Hall - ALL ARE WELCOME



### **New Years Eve Charity Dance**

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual New Years Eve Charity Dance. Please join us for a Family friendly dinner and dance celebration in our church hall as we bring in the New Year as a community. For ticket information call: 905-773-5814

### **CHRISTMAS SEASON—MASS HOURS**

**Christmas Eve:** 9:00am, 11:00am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm, 12:00am Midnight Mass

**New Year's Eve:** 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

**Christmas Day:** 9:00am, 11:00am

**New Year's Day:** 9:00am, 11:00am



# Catholic Community of Faith

## FFM Catholic School Council News

### Jingle & Mingle—Save the Date!

The FFM CSC would like to wish the FFM community a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the **Jingle & Mingle** on **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00pm**. Spaces are still available so please join us for this fun filled evening. Please see the invite below for more information. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Hot Lunch Ordering Deadline— December 14!

Ordering for our Hot Lunch Winter Session (January to March Break) is now OPEN! Please login to your Munchalunch account and place your order before the **December 14th 8pm deadline** to ensure your child receives lunch in the new year.

Next CSC Meeting is **Wednesday, January 10th, 2018**. All are welcome to attend.



THE FFM SOCIAL COMMITTEE BRINGS YOU...

JINGLE & MINGLE

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED NIGHT TO KICK-OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Date: December 19, 2017 from 6pm to 8pm

Location: FFM Gym | Tickets: \$10.00 per child

LIVE DJ • CRAFTS • PHOTO-BOOTH • TREATS & MORE

Kindly return the completed form with the eldest sibling with payment by December 8. Please make cash or cheques payable to FFM CSC.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

# Quality Learning For All

## Reconciliation

Last month, our grade 2 students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We congratulate them as they take another step forward in their faith journey.



## Hot Off the Press!

You're the Chef is returning to FFM in January! All students in grade 6 will be receiving permission forms to sign up for this fabulous opportunity that is brought to you by our amazing parent volunteers on the Healthy School Committee.

Look out for this form coming in the middle of December and thanks to our HSC for all the initiatives that keep our school Healthy!



## Speedstacking Family Fit Night

Thank you to all the families who attended the November 8th Family Fit Night "Speedstacking" style. So much fun was had by all.

If you are still interested in ordering a set of speedstacks please go to [www.speedstacks.ca/go](http://www.speedstacks.ca/go). Print out your receipt and return it to Ms. Khan and she will be happy to give you your product.

Speedstacking cups make a great Christmas gift that doesn't have a screen and gets kids moving in a different way.

## Terry Fox Run Update!

"Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going!" Terry Fox was firm in this message to future generations of Canadians. True to his spirit, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 we gathered as a school community in support of the Terry Fox Foundation.



Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me.

(Terry Fox)

The students and staff of Fr. Frederick McGinn were proud to dress in their finest red and white outfits and walk throughout the neighbourhood to commemorate Terry Fox's courageous Marathon of Hope. In doing so, we helped to keep Terry's dream alive.

This year, thanks to the generous donations from the community, Fr. Frederick McGinn will be making a donation of **\$588.30** to the Terry Fox Foundation which will go towards cancer research. Once again, thank you for your support of this very worthy cause!

## Quality Learning For All

### Faith Bracelets

A big thanks to the Luke 4:18 Committee who made beautiful wish bracelets to help raise money for the purchase of a goat for families in developing countries. Through FFM's bracelet and Starbucks Coffee sale during parent-teacher interview night, FFM was able to make a donation towards the purchase of 5 goats, which will provide families with a source of nutritious milk and sustainable income for their family. Additional Faith Bracelets will be for sale on our Jingle and Mingle night—Tuesday, December 19.



### Annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Drive

FFM is taking part in the annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Drive Campaign out of Our Lady of Annunciation Parish. The Christmas Drive provides families who are in need in the Oak Ridges area with gifts to make their holidays brighter. This year FFM will be supporting 24 families in the Oak Ridges area. Each class has been assigned a family and a letter went home with some suggestions for gift card donations. This is a reminder that all donations must be brought to school by **Friday, December 8, 2017**. We thank you for your generosity in helping families in your own community throughout this holiday season!



### BOARD NOTICE

Dear Supporters of Catholic Education,

In November, the Ontario Liberal Party launched their "Common Ground" website:  
<http://commonground.ontarioliberal.ca>.

This website invites the public to put forward proposals that address particular provincial needs and priorities. One of the current suggestions is a proposal for the amalgamation of all Ontario schools under one non-denominational school board. It is important that we, as Catholic school ambassadors, strongly voice our Constitutional rights, and continue to stand steadfast in supporting our 175-year-old Catholic school system.

In our Catholic schools, we continually focus on developing our students into confident, faith-filled and charitable citizens. In addition to excellent academic programming, our students are enriched through Parish and community partnerships, which nurture students in mind, body and spirit by giving witness to Gospel values. Catholic school graduates are called to love their neighbours and contribute to the common good of our society.

As stewards of Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools, your Board of Trustees is united in our mission to protect our Catholic identity. Collectively, we can make our voices heard to preserve our right to publicly funded Catholic Education.

We encourage you to visit the Common Ground website and register to cast your vote in favour of Catholic Education. During the upcoming election year, media outlets may also run "online polls" on this issue, please participate in them to affirm our message and defend our precious heritage.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Education.

Board of Trustees, YCDSB





## Quality Learning For All



### Attention FFM Parents

**Getting organized?  
Cleaning out the kids rooms and closets?**



**Classrooms at FFM are  
looking for games to play  
during indoor recess.**

**Please drop-off age  
appropriate board games to  
the school office.**

**The staff at FFM would  
like to start a Lego Club.**

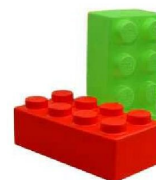
**We need your help!**



**Please drop-off new or  
gently used lego to the  
school office.**



**We appreciate your support!**



# Quality Learning For All

## YOUR MILK BAGS ARE NEEDED! LET'S REUSE FOR A GREAT CAUSE

We will be collecting Milk Bags for an organization know as MILKBAGSunlimited. **Please send your milk bags to school with your children** and we will be one step closer to helping make a bed and also reducing the garbage in our landfill.

The milk bag mats offer people without beds, an invaluable, durable and washable alternative to sleeping on the often cold and damp ground. Not only can these milk-bag mats provide comfort as a bedding alternative, but have been used by health-care professionals as a make-ready substitute for an operating bed/table where resources are scarce. It takes approximately 400 milk bags to make an adult sized mat.

For quite some time, all across Canada, a community of volunteers, schools, churches and businesses have been collecting milk bags. The milk bags used are the ones that hold the three smaller bags of milk. The bags are cut into strips, tied together, and then woven or crocheted into mats.

Why Canadian milk bags? They don't disintegrate, are very strong, don't retain moisture, have a life span of 25 years, are UV ray resistant, are washable and are very colorful.

MILKBAGSunlimited donate mats to the homeless in Canada , Syrian refugees in Greece and other countries when natural disasters strike.

You can learn more about this organization online at [Milkbagsunlimited.ca](http://Milkbagsunlimited.ca).





# Safe & Caring Schools

## Inclement Weather News

It is difficult to believe that the winter months are upon us. In the event of inclement weather, parents are asked to please exercise discretion in deciding whether to send your child(ren) to school. In the event of extreme winter weather, Student Transportation Services (STS) of York Region will notify designated radio and TV stations regarding bus transportation cancellation by 6:15 a.m. You may also wish to check the board website, YCDSB Twitter, or [schoolbuscity.com](http://schoolbuscity.com) for messages related to Inclement Weather. When transportation is canceled, schools will remain open and parents/guardians will have to make alternate arrangements to transport their children to and from school. Please note that if transportation is cancelled in the morning, it **will not** operate in the afternoon. **Lastly, if buses are cancelled for the day, all hot lunches, tests, quizzes, excursions, school programs, parent meetings, evening presentations, Con-Ed Classes, and evening permits are automatically cancelled and will be rescheduled.**

School Bus cancellations can be seen/heard on the following media stations:

AM 640	640AM	AM 640	860AM
CBC	99.1FM	CJCL	590AM
CFNY	102.1FM	CJEZ	97.3FM
CFRB	1010AM	CJKX	95.9FM
CHAY	93.1FM	CKDO	1580AM & 100.7FM
CHFI	98.1FM	CKDX	88.5FM
CHIN	1540AM & 100.7FM	CKFM	99.9FM
CHRW	94.9FM	KISS	92.5FM
CHUM	1050AM & 104.5FM	NEWS	680FM
CIQB	101.1FM	Q107	107.1FM
CityTV			
CityTV	CTV Barrie	CTV Toronto	Global News
CP24			



### 5 Helpful Tips on Inclement Weather Days

When an Inclement Weather Day has been declared, an email will be sent to you from the school with the following information and reminders:

1. All transportation to and from school has been cancelled for today.
2. The school will be open, however due to the severe road conditions, your child may be combined with another class.
3. All hot lunches are cancelled, please ensure your child has a lunch and snacks.
4. If you are dropping your child off to school, please plan on being at school promptly for 3:30pm dismissal.
5. If your child is not attending school today, please input their absence in the Safe Arrival system by calling 1-855-856-7862 or online at [yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com](http://yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com) before the start of the school day.



### Warm/Extra Clothing

It's that time of year again and the weather is getting colder, wetter and can be quite unpredictable.

Please send extra clothing to school with your child for those cold, wet and/or muddy days. Extra socks are especially important as students will often have wet socks on the rainy or slushy days that loom ahead.

Extra clothing may be kept in the bottom of the knapsack or in the locker. **Please label your child's clothing whenever possible.** With winter approaching, please ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed for recess times and 40 minutes of outside activity at lunch time.

If a parent feels their child is too ill to go out for recess, then the child should be kept at home until they are better and are able to enjoy the outdoor recess routines.