

December 1, 2021

To Parents/Caregivers of our Students,

The advent season started this week. On Sunday we all lit the 1<sup>st</sup> purple candle that represents Hope, which is always a perfect way to glide into December as we await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The warmth and joy of spending time with our families and loved ones as the weather turns colder makes advent a wonderful time to reflect on all the incredible achievements our students have accomplished this year, and the courageous leadership they have displayed both inside and outside of school to keep everyone in our community safe during this pandemic.

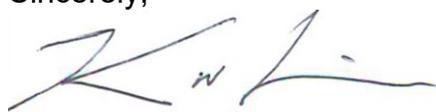
Our staff was glad to see so many families join us for virtual parent/student/teacher conferences yesterday evening. The importance of open and honest communication between all stakeholders will provide our children the greatest success in learning. If you were unavailable to be part of the conferences, and you have concerns or questions about your child's progress, please email the teacher. Our teachers will find the time to connect with you to support our students.

The experience of the COVID 19 pandemic has placed a great deal of stress on many of our families and we want you to know that St. Mark school is here for you! If you need support, please reach out to our office, or email the principal. There are many supports out there that we can help you access. Our staff and students are going to continue our tradition of filling hampers for some of our families in need. It is a great opportunity for our students to reflect on their own blessings and give a little to support their classmates, friends, and neighbours, so everyone has a wonderful Christmas break.

The start of the Christmas break will arrive quickly, and our teachers will be finalizing assessments before December 17<sup>th</sup> so students can perform at their best. Please remind your children that there is work to be done, and if they stay on track, they will be able to enjoy their break. Just a reminder that Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of classes and will end at 2:58pm. This means that Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> will be a half day of classes and will end at 11:46am. A unique change to this year's break schedule is that there is **NO school Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**. We will resume regular classes on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8:15am. Our teachers will continue to assess our students as we move through December. Please continue to monitor your child's progress through [PowerSchool](#).

I hope you enjoy many wonderful meals with your family and loved ones around your advent candles in the coming weeks. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Sincerely,



**Kevin N Myskiw**  
Principal