

St. Clement Elementary/Junior High School Newsletter

December 2020

Administrators' Message

This month is when our liturgical year begins with Catholics celebrating Advent and the birth of our savior. Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th; it is the beginning of the liturgical year and the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is a season of preparedness, a time of waiting for the Adventus Domini (coming of the Lord). Since Advent looks forward to Christ's birth and incarnation, it is an appropriate way to begin the Church Year. However, Advent is not part of the Christmas season itself, but preparation for it.



On another note, our School Plan for Continuous Growth has been posted to our school website. The plan was developed with input from our staff and was reviewed by School Council. Please take a few minutes to review our goals for the year. As always, parents who have any questions or concerns are invited to contact Mrs. Mandolesi by calling the school at 780-462-3806.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we wish each of our families a blessed Christmas holiday filled with joy and happiness.



Mrs. Sarah Mandolesi
Principal

Mr. Joe Estephan
Assistant Principal

Chaplain's Corner

St. Clement Feast Day – November 23, 2020

Theme: *God Calls Us Each by Name*

Pope St. Clement was believed to be the 3rd Pope of the early Christian Church who studied under and was ordained by St. Peter the Apostle. He is regarded as one of the Apostolic Fathers of the Church and the letters he wrote to the Corinthians, though not part of the biblical canon, offer an important look at the role of authority and charity in the early Church.

To honour our patron saint, the school community of St. Clement, along with invited guests, “gathered” online to celebrate a Liturgy of the Word via Microsoft Teams on Friday, November 27, using the prayers, quotes and writings of Pope St. Clement. Special thank you to Father Patrick for celebrating with us!

On this day we took inspiration from our district theme of ***God Calls Us Each by Name*** as we remember how St. Clement did this for the early Christian church. In the afternoon, we celebrated the liturgy of the word, followed by an afternoon of faith-filled, flex activities.

St. Clement facts - Did you know...

- *He was likely of Jewish parentage and seems to have been a disciple of the Apostles in Rome.*
- *He is also referred to as Pope St. Clement 1 and was likely consecrated as bishop of Rome by St. Peter himself.*
- *Clement of Rome's letter to the Corinthians is a beautiful letter and will allow you to breathe in the Spirit of early Christianity. It is one of the most pleasant and easy to read of the early Christian writings. It is also the only one outside of the New Testament writings that can be confidently dated in the first century.*

We thank everyone who participated in making this possible, God bless!



Did you know...

- The season of Advent developed in the Church over time. Here are 10 facts that you may not know about the roots and meanings of Advent:
- 1. Advent is a time of expectation and preparation for the birth of the Lord. The word “Advent” derives from the Latin word “adventus,” which means “coming,” and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.
- 2. Advent has a changing start date, but it always contains four Sundays. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 29).
- 3. Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Advent was chosen to begin the year as representative of the time in history that Christ was not known to us. With His birth the beginning of our faith was founded. The liturgical year ends with the feast of Christ the King, His reign over the universe.
- 4. The Advent season has two meanings. It emphasizes both the celebration of Christ coming into the world as a man and also the second coming when the Lord will return again. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event. The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet, which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.
- 5. Hope is a predominant theme of Advent. The Israelites hoped for a Messiah to come, and Christ entered the world. We are hopeful for the arrival of Christ again into the world.
- 6. Advent is a reminder of the Old Testament promises of the coming of the Messiah. The Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree consists of symbols of the Messiah coming from the line of Jesse (Lk 3: 23-38). Isaiah is often read during this season to remember that we are waiting for the day when the Messiah will come again.
- 7. Advent focuses on light as opposed to darkness. Christ enters our dark world and casts away the darkness of sin to redeem us. He will come again as the light of the world.
- 8. Advent has two parts. The first portion the First Sunday of Advent until Dec. 16 is preparation for the second coming of Christ. The second portion from Dec. 17 to 24 directly prepares us for the commemoration of the first coming of Christ, Christmas.
- 9. The origins of Advent can be traced back to the Church in France. In the 4th Century, the Church in France used the period before Epiphany as a time of preparation for baptism. It was called “St. Martin’s Lent” for the 40 days that started on Nov. 12, the feast of St. Martin of Tours.
- 10. Advent as we know today was developed in Rome. Pope Gregory I in the late 6th or early 7th Century composed many of the prayers, antiphons and psalm responses. Many themes and ideas we now know can be traced to the Roman Advent season.
- — Reprinted from the Catholic Apostolate Center, online at www.catholicapostolatecenter.org, and from EWTN

St. Clement Christmas Concert – Cancelled for 2020

It is with regret to inform you that the K-5 Christmas Concert will be cancelled this year due to the restriction of social/physical gatherings.



Winter MYP Band Concert

It is with regret to inform you that the MYP Christmas Concert will be cancelled this year due to the restriction of social/physical gatherings.



Holy Trinity High School

Holy Trinity High School Information Session will take place for all Grade 9 students on December 2 during Block 2, 9:18 - 10:05am.



IB News

December 2020 IB School Newsletter

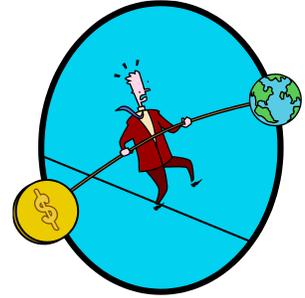


Our IB learner profile attribute this month is Balanced:

As members of the Catholic community, let's take this time to balance the various demands of the Advent season with its deeper meaning.

Developing the Learner Profile Attribute – Balanced

“We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives-intellectual, physical, and emotional- to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.”

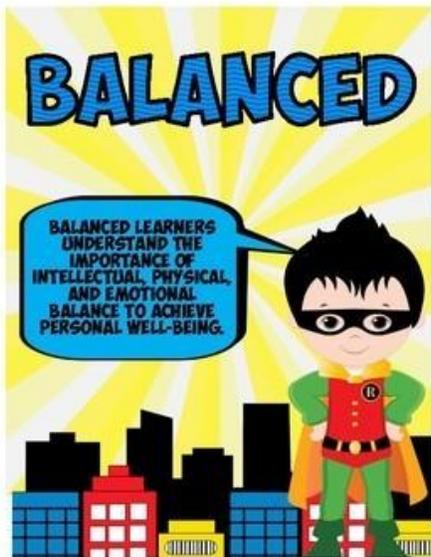


Why is the IB different?

Find out more here:

<https://www.ibo.org/benefits/why-the-ib-is-different/>

<https://vimeopro.com/iboorg/the-ib-continuum>



How can parents help to develop students who are balanced at home?

- Discuss the food groups with your child.
- Talk about the importance of rest and sleep.
- Spend time as a parent or family doing many different activities.
- Check out the St. Clement Mental Health Community Corner Google Classroom

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjMyNTAwMTI2NzI5>

As always we welcome questions about the IB programme in our school. Rosanne Boutin is the co-ordinator for the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Primary Years Programme (PYP). She can be reached at (780)462-3806.

Reading Star Winners

Our second monthly draw for our St. Clement Reading All-Stars was held on November 25, 2020. We are pleased to congratulate our lucky winners who will enjoy a treat and a new book with Miss Milite and Miss Daza on Friday, November 27, 2020. Please continue to encourage your children to participate in the home reading program by reading every night, getting their reading strips signed, and handing them into their teacher, to be included in the draw!



November's reading star winners are:

Kinder: Grayson
Grade 1: Lorene
Grade 2: Eva
Grade 3: Martina
Grade 4: Aoba
Grade 5: Higgins

Thank you to Miss Daza and Miss Milite for coordinating our All-Stars Reading Program and thank you to our parents/guardians for encouraging their children to read and participate!

Art 8 – Chandelier Project

The students did a brief look into Dale Chihuly, an artist who is best known for his glass blowing art and glass sculptures. The students were able to tint empty water bottles with paint and then cut the bottles into spirals and we put them together into a chandelier!



Foods/Fashion 7 – Stuffed Toy Project

The past few months have been very busy in the Foods/Fashion department! Students started off the year designing and sewing various projects, including a pin cushion and a heat pack. They then chose a final sewing project to complete the Fashion portion of the course.



Science 8

Grade 8 students compiled their knowledge and skills from the Mix and Flow of Matter unit in a culminating STEAM project. Students were tasked with building a hydraulic or pneumatic device that could lift a weight between 20 and 30 cm in the air. They used recycled materials to accomplish this task while also keeping in mind the aesthetics of their work! With the help of concepts such as viscosity, density, the particle model of matter, and how these can be applied to technology, students embarked on their own planning and iterative process tackle the task before them. After much trial and error, here are some examples of their work!



Lost and Found & Dressing for the Weather

Our Lost and Found is filling up. Please label your child's clothing and outdoor gear so that it can be returned. Please remind your child to look for any items they have forgotten to bring home or misplaced. We will be donating all Lost and Found clothing to Goodwill during Christmas Break. We will have outdoor activities including recess until the temperature dips below -20C.



School Fees

School Fees have now been posted. A reminder to pay for all school fees on Power School. Please view your account and ensure that your child's fees have been paid. If you are having any difficulties accessing your account please contact the Help Desk at: <https://pscustom.ecsd.net/PowerschoolHelpDesk.aspx>



Parking in the Turn-Around

The turn-around in front of the school is a **NO PARKING** zone during peak drop-off and pickup hours of the day. Parents are asked to keep traffic moving by using the turnaround to **STOP, DROP/PICK-UP and GO.**

There is no parking in the turnaround between the hours of 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM on Monday - Friday, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM on regular school days, and 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM on our early dismissal day. For parents who wish to remain with their child(ren) in the morning, there is parking available across the street. Parents are asked to remember that there is no parking in the bus zone, by the fire hydrant or near the patrollers.



Grades 6-7 Immunizations

Our students in Grades 6-7 were scheduled for immunizations on December 1st and 2nd. This date has been cancelled until further notice. Once a new date has been arranged, we will notify the applicable families.

Student Record Information

A reminder to parents, if you have recently moved or changed your contact information, please let the office know. In case of emergencies, it is important that we have up-to-date contact information. Also, if students have recently become Canadian citizens, we ask that you provide us with documentation so that we can update our records. Thank you!

Change in Dismissal

Just a reminder that Thursday, December 17 will be a full day of school for students, with dismissal at 3:00 pm. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm on Friday, December 18 for the Christmas break.

January Start-up Dates

Online instruction for all students will begin on January 4, 2021 and in-school instruction will resume again on January 11, 2021 for those students whose learning stance is at-school learning.