



ARCHBISHOP DENIS O'CONNOR CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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December 23, 2011

Dear Parents & Guardians:

We are nearing the end of the Holy Season of Advent in anticipation of the birth of our Saviour. As a Catholic Learning Community at DO'C, we welcome this season to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and how we can foster that relationship as well as the manner in which we profess our faith to others in our school, families and in a more global context.

Our Chaplain Mrs. Colterman-Fox prepared and created wreathes and prayer books for every homeroom and invited Father Peter Choi of St. Francis de Sales, as well as guest priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 9th and Advent Masses on December 19th. These are just a few ways that we journey together as a faith filled community at DO'C during this Holy Season.

I have been extremely impressed with the level of student and staff engagement at Archbishop Denis O'Connor this semester, not only in the classroom but in the area of extra curricular activities. There is always something exciting and life giving going on at DO'C! In November, parents were invited to attend an evening presentation where Guest Speaker Stacy Howe, spoke on Internet Safety, and in honour of Remembrance Day, the students attended an assembly, where they listened to Private Schmidinger, the brother of Ms. Schmidinger who gave a first hand account of his military experience in Afganastan. It was a very emotional presentation for the staff and students. The month of December features a very successful Cultural Night, where parents and students enjoyed a night full of multi-cultural food and dance. Thank you to Mrs. Maynard's Grade 11 class for coordinating this very enjoyable evening as part of their ISU and to the Parent Council for their financial support. The Annual Semi-Formal Dance was a big success. More recently families enjoyed the Annual Evening performance of the DO'C Christmas Showcase for the Arts, Music & Drama departments. Many thanks to Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Paglia, Ms. Forest, Ms. Simpson and Mr. Labriola.

At Archbishop Denis O'Connor we profess the virtue of outreach and assisting those in need. Staff and students are currently involved in our Red Wagon project which supports struggling families during this wonderful but financially challenging time of year. Special thanks to the staff, students and the Parent Council who once again, provided a generous donation.

In the spirit of hospitality, we hosted our grade 8 students from our feeder elementary schools at to ensure a smooth transition to the secondary panel. Thank you to our Guidance department for arranging these very worthwhile sessions.

The end of Semester 1 is quickly approaching. Hopefully ongoing feedback and information received on the mid-term report card will serve to highlight successes for students as well as area where further work and effort are required. I wish all the students the very best as they prepare for their examinations January 26th thru February 1st. The exam and bus schedule will be posted shortly after our return from the holidays. It is an expectation that all students attend exams as outlined by the Ministry of Educations schedule. If you are planning a family holiday, I respectfully request that you do not book these vacations during the exams, as exams will not be rescheduled to accommodate a family vacation. As indicated in our Student Agenda, accommodations will be made only when a medical note is presented.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents for your valued partnership in your Childs Catholic Education here at Archbishop Denis O'Connor.

On behalf of the staff, Mr. Chambers, Mr. O'Brien and myself, we wish you and your families a joy filled and blessed Christmas.

Ms. D. Modeste

Donna Modeste
Principal



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