



PRINCIPALS LETTER & SIGNIFICANT DATES
Semester 1 – Term 1 – Mid Term Report Cards
2011 - 2012

November 11,
2011

Dear DO'C Parents and Students:

We have reached the mid-point of the semester when students receive the first report cards of their academic year. This is an opportunity for students to celebrate present accomplishments and to make plans to improve achievements in terms of next steps to further realize their potential. Outlined below you will find details of Parent/Teacher Conferences and the supports offered by the school to help every student achieve success.

- **Parent/Teacher Conference Night took place on Thursday, October 20th.** The rationale for this was to provide an opportunity for teachers, parents and students to meet early on in the semester to discuss strategies for success and identify any early concerns.
- There will be a Food Drive for the Red Wagon Christmas Fundraiser later in December
- By the time this mailing is sent out, parents will have had an opportunity to attend a presentation on the topic of "Internet Safety" delivered by Ms. Stacey Howe; Child and Youth Counselor for our board. We feel that this is such an important and relevant topic for student safety and well being that we are bringing Ms. Howe back to present to our students on November 29.
- There are many sources of support in the school for students. These include the Classroom Teacher, Guidance Counsellors, Program Support Teachers, the Student Success Teacher, Administration and our School Chaplain Ms Colterman-Fox. We are all here to support our students achieve a quality Catholic education at DO'C in partnership with yourselves, their parents. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions, comments or concerns. Please find specific names and references below. Open and timely communication is what we strive for.
- This year, we continue to work towards improving student learning on Literacy, Numeracy and Faith Formation to ensure success for all students.
- With the implementation of the Growing Success document, parents will notice fewer final summative evaluation entries (assessment of learning). This allows students the opportunity to practice these skills without academic penalty and engage both in self assessment and in higher level critical thinking skills. This phase of the semester is known as "assessment as learning". Students must be ever more vigilant to adhere to timelines for due dates of these final summative tasks.
- Details of significant events for the rest of this semester are included for parents and students.
- **After much reflection, discussion and observation, we have decided to change the date of our DO'C graduation to the month of June.** This will allow students to bring closure to their high school experience at the end of the school year. For students that are away at college and university in the fall, this will avail them the opportunity to participate in their graduation ceremonies. **Please mark, Thursday, June 28th at 1:00 p.m. in your calendars.** We wanted to provide lots of notice, as we know that some parents and family members will need to make arrangements at work. Further specific details to follow shortly.
- I cannot emphasize enough the importance of student attendance at school. If a student is absent they are missing instruction and the opportunity to practice skills and develop their understanding. We make every attempt to keep parents apprised of attendance problems early on. Please where possible, try and arrange appointments after school hours. **Please note the ONLY exception for absence from examinations is a medical note. Vacations should not be made during the exam period and students will not be granted consideration for this circumstance.**

When we send home report cards, we have an opportunity to celebrate, pause, and reflect. **Please take some time to respond to page 3 of the report card and return back to school by Wednesday November 16.** From the Catholic perspective, we deliberately look for the goodness in our lives and in the world around us and give thanks. We are grateful for the good people of all ages in our school Community.

Yours in Catholic Education,

D. Modeste

Donna Modeste
Principal

Vice Principals:	Mr. D. Chambers	- Surnames	A – K
	Mr. L. O'Brien.	- Surnames	L – Z
Guidance Counsellors:	Ms. A. Douglas	- Surname	A - B
	Mr. S. Hughes	- Surnames	C - I
	Ms. J. Richardson	- Surnames	J – L
	Ms. Moduna	- Surnames	M - Z





SIGNIFICANT DATES

Friday, November 11	h	Semester 1 Mid-Term Report Cards – Sent home with Students
Wednesday, November 16	h	Bottom Portion of Page 3 of the Report Card – Signed & returned to School
Weds, November 16 Thru Friday, November 25	h	Tickets on Sale over the lunches for Semi-Form Dance (\$50.00 Cash) See December 9 th .
Friday, November 18	h	P.A. Day
Thursday, November 24	h	St. James Catholic School 25 Years Anniversary Celebration Non-Uniform Day – RED WAGON CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER \$2.00
Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25	h	School Ring Days - School Rings on Sale \$100.00 deposit required Orders taken over the lunches.
Tuesday, November 29	h	Assembly – Internet Safety – Altered Schedule
Wednesday, November 30	h	NON-Uniform Day – RED WAGON CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER \$2.00
Thursday, December 1	h	Red Wagon – Bingo Day!
Tuesday, December 6	h	Red Wagon – Bingo Day
Wednesday, December 7	h h h	Cultural Night! 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Gym. All are welcome Non Uniform Day – RED WAGON CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER \$2.00 COOP Students in School
Wednesday, December 7 & Thursday, December 8	h	Mock Literacy Test – Grade 10 in class / Gr.11 “2 nd Attempts” in Period 1
Thursday, December 8	h	Red Wagon Bingo Day
Friday, December 9	h	Semi-Formal at Octavian’s in the Best Western (Oshawa) \$50.00 per ticket 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 13	h h	Parent Council Meeting – Room 124 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Red Wagon Bingo Day
Wednesday, December 14	h	Non-Uniform Day – RED WAGON CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER \$2.00
Thursday, December 15	h h	Red Wagon – Bingo Day Christmas Art Showcase – 7:00 p.m. Evening Presentation all are welcome
Friday, December 16	h	Advent Mass – Altered Schedule
Tuesday, December 20	h	Assembly – Smart Risk – Altered Schedule
Wednesday, December 21	h h h	Non-Uniform Day & Wear a Christmas Hat Day – Free Junk Food Day Peer Tutor Buy-Out Dance – Grade 11 & 12 Period 4

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - DECEMBER 26, 2011 – JANUARY 6TH, 2012 Inclusive

Friday, December 23	h	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday, January 9	h	First Day back to School after Christmas
Tuesday, January 10	h	Parent Council Meeting, Room 124 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 11	h	COOP Students in School
Friday, January 13	h	Grade 9 Dance (Potential)
Tuesday, January 17 – 18	h	EQAO – Grade 9 Math Testing IN CLASS
Wednesday, January 18	h	Non-Uniform Day “Winter Sweats” – FREE DAY!

EXAMS
Thursday, January 26 – Tuesday, February 1, 2012

**** All dates are subject to change! Please continue to listen to announcements and check the web-site! ****