

Dear Parents and Guardians,

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

As Christmas approaches, there are so many things going on in our lives – Christmas shopping, meals to prepare, presents to wrap, cards to write, gatherings with families and friends and a whole host of activities that keep us very busy.

Against this hectic backdrop, we take time in our Catholic schools to remind ourselves of the real meaning of Christmas. We reflect on the great gift God has given us with the birth of Jesus. Our school staff prepares for the coming of Christ through Advent celebrations. They also join together for Mass, special prayers and thanksgiving, Christmas concerts and plays, encourage artwork that captures the story of Bethlehem, and care for others through social justice initiatives. These are some of the activities our students engage in during this special season. These faith celebrations set our Catholic schools apart and demonstrate how Catholic education shapes and inspires our students’ learning.

For our students, we know Christmas is a happy occasion as they think about the gifts that will be waiting for them under the tree. What gives us the greatest joy is seeing our students capture the essence of the school year theme, *Living our Faith – Head, Heart and Hands*. Their hearts and minds are enriched by reaching out to others. Their busy hands are collecting toys, food, clothing, funds and other items for those in need – some of whom may unknowingly be a classmate. Many of our senior students are involved in volunteer activities to support others who are lonely and less fortunate during this season. I congratulate all of our students who are growing in compassion and love by bringing the light of Christ to others. I thank our teachers and support staff for providing spiritual guidance to these young ambassadors of faith. And I am grateful to all parents for encouraging their children to live our faith.

May God make His presence very real to you and your families as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour this season. I hope you and all of your loved ones have a very blessed Christmas and that 2013 will be filled with grace, love and peace.

Yours in faith,



Brian Beal
Director of Education



(Thanks to Logo Warille, a Grade 11 student from St. Peter’s Catholic Secondary School, for creating the artwork that graced our board Christmas card this year.)