



## St. Angela Merici Catholic School

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### Friendly Friday Update # 14: Dec. 9th - Dec. 13th



#### Advent Week 2-Love

God of Love,

We praise you during this Advent season and always. Fill us with love as we journey to Christmas. May we adore you and praise Your name. May our love grow with each passing moment. We ask this through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

## Week at a Glance

Monday 9th	Tuesday 10th	Wednesday 11th	Thursday 12th	Friday 13th
Computer Science Week	Dairy Farmers Presentation, FDK - Gr. 4	Happy Wednesday	Happy Thursday	Rosary Apostolate Staff/Student Volleyball Game

### Looking Ahead:

- December 15th - Third Sunday of Advent
- December 19th - Advent Mass, 10:30 am
- December 20th - Civvies Day
- December 20th - FDK - Grade 8, 9:15 am, parents are welcome to attend
- December 25th - Merry Christmas!!!
- January 6th - Happy New Year! Welcome Back Staff and Students
- January 6th - JK Registration commences
- January 17th - PA Day
- January 24th - Civvies Day and Rosary Apostolate
- January 27th - St. Angela Merici Feast Day Mass
- January 31st - PA Day

### Safe and Caring School Environments

**Christmas Singalong:** We are excited to share that St. Angela Merici CES will be performing a Christmas Singalong this year! All students will perform with their classes to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season. The Christmas Singalong will take place on **Friday, December 20th, 2024 at 9:30 am** in the school gymnasium. Tickets will be limited to **TWO per family** in order to abide by the fire code. Tickets will be collected upon entry to the Singalong. We look forward to coming together as a community in anticipation of Christmas!

### **Student/Staff Wellness**

As with other times of the year, but more predominant during the winter months, students may battle colds/flu. Students are encouraged to practice proper hand and respiratory hygiene (e.g. washing hands, disposing of used tissues, sneezing into the elbow). If students are ill, parents should allow them the opportunity to rest and recuperate at home. This will also serve as a preventative measure to maintain the health of other students and staff.

## Safe and Caring School Environments

### Inclement Weather Protocol

- From time to time, it is necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.
- If Environment Canada forecasts poor weather conditions (including ice, significant snowfall, poor visibility, or extreme cold temperatures), the situation will be assessed and monitored overnight and into the early morning in order to determine any necessary bus cancellations.
- **This decision will be made by 6:00 AM by the Director of Education.**
- Staff will continue to monitor inclement weather impacts on YCDSB students, families, staff, and operations. Adjustments will be made if necessary.
- Visit the following websites to stay up to date on cancellations or closures due to inclement weather:
  - [YCDSB Homepage](#)
  - For information on bus routes, stop locations, times, late arrivals, cancellation, eligibility, registering a complaint, safety and general information, please contact the York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information Line at 1-877-330-3001, accessible 24 hours a day or [visit the STSYR website](#).

**SAM Snack Shack** - The SAM Snack Shack will reopen for the next two weeks leading up to the Christmas break. Popcorn, nut free bear paw cookies, and rice crispy snacks will be available to purchase for \$2.00 each. In addition to snacks, Smencils will be sold daily for \$3.00. Please see attachment for more information.

### Catholic School Council Update

Our next St. Angela Merici CES Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for this **Wednesday, February 26th at 6:45 pm**. All parents and guardians are always welcome to attend.

### Continuous Improvement of Student Learning / Achievement

**Artificial Intelligence**: Information about Artificial Intelligence is available for parents and guardians.

Please refer to this [information sheet](#) that addresses the following questions:

- What is Artificial Intelligence?
- Where is AI in the curriculum?
- How can AI be used at school?
- What are privacy considerations when using AI?
- How is academic integrity addressed?

Additional information from Google and citation guidelines are also included.P

## Integration of Our Catholic Faith

**Catholic Education Week “Pilgrims of Hope” December Bulletin:** The Catholic Education Week Committee “Pilgrims of Hope” December bulletin is now available. The [December bulletin](#) highlights our journey through Advent as pilgrims of hope. This month’s bulletin includes reflection questions to help deepen our understanding of the season of Advent, suggested activities and reflections for schools, homes and Parishes as well as a variety of other materials to help enrich our mission and support one another.

**Celebrating Advent in our Catholic Schools:** This year the season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. As Catholics, we also mark the start of a new liturgical year, Year C, in our 3-year liturgical cycle. Advent is a season of joyful waiting, a time of hope when we anticipate the arrival of the Christ Child who comes into our lives each day and who will come again in Glory. During Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

The Liturgical colours of Advent are not the red and green of the secular Christmas decorations but a beautiful purple and a joyful pink. Prayer centres may feature an Advent Wreath and signs and symbols of the Nativity. Electronic candles, honouring Advent as the season of light, are also appropriate. A [Jesse tree](#) is another way to learn more about the ancestry of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

For more information on the season of Advent, please see our [YCDSB Advent Pamphlet.pdf](#)

### **December Virtue of the Month: Hope**

The next opportunity to join in prayer will be [Thursday, December 19th for our Advent Mass.](#)

This Year’s 2024-25 Catholic Education week will take place from **May 5 to 9, 2025.**