

Olivet Weekly

December 11, 2017



OLIVET SCHOOL

From the Pastor's Office

"...they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'"

With Christmas just two weeks away, we may all feel rushed now knowing we have two weeks of school left with our students, and also that same amount of time for all of our holiday preparations. Will it take a miracle to get everything ready and done?

The recitation this week comes from a prophecy of the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14) which is quoted in the New Testament at the time the Angel came to help Joseph with his doubts about Mary. It is there to remind us that Mary, as the virgin mother of Jesus, the Messiah, had to be a virgin. This was a genuine miracle.

Many aspects of our faith in the Lord require belief in miracles. Are we required to understand miracles? Many people, because they will not believe anything they don't understand, will reject different aspects of the Christmas story, even though they may wish to follow the Lord because of all the extremely good teachings He gave to the world.

The Lord never told His followers that they had to believe in Him because of His miracles. He never demanded that anyone had to believe in Him. The blessing of faith is that it is only as good as long as it is received in full freedom. No genuine faith can be forced. Actually His disciple, Thomas, did not believe He arose from the grave until he had seen Jesus with his own eyes and was able to see and touch the wounds on His hands and side. Jesus acknowledged that Thomas now believed because he saw Him. Then He said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

The next verse in John then says all these things are written that we "may" believe in the Lord. We may believe, but we might not.

For many people, the historical events of the Gospels are difficult to believe in a skeptical, scientific and materialistic age. Belief comes more through living the teachings than by analysis of the historical details. It is through a life of practice that the living faith of Christianity is firmly implanted in the heart of a believer.

"Immanuel" means God with us. This is the deeper miracle of the Christmas story, as well as the whole story of Jesus. To have God with us by means of following the Lord is the deeper miracle, and the more important one.

As we prepare for Christmas, we ask that the Lord may be born in our hearts. This takes place more and more as we allow the Lord to do His work in our hearts. How? Not by blindly forcing ourselves to believe something we don't understand, but by becoming willing to believe something we can never fully comprehend. The opening of the heart comes as an innocent willingness takes hold. This is "Immanuel." God's presence with us. He will not enter our hearts without an invitation. And the miracle of His birth within us cannot take place without us first following His

teachings.

Rev. Michael Cowley, B.Th., MAPC

Recitation

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

(Matthew 1:22-23)

General Announcements

School Christmas Concert

All students are to report to their classrooms at **6:00 pm** on Wednesday evening.

Kindergarten to Grade 6 students must wear their full school uniform.

Playschool students must wear their red Olivet t-shirt with dark pants or skirts.



Olivet School
Christmas Concert

Please join us on
Wednesday, December 13th!

Show starts at 6:15 pm

The Olivet Parent Council will have a sweet & savoury bake sale before and after the concert to raise funds for the Olivet music programs.

Olivet Children's Choir Performance

As a reminder to school parents, this is the *second of three mandatory choir performances* for students in **Grades 1 to 6**. Everyone is invited to *bring family and*

friends!

Christmas Tableaux & Olivet School Children's Choir Performance

Date: **Sunday, December 17, 2017**

Location: **Olivet Church**

10:10 am: Rehearsal Time (in music room)

10:30 am: Tableaux Worship Service

12:00 pm: Potluck lunch
(please bring a dish to share)



Christmas Holidays

The holiday break will begin with an *early dismissal* at **1:00 pm** on **Thursday, December 21st**. Please be advised that there will be **no after-school care** on that day.

Computer Coding for Students in Grades Two and Up

Hatch Canada will be returning to Olivet this winter. Hatch is a multi-year, self-paced curriculum, which makes it an excellent choice for both new and returning students! Hatch's prime class teaches students to code using Javascript, a popular real-world language. Students can start from the basics or an advance level and explore over 600+ projects and activities.

Registration for the [Hatch After School](#) program starts after the holidays, so stay tuned!

Sunday School

This week we learned about the birth of John the Baptist. We learned that John had to prepare the way for the Lord or people would not have been ready to believe that the Lord was the promised Messiah when He came into the world.



We made our own tablets and did a mix-and-match activity to remember the story.

Olivet Parent Council News

The Olivet Parent Council still needs help with *sweet and savoury contributions!*

For those who are donating their baked goods, please *drop them off inside the front lobby around 8:30 am on Wednesday, December 13th.* A Parent Council member will be there to receive your baked creations!

The bake sale will run *before (5:45 pm) and after the concert.*



Olivet Christmas Concert
BAKE
sale
SWEET & SAVOURY BAKE SALE
organized by **OLIVET PARENT COUNCIL**
Calling all bakers to contribute your sweet or savoury goodies to the Sweet & Savoury Bake Sale at the Olivet Christmas Concert on Dec 13, 2017
CONTACT: olivetparentcouncil@gmail.com

Library Teacher's Announcement

Reading Challenge: December

The theme for this month's reading challenge is **Christmas!** Our library is full of books that have something to do with this holiday, so please encourage your child to read. I will be happy to consider other books on this theme - just check with me.

JK-Grade 1: have a picture book read to them

Grade 2: read a book on their own

Grade 3-4: read a 50+ page book

Grade 5-6: read a 100+ page book

Note: To receive a prize for this month, each student must tell me a little about the book that they've read by **Wednesday, December 20th.**



Tots' Time

It looks like Christmas...the lights, the trees, the wrapped presents and a small baby lying in a manger. We'll enjoy stories, songs and activities celebrating this time of the year.

Preview of the following week: Tastes like Christmas! We'll have a more relaxed morning of fellowship with our families.

Playschool

- **Word Wednesday** - Bring in a picture or an item that shows the letter "Jj".
 - Playschool's performance in the **Olivet Christmas Concert** is on **Wednesday, December 13th**. The classroom door will open at **6:00 pm**. Children are to wear their **red Olivet t-shirt** and **dark pants or a skirt**.
 - Continuing with the events and people leading up to the birth of baby Jesus
 - Please help to welcome our two new friends who will be starting in the New Year: Lucas L. and Madeleine.
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Kindergarten

Today we will be going to see the Nutcracker at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. Many thanks to Mrs. De Oliveira for helping transport our little ones! The children will now be working on all sorts of crafts, activities, and fun about Christmas. The concert is *this Wednesday*, so our pace will be one that promotes calmness. Our school party on *December 21st* will be a time when the children come dressed in party clothes. They will do fun activities and games in their classroom, as well as with the whole school!

This year for Christmas, in lieu of our Secret Santa gift exchange, we will be collecting donations to symbolically [adopt a Blue Whale](#) through the [World Wildlife Fund](#) on behalf of Olivet School. In order to meet our goal, we need a *minimum of \$3* per child. Please *send in your donation* by **Thursday, December 21st**. If your child wishes to bring a present in for a friend, we ask that they either give it in private outside of school or bring a small gift for each classmate.

Bible Story Time - "I see the Christmas Story" book; Angel Gabriel, Mary & Joseph, Baby Lord Jesus

Scripture Verse - "For unto us a Child is born..." (Isaiah 9:6)

Letter of the Week - Review alphabet

Themes - The Nutcracker; Christmas

Show and Tell - Something about Christmas

Primary Room (Grade 1 & 2)

The children have been busily working on a number of Christmas crafts. This week we will get into the kitchen and make a Christmas treat. In mathematics, we complete our study of probability and data management. Some new games will be added to their math-game binder this week. In Social Studies, we continue to read about how different countries celebrate Christmas. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Concert this week. The

children have been working very hard on their pieces and are excited to perform for you. For show and tell, please bring something related to Christmas.

Genesis 1:26 tells that the Lord gave us dominion over the animals of the Earth. This year for Christmas, in lieu of our Secret Santa gift exchange, we will be collecting donations to symbolically [adopt a Blue Whale](#) through the [World Wildlife Fund](#) on behalf of Olivet School. In order to meet our goal, we need a *minimum of \$3* per child. Please *send in your donation* by **Thursday, December 21st**.

Junior Room (Grade 3 & 4)

Genesis 1:26 tells that the Lord gave us dominion over the animals of the Earth. This year for Christmas, in lieu of our Secret Santa gift exchange, we will be collecting donations to symbolically [adopt a Blue Whale](#) through the [World Wildlife Fund](#) on behalf of Olivet School. In order to meet our goal, we need a *minimum of \$3* per child. Our class will be spearheading the fundraising this week by giving speeches to the other classes about the importance of preserving wildlife. Please *send in your donation* by **Thursday, December 21st**. We will share the results of our campaign in the New Year!

Senior Room (Grade 5 & 6)

This Thursday, we will do our Egyptian art/history project. Please remind your kids to *bring their collection of paper, a hair dryer and an old towel*.

This year for Christmas, in lieu of our Secret Santa gift exchange, we will be collecting donations to symbolically [adopt a Blue Whale](#) through the [World Wildlife Fund](#) on behalf of Olivet School. In order to meet our goal, we need a *minimum of \$3* per child. Please *send in your donation* by **Thursday, December 21st**.

Olivet School | Website | Etobicoke, ON

