

Good Afternoon Loyola Families,

Thank you for another great week! As we prepare for the holiday break we wanted to share some information with you and express our sincere gratitude for your continued support of school initiatives to support our school and community.

Christmas Concert:

We are experiencing technical difficulties with the Christmas concert. We apologize for the delay. We will post the link as soon as it is available.

Administrative Changes:

It was announced at the Board meeting on Tuesday that there will be some administrative changes at Loyola starting on February 8, 2021. Mr. Wong will be taking on the challenge of starting the new Milton #3 high school and preparing it for students. Mrs. Ellison will be moving to Bishop Reding in Milton. We are very sad to see both of them go as they have made incredible contributions to the Loyola community. We wish them well as they embark on new adventures.

We would also like to welcome Mrs. Halycz as our new Principal starting on February 8, 2021. Mrs. Halycz is coming to Loyola from Holy Trinity and brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise as an administrator. Mr. Busby is also coming to Loyola from Christ the King in Georgetown where he currently serves as a Vice Principal. We welcome both Mrs. Halycz and Mr. Busby into our Hawk family.

Public Health Guidelines:

We have attached a letter to parents and guardians from Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Chief Officer of Health for Halton Region. As Dr. Meghani noted in her message, it is critical that we all continue to follow the advice of our public health officials and adhere to the [public health measures](#) in our community over the break. By [following public health advice](#), we can all enjoy a safe and happy Christmas holiday, and ensure that the return to school is as safe and healthy as possible for everyone.

Mental Health Supports & Resources:

Like most everything else that we have experienced over the past several months, our Christmas celebrations are going to look and feel different this year in light of the current public health measures in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Christmas is a difficult time for many in any given year. This year, the realities of living in a pandemic and the recent global events around anti-black racism have compounded the difficulties that many in our community are facing.

[School Mental Health Ontario](#) has developed a number of resources to support the mental health of students, families and staff during this time. I encourage you to explore the information and tip sheets available on the SMHO website at: <https://smho-smsso.ca/covid-19/parents-and-families/>

And as we look after ourselves and our families, let's also remember to reach out to friends and neighbours who may be alone and/or struggling at this time.

Food Insecurity:

If you or your family are experiencing food insecurity this holiday season, please check out this resource that outlines where to obtain [food in Halton](#). You can also connect with [St. Matthew's St. Vincent de Paul Society](#) to see how they can support your needs.

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT- REMAINING JOYFUL:

We continue our Advent celebrations as we celebrate the third week of Advent. The theme for this third week of Advent is joy. We are especially joyful because our students are continuing to do great works during this Advent season to prepare for the birth of Jesus. The Culture of Life Club is continuing to support our local Seniors Homes this week by sending them a video that they created full of Christmas songs and cheer. They included clips of household decorations and family members wishing the seniors a joyous Advent season. The club sent the video to remind the seniors that many are thinking and praying for them.

This week, the Culture of Life Club delivered over 2000 diapers, 750 pairs of new socks and 800 pairs of new mittens to the Six Nation Anishnabeg Outreach Indigenous Child and Family Centre. We would like to thank our Loyola community for your generous donations. A special thank you to COL Club member, Caroline Muileboom and her father for transporting the much-needed donations to Anishabeg!



Global Aid Student Club are currently organizing a fundraiser for a school in Tanzania that will take place in the new year. The Global Aid Club supports the Catholic charity, named, Chalice. Through the school connections program, Chalice has linked our Global Aid Club with Nelson Mandela Secondary School that has 577 students. It is a public co-education school situated in Morogor at Mkambarani ward, Tanzania near Kingolwira prison camp. The students cover an average distance of 6 kilometers of daily walking to and from school. It is surrounded by five villages. This school has a severe shortage of books, especially in Arts subjects (History, Geography, Civics, and English language). They also need a library in order to neatly and safely keep the books and learning materials that they have and will be receiving. The club members are diligently working to create a successful fundraiser to ensure that these students will be able to enjoy a school library full of books, just as our Loyola Hawks have the privilege of accessing every day.



Development and Peace Club participated in the Ontario Laudato Si badge program on Saturday December 12th. Our club will be competing monthly against other schools across Ontario with the hopes of earning the “Laudato Si School” certification, awarded in June. We wish our D & P Club well as they continue to prepare for every event!

The D & P club is also continuing to create Advent messages for our school community. Watch this week’s message from the Loyola Development and Peace Club about the Third Week Advent and the Pandemic c/o club members: Colleen Carkner, Madelaine Wice, Victoria Bedard, Sydney Quinlan, Jana El Khatib, and Morgan Manalo. D & P Club ‘Third Week of Advent Video’: <https://youtu.be/fBmUYaPVDHs>



LOYOLA ADVENT LITURGY:

Please join our Advent celebrations by watching our Virtual Loyola Advent Liturgy. A special thank you to Ms. Osorio Gomez and her ELL class for participating in the liturgy! https://youtu.be/hWI_Z3YYzM0



Christmas Food Drive for Six Nations:

Thank you for your tremendous support and generosity for our Christmas Food drive for Six Nations. We collected \$580 in cash donations and filled two large vehicles to the brim with food. Thank you to Mrs. Woolvett, Mr. Coleiro, Mr. Bobanovic, the Eco Club and grade 12 leadership class for inspiring our staff and students to donate to fulfill our call to serve others in our community.



LSC Christmas Activities:

Thank you to our Loyola Student Council (LSC) for organizing and facilitating a number of virtual Christmas initiatives to build school spirit and celebrate the season. We would like to encourage students to follow @loyolalsc and @LoyolaHawksOak on Instagram for upcoming events and activities.

Loyola Spirit Wear:

Check out our [school website](#) for information regarding ordering Loyola spirit wear.

January 4, 2021 School Return:

Loyola is scheduled to re-open on Monday, January 4, 2021. However, as we have learned this past year, we need to be prepared for all possibilities. As public health officials continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our community, they may adjust their recommendations and we may see more changes to the measures that have been put in place to keep everyone safe.

We ask that you continue to monitor your emails, as in the event we need to communicate any information regarding the return to school, we will share this information through email, as well as on our [Loyola](#) and [HCDSB](#) website.

We would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. As we look with hope and optimism to 2021 may it bring an abundance of peace, joy and love to comfort our weary hearts.



Sincere thanks,

Loyola Administration
@LoyolaHawksOak