

St. John the Baptist School Newsletter

September 2019
Welcome Back!

School Phone Number: 905-549-8203
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Miss L. St. Aubin

Principal

Mr. D. Laus

Assistant to the Principal

Mr. M. Brennan

S.E.R.T.

Mr. C. Ciapanna

Superintendent of Education

Mr. Tony Perri

Trustee

Mr. M. Lawlor

Principal of Bishop Ryan Secondary

School

Principal's News

WELCOME BACK!

September is finally here! It is my hope that families took the time for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation for this upcoming school year together. I want to welcome students, families and staff, to another year filled with learning, growing in faith and serving our community and those in need.

I would personally like to thank the families, students, staff and community members for their continued support and patience as we journeyed through our first year together. It certainly was a year of learning for all.

It is vital that we continue to maintain healthy relationships built on trust, honesty, understanding and patience. Through open dialogue, transparency and communication, we can maintain a positive relationship based on acceptance, and belonging. Please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime

with concerns or feedback. I encourage parents to join Catholic School Council to share their voice on activities. I look forward to work with all this year.

As the St. John the Baptist Catholic School Community, we celebrate our differences and build acceptance, fostering kindness and faith.

We look forward to working with Fr. Andrew and the Parish Staff as we embark upon a new faith journey together.

I look forward to meeting everyone at the "Meet the Staff" evening in September.

May God continue to bless and guide you,

Miss St. Aubin

Principal

"Let your light shine." Matthew 5:16

Daily Schedule

08:50 a.m. - 09:05 a.m.
09:05 a.m.
10:25 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
11:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.
02:00 p.m. - 02:15 p.m.
03:25 p.m.

- students may be on the playground
- Entry and Opening Exercises
-Recess
-Lunch
-Recess
-Dismissal

Snack Program: Tuesday until Friday
Breakfast Program: Tuesday until Thursday
8:05a.m. - 8:50 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Meet the Staff Night
- ◆ Pizza Orders Due
- ◆ P.D. Day - September 20



Breakfast and Nutrition Program.



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Just a reminder that students must be full uniform daily. Spirit wear shirts may be worn every Friday with uniform bottoms.

Our provider for the uniforms is Bombadari.

We are also accepting gently used uniform clothing for our clothing room. Please stop by the main office for more information.

Crests can be purchased and sown on shirts.

Once again, St. John the Baptist will be offering a snack and breakfast program that will begin the second week of school. These programs are funded by local community funds and grants that assist schools in helping to provide students with a healthy snack or breakfast option.

The **Snack Program** is a program that is offered to all students who may require a healthy nut free snack throughout the course of the day at school. These snacks will be available to the students every Tuesday through to Friday. These snacks include a variety of healthy items such as fruit, crackers, granola bars, yogurt tubes, and many other items. The students will be able to access these snacks in the classroom when needed.

The **Breakfast Program** is a free program that is offered to all students who may want to join us for a light breakfast from Tuesday to Thursday.

The program begins at 8:05 and runs until 8:50am. Students are required to enter through the Central Street doors and sign-in in the nutrition room. **Once students sign-in, they are required to stay with the staff until 8:50 a.m.** During this time from 8:05 to 8:20, students will join in on free-play gym time on Tuesday and Thursday and homework club in the library on Wednesday. This program is optional, but it is available to all families who may require some assistance. We hope to see you there.



Lunch Procedures

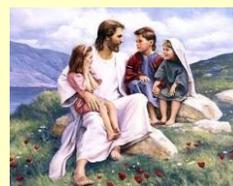
As you know, the safety of the children under our care is one of our most important responsibilities. To help us keep the students safe and to help us keep track of all the students under our care, the following policies will be implemented this year.

Our lunch is at 11:50 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. A child who normally stays for lunch and is leaving **must be picked up by an adult** at the office so they can be signed out. ***Any student who leaves the building without written permission shall be deemed truant and will face the consequences.***

TOGETHER WE CAN WORK TO KEEP ALL OUR STUDENTS SAFE!

First Day Entry Procedures

On September 3rd, students will be greeted by their teachers on the playground and brought directly to their classrooms. We will be having our welcome assembly after first recess. Parents are welcome to join us. This will allow for a smooth transition directly into the classroom. Thanks for your understanding.



“Working together with Jesus, we succeed.”



REMEMBER!!!!

**WE ARE A
PEANUT/NUT AWARE
SCHOOL**

Parents are reminded to avoid sending snacks that contain peanuts/tree nuts.

Also, if your child has an allergy please make sure that the office staff and your child's teacher are aware of the specific allergy and any emergency procedures that should be followed.

SCHOOL HOURS & ENTRY PROCEDURES

Please note carefully the school hours. Attendance and punctuality are crucial. Students should arrive at school at least five minutes before bell times. Teachers will be on supervision 10 minutes before bell times and at recess. Students who arrive before this time will not be supervised.

At bell time, students are asked to line up in the playground with their class, in their designated area and then will be directed to enter the school by the teacher on duty.

Students not entering with their class are considered late arrivals and must report to the main office to receive an admit slip. Students are not to enter the school until the classes are brought in by a teacher or they have been given permission by a supervisor.

In the event of inclement weather, students will be allowed into the building before bell times.

Parent/caregivers who are accompanying students to school or who are picking up their child after school are asked to wait outside in the playground near the door that the class uses for entry and dismissal.

We ask that parents do not wait outside the classroom or in the hallways. It is important for your child to develop independence and learn entry and dismissal routines.

For the security and safety of your children, all doors will be locked shortly after classes begin. You may enter the school only by the main doors.

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students must use their own entrance off of Edgemont St. and enter the building and follow the procedures outlined by their teacher.

SAFE ARRIVAL

At St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each day. The Board has implemented a system with our parent community called **Safe Arrival**. It allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently.

We are asking our parents to do the following:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. **The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. NOTE: Once you are logged in, please ensure that you update your message preferences.**
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 833-275-6703 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

We will continue to use our automated notification system to contact parents at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contacts is reached. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after 20 minutes, office staff will continue to follow up. **By reporting your child absent in advance using the Safe Arrival toll free number or SafeArrival Portal website/app, you will NOT receive a call.**

SAFE SCHOOLS/VISITORS

All parents, guests, volunteers, visitors, etc. entering the building must sign the Visitor's Sign in Book in the Office. They must also see the secretary to pick up a Visitor's Label. No one will be allowed into the building without a label.

It is crucial that students' instructional time is not compromised, therefore, if parents need to see a teacher, we ask that you please call ahead to make an appointment. If you need to see your child during the school day or deliver a lunch, we ask that you come to the main office.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

As required, we will be conducting our emergency evacuation procedures early in the new year to ensure that all students and staff are aware of the routes for evacuation. There is a minimum of 3 practices that must be recorded in the fall and 3 in the spring of each year.

In addition, we will be conducting practices for "Lock Down Procedures" and "Bomb Threat Procedures" in September as well to keep all staff and students informed as to our practices in the event of an intruder. The teachers will be addressing this aspect of school safety within their classrooms with dialogue that is age appropriate.

Please note that all exterior doors are locked and only the front door of the school is accessible to visitors.

School Bus Rules

1. Students are required to be on time at the designated stops. The bus will not wait.
2. Students must take seats on the bus as directed by the Driver or Principal/ Vice Principal and remain in their seats throughout the trip to and from school. The driver is always in charge of the bus and its passengers.
3. Students must not create a disturbance, however slight, by

disturbing another student or touching his/her belongings.

4. You may not change your bus to ride home with a friend. You must always ride the bus assigned.

5. RIDING ON A SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE AND, THEREFORE, STUDENTS SHOULD ACT ACCORDINGLY. Improper conduct may result in a suspension of bus privileges for a day or so, at the discretion of the Principal.

Agendas

Once again, students will be using agendas to keep them on task and record homework. The agenda will also be a useful tool to help parents and teachers communicate with each other.

Please make use of it with your child and sign it on a regular basis. The cost of the agenda is subsidized through fundraising money by Catholic School Council and therefore, there will be no

cost for students.



Student Council

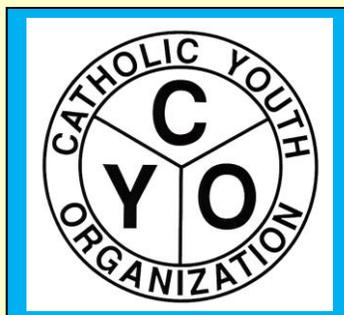
This month Student Council elections will be taking place. Students in Grade 8 will have the opportunity to run for President and Treasurer while students in Grade 7 will be able to run for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary. Junior and Intermediate students will also be able to serve as Class Representatives.

C.Y.O

The Catholic Youth Organization runs a variety of team sports throughout the course of the school year. These include flag football, volleyball, basketball, Spring/Fall Cross Country and track and field. Most of these sports are offered to students in grades 4-8. This would be our junior team (grades 4-6) and our senior team (grades 7-8) for both male and female. Some sports such as Cross Country is available from grades 1-8. C.Y.O sports will begin mid-September, beginning with Flag Football.

Athletes are reminded that their first responsibility is their schoolwork, then the sport. Coaches will check in regularly with classroom teachers regarding the athlete's academics. If students are not doing their part academically, they could lose their spot on the team.

We encourage all students to try out for sports teams or other activities that the school may have to offer. Please check the website for the schedule of sports.



INTERNET SAFETY

As students become more tech-savvy and have greater access to technology at the school, it is important they understand the need to protect their name, identify and reputation online. Students are now using the Internet for homework at home or in locations where the Internet is not generally filtered or supervised (Internet cafes, friend's homes, etc.) Also our school has become wireless in certain areas and as a school we have established guidelines for its use during the day. We thank you in advance for your support.



VOLUNTEERING/ POLICE CHECK

Once again, we will be asking for volunteers to assist at the school in the classroom, on trips, coaching teams, etc. The assistance of volunteers helps us improve our program for students and helps us offer more activities so that students can enjoy their time in school. Provincial law makes it mandatory that volunteers who work with children must have a current police check. More information about the process can be obtained at the office. We hope you will take us up on the offer to volunteer.

St. John the Baptist Catholic School Council News

ELECTION INFORMATION

The Catholic School Council plays an important role in the development of a strong school community. Depending on the school's needs, the Council fills a variety of roles and helps the staff, parents and students work together for the betterment of all. The guidelines governing Catholic School Councils have been laid out by the Government of Ontario and require that new councils be elected every school year in September. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Our first meeting of the year will take place later this month for new members only. All parents are welcome to attend the first formal meeting that will take place in October. In the newsletter bundle are information forms with important dates and information. In the coming days, Miss. St. Aubin will be accepting nominations for the Council Executive in order to prepare a slate of candidates. If you are interested please pick up the nomination forms in the office or online and complete the appropriate forms by Friday, September 13th. After September 13th, if 10 or less people are nominated, they shall be acclaimed. An election, if necessary, will take place on Tuesday, September 17th. Should you have other questions, please feel free to contact the school. A sign up for committee responsibilities will take place at the September meeting. We hope to see you there. A full list of the new Catholic School Council and the Meeting dates will be sent home in the October newsletter.

St. John the Baptist Parish Information

We would like to invite parents and children to Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist. Fr. Andrew is amazing, and the children's liturgy is taught in a way that the children will understand.

We are also looking for Alter Servers, boys and girls from grade 4 and on. Please get in touch with the Rectory at 905-544-2100.

Mass Times:
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Volunteer Hours

Just a reminder to students in Gr. 7 and 8 that need to complete their volunteer hours for Confirmation. Classroom teachers have the forms for completion. Students need 10 hours of volunteer work, this includes, assisting at the parish events, walking in the HWCDSB Pilgrimage, and another volunteer experience done.

Brownies and Sparks

Thursday evenings 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Church Hall



Meet the Staff BBQ

This year, CSC will be hosting our "Meet the Staff Night" on Tuesday, September 24th from 5p.m.-7:00 p.m. This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher and catch up with other parents and meet new parents. Additional information will be sent home with your child. We look forward to seeing you there!

H.W.C.D.S.B ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE

The HWCDSB's Annual Parent Conference will be taking place on Saturday, November 2nd at Bishop Ryan High School from 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. It is free to attend and lunch is provided as well as door prizes. Check out the Board website for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

H.W.C.D.S.B. Annual Pilgrimage Walk

Sunday October 20th

The 16th Annual Pilgrimage Walk will be taking place on Sunday, October 20, 2019. A Social Justice Project for the Needs in: Haiti, Uganda & Dominican Republic, Holy Childhood Society and Development and Peace.

All grade 7 students are encouraged to participate, as they will receive volunteer hours that can be applied towards their Confirmation Volunteer Hours.

More information to follow.