



sms@ycdsb.ca



@SMSVaughan

December 2021 Newsletter

We Look forward with joy to the coming of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, our brother and our Saviour,
 come into our hearts with your love,
 with your joy, your hope, and your peace.
 Help us to reflect your love for all
 by loving and serving all we meet.
 Lord Jesus, come into our lives,
 and share your gifts with all people.
 Blessed are you, Lord Jesus,
 forever and ever.
 Amen



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Advent is a season of hope and joy and a time to give thanks to the coming birth of Christ. It is also a time to cherish the many blessings that surround us every day. As we approach the feast of the birth of our Saviour, let us cherish the moments with loved ones and make this Christmas a special living memory. We are reminded that it was in a humble stable where God gave us the most wonderful gift of all, His son, the Christ Child! We embrace the opportunity for renewed hope through the call to live as a people of peace, justice and love.

The support of this community for our school and school initiatives is overwhelming and truly a blessing to behold. On behalf of the staff and students at St. Mary of the Angels, I wish to express my extreme gratitude to the entire St. Mary of the Angels community for the generosity in support of our Fall Fundraiser. Over the course of the two week fundraiser, we raised over \$22,000. These funds will go directly towards enhancements to learning to support each and every child at our school. I sincerely thank all our families who support our school in all we do.

Both Ms. Gallo and I, along with the entire staff and student body at St. Mary of the Angels wish you, your family and friends all the blessings of Christ's Holy Nativity. May the joy of His birth overflow in your hearts and in your homes during this Holy Season and every day in 2022.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on January 3, 2022.

God Bless,

Chair of the Board: Ms. Elizabeth Crowe

Trustee: Ms. Maria Marchese

Director of Education:

Mr. Domenic Scuglia

Superintendent of Education:

Ms. R. Antunes

Principal: Mr. B. Dulcigno

Vice Principal: Ms. S. Gallo

Office Staff

Ms. S. Galloro

Ms. L. Santino

Ms. T. Wawryk

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. John Borean

The School Day:

Entrance: 8:30 a.m.

Recesses: 9:50 a.m. & 1:45 p.m.

Lunch: 11:25 a.m.—12:25 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:00 p.m.

<http://go.schoolmessenger.ca/>

before 8:30 a.m.

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values



Strategic Commitments



Catholic Communities of Faith

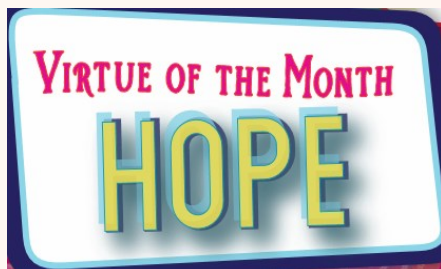


CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next CSC meeting will take place virtually on

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support of our students at
St. Mary of the Angels CES.



December is devoted to the Catholic virtue of Hope. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their daily actions and words with one another.

- I will look to the future with trust in God.
- I will keep a positive attitude.
- I will prepare for Christmas by waiting with hope, faith, joy and love.

Our virtue award recipients will be selected this month and their names will be published in next month's newsletter.

HOLIDAY HEROES CHRISTMAS DRIVE

St. Mary of the Angels CES is proud to partner with the York Regional Police Association "Holiday Heroes" campaign to help support families in need in the local community.

With the Christmas season quickly approaching, we would like to invite our St. Mary of the Angels community to be "holiday heroes" and participate in our **Cozy Pyjama and Toy Drive**. We will be collecting donations of **new unwrapped toys** for children of all ages and **new pyjamas** for babies, children, tweens and teens.

Donations will be accepted from **December 6 to December 15, 2021**. Students can drop off items in the boxes located in our front foyer beside our Christmas tree. Be a holiday hero this Advent season as we seek to help those in need in our local community!

We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



Engaging Our Communities

FALL FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to our SMS community for a very successful school fundraiser! We surpassed our goal and raised a remarkable total of \$22,472.

The funds will be used toward the purchase of:

- ◆ Upgrading white boards in classes to *Bright Links Interactive Whiteboards*
- ◆ New generation iPads for Primary and FDK
- ◆ Osmo STEM Kits for FDK
- ◆ Increasing our inventory of Chromebooks to meet the needs of our school
- ◆ Dance Instructors to enhance the dance curriculum
- ◆ Science Experiment Kits for Junior Division
- ◆ Equipment for outdoor play
- ◆ Programs to support Mental Health

Your on-going support and generosity is truly appreciated.

Congratulations to our grand prize winners:

Nintendo Switch - **Violet and Pearl D.**
Electric Scooter - **Ariella P.**
Android Tablets - **Luana C.P. and Marcus S.**
Fortino's Gift Card - **Melanie S.**

For reaching each of our fundraising targets, students have earned the following rewards:

[Civvies Day](#)
[Movie and Snack Day](#)
[No Homework Weekend](#)

This reward day will take place on
Friday, December 10th.

DANCE-A-THON

Students had a fantastic time at our Dance-a-thon on Thursday, December 2nd and Friday, December 3rd. The gym was transformed into a music and light show, and students had a blast with their classmates! Thank you, Ms. Pellegrini for arranging our dance playlist!



FDK AND PRIMARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The FDK and Primary students have been working hard to prepare for our first ever virtual Christmas Concert! All performances are being recorded at school by the classroom teachers and the concert will be live streamed on Thursday, December 16th at 6:30 pm. A link will be emailed to our FDK and Primary parent community closer to the date. We can't wait to see our students perform and shine this Advent season!

Engaging Our Communities



Welcome to the Lunch Lady!
St. Mary of the Angels
thelunchlady.ca

25
TRUSTED PROVIDER

25
NUTRITION POLICY APPROVED

25
GLUTEN FREE ALLERGY FRIENDLY

25
GLASS & GO SLUGGERY

25
SAFETY FIRST

25
LOCALLY OWNED

Your Lunch Lady days are:
Tuesday and Friday

For delivery on:

Tuesday

Friday

Place your order by:

8am on Monday

8am on Thursday

Our order system opens on: Dec 1
Our first delivery date will be: Dec 7

Visit our **order site** and click **Order Now** to get started

Returning Customers

- Login
- Follow Forgot Password if needed to Reset
- Select School / Camp Delivery
- Add any new students
- Select delivery date to see menu
- Update classroom info for existing students
- Add items to cart (return to calendar for more dates)
- Check out and complete your order

New Customers

- Register and create account
- Select School / Camp Delivery
- Add Student
- Select the fork and spoon icon to order
- Select delivery date to see menu
- Add items to cart (return to calendar for more dates)
- Check out and complete your order
- Relax and let us do the rest!

Things to Remember

Bring Your Own From Home



Reduce single use plastics. Bring your own cutlery from home.

Sick Child



It happens. Email us before 8am to receive a credit.

Snow Day



If buses are canceled, snow day or covid outbreak Credit will be given

Allergies



Special Food needs? Email us before you order.

We love making school lunches and are thrilled to serve your community. Call us if there is anything we can do to assist you.

Marlyn Liem
marlyn@thelunchlady.ca (905) 470-2598

HOT LUNCH IS BACK!

For the month of December, “**The Lunch Lady**” hot lunch program is being offered on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please see the flyer emailed on December 1st with instructions on how to register an account and order lunches online. All orders will be done electronically via the Lunch Lady website. Please note, all meals are prepared daily in a health inspected, nut-free, commercial kitchen facility. All meals are individually packaged and Covid safety protocols are followed for deliveries to the school. In the event of a snow day or if YRPH declares a confirmed Covid outbreak at our school, hot lunch deliveries will NOT take place. Lunch Lady will issue a credit on your account to use toward ordering another lunch at a later date.

Spirit Week is coming to SMS December 13 - December 17

<u>Monday, December 13</u>	<u>Tuesday, December 14</u>	<u>Wednesday, December 15</u>	<u>Thursday, December 16</u>	<u>Friday, December 17</u>
				
<p>Christmas Accessories Day! Wear your Favourite Christmas Accessories (socks, tie, necklace)</p>	<p>Warm & Cozy Day! Wear your Favourite Christmas Flannel or Christmas Colours</p>	<p>Christmas Hat Day! Wear your Favourite Christmas Hat or Headband</p>	<p>Christmas Sweater Day! Wear your Craziest and most Festive Christmas Sweater</p>	<p>Christmas Pyjama Day! Wear your coziest Christmas PJ to school</p>

Safe and Caring Schools

INCLEMENT WEATHER ROUTINES DURING A PANDEMIC

Once again this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Inclement Weather procedures will be based on direction from York Region Public Health. Public Health has advised that class cohorts cannot be combined for any reason. During inclement weather days in the past, it was necessary to combine classes due to reduced staffing levels. This practice is not permitted under current Public Health guidance.

As a result, in the event that School transportation is cancelled due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions:

- **All schools will be closed.** Students cannot come to school.
- Classes will pivot to asynchronous remote learning. This means students will work on tasks previously assigned, such as long term projects or spend time reviewing material previously covered. **No new, additional work will be assigned.** Students will access asynchronous, self-directed remote learning through their teachers' virtual classrooms.

In our effort to ensure equity and inclusion, students will not be assigned new work given that many students will not have a device to learn remotely.

Please note:

- The decision to cancel school transportation service is region-wide, meaning all school buses, vans and taxis are not operating.
- B&A programs will not run.
- Child Care Centres may remain open at the discretion of the operator.
- Tests, quizzes and non-virtual parent meetings will be cancelled and rescheduled.

SNOWY DAYS, WINTER DRESS, AND ILLNESSES

Winter has arrived! Students must be properly dressed for the weather conditions and they need to wear boots and snow pants if they want to play in the snow. Junior and Intermediate students who do not wear boots to school on snowy days will remain on the pavement area and will not be permitted on the field. **We ask that students come to school in the mornings with all their winter gear: snow pants, hats, scarves, boots and waterproof gloves.** In following Covid safety protocols, dropping off clothing during the school day is not permitted. Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes, extra socks, and an extra pair of gloves at school.

Children who are too sick to go out for some fresh air at recess are too sick to attend school. A child who is ill should not be at school. If your child needs to stay in for recess a doctor's note is required. We appreciate your support in this matter.

If the weather is extremely cold (-17 degrees celsius with the windchill factor) or stormy and icy, an indoor recess routine is followed.



INDOOR SHOES

In order to keep our school clean as well as assist in maintaining a healthy environment, we are asking that all students have a pair of shoes, with non marking soles that are to be kept at school.

Safe and Caring Schools

CELL PHONES/PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ON BOARD PREMISES

There has been an increased use of inappropriate cell phone use by students during the instructional day. As a reminder, effective November 4, 2019, the Provincial Code of Conduct has been updated to address the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices as outlined in PPM 128. These revisions are designed to restrict the use of all personal mobile devices during instructional time in both elementary and secondary classrooms in order to prevent distractions and maximize learning time.

The YCDSB acknowledges the value of the use of technology for learning. Students are permitted to register and use personal electronic devices (PEDs) such as laptops and chromebooks on board premises and/or board sanctioned events for educational purposes, **under the direction of staff and only with parent/guardian permission.** Access to the York Catholic District School Board wireless network is a privilege, not a right. Any use of the wireless network shall entail personal responsibility and compliance with all York Catholic District School Board policies and school expectations or guidelines. This includes respecting the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching, by ensuring that personal electronic devices are only used during instructional time for educational and other permitted purposes under the direction of staff.

We ask that parents do not communicate with their children via their cell phones during the school day. If you need to contact your child, please do so by calling the office. **Any personal communications (i.e., phone calls, text messages, etc.) will continue to be directed through the main office.** Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in a loss of PED privileges and/or any other consequences deemed necessary by school administration.

PARKING, DROP OFF & PICK-UP

Thank you to our parent community for adhering to our Kiss and Ride drop off procedures every morning. With your cooperation and diligence, we have been able to ensure a smooth and safe arrival for all our students during our drop off hours between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. At dismissal time, we need to ensure the same safety measures are followed. If parents wish to pick up their child at their exit door, parents must park on the street or in a designated spot and then walk to the pick up area. Please do not leave your car idling. Parking in the fire lane or double parking in the Kiss and Ride is not permitted as this is a by-law infraction and these lanes must remain clear for emergency vehicles. We must work together to ensure a safe dismissal for all our students. Parents are to share this information with family members picking up the children.



Parents/guardians are **not** allowed to drop off lunches/snacks/water bottles during the school day - students should bring their lunch with them or they can go home/out for lunch with parent permission/supervision.

Safe and Caring Schools

TRAVEL GUIDANCE FOR FAMILIES

In the lead up to the Christmas break, we would like to take a moment to remind all parents/guardians of the travel guidance requirements outlined in the [School Re-entry Plan](#) on our Board website.

Students and their families who choose to travel over the holidays - or at any time - **must follow all federal and provincial travel restrictions and guidelines**. These can be found on the federal [COVID-19: travel, testing and borders](#) website and Ontario's [Travelling during COVID-19](#) website.

It is also important to note that unvaccinated children under the age of 12 who travel with fully vaccinated adults may be exempt from quarantine rules, however, following direction from York Region Public Health, they are **NOT** allowed to attend school or childcare for 14 days after returning home. During this time, students would **NOT** qualify for hybrid learning; all learning would be asynchronous

Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety for Students

LAWS

Many sites are 13+ and most images / work is protected by copyright.

TALK

Tell your parents what you're doing online.
Always ask a trusted adult if you're unsure of anything.

FRIENDS

Don't add or meet online friends without parent permission. Don't trust everything friends tell you.

YAPPY

Keep private:
Your full name,
Address,
Phone number,
Passwords,
Your plans



REPUTATION

Don't post anything you wouldn't want teachers, family, friends, & employers to see.

QUESTION

You can't believe everything you read and see online.

Digital Citizenship & Internet Safety

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

BULLYING

Tell someone if you think cyber bullying is happening to you or others.

UNPLUG

Find balance. Get outdoors, move, play, and interact face-to-face.

PASSWORDS & USERNAMES

Choose sensible usernames and email addresses.
Use strong passphrases and don't share them with others.

MANNERS

Be polite and respectful.
Treat others how you'd like to be treated.

If in doubt

THINK ABOUT AND TALK IT OUT

SCHOOL-DAY IS COMING!

We're excited to announce that our school will be using School-Day for online cashless transactions and related communications.



January 17, 2021

School-Day can be accessed from any web browser and gives you real-time access to up-to-date information, and the ability to:

School-Day can be accessed from any web browser and gives you real-time access to up-to-date information, and the ability to:

- View announcements, news, and school information
- Approve permission forms online
- Register your child for extracurricular events
- Make online payments

We look forward to using this new system with you, and we are certain that you will find the School-Day portal very useful.

More information about how to register will be provided in

January

SCHOOL-DAY.COM



The Mental Health Team, together with the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, invite you to:

Surviving the Holidays:

~~The most wonderful~~ ^{stressful} time of the year?

Presented by
Pine River Institute's Centre for Family Initiatives

Thursday, December 9th

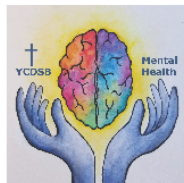
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Everyone needs a break after the year we've just had, yet for many of us, the holidays become another stressor, rather than a time for us to relax and enjoy time with family. Expectations of yourself and others can create tensions in the family, and poor sleep, diet, and lack of routine, can escalate the anxiety felt around the home.



Presenter:
Amanda Lamb
CFI Director

Recognizing that things may look different this year, we can cultivate peace and wellness over the holidays so we can focus on what is really important, spending time with the people we love. Learn about expectations vs. reality, managing stress in children, and yourself, and navigating difficult family dynamics.



[Register here](#)



December

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	1	2 Dance-a-thon	3 Dance-a-thon	4
5	6 Lunch Lady order due online	7 LUNCH LADY	8	9 Lunch Lady order due online	10 LUNCH LADY Civvies Day Movie & Snack No Homework	11
12	13 Lunch Lady order due online Christmas Accessories Day!	14 LUNCH LADY Advent Liturgy Warm & Cozy Flannel Day!	15 Christmas Hat Day!	16 Lunch Lady order due online Christmas Sweater Day!	17 LUNCH LADY Christmas Pyjama Day!	18
19 Christmas Holidays Begin 	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 	***** See you back at SMS on Jan. 3, 2022

