



January 2022 Newsletter

Prayer for a New Year

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Amen



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We welcome everyone back to St. Mary of the Angels! Although we return virtually, we will endeavor to do our best to make the learning experience as normal as possible. We wish everyone a very healthy and safe New Year. We hope that during the year of 2022, we continue to thank God for our many blessings, including our families and friends. As we continue to face another challenging school year, we would like to thank the entire SMS community for their support and encouragement. We look forward to our continued partnership between school, home and church during the 2022 year.

During the month of January our staff and students will reflect on the virtue of Unity in all that they do each and every day.

Virtue of Unity

I will make everyone feel welcomed and appreciated.

I will take some time to learn about the similarities and differences in my community.

I will empower people with my words, not put them down by calling them names.

The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts. Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning "to reveal". God's love is revealed to everyone, everywhere. May God's gifts of faith, hope and love continue to guide you and your family.

God Bless,
 Mr. B. Dulcigno
 Principal

Chair of the Board

Ms. Elizabeth Crowe

Vice-Chair of the Board & 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. and 1:45 p.m.

Lunch 11:25 a.m. -12:25 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:00 p.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



To report students absences/lates, please dial: 1-855-856-7862 or online at <http://go.schoolmessenger.ca/> before 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Communities of Faith

The Virtue for December was HOPE

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.

Congratulations to the following students for demonstrating this virtue:

FDK: Mila R., Aaron R., Olivia Z., Aysen G., Alex M., Jack D., Lyanna O., Matteo C., Nicola A., Ethan P.

Grade 1: Emanuel P. Franco M., Francis E., Emma B., Gianluca D. Martyn S.,

Grade 2: Alyssa C., Charbel S., Melek T., Jessica D., Massimo M., Ella S., Mia C.

Grade 3: Emily G., Sofia B., Mary S., Stefano S., Aria C., Dominic H., Nathan L., Cassandra F.

Grade 4: Joseph H., Nevin G., Mia C., Bianca B., Dominic G., Antonio D., Kauan L., Vivian G.

Grade 5: Siena N., Alessia F., Mia S., Valentina A., Jacob M., Natalie M.

Grade 6: Ella A., Anleel G., Vanessa I., Ethan P., Mia R., Martim D., Sarah D., Mario A.

Grade 7: Mia-Rose A., Matteo M., Mara V., Emma Z., Marco B., Jayden I., Christian D.

Grade 8: Justin M., Luca I., Anna C., Jordan D., Vanessa A., Matteo C., Luca A., Matteo C., Violet A., Matthew P.



Engaging our Communities



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.

Virtue of the Month *Unity*

Students are encouraged to demonstrate the attributes of unity in their daily actions and words with one another.

A prayer for Unity

God of harmony and unity,
You want us all to work together to
build your kingdom.
May our ears hear your voice clearly
May our eyes see your beauty in all
May our understanding break down walls of
fear and prejudice.
May we make our school
a place of friendship
a place of belonging
a place of welcome.
where everyone feels safe.
where everyone has a place
where all are united in You, dear God.



St. Mary of the Angels Virtual Christmas Concert



Our school community would like to extend congratulations to the Kindergarten and Primary students for sharing their talent with us during our Virtual Christmas Concert, which was live streamed on December 16th. Our Kindergarten and Primary families were treated to a variety of great songs and some dancing, too, all of which helped us celebrate Advent and the Christmas season. Thank you to our amazing students! We are also grateful to our wonderful staff for the countless hours spent preparing students and providing them the opportunity to share their vast talent and energy with us all! Special thanks to Mr. Koci for all his hard work in putting each of the class videos together for the virtual presentation.

Quality Learning for All

Director Scuglia and Superintendent Antunes visit St. Mary of the Angels during the Advent Season

On December 15th, we had the pleasure to welcome Director Scuglia and Superintendent Antunes to our school. Our student ambassadors, Marco V. and Ella A. led our guests on a tour of the school. They were entertained by a group of grade 6 students who performed “Feliz Navidad” on the ukulele, led by our music teacher, Ms. Cutrone. Kudos to the grade 6 students on a terrific performance! During the visit, Director Scuglia and Superintendent Antunes had the opportunity to see many of our STREAM initiatives in action; grade 1 students using the Quiver app to bring pictures to life in 3D, coding activities with the grade 5s, and a math virtual escape room with the grade 7s. Their visit concluded with a charming musical performance by some of our FDK students.



Mental Health and Wellness “Brave Education Workshop” for our Grade 6-8 Classes

Mental health is an essential component to overall health. Our grade 6 to 8 classes will be taking part in a virtual workshop offered by Brave Education. This workshop, entitled “My Mental Wellness” will take place from January 10 to 11, 2022. The workshop will focus on mindfulness, self-care, teaching students strategies to overcome external and internal stressors, and apply skills that help them identify and manage emotions. The aim of the program is to support the development of personal resilience, learn about mental wellness tools, and build awareness about when and how to access mental health resources and supports when needed.

Why practice mindfulness?

- Understand that stress is a natural response to a challenge
- Pay attention to your thoughts and emotions with kindness
- Transform your anxiety into actions you can take to meet the challenge

Term 1 Report Cards

Term 1 Report Cards for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will once again be in electronic form. Electronic Report Cards will be available on the Parent Portal on **February 8th, 2022**. We encourage parents to discuss the Report Card with their child, review learning skills and subjects areas together, and set goals for Term 2. There are no formal interviews this reporting period; however, if you need to speak to your child’s teacher please contact them by calling the school.

Quality Learning for All

Connecting to the Virtual Classroom:

Students should be aware of how to log into their virtual classrooms. For students who have not yet entered their teacher's virtual classroom, the teacher will either provide the Google Classroom class code or invite the student into their virtual classroom with the student's personal @ycdsbk12.ca account. Students are assigned to their French, Phys. Ed. and Music teachers' Google Classrooms separately. Please make sure your child joins those virtual classrooms as well, in order to access synchronous instruction for those subjects and participate in the lessons. Always remember that you can only access the teacher's Google Classroom and Google Meet through your child's Gmail account (**their personal @ycdsbk12.ca account**). If you are having difficulty accessing your child's Google Meet, Google Classroom or Google Drive, check to see that the account did not default to another Gmail account in your household.

Information regarding virtual learning:

- ⇒ Students are expected to be online everyday at 8:30 a.m. and are encouraged to have their cameras on for attendance.
- ⇒ The day will begin with O Canada, prayers and announcements. Students are expected to be on the meet for these morning exercises.
- ⇒ Attendance is taken twice daily, in the AM at 8:30 and PM at 12:25. If your child is marked absent or late, and you have not reported it on the school absence system, you will receive a phone call from the Safe Arrival line.
- ⇒ Daily classroom schedules will remain the same.
- ⇒ All students will follow our school code of conduct when participating in Google Meets with their class. **The same classroom expectations that students follow in class apply to the virtual classroom.**

Thank you

Special thanks to our teachers, our teacher-librarian, Ms. Sacco, and our secretaries, Ms. Santino, Ms. Wawryk, and Ms. Galloro, for their tremendous work in organizing and distributing student packages and chromebooks this week. An immense thank you to all the parents, guardians, and caregivers for all your support as we navigate another round of Distance Learning.

Google Meet Etiquette

- For each Google Meet, students are encouraged to be 'camera ready.' This means no pyjamas (unless the teacher has organized a pyjama theme day), no snacking, limited background noise, etc.
- Find a quiet place in your home with a work area, for example, at a table or a desk.
- Students should be the only ones in the frame (no siblings or parents).
- Please be on time and join the meets at the times indicated on your class schedule.
- Join the meet with mic muted to avoid excess noise.
- Your microphone must be muted when the teacher is speaking, or when the teacher asks for you to do so.
- Please raise your hand if you would like to share a response.
- The chat feature is available for asking questions pertaining to the lesson and must be used appropriately.
- Parents and students are not to record or take any pictures of the Google Meet.



Safe and Caring Schools

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are required to call the SAFE ARRIVAL LINE at 1-855-856-7862 or visit go.schoolmessenger.ca to report their child's absence. The school messenger app can also be downloaded for free from the App Store.

Please note:

- All absences must be reported prior to 9 am the day of the absence.
- All absences, including vacations, early leaves from school for any reason, illness, late arrivals, appointments etc., should be recorded in this manner.
- Students are encouraged to be on time for school, even while learning remotely during this school closure period by logging into the VLE by 8:30 a.m. Late arrivals cause disruptions to classes that are already in session.
- If your child's absence has not been reported, you will receive a call from the school to verify your child's absence.

Cold Weather and Indoor Recess

If the weather is extremely cold and is at or exceeds minus 17 degrees Celsius with the windchill factor, or it is stormy and icy, an indoor recess routine is followed.



MASK WEARING

York Region Public Health is requiring the use of masks for all Kindergarten (JK and SK) students attending schools in York Region. Therefore, once school reopens to in-person learning, all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 are required to wear properly fitted masks indoors at school, including in hallways and during classes, as well as on school vehicles (i.e., buses).

Students are expected to bring their own masks to wear while at school and non-medical three-ply cloth masks will be made available for students if needed. Please provide your child with extra masks to allow for changing if it becomes wet or soiled.

Students will now be required to cohort during recess and outdoor breaks. Masks are not required outdoors; however, distancing will be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible.

Masks may be temporarily removed indoors to consume food or drink, when a minimum distance of 2 metres (6 feet) is maintained between cohorts and as much distancing as possible within a cohort.

Cold Weather Mask Wearing Tips:

- Change your mask when it becomes wet. A wet mask is harder to breathe through, is less efficient at filtering, and vents more around the edges of the mask.
- Keep a spare mask to replace one that becomes wet from moisture in your breath, snow, or rain.



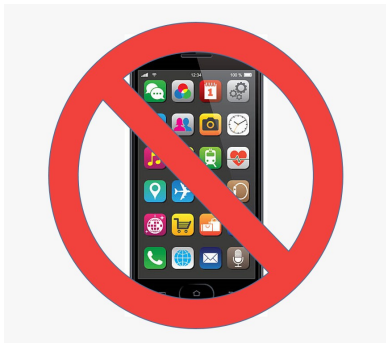
Safe and Caring Schools

CELL PHONES/PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ON BOARD PREMISES

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.

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 AND PICK-UP

Kiss and Ride Procedures and Safety

Arrival:

If you would like to escort your child(ren) to their yard in the morning when you drive them to school, you **MUST** find a parking spot, either in the lot or on the road. **The Kiss and Ride is for drop-off and attended vehicles only. Please do not park in the Kiss and Ride and leave your car unattended or idling to walk your child to his/her door.** This creates a traffic hold-up in the Kiss and Ride for other parents. Please respect the nature of the Kiss and Ride system and help us to facilitate a smooth and easy drop off in the morning. Also, to ensure safety, please only drop off students along the curb and not in the thoroughfare lane. Our priority is for the children to arrive at school safely.



Dismissal:

At dismissal time, 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.



Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year begins January 3, 2022

Parents are invited to register online at:
www.ycdsb.ca/admissions

Following submission of an online registration, you will be asked to upload the following documents via a secure link:

- Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (child or parent) or a Catholic Church in Communion with the Holy See of Rome
- Proof of age
- Proof of legal status in Canada
- Proof of residency
- Proof of Separate School Support (i.e. MPAC Assessment Notice), or you can complete a school support form that is included in the registration package.

JK: Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2022 (born in 2018)

SK: Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2022 (born in 2017)

If your child is already attending a YCDSB school for JK registration is not required.

For information, contact the Admissions Department:



www.ycdsb.ca/admissions



@ycdsb



905-713-2711 or 416-221-5050





January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Kindergarten Registration begins for Sept. 2022	4	5 Welcome Back! Online Learning Begins	6 Epiphany of our Lord 	7	8
9	10 Gr. 6-8 Brave Education Workshop	11 Gr. 6-8 Brave Education Workshop	12 CSC Virtual Meeting 6:30 p.m.	13	14 PA DAY No online classes for students	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Gr. 8 Grad Photos & Photo Re-take Day <i>Just say CHEESE</i> 	26 Bell Let's Talk Day 	27	28	29
30	31	LUNCH LADY will resume on Tuesdays and Fridays once school re-opens	STAY TUNED: Grad Hoodie orders & SMS Spirit Wear orders are coming soon			