

NOTRE DAME SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update



Ms. T. McNicol Trustee	Mr. L. Paonessa Superintendent	Father Landoff Pastor	St. John Chrysostom Parish
Mr. T. Wilkinson Principal	Ms. T. Paniculam Vice Principal	Ms. L. Bertuzzi Head Secretary	Ms. L. Mancini Secretary

Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School: Nurturing young minds with faith-based education. Join us for excellence in learning!

<https://nde.ycdsb.ca/>

X (Formerly Twitter)
[@NotreDameYCDSB](https://twitter.com/NotreDameYCDSB)



Prayer for a New School Year

Spirit of God, fill our hearts with a desire to seek truth and rejoice in beauty.

Help us to know what is pleasing to you and to understand what is right and good in your sight.
Give us the spirit of learning that we may please you by our thoughts and love you in your creation.

Give all teachers your constant encouragement and guide them in their good work.
Spirit of God, make us effective witnesses of your truth to all whose lives we touch.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.



Welcome to Notre Dame!

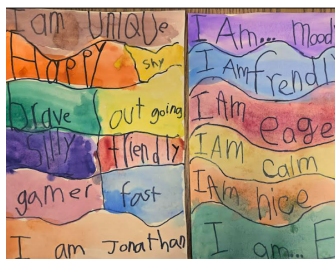
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our new school year! It has been a wonderful start to the year as we welcomed students and staff back after a well deserved summer break. We have some new faces as well, both in staff and families and we welcome them to Notre Dame. We look forward to working together as we embark on our educational journey together. The relationship between school, parish and home is a vital one that helps nourish the growth of our students and community, we look forward to continue building on that as we move through the school year. We would like to thank the entire staff - teachers, EAs, ECE, the custodial staff and our secretaries for all their hard work and commitment to ensure a safe and successful start.

Go Knights Go!

T. Wilkinson - Principal

T. Paniculam - Vice Principal

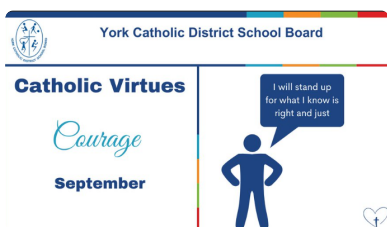




St. John Chrysostom Parish, Newmarket - St. John Chrysostom Parish, Newmarket

St. John Chrysostom is a Catholic parish in Newmarket, Ontario. We are a bilingual parish, with services in English and Spanish

stjohnchrysostomne.archtoronto.org



Virtue of the Month:

In the Month of September we celebrate the virtue of Courage.

"I will take responsibility for my own potential. I will face challenges with confidence and courage."

QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL



Curriculum Night:

We will be inviting all parents and students to attend our Open House night on **Thursday, September 12th between 6:30 - 7:30.**

Thank you to everyone in advance for attending and taking the time to meet the teachers and other staff who play a role in your child's education. See you there!



Welcome to the Catholic School Council 2024/2025

We welcome all those interested in joining this year's CSC! We will be having our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 pm.** We look forward to collaborating and working together to continue the wonderful things the CSC has done to support our school and students.

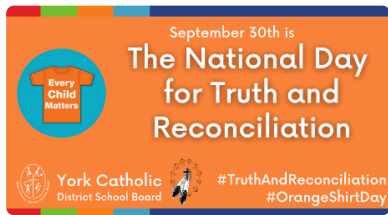
Terry Fox - Walk, Roll, or Run!

It was 44 years ago that Terry Fox, a young man from British Columbia captivated Canadians with his determination, commitment and energy to find a cure for cancer. This year, Notre Dame CES will hold it's 14th annual fundraising event to commemorate Terry's inspirational Marathon of Hope. To date the school has raised over \$35,000. The Terry Fox Walk at Notre Dame will take place on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 10:35 a.m. We encourage all students to wear RED on this day and bring in a TOONIE for Terry. Ontario



students have been tremendous supporters of Terry's dream to find a cure for cancer and thousands of students across Canada are expected to participate in this year's Terry Fox National School Run Day. Our school goal is to raise \$1210. We can donate and share our fundraising goals online, and we can invite our friends and families to sponsor us by going to our website: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/NotreDameCSNewmarket>

Date: Terry Fox School Event - Thursday, September 26, 2024



The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation:

Monday, September 30th is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day). This movement began in 2013 as a way to recognize the experience of Indigenous people who survived residential schools. All Canadians are invited to wear an

orange shirt to honour Indigenous people and show a commitment to the idea that every child matters. We will also honour the day by asking students and staff to wear an Orange Shirt on Monday Sept. 30th, students will participate in activities to commemorate this day of reverence and remembrance.

Active Travel to School:

As we start the 2024/2025 school year, we would like to remind and encourage parent(s)/guardian(s) to consider walking or cycling with children to and from school. There are many benefits to walking and cycling to school. It:

- Improves student academic performance by making children more alert and better prepared to learn
- Contributes to the daily goal of 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity for children, improving their health and overall fitness
- Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones
- Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future

Parent Resources:

Parents are the first educators of children and as such have a prominent place in the education of their children. Parental involvement is one of the most significant factors contributing to a child's success in school. Research suggests that where parents are involved in a significant way, children learn better and achievement levels increase, children develop a positive attitude toward school, and attend school more regularly. Please visit our board website at <https://www.ycdsb.ca/parents/parent-resources/> for a list of parent resources provided to assist parents in supporting the well being and success of their child(ren).

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Items to Note:

Punctuality: Students are expected to enter the school using their designated doors by 8:20 AM. Doors are locked once the bell rings and students who are late will need to enter from the front doors. Students arriving late in the morning must sign in with the office. Parents will be called and a letter will be sent home if your child is consistently late.

Leaving Early: If a student must leave school early, a note from a parent or guardian is requested. We strongly discourage calling 10-20 minutes before the end of school to pick up children early. This creates class interruptions. If you are picking up your child early, please let the secretary know when you ring the doorbell and sign him/her out in the book at the door entrance.

No Dogs Allowed: According the York Catholic District School Board, please be reminded that there are no dogs allowed on school property during the school day, including arrival and dismissal time. This includes dogs on a leash or in your arms. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



Reporting a Child's Absence:

It is of **utmost importance** that you call the Safe Arrival System if your child will be absent from school. Please call the Safe Arrival System to **report absences and lates before 8:20 a.m** by calling 1-855-856-7862 or online at go/schoolmessenger.ca or by using the School Messenger app on your smartphone.

Pediculosis (Head Lice):

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes concerns related to pediculosis (head lice) at the school and community level. Pediculosis (head lice) are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice

or nits. If you do find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents in your child's class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. A student's readmission to school is contingent upon the Parent/Guardian submitting a completed and signed "Pediculosis Treatment Form" communicating to the Principal that treatment for pediculosis (head lice) has been administered. More information on the identification, treatment, and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) from the Canadian Pediatric Society

(<http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/headlice>) and Toronto Public Health

(toronto.ca/health) is available on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.

Medication at School:

If your child requires medication, please make arrangements with your doctor to schedule the medication to be administered to your child before or after school. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may make arrangements to come to school to administer the medication to their child. If this is not possible, and medication must be administered during school hours, parent (s)/guardian(s) must come to



the office to pick-up, complete and return two forms: S16 and S16a. Both forms must be signed by your family physician. All medication must be kept in its original container with your child's name clearly visible; medication will be stored in the school office. Students are not to have their medication with them.

Personal Electronic Device/Cell Phones:

Policy 311 Digital Discipleship: Student Use of Technology The York Catholic District School Board is committed to safe, secure, equitable and effective use of technology to enhance learning for all students within a Christ-centered school environment. In support of its ongoing commitment to excellence in Catholic Education and to ensure that all become responsible digital disciples of the 21st century, the Board regulates the use of technology on all school board premises, and during sanctioned activities. Parents are asked to review with their child the Annual Technology Consent Forms that were sent home and to sign and return them to the school in a timely manner. Your co-operation and support will help us to ensure that our students comply with board policy regarding the use of personal electronic devices as direct by teachers and the principal. Any violation of board policy may result in the loss of a student's privileges or disciplinary action.

Please assist us by reviewing and supporting this policy with your child. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) - Includes any device in the possession of a student which electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, reproduces, or displays voice, text, and/or digital communications or data. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones, pagers, smart phones, music and media players, gaming devices, tablets, laptop computers, cameras, video cameras, smart watches, headphones, earbuds, personal medical devices (PMDs), and personal digital assistants. The word "technology," is often used as a synonym for personal electronic device.

Please see letter that was sent via School Messenger regarding the new Ministry guidelines about the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices.

Safety Awareness Week:

The York Catholic District School Board has a primary responsibility and goal to ensure a safe learning environment for all of our students and staff in the school community. All schools will be practicing 4 types of emergency codes (drills) and responses:

- Fire/Gas Leak/Chemical Spill/Bomb Threat;
- Armed/Violent Intruder (Inside the Building);
- Dangerous Situation (Outside the Building);
- Environmental Crisis/Extreme Weather.

Teachers review the emergency codes and responses with students prior to the drill and after each drill. The emergency codes

Concussion Protocol:

The YCDSB takes all injuries to students very seriously. If your child injures their head, the following protocol will be followed and shared with you as outlined in Policy 212: Concussions.



- You will be directed to have your child receive medical attention;
- Be aware of and monitor for signs & symptoms that may develop or worsen;
- You will be given a copy of Concussion Management- Appendix C;
- Initial treatment for a concussion is both physical and mental rest (no exercising, bike riding, playing video games, reading, using a computer...etc);
- Signs and symptoms (headaches, fatigue, sensitivity to noise) must be considered when recovering at home and reintegrating to school;
- It is recommended the student initially stays home from school because regular activities could make their symptoms worse.

Ronan's Law Day is September 25th - we encourage students and staff to wear Purple

The Safety of Students with Anaphylactic Allergies:

The York Catholic District School Board has a comprehensive policy to help protect students with life threatening allergies. Protecting students with anaphylactic food and non-food allergies is our priority. As outlined in the Policy, Parents/Guardians are asked to inform the school of such allergies immediately and are required to complete the S15 and S15a Forms which are available in the office. As doctors now require a fee to sign forms each year, if there are no medical changes, parents/guardians may sign off on last year's form. Each form must have a passport sized picture attached so that the student is easily identifiable to all staff members. Parents/Guardians are asked, if possible, to provide the school with two Epi-Pens. Twin-jet Epi-Pens are not acceptable for school use. It is recommended that students wear an Epi-pen in a fanny pack at all times, which includes the school bus, recess, in gym class and on school excursions. The second Epi-Pen is stored in the Office Health Room. Due to the wide range of food allergies, in addition to nuts and peanuts, and health issues, we remind students that food is not to be shared and that "food" items (ie., cake, cupcakes) not be sent to school, for the class.

For students who may not have a currently dated EpiPen as a result of the shortage, and to ensure a safe school environment for students with anaphylaxis, we are advising that the following be adhered to:

- Keep the student's expired EpiPen in the office until a replacement can be provided;
- Health Canada is reminding EpiPen users that the devices expire on the last day of the month as indicated on the packaging. Expired EpiPens may be used as indicated by Health Canada (although the efficacy of the EpiPen may be affected depending on the date of expiry).

We will continue to adhere to the current protocol, which includes:

- Always call 911;
- Implement the steps outlined in the student's Individual Action Plan (S15(a) Form);
- Please see attached SCA Allergy Awareness Information

Reminders:

- **PA Day on Friday, September 27th.** No school for students.
- Please ensure your child(ren) have their necessary school items before leaving for school each day (e.g. books, lunch, water bottle, snacks etc.).
- Please remember to drive to the front of the line in the Kiss and Ride loop so that we can minimize cars from being held up on the road.



Admin Team