

NOTRE DAME OCTOBER 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/>

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



Dear Lord, On Thanksgiving Day we come before You with gratitude for Your kindness: Open our hearts to concern for our fellow men and women, So that we may share Your gifts in loving service. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your son who lives and reigns with You And the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH



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: Compassion

This month we celebrate the virtue of compassion. In Luke's Gospel we read, "Be compassionate as God is compassionate." (Luke 6:17) Although we might first think of gratitude and thanksgiving as being most clearly important to recognize in

October, compassion is also an associated virtue. We understand

compassion not only as the ability to empathize with another person but also to act on behalf of that person. If we are truly compassionate then we will be able to express thanks or gratitude more genuinely for others because we truly care about them.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our NDE Thanksgiving Food Drive starts October 2nd and goes until October 9th. Thanksgiving is a great time to come together with our family and friends and celebrate over a delicious meal and reflect on what we are grateful for. But it also gives us the opportunity to do good for others, and to help other people and families that can use our generosity. Please donate any non-perishable food items to our school drive, we thank you in advance.

Thanksgiving Mass - October 9th

We welcome parents/guardians to come together on October 9th to celebrate our Thanksgiving mass with our staff and students. The grade 4 class will be helping to lead us in prayer.



Terry Fox Foundation Donation

This year's Terry Fox event was a huge success. We are happy to share how much Notre Dame has raised for cancer research this year. We have successfully raised \$2,962.40 for our 2024 Terry Fox Run! Congratulations everyone! Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered and participated. With your support, we are moving closer to Terry's dream of a world without cancer.



QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL

Staff Appreciation Days

Custodian Appreciation Day is on **October 2nd!** This day recognizes the hard work that it takes to keep our school in tip-top shape as well as the people who diligently work, to make sure we have schools and workplaces that are spotless and sanitary. Thank you to our wonderful Notre Dame Custodians!

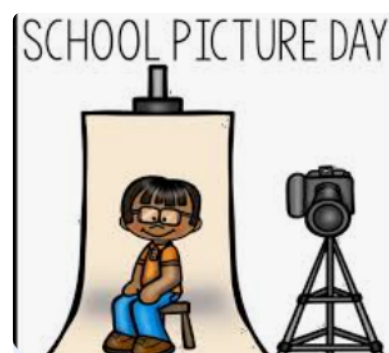


In 1994, UNESCO proclaimed **October 5 World Teachers' Day**. World Teachers' Day represents a significant token of the awareness, understanding and appreciation displayed for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development. We are grateful at Notre Dame, for the hardworking and dedicated teachers who are part of our school community.

ECE Appreciation Day is on **October 24th!** This day recognizes the commitment, hard work and dedication of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and staff who work with young children.

Say CHEESE!

This is a reminder that on Thursday, October 3rd, Notre Dame will be hosting Picture Day. Bring your best smilies! Photo re-take day is October 28th.



NDE Spelling Bee Team

Mr. Gabriele, Ms. Boutsis, Ms. Lupo, Ms. Dumont, Ms. Iannello and Ms. Konecny are bringing back the classic spelling bee competition to Notre Dame! If this is something you think your child would be interested in, please encourage them to come to our next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 3rd at 11:35 am recess or see

Ms. Konecny for more information. Our second annual Spelling Bee will be tentatively held on Friday, February 7th, 2025 in our school gymnasium. The top 5 students will have the opportunity to attend the Regional Championship in March.

Safety Awareness Week: September 30 - October 4

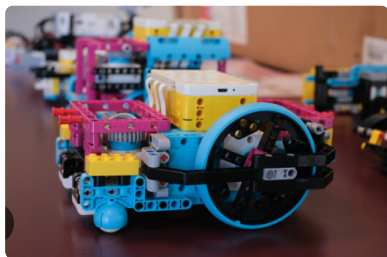
The York Catholic District School Board has a primary responsibility and goal to ensure a safe learning environment for all of our students and staff in the school community. All schools will be practicing 4 types of emergency codes (drills) and responses:

- 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.

Cross Country Meet

Our students from Grades 4 to 8 have been practising daily for the big Cross Country Meet on October 7th. We cheer on our students and are already proud of all the efforts that have shown in their dedication to our school team, and to a healthy lifestyle! Thank you to the NUMEROUS teachers that have been volunteering and coaching the students over the past few weeks.



Robotics Team

The Notre Dame Robotics Team is working hard to prepare for their First Lego League Challenge in December at St. Max. Go team go!

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty We are pleased to announce the York Catholic District School Board's first Annual Loonie/Toonie Civvies Day Fundraiser in support of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, 2024.



The Attendance Counselling Services Team (ACS) at YCDSB, assists identified students who face significant financial challenges that impact their school attendance. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise awareness and provide essential support, such as food, housing, clothing, and transportation, to students and families in need through our Board attendance counselling services.

The YCDSB students and staff are invited to participate by donating a Loonie or Toonie to help make a difference in our community. This event will raise funds to provide more equitable access and responsive service to students and families experiencing financial distress, with the goal of increasing regular/compulsory school attendance in pursuit of overall academic achievement. We hope you will join us in a message of love and compassion for those in need within our YCDSB Community through this Loonie/Toonie Civvies Day Fundraising Event.

Round The Bend Farm

Our Kindergartens and Grade ones are heading to Round the Bend Farm on Monday, October 28. We wish them a fun trip visiting the animals, and playing amongst the pumpkins!



Intermediate Volleyball

Our Notre Dame Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team, under the coaching guidance of Mr. DiNunzio, are well on their way with their practices. They have two big tournaments coming up and we look forward to cheering them on. Coaches Marigotta and Coach Burkes have begun tryouts for the Intermediate Girls Volleyball team. We are eager to watch a great volleyball season.

🎃 Halloween Dance-a-thon on October 31st, 2024 🎃

There are some AMAZING prizes to be won for our top 12 earners and 8 random draws! Plus, prizes for the top earning classrooms (per division) and classrooms with the best dressed Teachers! Mr Wilkinson also agreed to get pie's in the face if we reach our goal of \$15,000!

Please bring in your pledges between Oct 15-31st for your chances to win!!!



Catholic School Council 2024-2025

We had a great turnout at our first CSC meeting. Again, we thank last year's CSC for all their efforts and initiatives that were put forward and their dedication to our students.

This year we welcome the following parents as this year's CSC Executive Members: Kelly Eckardt (Co-Chair), Marcia Palma (Co-Chair), Nina Stortz (Vice-Chair), Heather Jannaway (Treasurer), Nofa Khadduri (Secretary). Thank you to everyone else that has become voting members of our new Council. As always parents/guardians are welcome to attend any future meetings.



Active Travel to School:

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 to 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](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca) or by using the School Messenger app on your smartphone.

Traffic Congestion and Safety

With a number of students being picked up and dropped off at school, and our buses that transport students, the immediate streets and parking areas around our school become congested. Dropping off your children a block away from the school might be a good solution as long as they are walking in groups.

- Drive with extreme caution
- Assume **children have "the right of way" at all times**
- Park only in designated areas
- **DO NOT STOP OR PARK IN THE FRONT DRIVEWAY**
- **DO NOT PARK IN THE AISLES OF OUR PARKING LOT**
- When parking on the street, leave enough space for turning buses
- Respect our neighbours' properties by leaving their driveways unobstructed
- **Walk your child to the sidewalk; do not have them walk on their own**
- If your child is walking, please have them go around to the south sidewalk, as this way they will not have to cross over at the ends of the parking lot (loop)
- **If you are waiting in your vehicle for your child on the street, please come to the school so you can escort your child safely back to your parked vehicle**

At no times, should there be a vehicle left unattended that isn't in a parking space. Please ensure when picking up your child that the line continues to move and you pick up your child at the East loop or on your way back up to the exit (West) of the parking lot.

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.

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.

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
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Reminders:

- **Thanksgiving is on Monday, October 14 - Happy Thanksgiving to all our Notre Dame Families!**
- **PA Day on Monday, October 21** 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