



OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

191 Crofter's Rd., Woodbridge, ON L4L 4G3
Tel No.: 905-856-1666

<http://olf.ycdsb.ca>

Twitter: @olf_ycdsb



SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter into a new school year at Our Lady of Fatima CES, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming days and weeks. We extend a special thank you to our Trustee, Dino Giuliani, and to our Superintendent of Education, Tim Laliberte, for all of their support at the board level. Thank you also to Rev. Rony Grayda for their warm welcome to the St. Margaret Mary Parish Community.

Welcome to all staff, students and families who join us in their first year at OLF. We are proud to have you share in this great community. It is our hope that you will soon feel a part of our family. It was very exciting to meet so many students and parents on the first day of school. The joy of watching students re-acquaint themselves was a pleasure to behold. All of the anxieties about the school year quickly faded away as our students began working and playing together.

The staff at Our Lady of Fatima are a committed and hard working group of educators who will provide a meaningful and productive school year for your children. It is through our cooperative efforts and positive interactions with the entire school community that we will continue to be successful in achieving our goals. It is the mission of our school to help each and every child realize his or her full potential in a Christ centered, supportive, safe and caring learning environment.

As the new school year gets underway, please take the time to read through our monthly newsletters, visit our school website (olf.ycdsb.ca), online calendar and follow us on twitter @olf_ycdsb to be in the know of all our school initiatives.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. F. De Bartolo
Principal

Catholic School Trustee
Dino Giuliani

Superintendent of Education
Tim Laliberte

Pastor
Rev. Rony Grayda

CSC Chair
Melissa Pierrakos

Administrative Assistant
Lina Cicchillo

Principal
Francesco De Bartolo

**To report student absences
and lates, please dial:**
1-855-856-7862
OR
go.schoolmessenger.ca

OLF SCHOOL DAY:

8:35 Supervision Begins
8:50 Morning Entry
10:10 AM Recess
11:45 Lunch
12:05 Lunch Recess
12:45 Afternoon Entry
2:05 PM Recess
3:40 Dismissal

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

Integration of Our
Catholic Faith

Continuous
Improvement of
Student Achievement

Effective Use of
Our Resources

Engaging Our
Communities

CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF FAITH



MONTHLY VIRTUES

Each month, a different Catholic virtue is highlighted board wide. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their daily actions both at school and at home. During the month of September, we celebrate the virtue of **Courage**. Daily reflections and classroom discussions will be centered around this virtue.



ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH COMMUNITY

It is a pleasure to be partnered with the St. Margaret Mary Parish Community of schools. Together with Rev. Rony as our Faith Leader, we look forward to supporting our students and families in their faith formation. Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation occurs through the parish. Students must register at the church. Please visit the St. Margaret Mary website or call the parish office for more information. Registrations are due **September 30th**.



SHARELIFE CIVVIES DAY

Civvies Days will be held on the last Friday of every month. Seeing as how we are honour Orange shirt day on Friday, September 30th, our first ShareLife Civvies Day will be held on **Friday, October 7th**. Students who wish to participate are asked to wear appropriate clothing to school and don't forget your loonie or toonie. Thank you for your support in our ShareLife campaign.

TERRY FOX RUN

The Our Lady of Fatima CES community will participate in the annual Terry Fox Run/Walk on **Monday, September 26**. Students will be asked to wear red on this day to honour Terry Fox's legacy and enduring message of hope and love. More information will follow.

DRESS CODE

Our Lady of Fatima CES is a standardized dress code school. Our dress code colours are navy blue and white. We encourage all students to follow the dress code policy at OLF. Please see the school website for specific information about appropriate dress code items.

BELL TIMES FOR 2022/2023

A reminder that our school day begins at 8:50 am and ends at 3:40 pm. The first recess bell will ring at 10:10 am, our lunch hour is now from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm and our last recess bell will ring at 2:05 pm. It is important for students to be on time for school in the morning as the learning begins at 8:50am. Students who are continuously late are missing out on valuable learning time.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Our school community will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day on **Monday, September 30th**. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations, governments, and schools to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Every Child Matters is the theme for Orange Shirt Day. More information will follow.

ROWAN'S LAW DAY

The last Wednesday in September each year is [Rowan's Law Day](#) ([#RowansLawDay](#)). On **Wednesday, September 28, 2022**, schools across Ontario are expected to recognize this law by educating and engaging students, staff, and parents/guardians in activities that increase awareness about concussions and to share Rowan Stringer's story. Students are asked to wear Purple (Rowan's favourite colour) on September 28th. More information will follow.

PA DAY

There will be no school for students on **Friday, September 23, 2022**. Classes will resume on Monday, September 26, 2022.



CURRICULUM NIGHT

We invite you to attend our upcoming Curriculum Night scheduled for **Thursday, September 22**, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Curriculum Night is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher, and be informed of the routines, expectations and curriculum your child will be learning this year. The schedule for this event is as follows:

Session 1: 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Session 2: 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



STUDENT AGENDAS

Again this year, Our Lady of Fatima CES will be using Agendas as a communication and organizational tool for students, teachers and parents. Teachers will communicate agenda expectations with their students.



INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

In the event of inclement weather prior at the start of the school day, we will follow the procedures outlined here. At 8:35 a.m., Kindergarten students will enter the school using their regular entrance doors in the

Kindergarten yard. Staff members will be there to greet them. Grade 1-8 students will enter the school using the front doors, where a staff member will be there to greet them as well. Students should never enter the school or the yard prior to 8:35 a.m., when supervision begins. As always, DO NOT drive your vehicle into the front parking lot/loop after 8:30 a.m., even on inclement weather days.

CCAT/PACE TESTING

All grade 4 students in the YCDSB will be participating in the standardized assessment to see which students may benefit from the Pace program. The assessment is spread out over a period of 3 to 7 days. Classroom teachers will administer the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) to their grade 4 students. More information will follow.



PICTURE DAY

Students are asked to bring their best smiles to school on our fall picture day. This school year, picture day will be held on the following days:

Wednesday, October 12: K to Grade 4

Thursday, October 13: Grade 5 to Grade 8

Please see the attached flyer for more information!



OLF CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are very grateful to the many dedicated CSC members who served on the 2021/2022 Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School Council. The council was committed to supporting the school and teachers to ensure that OLF would be a place where students grow in faith, pursue academic excellence, and enjoy learning in a safe and welcoming environment. Thank you to those wonderful volunteers who contributed so much to our Catholic School Council this past year.

Each year, Catholic School Council elections are held within the first 30 days of school. This year, our election will take place on **Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00pm**. Nomination form was shared electronically with the community. Forms will be due back to the school no later than **Friday, September 23 at 3:00pm**. Late forms will not be accepted.

SAFE & CARING SCHOOLS

OUR LADY OF FATIMA IS A CHARACTER SCHOOL

Each morning, as part of our school announcements, we remind all our students that Our Lady of Fatima is a character school. This means that we always hold ourselves to a higher standard. If students should ever find themselves in difficulty and cannot resolve a problem on their own, they are reminded to approach a caring staff member for assistance. We review daily that we must keep our hands and feet to ourselves and only to use kind words, even when we are provoked. Both the YCDSB and our school places excellence, equity, community and positive relationships at the heart of student success and well-being. ***We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.***

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of the YCDSB and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School that students will:

- ★ Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- ★ Never negatively comment on or use someone's culture, race, gender, ability & orientation as a "joke"
- ★ Respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions
- ★ Treat one another with dignity and respect, especially when there is a disagreement
- ★ Respect and treat others fairly
- ★ Respect the rights of others
- ★ Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- ★ Seek assistance from teachers to resolve conflicts peacefully
- ★ Demonstrate respect for people in positions of responsibility
- ★ Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching
- ★ Be courteous and polite at all times

We thank you for reviewing these expectations for behaviour and overall conduct with your child.

EMERGENCY FORMS & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Emergency & Freedom of Information (FOI) forms will be sent home with each child. Please ensure the information on the emergency form is correct. If there are changes to be made, please make them directly on the form. The FOI form asks for consent by way of having parents/guardians a number of specific statements. Please sign, date, and return both forms to the school as soon as possible.

REPORTING TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE

All visitors must report to the office upon entering the school. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to enter the main area of the school without having checked in at the office. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school safe.

LUNCH ROUTINES

Students who eat lunch at school are expected to remain on school property and respect the Code of Conduct during this time. Students may not leave school property, unless they are picked up by parents/guardians. Parents bringing their child a lunch must leave it on the lunch table in the foyer and clearly place their child's name/grade on the lunch. For safety reasons, please do NOT linger in the foyer.

PETS ON THE PLAYGROUND

As a safety precaution and a courtesy to all, kindly refrain from bringing pets onto school property. We want all of our staff and students to feel comfortable as they make their way to school in the morning and home in the afternoon. I appreciate your cooperation with this delicate matter.

SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

The YCDSB has a primary responsibility and goal to ensure a safe learning environment for all students and staff. As part of our safety initiative, OLF, along with other schools in the YCDSB, practice a variety of safety drills and protocols. In the coming weeks, as a school, we will review and practice a variety of emergency drills and procedures in the event of an emergency situation such as Shelter in Place (extreme weather), Lockdown (intruder in the school) and Evacuation (Fire, Gas Leak, etc.). Schools are required to complete these drills on an annual basis.

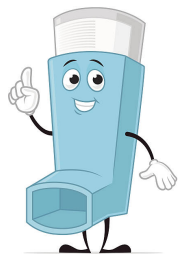


ANAPHYLAXIS & ALLERGIES

The YCDSB has an anaphylactic policy to help protect students affected by life threatening allergies. As outlined in the board's policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies and are required to fill in S15 and S15a forms which are available in the office. Each form must include a passport sized photo so that the student is easily identifiable to staff. Parents are asked to ensure that student for whom Epi-Pens are prescribed have two Epi-Pens at school. It is strongly advised and encouraged that one Epi-Pen is to be on the student's person at all times and the other stored in the office for emergency use. We continue to remind and inform our students NOT to share food at school. **We also respectfully ask parents not to send food items to school for students to share (ex. treats for birthday celebrations).**

ASTHMA PROTECTION

The YCDSB recognizes that there are students within the school system who have a diagnosis of asthma that could be life threatening. The board also recognizes that asthma management is a shared responsibility among students, parents, caregivers, and the school community. It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all medical information pertinent to their child's diagnosis of asthma is always current. If your child has a diagnosis of asthma, please contact the school office immediately so that the appropriate forms can be completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Board policy.



MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Whenever possible, we ask that all medication be administered at home. However, should your child require medication throughout the school day, please pick up the required S16 and S16a forms from the office. Complete each form (including physician's signature) and return it to school. Students are not to keep medication (aside from inhalers and Epi-Pens) in their knapsack or in the classroom.

GRADE 7 & 8 IMMUNIZATIONS

After being on hold for the past couple of year, York Region Health Services will be at OLF on **Tuesday, September 27**, to administer HPV and Hepatitis B immunizations. Electronic Consent forms will be sent to parents in the coming days.



PEDICULOSIS

YCDSB recognizes and appreciated concerns related to Pediculosis at the school, community, and regional level. The Board also recognizes that the Ministry of Health does not designate Pediculosis as a communicable disease, and as such, it is not considered a health hazard to the community. Anyone can get head lice, regardless of cleanliness. Head lice is not a public hazard, as it does not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. Please check your child's head regularly for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, contact the school office. Students will be readmitted to school once treatment has been administered and confirmed by the parent, in accordance with the procedures of this policy.



York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
Tel: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051, 1-800-363-2711, Voice Mail Box: 17132
Fax: 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

September 6, 2022

Dear Students, Families, and all YCDSB Staff,

Welcome back! As your York Catholic Trustee, I would like to officially welcome you and your family to the 2022-2023 school year. I hope that you had a chance to relax, recharge and enjoy the summer with family and friends. We have so much to look forward to this year – more amazing academic achievements, more field trips, clubs, sports, dances, student performances, band practices and other co-curricular activities.



This year the theme of Catholic Education Week is "We are Many, We are One." Throughout the year we will celebrate the great cultural richness and diversity that make up the York Catholic District School Board. You can find a number of important dates in the coming school year by [visiting the York Catholic DSB online calendar](#).

As a Trustee, I am always willing to listen to your concerns and ideas, and if you have any outstanding questions that cannot be answered by school staff or your school's Superintendent of Education, I am here to help.

Sadly, though, I must let you know that I have decided not to seek re-election as a Trustee in the upcoming Municipal Election. Serving as a Trustee has been a great honour. It gave me a front-row seat to all the amazing things happening at York Catholic. Most importantly, it has been a joy to serve the students and parents of York Catholic DSB. Thank you for this opportunity! I encourage you to vote for a new Trustee in the October 24, 2022 Municipal Election. Please remember that I am still available to help you until the end of my term on November 14, 2022.

Wishing you a successful school year. May we all experience the hope and joy found in the possibilities of the year ahead of us.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dino Giuliani".

Dino Giuliani
Trustee – Vaughan Area 2: Ward 2 (Woodbridge)

Dino Giuliani, Trustee – Vaughan (Area 2, Ward 2)
dino.giuliani@ycdsb.ca • Home Tel: 905-893-3300



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Elementary Safe Arrival Absence Reporting

At York Catholic District School Board, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. Parents and guardians are required to report their child(ren)'s absence or late arrival in advance, or before bell time for the current day by accessing the **Elementary Safe Arrival Program** using any of the three methods below:

- **Toll Free Safe Arrival Phone Number 1-855-856-7862**
- The **Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger website**: go.schoolmessenger.ca
- The **SchoolMessenger App**  from the *Apple App Store* or the *Google Play Store*.

The first time you use the App or Website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. To report an absence, select **Attendance** followed by **Report an Absence**.

These options are available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. Future absences can be reported at any time. **This Safe Arrival reporting procedure is in place for York Catholic Elementary schools**. If you have children at a York Catholic secondary school, please follow that school's absence reporting procedures.

Parents and guardians who have not reported their child(ren) absent or late will receive an automated phone call where they can explain the absence. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after the required amount of time, office staff will follow up.

If any of your contact information changes, or if you have any questions about the **Elementary Safe Arrival Program**, please contact your child's school office. Thank you for your attention to this important information about reporting of your child's attendance for the upcoming school year.

Thank you,

York Catholic District School Board



Elementary School Parent and Guardian Safe Arrival Instructions

Beginning Friday, August 31st, Parents and Guardians can report their child(ren) as late or absent using any of the 3 methods below:

Safe Arrival Phone Number: 1-855-856-7862

NEW Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger Website

Go the Safe Arrival *SchoolMessenger* website: go.schoolmessenger.ca

NEW Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger App

Use your mobile device to download the blue **SchoolMessenger App**  from the *Apple App Store* or the *Google Play Store*.

How to Sign Up

The first time you use the Safe Arrival website or App, select **Sign Up** to create your account.

- You will be asked to enter the email address your child's school has on record for you.
- Create a password using one lowercase letter, one uppercase letter, one number and from 6 to 255 characters.
- Upon clicking Sign Up, you will be sent an activation email to complete your account registration.

Report an Absence on the Safe Arrival website or App

To report an absence:

- select the menu ,
- select **Attendance** , and
- Report an Absence** .

-
- These options are available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. Future absences can be reported at any time.
 - This Safe Arrival reporting procedure is in place for **York Catholic elementary schools**. If you have children at a York Catholic Secondary School, please follow the school's absence reporting procedures.

Should you have difficulty accessing the Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger Website or App, please contact your child's school directly.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

**COMING
SOON!**

**FALL PICTURE
DAY**



JK - GRADE 4 : OCT. 12th
GRADE 5 - 8 : OCT. 13th

Retake Day on Nov. 1

www.centophotography.com

***Please do not wear green**