



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 2023 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. Thank you to Rev. Rony Grayda and Parish staff for their continued support as our Liturgical leaders and for their unwavering partnership with 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

Mr. A. Belille
Vice-Principal

Catholic School Trustee
Michaela Barbieri

Superintendent of Education
Tim Laliberte

Pastor
Rev. Rony Grayda

CSC Chair
Melissa Pierrakos

Administrative Assistant
Lina Cicchillo

Principal
Francesco De Bartolo

Vice Principal
Andre Belille

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

<p>Mission Statement</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Vision Statement</p> <p>Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.</p>	<p>Core Values</p> <p>Excellence, Equity, Integrity, Respect, Fiscal Responsibility, Catholicity, Inclusion</p>	<p>Strategic Commitments</p> <p>Integration of Our Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources, Engaging Our Communities</p>
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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 - SACRAMENT INFO

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. A separate email will be shared with Grade 2 & Grade 7 parents regarding Sacrament dates. Please visit the St. Margaret Mary website or call the parish office for more information. Registrations are due **October 16, 2023**.



SHARELIFE CIVVIES DAY

Civvies Days will be held on the last Friday of every month. Seeing as how we will be honouring Orange shirt day on Friday, September 29th, our first ShareLife Civvies Day will be held on **Friday, October 6th**. 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 **Thursday, September 28**. 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.



NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Our school community will be recognizing the National Day of Truth & Reconciliation on **Friday, September 29th**. Those who are able to, are asked to wear orange shirts.

ROWAN'S LAW DAY

The last Wednesday in September each year is Rowan's Law Day. On **Wednesday, September 27th**, 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 Wednesday, September 27th.

PA DAY

There will be no school for students on **Friday, September 22nd**. Classes will resume on Monday, September 25th.



CURRICULUM NIGHT/OPEN HOUSE

We invite you to attend our upcoming Open House scheduled for **Thursday, September 21**, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. OLF's Open House 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.

BRAVE EDUCATION @ OLF

Brace Education will be at OLF and presenting to classes from **Monday, September 25** to **Wednesday, September 27**. Their presentations offer age appropriate workshops that range from teaching students how to recognize signs of bullying to inspiring resilience through social and emotional skills.



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:

Thursday, October 12: K to Grade 4

Friday, October 13: Grade 5 to Grade 8

Retake Day: Tuesday, November 14



OLF CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are very grateful to the many dedicated CSC members who served on the 2022/2023 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 27th** at **7:00pm**. Nomination forms will be shared electronically with the community. Forms may also be picked up in the main office. All forms will be due back to the school no later than **Thursday, September 21st**, 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.

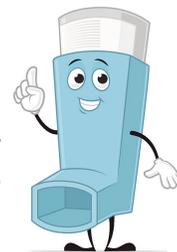


ANAPHYLAXIS & ALLERGIES

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 students 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 years, York Region Health Services will be at OLF on **Tuesday, September 26**, to administer the following immunizations: Meningococcal A C Y W-135, HPV and Hepatitis B. Electronic Consent forms will be sent to parents in the coming days.



PEDICULOSIS

YCDSB recognizes and appreciates 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
Fax: 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

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**  Attendance, and
- Report an Absence** .

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- 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.