

April 27, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As announced in our Director of Education’s letter to parents, the Ontario Education Minister announced that school closures will be extended to May 31st, 2020. We will continue with our distance learning through Google Classroom and I hope that our students are finding the virtual learning environment engaging. I hope all of you are doing well and staying safe. Please find below some important school information for this week.

**Celebration of Mass During Catholic Education Week**

Catholic Education Week 2020 begins on Sunday, May 3rd, and concludes on Friday, May 8th. This year’s theme is Igniting Hope. His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins will be celebrating Catholic Education Week Mass with a mass scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 10:00 a.m**. EST. All students and families are invited to participate "virtually" in this celebration of the Eucharist by clicking on the following link at the scheduled time: <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live>

**Refunds for Parents**

As stated in yesterday’s parent letter from our director, Mr. Ab Falconi, all events for June have been cancelled. Our school will look to reimburse families for programs, events, and activities that were planned. If you made a payment by cheque and it has not yet been cashed by the school, the cheque will be voided by the school and mailed back to you. I will provide more information regarding refunds next week. Thank you for your patience.

**Grade 8 Graduation**

With the news that all June events are cancelled, we will await further information from the school board on how to proceed with graduations in the fall. We look forward to celebrating this educational milestone with our Holy Spirit students when it is safe to do so. I realize it is an important time for our graduating students and I am hopeful we will be able to recognize their achievements.

**Technical Support for Parents**

If you require technical assistance with the virtual learning environment or a borrowed school device, you can visit the link below and submit a ticket. A technical support staff member will be in contact with you as soon as possible to help. <http://help.ycdsb.ca/VLE>

If you are using an Ipad, please ensure that you have downloaded the G-Suite applications such as Google Docs and Google Slides, as this will make it easier to connect with activities in the Google Classroom.

**National Day of Mourning**

This Tuesday, April 28th is the National Day of Mourning which honours workers across the country whose lives have been lost, who have been injured or disabled on the job or suffer from occupational diseases. In honour of this day, you can light a digital candle at <https://www.pshsa.ca/lightacandle>. You can also take a moment on Tuesday to pray for all workers. Here is a prayer you may wish to reflect on as a family:

Joseph, by the work of your hands and the sweat of your brow, you supported Jesus and Mary and had the Son of God as your fellow worker.

Teach me to work as you did, with patience and perseverance, for God and for those whom God has given me to support.

Teach me to see in my fellow workers the Christ who desires to be in them, that I may always be charitable and forbearing towards all.

Grant me to look upon work with the eyes of faith, so that I shall recognize in it my share in God’s own creative activity and in Christ’s work of our redemption, and so take pride in it.

When it is pleasant and productive, remind me to give thanks to God for it. And when it is burdensome, teach me to offer it to God, in reparation for my sins and the sins of the world.

Amen

(Source: <https://www.stjosephshrine.org/Prayers-to-St--Joseph-For-Workers>.

This prayer was taken from the booklet “Devotions to Saint Joseph” by Brian Moore, S.J., printed and published by the Society of St. Paul.)

**School Website**

Stay connected with our school website as well as Twitter: @HST\_YCDSB

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. A. Modica