

May 3rd, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We look forward to celebrating Catholic Education Week. This Monday, on our website, a slideshow with activities for each day of the week will be posted for families. The theme this year is Igniting Hope. 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 which is 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>

**Catholic Education Week Activities**

On our website this Monday morning you will find a PowerPoint with family activities to celebrate Catholic Education Week. We are asking families to participate in the activities together. Completing the activities is optional and meant to be fun and bring families together. We would love to see your completed activities or your family participating in the activities. Therefore, we are hopeful that you will take your pictures and post them on Twitter. Don’t forget to tag **@YCDSB\_HST and @YCDSB**. You can also use the hashtags **#CEW2020 and #IgnitingHope.** Many of the activities that have been shared in the PowerPoint can be found on the OCSTA website. Feel free to take a look for more ideas and activities at <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/igniting-hope-allumer-la-flamme-de-lesperance/>

**Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week**

Every year during the first week of May the York Catholic District School Board recognizes Children’s Mental Health Week. It is a week where we draw attention to the mental health issues that children and youth face, raise awareness of these issues, decrease stigma, and provide an understanding of the help that is available.

This year, through Distance Learning, we continue to focus on the mental health of our students and families. Please see the attachment provided under the link to this letter for some activities that can be used at home.

**Refunds for Parents**

Holy Spirit will return all money related to our CSC Hot Lunch Program as well as Scientists in the School. With the cancellation of events for June, we will work diligently to return any cheques that were not yet deposited. We will also look to issue cheques to families who have paid for the two programs mentioned above. This process will take time but we are working towards mailing our cheques by the middle of May as stated by our Director Mr. Ab Falconi in his letter to parents last week. All refunds will be mailed via Canada Post.

**Milk Tickets & Popcorn**

With regards to our Milk program, we will continue to honour tickets once school resumes. Please keep your tickets in a safe spot. Tickets will continue to be honoured in September if we do not return in June once a new milk order arrives.

We had one final date for popcorn on March 26th. The popcorn date will be rescheduled once school reopens and all students will receive a fresh order. Should schools not reopen in June, our grade 8’s will be able to pick up their popcorn order once school reopens.

**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 all G-Suite applications such as Google Docs, Google Drive, and Google Slides, as this will make it easier to connect with activities in Google Classroom.

**Policy 313 Homework Update**

The homework policy of YCDSB has been updated. Parameter 3.2 has been revised to include March Break and Any Statutory Holidays in the list.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. A. Modica