

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

# POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues to Educate All Students

## Principal's Message

As we begin the month of October we are reminded how beautiful Fall is. With that in mind I would like to welcome our new Vice Principal, **Ms. Susin** to Pope Francis Catholic School. Ms. Susin comes with many years of teaching experience and will be a positive influence on both students and staff.

The great turn-out at Curriculum Night on September 12 indicates your strong support, interest and involvement in your child(ren)'s education. We hope that you found the evening both enjoyable and informative. Thank you to all our staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication in ensuring a most successful Curriculum Night for our parents. Thank you to all the parents who approached me to introduce themselves.

With Thanksgiving soon approaching, we should all be thankful for everything we have. There are so many individuals suffering throughout communities that we must realize and be grateful for all our blessings. On behalf of the staff at Pope Francis Catholic School, from our family to yours, we want to wish all the members of our school community a very **Happy Thanksgiving**. In our busy lives, it is important to take time to thank God for our many, many blessings. Enjoy your special time with family and friends. It is in the small things in life that we can appreciate how fortunate we truly are. As a community we are blessed to be surrounded by so many individuals who care about our students.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. de Sousa  
Principal

## Mission

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

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

## Trustee

Ms. Rose Cantisano  
(416) 221-5050  
ext. 17137

## Superintendent

Mr. Anthony Arcadi  
905-713-2711

## Pastor

Msgr. Gregory Ace  
(905) 893-7879

## Principal

Mr. A. de Sousa  
(905) 893-8782

## Secretary

Mrs. Pellegrino  
Ms. Sousa

## CSC Chairs

T. Angelucci (Chair)  
C. Petrolo (Co-Chair)

WEBSITE:  
<https://www.ycdsb.ca/pfs/>  
TWITTER  
@pfs\_ycdsb

## Core Values

Catholicity, Excellence, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect.

## Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources, Engaging Our Communities.



## York Catholic District School Board

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the excitement of the first weeks of school settles into a positive new routine, it is the perfect time to pause and reaffirm our ‘Attitude of Gratitude’ – giving thanks to God for the many blessings we enjoy. Even in the midst of the busiest day, quiet moments of faithfulness help us to give the best of ourselves in every situation.

In our preparations for the celebration of Thanksgiving, let us be grateful that we are part of a Catholic school system where students can practice their faith every day as they grow intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Let us be inspired by the foundation of excellence which supports all that we do here in York Catholic.

For students: I send a prayer for joyfulness. With the support of your educators and families, embrace your growing faith, your expanding borders of learning, and carry your lessons – both spiritual and academic – into the world with confidence!

For families: I send a prayer for the strength to greet each day with resilience, hope and love. Together may you celebrate achievements, overcome challenges and make this school year a great success!

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Cantisano".

Rose Cantisano

# VOLUNTEER



## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Dear Parents/Guardians,

From time to time throughout the school year, many activities take place that benefit our children. These events and activities are made possible thanks to the dedication of many parents/guardians such as yourself.

As we embark on a new school year, the requirement for volunteers is always top of mind. It is the volunteers that make things such as Pizza Lunch distribution, fund raising activities, the school BBQ and other events possible.

If you are someone who can afford to donate time and would like to be contacted as a volunteer when needed, kindly complete this form and return it no later than Friday, October 4, 2019.

Your time and energy is valued and will help with the success of our school activities and events.

I appreciate your consideration in this request.

Kindest Regards,

Mr. A. de Sousa

Principal

Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School



PARENT NAME	PARENT PHONE#	PARENT EMAIL

Preferred Volunteer Time: Please check one

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL 2019–2020:**

Congratulations to the newly elected members of our Catholic School Council. We look forward to working together to continue building relationships between home and school. Our Catholic School Council members for the 2019-2020 school year are: **Tony Angelucci: Chair, Christina Petrolo: Vice Chair, Augusto Rodrigues: Treasure, Sandra De Melo: Secretary.** Council Members include **Stefanie Campoli-Toniolo, Piero Mainolfi, Deanna D'Ambrosio, Elena Riolo, Michelle Di Biase, Marcella Peters, Laura Cardile, Mathew Ho, Sabrina Mainolfi, Lorena Faundez Liberti.** Teacher representative are: **Mr. Calabro, Ms. Daniele, Ms. Di Vincenzo, Ms. Gallo and Ms. M. Greco.** We thank all individuals who will be representing our Catholic School Council this year!

**LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL:**

Punctuality is a crucial characteristic of any successful individual. The importance of students arriving at school on time is paramount to their learning. How can we expect our children to succeed at school when they are late? Not only does this disrupt their learning but it also disrupts the learning for others. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives to school on time for the benefit of all the students. A student is considered late for school if he/she is not in the class line in the school yard. The morning bell rings at 8:50 a.m. sharp. **Therefore, students are expected to be in line at 8:50 am in the school yard.** Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. Please continue to call the Safe Arrival telephone system (1-855-856-7862) to report any lateness or absence prior to 8:45 a.m.

**TERRY FOX RUN:**

On Friday, September 27th, 2019, the Pope Francis school community participated in its annual Terry Fox Walk. In the days leading up to the event, teachers engaged students in classroom discussions about Terry, his Marathon of Hope, and being a Canadian Hero. This year we set a goal of raising \$2000 for The Terry Fox Foundation. We are pleased to report to you that, in fact, our community raised Over \$2600, all of which will be forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation to support cancer research. As an expression of our gratitude, our students will be having a Pyjama & Movie Day on Friday, October 11th. Students are free to wear their pyjamas to school that day!

By participating in our walk and fundraising efforts, our students have been able to proudly live the Catholic values we teach everyday, the ones that Terry Fox so bravely demonstrated: compassion, courage and perseverance. Thank you very much for your donations and supporting our Terry Fox fundraising efforts.

**SAFETY WEEK:**

On Tuesday, September 24th, we began our Safety Week. Throughout the week, we conducted various emergency drills including fire drills. Students and staff did an excellent job exiting the building in a safe and well ordered manner. We encourage all parents to speak to their child(ren) regarding the importance of these drills. We thank you in advance for your support.

**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES:**

Children are invited to bring and wear a costume to school on Tuesday, October 31st. Teachers will have some fun activities for all the students to make the day special. Parents: Please ensure that your child's costume does not depict violence and that your child does not carry to school a weapon replica (sword/knife/gun, etc). **Please also be aware that any Halloween treats are NOT permitted on school property due to students with allergies.**

**WORLD TEACHER'S DAY:**

On Saturday, October 5th, 2019, we will celebrate World Teacher's Day. Around the world teachers are recognized for the wonderful work they do with our students. Let's recognize the excellent work the teachers at Pope Francis do for our students.

**MORNING DROP OFF AND SUPERVISION:**

A reminder to all parents that supervision begins at 8:50 am in the morning. If you drop off your child before this time they are unsupervised. Leaving your child with the Before School Program is not allowed as they are not responsible for the care of your child. We ask that you please be mindful to make sure there is a teacher on duty before you leave your child unattended. Thank you.

**WOWBUTTER:**

Due to the large number of students who have peanut allergies at Pope Francis, we are discouraging students from eating Wowbutter during their lunch/snacks. While it may say nut safe on the packing, it does cause anxiety with children who have peanut allergies. We ask that families please consider this when packing sandwiches for their children. We greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE:**

Thanksgiving is fast approaching. On October 14, families will gather to celebrate and to give thanks to our God for the many blessings we receive and enjoy on a daily basis. Unfortunately, we are not all equally lucky. Compassion is the Catholic virtue for this month. It seems appropriate that we show compassion and caring towards those who are in need of our help. Please join our Luke 4:18 Committee to help support those in need. We are asking for non-perishable food items to be dropped off at the front entrance of our school from October 1 to October 10. Thank you for your support and generosity!

**THE IMPORTANCE OF READING TO YOUR CHILD:**

Research has shown that the single most important thing a parent can do to help their child succeed at school and foster a love for learning is to read to them. Reading to a child is one of the easiest ways to help children acquire new vocabulary and build knowledge, as well as demonstrating to your children how much you love to read. Regardless of the child's age, when parents are involved and participate in their child's learning, students perform better. Parent engagement is paramount to the success of all children. So the next time your child yells out, "I'm bored", pick up a book and spend some quality time together developing a love for reading.

**PARTNERSHIP:**

In order for any school to succeed, it is paramount that students, teachers, administration, and parents work together. We are extremely fortunate to be in a Catholic Learning Community like Pope Francis where our children can achieve their heart's desire. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child". This makes us all accountable to our children.

As I begin my first year as principal of Pope Francis, I am a privileged man to have such a wonderful school. We are blessed with such wonderful students who will always put a smile on my face in times of struggle. It is because of this that we must strive to continue to nourish and foster a love for learning. Our children look to us to set examples of norms and values. Children with role models who exemplify Catholic virtues such as courage, compassion, patience, kindness, humility and forgiveness, often become adults who demonstrate the same virtues. As teachers, administrators and parents, we have a moral obligation to provide and sustain pathways to opportunities where children can learn and succeed.

One of my favourite sayings is "What would Jesus do?" As Catholics, it is imperative that we foster a culture which embraces Gospel values and teaches our children the importance of fortitude. With each passing day our world is becoming more and more complicated. It is our duty as adults to be role models to our children where they feel love, respect and trust.



# October 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Opening Mass Msgr. Ace 9:20 am	8	9	10	11 Pizza Nova Hot Lunch Program Begins	12
13	14 Happy Thanksgiving	15	16	17	18 Pizza Nova	19
20	21 P.A Day No School	22	23	24	25 Pizza Nova	26
27	28 Pizza Nova	29	30	31 Happy Halloween!		