

St. Michael C.A. News

Elementary Regional Arts Program

Dream ~ Believe ~ Achieve

Trustee: Carol Cotton
Superintendent: Laura Sawicky
Principal: Dayna Fitzpatrick
Secretary: Catherine Pawlick-Grimes
Secretary: Jennifer Pereira
Parish: Rev. Anthony Iacobelli

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Newsletter #1 September 2019

Daily Schedule

8:45 am-yard supervision begins
9:00 am-morning entry
10:25-10:40 am-morning recess
12:00-1:00 pm-lunch & recess
2:05 2:20 pm-afternoon recess
3:30 pm-dismissal

Welcome to a New School Year at St. Michael Catholic Academy

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year filled with **dreams** that we **believe** and goals we can **achieve**! It is my pleasure to welcome new families and educators to our school.

We pray for God's blessing as we continue to build a strong and positive school community, find success in our all efforts and make new friends!

We look forward to meeting you at our "Open House/Curriculum Evening," Thursday, September 12th, 2019 6:30–7:30 pm. (Beginner Band parent meeting will begin at 6pm in the library). This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child(ren) to walk the hallways of St. Michael Catholic Academy, meet our dedicated staff and gather as a community.

Looking forward to the journey of 2019-2020!

Dayna Fitzpatrick
Principal



September's
Catholic Virtue:
Courage

I will stand up for
what I know

is right and just. I will face
challenges, fears and difficulty with
courage. I will take responsibility for
reaching my potential.



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

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

Excellence Equity
Fiscal Responsibility Catholicity Inclusion
Integrity Respect

Strategic Commitments

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

Integration of Our Catholic Faith



Terry Fox Run: St. Michael Catholic Academy will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 27th, 2019. The Terry Fox Foundation maintains the vision and principles of Terry Fox while raising money for cancer research. More information to follow.

Civvies Day: The last Friday of each month students are invited to wear 'civvies' and make a donation to a selected charity. **Friday September 27th**, will be our September Civvies day. Your invitational donation will go towards the Terry Fox Foundation.

"Courage is the magic that turns dreams into reality." R. Abend

Catholic Virtue Recognition: Each month we recognize students who demonstrate the Catholic Virtue attributes with a certificate, wrist band and Radio Show announcement. September's Catholic Virtue is **Courage**.

St. Michael Catholic Academy Staff List:

Principal	Dayna Fitzpatrick	ERAP Assistant	V. Cozza
Head Secretary	C. Pawlick-Grimes	Educational Assistant	D. Osorio
Head Custodian	B. Fernando	Educational Assistant	S. Tuomisto
Custodian	L. Buenaobra	Support Worker	S. Fatukasi
Custodian	B. Boutista	French	A.M. Terzian
Kindergarten	S. Mauti	French	L. Santilli-Scarmozzino
Early Childhood Educator	J. Fakes	ESL	J. McKinlay
Kindergarten	E. Iyora	Librarian	J. Lyons
Grade 1	J. Martel	Physical Education	P. Magee
Grade 1/2	A.M. Messere	Lunch Time Supervisor/Office Support	J. Pereira
Grade 2	M. Di Mambro	Lunch Time Supervisor	M. Masci
Grade 3	M. Graham-Belcastro	Lunch Time Supervisor	P. Garcia
Grade 3	C. Chance	Lunch Time Supervisor	tba
Grade 4 ERAP Dance	S. Halley-Caspersz		
Grade 4/5 ERAP Int. Drama	T. Di Fazio		
Grade 5 ERAP Art Jr	K. Skenderis		
Grade 6 ERAP Jr. Drama	T. Di Giovine		
Grade 6	E. Vandehogen		
Grade 7	E. Yarow		
Grade 7	J. Barbier		
Grade 7/8	T. Paniculam		
Grade 8	R. Doria		
Music ERAP FDK-8	A. Nagy		
Core Resource	F. Rossy		

Integration of Our Catholic Faith



Dear Parent(s) Guardian(s),

I would like to thank you for choosing to send your child/children to St. Michael Academy. I am sure that you agree that St. Michael Academy is an excellent choice for your children to be educated; not only in secular subjects but also the Catholic faith which is why Catholic schools exist at all.

The staff and teachers are here to assist your child's overall development from the beginning to end. Such commitment and dedication is due to the fact that this school is Catholic. The school is an integral part of the Catholic Parish and being of the faith it professes two of its hallmark qualities: it is apostolic and universal.

The apostolicity of this faith claims to be concerned with every child as a unique person, a gift child of God, deserving of respect and loving care. It is for this reason that the quality of teaching and support at St. Michael Academy is seen to be exceptional.

The school is universal in its acceptance of different peoples, cultures and backgrounds. Indeed the word 'catholic' in Greek means universal. It is open to all who choose to believe in Christ and follow in His ways.

Wishing you and your families every blessing.

Blessings,

Fr. Anthony Iacobelli

Pastor

Feast of St. Michael

The Feast of St. Michael is September 29th. Our school will be celebrating our patron saint on Friday September 27th beginning at 9:30 am. All are welcome. St. Michael is one of the three angels mentioned by name in the Scriptures. The first reference occurs in the Book of Daniel, where Michael comes to comfort Daniel after he has had a vision, and promises to be his helper in all things. St. Michael is called "the great prince who standeth for the children of Thy people." The name Michael signifies "Who is like to God?" He has been especially honored and invoked as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles. St. Michael is the patron of grocers, mariners, paratroopers, police, and those that are experiencing illness.

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

Dear Parents,

Good Shepherd Parish is looking forward to the preparation and celebration of children who will receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the Spring of 2020.

Registration for children 7 years and older who are ready to receive these sacraments will take place in October 2019.

Classes for preparation for the sacraments will be held at the church on Saturday mornings for 10 sessions between Feb - June 2020, and First Holy Communion Mass planned for Sunday June 14th. Dates for the lessons will be provided at the time of Registration.

In prayer,

Good Shepherd Parish

~for further information please contact Good Shepherd Parish (905-881-1534)



Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement



Cross Country:
Information for
Cross Country
runners will be

sent home shortly. Thank you to Ms. Belcastro and Ms. Barbier for providing this opportunity for our students.

Go Dragons Go!!



Radiate Kindness

Buddy Bench

Thank you to our **Catholic School Council** for supporting the purchase of a Buddy Bench for our school.

Recently installed in our yard the Buddy Bench is a place to go if you have no one to play with or if you need some quiet time. If you see someone on the Buddy Bench...

- ask them to play
- ask them to walk and talk
- speak with the person sitting with you

The Buddy Bench fosters friendships, radiates kindness and inclusion and encourages our students to learn about helping one another. The Buddy Bench helps to build empathy, reinforce inclusiveness, and acts as a constant reminder to everyone to be kind to one another.

Engaging Our Communities

2019/2020 School Agendas Delayed

Again this year, St. Michael Catholic Academy will be using Agendas as a communication and organizational tool for students, teachers and parents. Unfortunately, we have been notified by the manufacturer that there will be a delay in distributing student Agendas this year. We are working to resolve the situation as quickly as possible and hope to have our Agendas by the end of September. In the meantime, we are putting processes in place to ensure effective communication between teachers, students and parents.

Catholic School Council (CSC) Election:

Our first Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday September 26th, 2019 beginning at 6:30 pm. At this meeting, an election for the 2019-2020 Catholic School Council will take place.

If you desire to serve on the CSC, a nomination form will be posted on our website and will be sent home with your child.

Your involvement, time and efforts benefit all the children in our school.

CSC Meetings are open to all parents whose children attend St. Michael Catholic Academy.

Thank you for all that you do to support Catholic education, for our students, staff and for the entire school community.

Dream
Believe
Achieve



'WHEELS' At St. Michael Academy

Physical activity and healthy choices are encouraged, so it is great to see the use of bikes, scooters, skateboards and inline skates by our students. Wear a helmet!!! Ensure these items are locked or

securely stored. For safety reasons, students must walk onto, and off of, the school property.

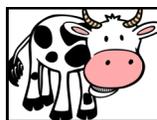
School Volunteers: We Need You! We value the assistance of many parent volunteers at St. Michael Catholic Academy. Would you like to get involved in some way? Opportunities for involvement include:

* Catholic School Council * Milk Program * Fundraising, and more. Make a difference in your child's school, meet other parents and be involved in your child's life at school. Please contact the office for further information.

Hot Lunches

Hot Lunch order forms will be sent home shortly. Be sure to complete the order form and send it back to school.

Kid's Kitchen is available for students. Information will be shared shortly.



The milk program will begin shortly. Information will be sent home and posted on our website.

DGN Kilters:

Uniforms are available by contacting DGN Kilters at www.dgn-kilters.com

Engaging Our Communities

Lunch Time Supervisors Needed: Monday to Friday 12:00pm—1:00pm

If you are interested in applying for this paid position at St. Michael C.A., please contact our school office 905-889-4816 for additional information. Thank you.

Lunch Time Routines 12:00—1:00 pm

Students remaining at school for lunch will eat in their classrooms from 12:00—12:20 pm. From 12:20—1:00pm, weather permitting, students are outside in the schoolyard. They are to remain on school property. For safety reasons, we ask that students not bring parent permissions forms requesting to visit local stores, restaurants or a classmate's home at lunch time. If your child's lunch time routine changes, a note signed by the parent/guardian will be required at that time and for each such occasion and sent to your child's teacher. Please come to the office and sign out your child(ren) when you pick them up.

Phone Calls & Cell Phones: We would like to remind parents that students should use the school phone for emergencies or if they are not feeling well. If students need to call or text home, we request that this is done in the office area. Cell phones should be turned off and out of sight while on school property. Exceptions will be made if cellphones are required for health or medical purposes and to support special education needs. Please refer to the Board Policy 318 "Personally Owned Electronic Devices" for further information.

Safety Awareness Week:

September 24th - September 28th, 2019 all YCDSB schools will participate in a variety of activities related to student safety, under an umbrella theme of "Safety Awareness Week".

Food & Birthday celebrations

As many of our students and some staff members have life threatening peanut /shellfish, etc., allergies, we kindly ask that you refrain from bringing food items to school to share. This includes birthday celebrations, Tim Horton's, cakes, or treat bags at Halloween etc., that contain any food item. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping all of our community safe.

Parents & Visitors

It is important that all parents, friends and relatives report to the office upon entering the school, whether it is before, during or after school. We ask that all visitors "sign in" at the office. We appreciate your support and thank you for your co-operation.

Signing Out a Student: If you are picking up a child for an appointment during school hours, a parent/guardian must sign out the student in the office. The student will be buzzed to the office upon the parent arrival to the school. Please provide the school with a signed and dated note to this effect.

Please refer to www.ycdsb.ca for various policies...

Healthy Schools: 201

The Protection of Anaphylactic Students: 209

Pediculosis (Head Lice): 210

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH PREVALENT MEDICAL
CONDITIONS: DIABETES: 213**

Effective Use of Our Resources

Safety Reminders:

Ensuring that we are providing a safe environment for all students both within, outside, and coming to and leaving from school is our shared responsibility. School staff will follow specific safety protocols to ensure your child's safety and we would ask that parents also adhere to the safety practices outlined below.

Parents who walk or drive their children to school are asked to say their good-byes before the children enter the school yard. In addition to fostering a sense of independence, this routine affirms the school's safety protocol that the only people in the school yard are the supervising teachers.

Parents of Kindergarten students are asked to bring their children directly to the Kindergarten yard between 8:45am and 9:00am.

-school doors are locked at 8:45 am, please come to the front doors and buzz for entrance with your child if you arrive after 9:00am, a late slip will be provided

-When dropping off or picking up your child at school, please use the designated parking area. The school parking lot is very busy, it is recommended that you use the church parking lot and walk your child(ren) to the school yard area.

Parent Parking: Visitor parking spaces are marked with appropriate signage and are for the general use of parents and / or other visitors to the school throughout the day. The number of 'visitor' parking spaces is limited. Please do not use 'visitor parking' to drop off/pick up your child. Parking is generally available at the Church and on side-streets. Please be a good neighbor and obey the road signs and times indicated.

Kiss N' Ride: On the east side (by the Church), there is staff parking and student drop-off area. SAFETY FIRST—single lane of traffic only, stay to the right side. When students are dropped-off, they should proceed directly to the school yard. Do not pass other vehicles in the drop-off area as students exit vehicles. Patience and cooperation ensures student safety. There is NO PARKING in the Kiss N' Ride. Please do not use the visitor parking to drop your child off in the morning. This creates a dangerous situation and impedes the flow of traffic in the Kiss N' Ride area. If you plan to walk your child to the school yard, please park at the Church or on a side-street and walk to the school along the sidewalk.

Bus Loop Shared with German Mills P.S.: We share a one-way bus loop with our neighbouring school German Mills P.S. The Bus Loop is for German Mills staff (parking), German Mills student drop-off, and school buses for both our schools. **Please do not drive/park in the BUS LOOP area before or after school.**

Morning Supervision and Dismissal:

School yard supervision begins each morning at **8:45am** in the school yard. Unless students are registered in the *Before and After Program*, they **MUST NOT be dropped-off early**, as there is no teacher supervision. Students are dismissed at 3:30pm, and should depart from the school grounds promptly and follow their pre-arranged after-school routine (B & A Program, bus, walk home, parent pick up, etc.) If a student is not picked up at 3:30, he/she should come directly to the office.

Your child's safety and that of all of our students depends on everyone's cooperation. Thank you for your support.



Effective Use of Our Resources

Student Transportation:

Important reminder for families of students who qualify for bussing at St. Michael Catholic Academy. If your child does not qualify for bussing, please ignore this message.

Welcome to a new school year.

Please go to www.schoolbuscity.com, click on "Find Your Bus Stop" and follow the instructions. You may also find this information on the YCDSB website, <https://www.ycdsb.ca/> go to the bottom of the page and click on "Student Transportation" and click on www.schoolbuscity.com. Alternate arrangements for your child's pick up from school must be communicated to their teacher/office. This includes, before and after care, parent pick up or other people picking up your child.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Parent Responsibilities:

The following is a list of responsibilities for parents. The information is a guide to ensure students safe travel to and from school.

*JK, SK and Grade 1 students must be met at the bus stop by a responsible person.

Student Transportation Services of York Region, (STSYR), has developed a new Safety Program page for parents and students on the www.schoolbuscity.com website which provides access to valuable safety information.

* Parents should understand the need to make alternative arrangements for their child/children if the school bus is late.

* Parents should arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the regularly scheduled pick-up and drop-off times (10 minutes during the first week of school).

* Parents should know their child/children's route number.

* Parents should know their child/children's bus stop location.

* Parents should know the school (St. Michael Catholic Academy: 905-889-4816) and bus company (First Student: 905-770-1866) phone number in the event of an emergency.

* Parents are reminded to refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com prior to leaving for the bus stop in the mornings and afternoons.

Administration of Medication: If your child requires prescription/non-prescription medication, check with your doctor about the possibility of prescribing medication that could be taken before school and/or after your child returns home. If your child is required to take medication at school, it is the YCDSB's policy that parents submit a completed Administration of Medication Form to the school with the medication. Do not send medication to school without notifying the school and completing the form. Medication is kept at the office. (Policy 207A 207B)

Emergency Contact Forms

Please take the time to ensure that the information on the Emergency Contact form is accurate and current. With the beginning of a new school year, there is a lot of student data that requires inputting into our system to ensure the safety of all of our students. Your support is greatly appreciated! Please return all forms by Monday September 9th, 2019

Effective Use of Our Resources

Pediculosis (Head Lice) Policy 210

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes concerns related to pediculosis (head lice) at the school and community level. Pediculosis (head lice) are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents in your child's class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice.

A student's readmission to school is contingent upon the Parent/Guardian submitting a completed and signed "Pediculosis Treatment Form" communicating to the Principal that treatment for pediculosis (head lice) has been administered.

More information on the identification, treatment and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) from the Canadian Pediatric Society (<http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/headlice>) and Toronto Public Health (toronto.ca/health) is available on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.

School Communication to parents related to Policy 206: Protection of Students with Asthma

In accordance with the *Act to Protect Pupils with Asthma* (Ryan's Law : Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools, 2015) the Board approved a new policy # 206: *Protection of Students with Asthma* at its June 21st Board Meeting. The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that there are some students within the school system who have a diagnosis of asthma which could be life threatening. The York Catholic District School Board also recognizes that asthma management is a shared responsibility among students, parents, caregivers and the entire school community.

It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to advise the school immediately upon registration and/or when in receipt of a diagnosis of asthma. It is also 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 are completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Policy 206.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request and your ongoing support in the shared responsibility for asthma management in our school. Please refer to the Board's website for more information related to Policy 206.

The Protection of Anaphylactic Students Policy 209: The York Catholic District School Board has a comprehensive policy for students with life threatening allergies. As outlined in the policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies immediately and are required to fill in specific forms with yearly updated photos, which are available in the office. Parents are required to provide the school with two (2) up-to-date, single-dose applications of Epinephrine auto-injector. We ask that NO PRODUCTS be brought into the school that may contain nut products such as peanut butter, certain types of candy bars, cookies, etc. Please be sure to read all label ingredients. Fresh vegetables, fruit, 'no nut' granola bars, raisins, etc., make great snacks for your child(ren). Thank you for your cooperation.