

## St. Nicholas Catholic School

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

It is my great honour to inform our school community, parents/guardians and students, that St. Nicholas CES is this year's **winner** of the *School Character Award of York Region*. Each year, the Character Community of York Region selects a school that demonstrates various character attributes through a variety of initiatives in the given school year.

Since arriving at St. Nicholas it was clear to me that our students, staff and families are special, value hard work and creating a positive learning environment. In my nomination of our school, I highlighted many of the great initiatives we have begun this year and explained how they set us apart from other schools in York Region. Here are a few examples of initiatives started this year that I highlighted and that contributed to our success:

- Our bully prevention initiatives "Power of One" & "Kindness Matters". This initiative began in the fall with a powerful Bully-Prevention Week led by our Grade 8 student leaders and their performance of the book 'ONE' by Kathryn Otoshi. This presentation set the tone for the year and reinforced the message that each and every one of us has the power to bring about positive change. In recent months, this initiative has focused on Random Acts of Kindness and special initiatives spearheaded by our Kindergarten team.
- Our school's work this year with our community partner "Kerry's Place" and our new Friendship Club here at St. Nicholas is another unique program that sets us apart. This is a lunch time program that focuses on communication and relationship skills for some of our junior and intermediate students.
- Our environmental initiatives, in particular our newly developed sewing club. This club has started to design and create reusable items that promote greater stewardship of our precious earth. We hope to see this initiative grow in the coming months.
- Our #WeMakeADifference campaign focusing on the YCDSB Catholic Virtues of the month and recognizing our students for their leadership in making positive choices and making our school a better place.
- And many of our everyday contributions made by students and staff that reinforce our values and commitment to making St. Nicholas a safe, inclusive and fun learning environment.

The official awards ceremony scheduled for the evening of April 22nd has been canceled due to the current situation; however, I have been advised that the award will be presented to our school at a later date. Congratulations to all of our students, families and staff for continuing to make our school a special place!

Sincerely,

Mr. Zorzi  
Principal