

St. James the Apostle Catholic Elementary School

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2018



Mrs. E. Minicucci
Principal

Ms. D. Falcao
Assistant to the Principal

Mr. C. Ciapanna
Superintendent

Mrs. M. Nardini & Mr. P. DiFrancesco
Trustees

Fr. D. Reitzel
Pastor of
Our Lady of the Assumption

Mrs. P. Ferrari
Secretary

Mr. E. Piccioni – Principal of Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School
Proud Feeder School of Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.

Prayer for a New School Year



Dear Lord, as we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers. We thank you for the energy and the spirit that you renewed in us through the summer months. We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is important in our lives.

Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the inspiration of your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith. Help us to fulfill Your hope for us with honest intentions and works of faith. Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and love to others. We ask this in your name.

Amen

A Message from Mrs. Minicucci

It is with pleasure that I welcome our staff and families back after a fabulous summer. I wish to extend a warm welcome to our new staff and families who have joined the St. James' family. There is much excitement in the air as we look forward in anticipation to all the wonderful learning opportunities, challenging and fun activities and the spiritual development that await us.

Everyone has been working diligently to prepare classrooms and work areas to receive the children on the first day. Thank you to our 'Cleaning Crew' who have done a wonderful job making our school clean and shiny!

We look forward to working with our new Pastor; Fr. David Reitzel and continue working with our Associate Pastor; Fr. Scott Whitfield, along with Mrs. Susan Klunder, Pastoral Assistant to provide a faith-filled education based on Gospel values.

A key to the success of every school is strong communication with home, school and parish working together for the benefit of your children, our students. We treasure the children and commit to offering you the very best Catholic education in a safe and nurturing environment. We look forward to a year filled with new learning, new friendships and new goals as we journey together to growth in faith, hope and love.



GROWING NUMBERS

It is great to have a growing population of students at St. James the Apostle School due to the development that is taking place in our area. As a result of an increase in classes, we've added a portable to the back side of our school. The portable will be the new home of our Gr. 5 students.



The students will arrive to school for an 8:35 am start time. At the bell they will line up where they lined up last year. Students will be escorted to the gym for our opening school liturgy. Following the liturgy the students will be informed who their teacher is and which class they are in and make their way to their new coat hooks and classroom.

Please avoid using the front doors as it will be a busy place.



Our Bell Times are the same as last year.

The bell times are as follows:

8:35 am – Entry Bell

9:45 – 10:00 am – A.M. Recess

11:20 am – 12:10 pm – LUNCH

1:20 – 1:35 pm – P.M. Recess

2:55 pm - Dismissal

*Please ensure that your children arrive to school on time.



PARKING

Please be advised that due to the limited parking spaces, only Staff will have access to the Parking Lot during the peak times of the day – at the beginning and at the end of the school day. Please do not pull into the driveway to drop your children off unless it is at another time other than the times mentioned above. Signage will be going up.

The front of the school is **School Bus Only** as indicated by the signs in the laneway at all times. We ask everyone's cooperation in following the appropriate signage for the safety and well being of our students.

STUDENT AGENDAS



Each child from Grades 1-8 will receive a Catholic Faith Student Planner (agenda book). Catholic School Council of 2017-2018 has donated money to offset some of the cost. We thank them for this generous gift for all of the students. We ask each student to bring in \$2.00 to supplement the cost. The agenda is an excellent learning tool to help students be organized and prepared for lessons and assignments. Parents/Guardians are asked to please review the agenda book which also contains information on procedures. Students are expected to enter important information, homework, assignments etc. as directed by the teacher (as per grade suitability). Teachers will review the contents of the agenda and sign it. A parent/guardian is to sign the agenda each night to indicate they have reviewed the day's contents. The bar code to borrow library books will be placed in the student agenda and will be required to sign out books electronically in the Learning Commons.

IMPORTANT ITEMS OF INFORMATION...



*Regular attendance is critical to the success of our students. Please ensure your child arrives on time and is fully prepared to participate in all aspects of learning.

*Student absenteeism and lates will be tracked carefully at the office. A student is considered late if he/she arrives after the morning entry bell (8:35 am) and after the afternoon bell (12:10 pm). All students who are late must go to the office for a late slip prior to being admitted to class. It is greatly appreciated if your child's absence from school is called in and the reason for the absence given.

*When a child needs to leave the school for medical/dental appointments or for other reasons, a parent/guardian must sign them out of the office and sign them back in upon their return to school. No child is permitted to leave the school grounds without an adult picking them up during the course of the day.

*Students who are eligible to ride the bus are expected to ride the bus each day to and from school. Students are **not permitted** to change buses for any reason. No student is permitted to ride the bus who has not received prior approval through the Transportation Dept.

*Only students who are walkers are permitted to leave the school grounds at lunch to go home. Bussed students are **not permitted** to leave the grounds at lunch without a parent/guardian or adult picking them up and signing them out at the office.



Mark your calendars and please come out to meet the wonderful staff of St. James the Apostle School on **Tuesday September 18, 2018.**

We will also be hosting a Book Fair that evening.

Stay tuned for further details.



STUDENT WELLNESS

At all times we strive to ensure the safety and well being of our students. We rely on parents/guardians to bring to our attention any issues relating to the health of their children by informing the office of any allergies, medical concerns, anaphylaxis, medication requirements, issues, etc. This information is documented and shared with the staff to keep everyone informed.

For some of our children their allergies can be considered life threatening. The term anaphylaxis is used to identify those students. As a result our school **does not permit** any peanut and nut products to be brought to the school. Please read labels carefully and watch for the peanut/nut free symbol. Often children wish to bring in treats to share with their friends on their birthday, we suggest considering an alternative treat to share such as a pencil, eraser, sticker or donating a book in your child's name to the classroom library.

Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Once again we will be seeking nominations for membership to the Catholic School Council for 2018-2019. According to the guidelines we will be seeking 6-10 parents to serve on the Council and we ask for your consideration in nominating yourself or another parent for this important work.

The purpose of Catholic School Councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents and to promote the mission of Catholic education within the school community.

The Catholic School Council is comprised of the following members:

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Councillors, Pastoral Rep., Teacher Rep. and the non-teaching Rep.

A nomination form will be sent home to each family. If nominating another parent please ensure that the parent accepts the nomination to server prior to submitting it. Nominations will close on **Friday September 14th at 4:00 pm**. In the event that there are 10 or less parents who are seeking a position on the Council no election will be required. In the event there are more than 10 parents seeking a position then the election will take place on **Tuesday September 18th, 2018** at the Meet the Staff BBQ.

Please consider this invaluable contribution to the life of our school by offering your gifts of time and talents.



EarlyON Child and Family Centres are welcoming, supportive and accessible places where children (birth to six years of age) and their parents, grandparents and caregivers can play and learn together. St. James the Apostle School has been once again selected as a location for this program. The entrance/exit doors for the program have been moved to the side of the school.