

SEPTEMBER 2023

St Justin, Martyr CES

DEDICATED IN FAITH, TO EXCELLENCE & SERVICE



Dear Parents & Guardians,

We feel blessed to be welcoming our students, families, and staff members to our 2023-2024 school year! As in the past, our SJN family continues to work together to build our school community, centered on shared Catholic values and excellence in education. We extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and staff members and look forward to getting to know one another. Our entire staff has been diligently working to create an environment that is safe and welcoming. We thank them for their ongoing dedication and support of all of our students.

As it does “take a village to raise children”, we look forward to working closely with our Parish and supportive parent community to help navigate us in planning many learning experiences and spiritual opportunities for our students.

Moving forward, our newsletters will be shared with the community at the beginning of every month. Be sure to take a few moments to stay up to date with all that will be happening at your child’s school.

We pray that the weeks and months ahead bring us many opportunities to help and support one another, acting with Jesus as our role model.

God Bless, Mrs Catenacci



Catholic Virtue of Courage

During the month of September we focus on the virtue of courage. I will stand up for what I know is right & just. I will face challenges, fears & difficulty with fortitude.

Throughout the month, our virtue recipients are acknowledged over the daily announcements. Names will be listed the following month in our newsletter.



School Trustee: Carol Cotton
Superintendent: Siobhan Wright
Principal: P. Catenacci
Acting Vice-Principal: B. Matthews

Parish: St Justin, Martyr
Pastors: Monsignor Vid & Rev. Joy

Check out our school website at
<http://sjn.ycdsb.ca>

Twitter: @sjnycdsb



Welcome St Justin, Martyr Staff for 2023-2024!!

- FDK - Mrs.Yu with ECE - Mrs. Karam
- FDK - Mrs.Georgas with ECE - Mrs.Furfaro
- SK/Grade One - Ms.Giardini
- Grade One - Ms.Noronha
- Grade Two - Mrs.Thompson-Morris, Mrs.Martin, Mrs.Vilardo
- Grade Three - Mrs.Papandrea, Ms.Quartarone
- Grade Three/Four - Mrs.Torsher
- Grade Four - Mrs.Stanly, Mr.Hull
- Grade Five - Mrs.Nikitopoulos, Mrs.Comper-Swift
- Grade Five PACE - Mrs.Spaziani
- Grade Five/Six PACE - Ms.Greco
- Grade Six - Ms.Sabino, Mrs.Perrier
- Grade Six PACE - Mr.Arvasi
- Grade Seven - Mr.Chun, Ms.Paolone, Ms.Rovere
- Grade Seven PACE - Mrs.Reyes
- Grade Seven/Eight PACE - Mr.Phillips
- Grade Eight - Mr.Medeiros, Mrs.Mossa Vacca, Mrs.Crisostimo
- Grade Eight PACE - Mrs.Isacco
- French Teachers - Madame Perfetti, Madame Lollino, Madame Ortiz
- Physical Education - Mrs.Rijabi, Mr Raymundo
- Music: Mr.Ombao, Ms.Lahoud
- Core Resource/APT - Ms.DiLiddo, Mr.Chappins
- ESL - Mrs.Jordan-Paris, Ms.Santos
- Librarian - Mrs.Nazar
- Educational Assistants - Mrs.Ceniti, Ms.Marcuz-Bowens, Mrs.Dammar, Ms.VanDelft
- Head Custodian - Mr.Erjavec
- Secretaries - Ms.Read, Mrs.Featherstone

Many thanks to all of our staff who have been preparing for our student return and have created welcoming, safe places for learning to take place!

A Prayer For September

We praise you God, for everything that holds promise & brings us joy.

Bless us as we start this new year with our friends & teachers. Help us to be grateful of everything that is being given to us & for the hope that surrounds us each day.

May we show love to one another. Help us to forgive others & receive your forgiveness.

Bless our school & keep us safe.

We ask this in Your name.

Amen



SAFE ARRIVAL

Kindly notify the school of your child's absence or late arrival by using the automated Safe Arrival Absence Reporting phone number at

1-855-856-7862 or online at yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com



Important Reminders & Updates:

Keeping Our Students Safe

Parents and guardians are asked to practise caution when dropping and picking up their children. Safety starts with us and everyone has the responsibility to practise safe, conscientious driving habits when at school. We expect all adults to be courteous and respectful of one another in this regard. Ensure that you:
Follow the speed limit, SLOW DOWN & DRIVE WITH CAUTION
Do not stop in front of the entrance driveway area to drop off your kids as this causes a backup in traffic and leads to our school buses arriving late.
We encourage parents to park a couple of blocks away in a safe and less congested area and walk to the school with their children. This will decrease the amount of traffic at the front of the school, ensure student safety and practise healthy living habits. We need your collective cooperation to make student safety a priority. Together we can make our school community safe for everyone.

The Importance of Punctuality

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly and punctually. Being punctual is an important life skill. When your child is late, it causes disruption to the learning experience that has begun in the classroom & could result in your child missing important information. In addition to the legal requirements for mandatory and punctual attendance, research continues to prove that absenteeism/lateness has a negative impact on the ability of a student to be successful in school. By helping your child to establish positive attendance patterns we can assist them in reaching their full learning potential. Please ensure your child arrives at school between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. If your child arrives after the bell, parents MUST walk them to the front door and wait for a staff member to open the door.

Lunch Routines

A reminder that students who go home for lunch must get this permission from a parent or guardian. A letter will be sent home for parent signature for students who walk home for lunch. It is important to note that:

STUDENTS CANNOT LEAVE SCHOOL PROPERTY AND VISIT LOCAL RESTAURANTS DURING LUNCH HOUR.

Milk Orders

Once again this year, our students will be able to order fresh white or chocolate milk twice weekly. Stay tuned for order forms going home during the first week of school.

Library Commons Corner...

It's September and our Library will be hosting some fun activities to start the year off right!
A "**Buck-a-Book**" sale will be taking place during the lunch recess. Announcements will be made to invite students to buy used books for a loonie.
&
Our first-ever "Rock, Paper, Scissors Competition" will take place for all students AND staff during lunch recess. Announcements will be made to invite any and all competitors. Each competitor will need to pay \$2.00 to participate. There are amazing prizes to be won! Stay tuned for final dates and details to be shared. All money raised from both events will be used to buy more resources for our library.

LUNCHBOX LUNCHES ARE BACK!

Beginning September 11th, our students can enjoy delivered lunches from our provider LUNCHBOX. All orders will be placed online with all payments made online as well. Information will be shared via email over the next couple of days.
We will be offering this HOT LUNCH every Monday and Tuesday.
Please note that our Parent Council will also be providing HOT LUNCH options for other days of the week commencing in October.

Upcoming Events....

Curriculum Night

This year's SJN Curriculum Night will take place on Thursday, September 21st. Stay tuned for more information to be shared via School Messenger email.

CSC Inaugural Meeting/Elections

Our Catholic School Council is comprised of a group of individuals who commit to working collaboratively in the best interests of all of our students. This group comes together to establish priorities and goals that benefit the school and contribute to the larger community in meaningful ways.

We are looking for parents who are interested in becoming members. This year's Inaugural Meeting will be on **Thursday, September 28th**. An email outlining CSC positions & including a nomination form will be shared with the community in the upcoming days.

Terry Fox Walk and Awareness Day

On **Monday, September 25th**, students are encouraged to wear red and white to demonstrate our support of Canadian Hero Terry Fox. We will be walking in our local community to bring awareness of the impact that Terry Fox made on Cancer Research and raising awareness. Stay tuned for more information on how you can make a donation to this great cause and details about this important day!

National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

On **Friday, September 29th**, SJN staff and students will participate in Orange Shirt Day in recognition that "Every Child Matters". Our students will join students across Canada in honoring survivors of Residential Schools and acknowledging those families and communities who mourn the loss of loved ones. Virtual presentations and activities will take place throughout the day.

Important Allergy Information

We are a nut-safe school and a Fragrance/Scent Safe School. We will continue to take a proactive approach to make our school a safe environment for all of our members with life-threatening allergies to food as well as to scents. Because anaphylaxis can be life-threatening, our entire school is ALLERGY AWARE. Students will not be permitted to share or distribute snacks. In accordance with our School Allergy Awareness Plan, please do not send any snacks to be shared. We must work together to ensure that our school remains NUT FREE. You can assist us in providing snacks and lunches for your child that do not contain any traces of nuts/nut products and that are made in a nut-free facility.

School Bell Times

Note our SJN school bell times below:

9:00 School Begins

10:20 to 10:35 First Recess

11:55 to 12:55 Lunch

2:15 to 2:30 Last Recess

3:30 End of the Day



School Photo Day

Lifetouch will be at St. Justin, Martyr CES on Wednesday, September 27th. Class photos will be taken as well as individual student photos.

Please Note: Student sibling group photos will not be taken on this day.



Important Parish Information....

Confirmation 2024 Details

St Justin Martyr Parish is asking all families of our Grade 7 students (as well as those in Grade 8 who were not able to receive this Sacrament), to register their child for preparation classes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during Easter in 2024.

1) Kindly register at www.stjustin.ca.

Deadline: Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 pm

Parents must also attend an important in-person information meeting at the church on either Friday, September 29th, or Sunday, October 1st. All of our Grade 7 students will be receiving information outlining more details. If you have a child in Grade 8 who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact St. Justin, Martyr Parish.



First Holy Communion 2024 Details

Parents and guardians of our Grade Two students (and above who have not received the Sacraments) are asked to register their child for preparation classes to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist (First Communion), and Baptism in the Spring of 2024.

1) Kindly register at www.stjustin.ca. The link is prominently displayed on the main page. Deadline: Sunday, September 24th.

Parents must also attend an important in-person meeting at the church on either Saturday, Sept. 23rd or Sunday, September 24th. More details will be shared with all Grade 2 students. If your child is in another grade and you are interested in more details, contact St Justin, Martyr Parish.



Pediculosis

SJN and our YCDSB work to ensure that all of our students are safe and well throughout the school year. We ask parents to ensure that if they suspect their child has come into contact with a case of pediculosis, they check their child's head for signs of pediculosis (head lice) on a regular basis and contact the school so that we can follow procedures to limit the potential spread. We will do our best to ensure that cases are communicated to the larger community should they arise. We thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a safe school environment for everyone.

Supporting Our Students

The York Catholic District School Board strives to create a safe and accepting learning environment for students with prevalent medical conditions. If your child has a prevalent medical condition, please contact the school principal so that we can ensure a Health Management Plan is created and/or updated as needed.

September Dates To Remember...

5th - First Day of School
21st - Curriculum Night
22nd - PA DAY
25th - Terry Fox Walk
27th - School Photo Day/ Rowan's Law Day
28th - Inaugural CSC Meeting
29th - Day of Truth & Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day