

ST. CLARE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues to Educate All Students

Principal's Message

As we enter into a new school year at St. Clare, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back. For those of you who are new, my name is Americo de Sousa and I am the principal of St. Clare. We welcome all new families with open arms and hope you can get involved at the school. We extend a special thanks to our wonderful Trustee, **Maria Marchese** for her support and for representing us so well at the Board level. We also would like to thank our Superintendent **Marianne Fedrigoni** for all her support at the Board level.

Welcome to all staff, students and families who join us in their first year at St. Clare Catholic Elementary School. We are proud to have you share in this great community. It is our hope that you will feel a part of our "family" as soon as possible and that your experiences here will be both pleasant and rewarding.

It was very exciting to meet and greet so many students and parents when school started Tuesday. The joy of watching students re-acquaint themselves with each other and their teacher is a pleasure to behold. All anxieties about the new school year quickly fade away as our students work and play together. The first days are spent planning for the exciting year that lies ahead. After our many years in education, we would not want to miss the joy of sharing these days with your children.

The staff are a committed and hard working group of educators who will provide a meaningful and productive school year for our students, your children. It is through the cooperative efforts and positive interaction of all partners in our Catholic Community, students, parents, staff, support staff, St. Clare of Assisi Parish, Board personnel, Superintendent and trustees that we will continue to be successful in achieving our goals.

It is the mission of our school to help each and every child realize his or her full potential in a Christ-centered, supportive, safe and caring learning environment. This is so that they may become responsible, productive citizens and life-long learners as we prepare for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

We invite you to join us for our **Curriculum Night** on **Thursday, September 20th at 7:00 pm**.

We are looking forward to the opportunity of continuing to serve the community of St. Clare Catholic Elementary School in the education of our students. We thank you in advance for supporting our school endeavors. We are ready to renew our commitment to continue to build a Professional Catholic Learning Community here at St. Clare.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. de Sousa
Principal

Trustee

Mrs. Maria Marchese

Superintendent

Mrs. Marianne Fedrigoni
905-713-2711

Pastor

Rev. Msgr. John Borean
Fr. Antonello
905-653-8000

Principal

Mr. A. de Sousa
905-856-6643

Secretary

Mrs. Boem

CSC Chair

Mrs. Sandy Carvalho

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.

Core Values

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

Vision

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

Strategic Commitments

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

BELL TIME:

The daily schedule for students in grades 1-8 is as follows:

8:50 - Entry

10:20-10:35 - Recess

12:00-1:00 - Lunch

2:20-2:35 - Recess

3:40 - Dismissal

The daily schedule for our Junior and Senior Kindergarten students is as follows:

8:50 - Morning Entry

12:00 - 1:30 - Lunch and Recess

3:40 - Afternoon Dismissal

Please ensure that your child arrives on time for school. The school bell rings at 8:50 am each morning. Students should be with their class in school yard by 8:50 am. Students that are not will be marked as late.

ARRIVAL ABSENCE REPORTING PROCEDURE:

As you are aware, there is a new elementary student absence reporting system at St. Clare. The Safe Arrival program will allow parents to report their child's absence in advance, or before bell time for the current day in one of three ways:

1. Toll Free Number: 1-855-856-7862
2. Website: <http://go.schoolmessenger.ca>
3. School Messenger App: A letter was sent home regarding the new procedures at the beginning of the week.

We thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

RECESS:

It is our expectation that all students go out for recess at scheduled times. Fresh air and exercise are important for all children. However, each year we get requests for students to remain inside due to special circumstances. All such requests should be accompanied by a note from your doctor explaining the special circumstance. Please be informed that there are no teachers on supervision duty inside the school during regular outdoor recess. Furthermore, students need to remember the following important rules to keep outdoor recess breaks enjoyable and safe:

- 1) **"NO CONTACT RULE"**: Children are not to play any games or engage in any activities that involve physical contact.
- 2) **"NO THROWING RULE"**: Please remind your children of the dangers of throwing rocks and other objects.
- 3) **"AVOID WET/ICY AREAS"** : Please remind your children to stay away from the puddles and wet/icy areas on the pavement and field. This is for their health and safety.
- 4) **"UNIFORM"**: A change of clothing for accidents.

SAFETY WEEK:

As part of preparing students for fire drills and lock downs, we will have a safety week starting **Monday, September 24th until Friday, September 28th**. Please speak to your child/ren regarding the importance of safety.



Active Travel to School

September 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we start the **2018/2019** school year, we would like to remind and encourage parent(s)/guardian(s) to consider **walking or cycling with children to and from school**. There are many benefits to walking and cycling to school. It:

- Improves student academic performance by making children more alert and better prepared to learn
- Contributes to the daily goal of 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity for children, improving their health and overall fitness
- Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones
- Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future



For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice, or a few days a week can still provide benefits. You can also consider parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Include active travel as part of your daily routine!

Sincerely,

YCDSB Active School Travel Team

ELEMENTARY STUDENT DRESS CODE:

This message is to inform the St. Clare School Community about policy 219 A, Elementary Dress Code. This policy was approved on November 28, 2017. Section 3.9 provides each school the opportunity to review the existing dress-code every six years.

The 2018-19 school year is year 6 of the elementary student dress code, which means that the process for potential change to the school's current student dress code must be addressed at the first meeting of our newly elected Catholic School Council.

Our current student dress code will be reviewed during our first Catholic School Council meeting on Monday September 17th at 7:00 pm in our library. If you are interested in considering a change to our current student dress code, you are invited to attend this meeting or communicate to me your interest via phone or email prior to the meeting date.

A STAR IS BORN:

The CNE Rising Star Talent Competition is a talent competition that showcases young artists in a wide variety of genres. **Isabella T.**, a 12 year old St. Clare student, is a young Soprano Vocalist who won First Place in the Junior Competition singing "Think of Me" from the play "Phantom of the Opera." When asked how she felt when she found out she won she replied, **"I was really surprised, really thankful and proud. But at the same time I was grateful to be part of the CNE competition with the other performers."**

CURRICULUM NIGHT:

Curriculum Night will be on Thursday, September 20th at 7:00 pm. Parents are encouraged to come by and meet their child's teacher. The evening will run from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. It will be an informal evening with teachers in their classroom welcoming parents.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Our first meeting for the 2018-2019 school year will be on Monday, September 17th at 7:00 pm in the library. This will be the last meeting for our 2017-2018 Council and newly formed Council for 2018-2019 will be selected. If you would like to join the Council for the school year, we encourage you to complete the Nomination Form that follows in the newsletter.

PEANUT/NUT & FOOD ALERT:

Students and staff with severe life-threatening allergies to nuts and other foods have their lives at risk if they come in contact with these products. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our school peanut/nut free.

DO NOT SEND:

Peanut butter sandwiches, Peanut butter cookies or crackers, Ritz Bits or Ritz Crackers, Granola Bars, M & M's (any kind), Reese's Pieces, Raisonettes, Soda Licious (Betty Crocker), Vachon Cakes, Sunflower Seeds, Potato Chips fried in peanut oil, Breton Crackers, Trail Mix, Chocolate Bars, Candy/cookies with nuts, and Nutella.

Furthermore, we would like you to consider that for class parties and birthdays, if you could please send in non edible treats: eg. balls, pencils, erasers, stickers, books, bookmarks, dollar store items, etc., or food items that contain no peanut butter or peanut/nut products. Your assistance in continuing to provide a safe environment for our allergic students and staff is greatly appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to ensure your child's safety, we would ask for your co-operation and assistance in ensuring that ALL ANAPHYLACTIC STUDENTS wear a fanny pack with their EpiPen inside at all times. Please ensure that your child is familiar with the use of the EpiPen auto injector. As well, we ask that you provide an EpiPen for the office in the event of an emergency. If your child has any life threatening allergies, it is strongly recommended that he or she wear a MEDIC ALERT BRACELET at all times. Thank you for your assistance and co-operation in this very important matter. Please ensure your child has an up-to-date S(15) and S(16) form on file with the office signed by their doctor as it is mandatory.

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE):

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes and appreciates concerns related to pediculosis at the school, community, and regional level. The Board also recognizes that the Ministry of Health does not designate pediculosis as a communicable disease, and as such, it is not considered a health hazard to the community." (Policy 210) Anyone can get head lice, regardless of cleanliness. Head lice are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent this from becoming a problem at St. Clare Catholic school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head weekly for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, contact the office so that we can notify other parents in the class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. Please refer to the information sheet which will be sent home, "The Facts of Lice." It contains information about the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice. For more information or advice on the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice, please contact the Public Health Nurses at Health Connection, 1-800-361-5653.

St. Clare Catholic Elementary School Catholic School Council Nomination Form

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 – 2018 CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

We are very grateful to the many dedicated C. S. C. members who served on the 2017-2018 Catholic School Council. The council was committed to supporting the school and teachers to ensure that St. Clare Catholic School would be a place where students grow in faith, pursue academic excellence, and enjoy learning in a safe and welcoming environment. The last meeting of this Council is **Monday, September 17th**. Thank you to these wonderful volunteers who contributed so much to our Catholic School Council this past year.

CONSIDER JOINING THE 2018-2019 COUNCIL:

Each year, Catholic School Council elections are held within the first 30 days of school. This year, our election night is Monday, September 17th. We welcome new parents; it is a great way to get involved in your school community!

MEMBERS:

Members include elected parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school, student representatives, teaching and non-teaching staff representatives, parish and community representative and the principal. All members are equal partners, with parents forming the majority. The chair is a parent elected by the full council.

MEETINGS:

Meetings are held a minimum of four times a year and are open to the public. Last year, meetings were held once per month except December and March. Minutes are kept and all financial transactions are recorded.

MANDATE OF THE COUNCIL:

Members are asked to objectively represent and communicate the views of the community, maintaining a school-wide perspective on all issues. The council's mandate is to provide advice to the Principal on a number of areas including:

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|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -Catholic faith dimension | -School improvement | -Curriculum priorities |
| -School discipline | -Budget priorities | -School dress code/uniform policy |
| -date setting for the year | -Committee structures | -Fundraising |
| -Implementing Ministry and Board policies | -Principal selection criteria | |

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

Election Night: Monday September 17th, 2018

7:00 p.m. - St. Clare Catholic Elementary School

CANDIDATE'S NAME: _____

Child(ren) Name(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE # _____ BUSINESS PHONE# _____

I wish to declare my candidacy or nominate someone for an elected position as a parent representative on the school council.
I understand the role and responsibilities of a member of the school council.

Candidate's Signature _____

Date _____

NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th by 4:00 pm.

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 First Day of School	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 School Mass 9:15 am Fr. Antonello	15
16	17 Catholic School Council Meeting 7:00 pm Library	18	19	20 Curriculum Night 7:00 pm	21	22
23/ 30	24 P.A Day No School	25 Safety Week	26	27 Terry Fox Run 1:15 pm	28	29