

# St. Carthagh Catholic School Newsletter



Mrs. Heather Healey -Principal  
Mrs. Connie Lessard -Administrative Assistant  
Father Aidan Dasaah -Parish Priest  
Mr. Darcey French -Superintendent of School Effectiveness

Website: [www.alcddb.on.ca/school/cart](http://www.alcddb.on.ca/school/cart)

## September 2021

### Staff

Heather Healey	Principal
Amanda Coates	JK/SK
Nicole Montgomery	Gr. 1/2
Michele Storrar	Gr. 1/2
Jill DeMille	Gr. 2/3
Nicole Boyce	Gr. 4/5
Nettie Robertson	Gr. 4/5
Rachel Weir	Gr. 6/7
Arthur Allore	Gr. 7/8
Nettie Robertson	SERT
Nicole Lamoureux	FSL
Avery McInroy	ARTS
Lynne Gunter	ECE
Liz Sagriff	EA
Angela McGuire	EA
Karen Vilneff	EA
Miriam Petch	LRA
Courtney Gunter	CYW
Connie Lessard	Administrative Assistant
Roger Brenay	Custodian
Caleb Baldwin	Custodian

### Daily Time Schedule

School Entry	9:20
Lunch K-3	11:30-12:00
Recess K-3	12:00-12:30
Recess 4-8	11:30-12:00
Lunch 4-8	12:00-12:30
Recess K-3	1:50-2:20
Recess 4-8	2:30-3:00
Dismissal	3:40

**IMPORTANT-Self Screening**  
Parents have the responsibility to self-screen students for symptoms of COVID-19 each day prior to arriving at school. Please see link below for Self-Assessment COVID-19 tool.  
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

### Principal's Message

Welcome, everyone, to another great school year at St. Carthagh Catholic School!

For those students who are participating in the Remote Learning program, we will miss you and wish you a wonderful year as well!

The start of a new school year can be both exciting and a little intimidating, but I feel like we have all learned how to adapt to change and 'pivot' more than ever over the past year and a half! The new year offers a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and build new ones. This year, our Board's new mission/vision statement is "Beloved Children of God". We will be learning about and celebrating the ways that God shows us His love for each of us – unconditionally. Our students will be able to rest in the knowledge that they are loved by their teachers, friends, community, and – most importantly – their Creator. The yearly theme song across the board is Hillsong United's "Who You Say I Am" and many of our students already know it – it's one of our school favourites!

We will be having a soft start to September. The senior team has worked hard to ensure that our students right across the board experience a warm welcome and a chance to re-group and re-connect after such a stressful year and a half. Please rest assured that love and support are at the top of our list as we welcome back your children. St. Carthagh enjoys a strong tradition of support and collaboration with our parish, our families, and our community.

A gentle reminder that we are not having parents or volunteers in the building during school hours. If you need to pick up your child, you will need to buzz into the office and we will bring your child to you. Thank you for your understanding.

Also, a reminder that ALCDSB is requesting that

all students in Gr.1-8 wear masks when riding the school bus and indoors. Masks are encouraged for Kindergarten students. We have allocated many time slots where the students will be outside where they won't need to wear them. Thank you for your support in keeping students and staff safe.

We are so excited to see everyone! Together is Better

God bless,

Heather Healey  
Principal

### Newsletters & School Messenger

Monthly newsletters are posted the first week of each month on our website. We strongly encourage all parents to subscribe to receive our monthly updates by email. Families can access all current information and events at, [www.alcddb.on.ca/school/cart](http://www.alcddb.on.ca/school/cart). Information will be added as it occurs so check us out often. Emergency correspondence will continue to be sent home with students.

### School Cash Online

School Cash Online is the method of payment for all schools in the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. In order to support this initiative we need all families to register to pay school fees online. Registering does not give us any access to your banking information, it is similar to shopping online: select your items, add to your cart and check out using debit or credit card. To register please go to: <https://alcddb.schoolcashionline.com>.

### School Calendar

The school year calendar can be found on the Board's website, [www.alcddb.on.ca](http://www.alcddb.on.ca) under Parents & Community.

## Picture Day

Student and class photos will be on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information

## School Council Meeting

The first **VIRTUAL** meeting of the 2021-2022 school year will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will have elections and outline the goals for this school year. Please watch your email for an invite to join using Microsoft Teams (you may want to check out Teams prior to our meeting to ensure access). All parents are welcome to join and participate.

## Bus Passes

Due to the importance of seating plans for contact tracing in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19, students may only use transportation services they are authorized for. No Bus Passes will be issued. Students looking to go home with friends will need to use an alternate method of travel.

## Bus Conduct

To maintain a high standard of safety for our students while travelling on the school bus, we ask that all parents be aware of the rules of conduct for our students. You, as parents, can assist us immeasurably by being aware of the regulations and making sure your children understand and follow them.

RIDING THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE. This privilege may be withdrawn if a student behaves in a manner that threatens his/her safety or the safety of others. Let's work together to protect all our students. For information on busing check the Tri-Board Student Transportation website: [www.triboard.on.ca](http://www.triboard.on.ca) . You may check your child's bus by using his or her OEN (Ontario Education Number) which can be found on their Report Card.

## Milk & Pizza Weekly Program

Milk and pizza will be available to order each week again this year. Milk will only be available for weekly purchase. Parents will be notified through School Cash Online so make sure that you are signed up to receive items that are available. Pizza will start on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>-**reminder orders must be placed by midnight on Tuesday prior**. Milk will begin on September 20<sup>th</sup> and orders must be placed by midnight **Friday prior**. Proceeds from these programs directly support our students.

## Food for Learning

At this time we are not able to provide Breakfast Club. However, individually packaged healthy snacks will be provided to each classroom daily.

## Peanuts are Welcome!

St. Carthagh allows students to bring peanut butter products to school in their lunches. This year we have no students who have an allergy. If this were to change we will notify families.

## Administration of Medication/Epi Pen

Student forms must be submitted every school year. Medication, where applicable, must be brought to the school with the doctor's forms and kept at the office. No medication will be administered without the appropriate forms completed by parents and physician.

## Valuables

Please discourage your child(ren) from bringing valuable items to school as the school assumes no responsibility for damage or loss. Due to privacy issues, cameras and cell phones are not permitted on the school yard.

## Cell Phones

Cell phones must remain in backpacks at all times or with the classroom teacher. If a student does not follow this rule the phone will remain with Mrs. Healey until a parent can pick up or returned at the end of the next schoolday.

## St. Carthagh Twitter

Please follow us on twitter as staff will be posting regularly, [@alcdsb\\_cart](https://twitter.com/alcdsb_cart)

## **Safe Arrival/Dismissal**

At this time parents/guardians will not be permitted access to the school to ensure a safe environment for the students. If students must be picked up during the day please ring the buzzer at the front entrance and we will bring them out to you. REMINDER-the parking lot running along the school is **one way only**, running south. Parents are asked not to park in this bussing zone before or after school. It is not safe for students or adults to be walking through this bussing zone. Parents can use the bus route to drop off students at the back gate in the morning if they follow in line with the busses

**Absence**-Please call the school before 9:15 if your child will be absent. Attendance is taken first thing in the morning and calls are made to verify all absences if we have not heard from you. You may leave a message on the answering machine any time.

**Yard Supervision**-There is no supervision prior to 9:00 so students should not enter the school/yard prior to this time.

**After School**-Car pick up is at 3:40 at the front stairs of the school. Parents are asked to please remain in your car, we will bring your child to the vehicle. Walkers are dismissed at the front of the school and are reminded to promptly exit school property following the 3:40 dismissal. Parents/caregivers picking up students are asked to wait at the front sidewalk.

**Lunch Hour**-Students may not leave the school during the day without being signed out by an adult. Students leaving school to go home for lunch may do so only if they go home regularly with adult supervision. Please send a note to indicate if your child(ren) will be walking home for lunch on a regular basis. It is the school's expectation that all students will remain at school for lunch unless being picked up by a parent.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in keeping our school safe for our students.

## **Appropriate Dress Guidelines**

No short skirts or short shorts (hemlines must reach fingertips of arms by sides). Tops-no inappropriate language or slogans, no spaghetti straps, no midriffs showing; sleeveless is fine but no racer back or backless tops. Flip flops are dangerous on playground equipment. No hats or caps to be worn inside the school.

## **Student Accident Insurance**

Our School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by their Government Health Insurance Plan or their employer's health care plan. Parents should check with their provider(s) regarding their specific coverage.

Most accident related expenses are not fully covered under OHIP or other any plans and expenses like ambulance fees, casts, crutches, physiotherapy and emergency dental care may not be covered at all. This leaves the parent/guardian financially responsible for these unexpected expenses.

To help protect your family, it is recommended that you consider obtaining student accident insurance, which provides coverage for these types of costs. As a convenience to you, the Board has made an arrangement to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids® program. Participation is purely voluntary, and the costs of the plan are to be paid by the parent/guardian directly to the provider. This program is available for students up to age 26.

Coverage is provided for a wide range of accidental expenses, including:

- Dental expenses, includes 10 years unlimited dental benefit coverage, future dental up to \$1,650 per tooth, and injury related orthodontia coverage up to \$2,500 per accident.
- Total and permanent disability, up to \$350,000
- Loss of limb/loss of sight, hearing or speech
- Accidental death
- Ambulance fees
- And more!

The insuremykids® Student Accident Insurance program offers three plans with 24/7 coverage at affordable rates – ranging from \$17.00 per year and to their Platinum plan at \$33 per year, which provides out-of-province emergency medical coverage and travel benefits. All annual plans provide 13 months of coverage from the date of purchase.

If parents or guardians wish to purchase coverage, please do so directly online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) or call 1-800-463-5437. The insurance agreement is between You (the parent or guardian) and the insurance underwriter, Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.

## September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 PA Day	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 School Council Mtg. 7:00 Virtual	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Terry Fox Run	30	October 1, PA Day October 6, Picture Day	



## Message to Parents, Guardians Re: Procedures for Threats to School Safety

### Keeping Our Students and Staff Safe

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board has a primary responsibility to ensure the safety of students and staff inside Board buildings and on Board property. In partnership with emergency services in the area, a board-wide plan has been developed to address threats to school safety. This plan includes procedures known as Evacuation, Shelter in Place, Hold and Secure, Bomb Threat/Explosive Incident, and Lockdown.

An Evacuation occurs when all students and staff are removed from the school (e.g. a fire or gas leak in the school). A Shelter in Place occurs when there is an environmental or weather related situation in the area (e.g. chemical spill). A Hold and Secure is initiated when there are circumstances in the vicinity of the school that could endanger the safety of students and/or staff (e.g. criminal event near the school but not on school property). A Bomb Threat and Explosive Incident procedures are initiated when a threat of a bomb or explosive device is received by a school either by phone or some other means (mail or social media for example). Lockdown procedures are initiated when there is a threat of violence within the school (e.g. student with a weapon).

In order for all students and staff to become familiar with expectations during a threat to school safety, our school will be practicing threat response procedures as we have normally done with fire drills. In a real emergency situation, signs will be posted on the entrance doors indicating that the school has activated a Shelter in Place or Hold and Secure. The doors will be locked and no one will be allowed into the school. In a real Lockdown situation, the school will not be able to post signs and lock doors because the imminent threat is in the school building and all staff and students will be actively responding to the threat. If an Evacuation should occur, emergency services will secure the school site.

I understand that a parent or guardian would be concerned for their child during a response to a potential threat to school safety. I want to assure you that the school is prepared for any of these risks. However, if a real emergency is in effect, you will be unable to contact your child or school personnel while the situation is being resolved. If this school should activate the Threats to School Safety Procedures because of an imminent threat, the Board's Communications Officer will use all media available to update families of the situation as it unfolds.

For the safety of our students and staff, two lockdown practice drills and one Bomb Threat practice will be held during the school year but only within classroom cohorts (not as whole school drills). The practice drills are scheduled for the Fall, in the Winter and in the Spring.

I invite you to attend our School Council meeting scheduled for Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> to receive full details on the procedures that address threats to school safety. This will also provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Please call me at the school if you should have questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Healey  
Principal



September 7, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB) and our community partners are committed to providing safe and caring school communities and learning environments for students, staff, school visitors and community members. We believe that each person should be able to study, work and attend our Catholic schools in an environment that is safe and free from threats of violence. The ALCDSB acknowledges the importance of promoting and supporting appropriate and positive student behaviours in schools. It is our hope that all members of our community demonstrate respect for the dignity of all persons.

In 2011, the ALCDSB and its community partners adopted the ALCDSB Community Threat Assessment Protocol (CTAP). This risk/threat assessment process is designed to be a proactive and multi-disciplinary approach to developing intervention plans that address threats of violence, threatening behaviour and instances where the emotional and/or physical safety of individuals may be at risk. Recognizing that violence prevention in our schools and neighbourhoods is a community responsibility, the risk/threat assessment process will be initiated by school administration and/or community partners when behaviours have been identified that pose a potential risk to an individual or to others.

Providing notice to parents/guardians of the risk/threat assessment process ensures that parents/guardians are aware that threatening or high-risk behaviours will be investigated. This also recognizes the important role that the parents/guardians have in supporting and participating in the process itself. For further information, the Community Threat Assessment Protocol (CTAP) document may be found on our website at <http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/Board/Policies/Lists/Documents/CTAP2016.pdf>.

Sincerely,

Carey Smith-Dewy  
Superintendent of Education