



## School Newsletter

# St. Gregory Catholic School



Principal: Kevin Dorey

Secretary: Rhonda McLean

Superintendent of School Effectiveness: David Giroux

School Website: <http://schools.alcddb.on.ca/greg/>

Catholic School Council Chair: Nikki Crenna

Parish Priest: Father R.J. Chisholm

Trustee: Gregory Speagle



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### Some Important Dates

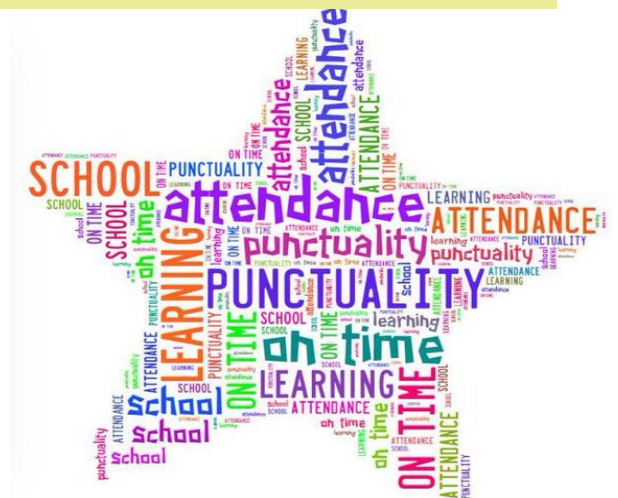
Oct 3 Junior Soccer  
Oct 4 St. Gregory Thanksgiving Luncheon  
Oct 5 School Mass 1030 - all welcome  
Oct 7 Family Mass 10AM  
Oct 8 Thanksgiving Holiday  
Oct 10 School Council 6PM  
Nov 1 Photo retake day  
Nov 6 Progress Reports go home

School Council is still looking for a few volunteers to help with the Thanksgiving Luncheon. Please contact Nikki Crenna at [pecsgpc@gmail.com](mailto:pecsgpc@gmail.com) if you can help out. Donations continue to be very important. Stock pots are also needed at this time.

## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

### Did you know?

Research tells us that missing just 10% (2 days a month) can have a drastic impact on school achievement !



## FUN FRENCH FACTS

### DID YOU KNOW?

Canada's largest francophone community outside of Quebec is Ontario! The Franco-Ontarian community has over 400 years of history, starting when Samuel de Champlain explored Ontario in 1615. Over 612,000 francophone people celebrate Franco-Ontarian Day on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

[Bit.ly/2OR9MCG](http://bit.ly/2OR9MCG)

*Encourage your child to be a lifelong learner of French!*

Cut and paste this link into your browser for the Parish Bulletin

<http://stgregoryparish.ca/publications/weeklybulletin.pdf>

# *School Council* **WELCOME MESSAGE**

2018-2019 PARENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

I'm pleased to introduce the 2018-2019 Executive Members for the St. Gregory Parent Council:

Chair: Nikki Crenna      Vice-Chair: Todd Lichti  
Treasurer: Jen Blakely      Secretary: Jessika Daley-Leavitt

I'm Nikki, Council Chair for this year.

I have two kids at this school. I've been a member of the Parent Community at St. Gregs for 4 years. My goal as Chair has been and continues to be to give everyone a voice. Everyone has a place to speak here. I want to encourage parent engagement and inclusion at this school. I want to make it easy for people to contribute. I am here because I believe parent involvement matters. I am here because I want to support my child's educators in giving our children the best educational experience they can. I could sit here and spout all of the statistics and studies that illustrate parent engagement results in kids who are more motivated, more interested, and more involved, but the proof is in our kids.

We have a real opportunity to foster a community at this school. I like knowing my kids are spending their days (a significant portion of their young lives, at that) with other kids that I know. I know their parents. If my kid runs into trouble, and I can't be there, I want to know that someone they trust is - and that it's someone I trust. That's the kind of community I want for my kids. I want them to see a mother who cares about their education, their environment, their community. That's the kind of behaviour I want to model for them.

I think parent involvement is important, but I can't force other people to adopt that perspective. I can't make anyone show up or participate. But, I can articulate my appreciation for you for doing just that. I recognize that we're all busy. We're exhausted, and worn out, and spent. Between the kid's commitments, our own obligations, and just getting some downtime in, it is difficult to find the motivation to "show up". And that's what I want to take a minute and recognize. You showing up, in whatever way you can. Thank you for that. I hope you attend a meeting. Your voice matters, here. We want you at the table.

## **THANKSGIVING LUNCH**

Our Thanksgiving lunch is scheduled for Thursday, October 4. This event is organized by Parent Council and takes place at the Picton Arena. We look forward to continuing this much-loved tradition and would like to thank everyone for their contributions and volunteer efforts.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Our next meeting will include discussion about the 2018-2019 fundraising goals and objectives. You don't want to miss it!

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Your fundraising efforts have provided the school with a much-needed dishwasher in the kitchen, an upgraded sound system, theatre productions, and field trips for the students. Thank you for your contributions and support!

## **HAVE A VOICE, JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

St. Gregory Parent Council is looking for your feedback. We'd love to hear your thoughts. Join the conversation! You can find us online on Facebook. The group address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pecsgpc/>

As always, if you have any concerns or questions or thoughts you'd like to address with Parent Council, feel free to email the Parent Council email address: [pecsgpc@gmail.com](mailto:pecsgpc@gmail.com)

Or we'd love to see you at our next meeting - Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at 6 pm at the school! Kids are welcome.

**Nut Allergies**

A crucial, possibly life-threatening reminder to parents is that we do have students in our school who have severe peanut allergies. Please refrain from sending food items to school that contain nuts. While this may seem simple, there are many foods where peanuts or nuts may be a hidden ingredient and so it is very important that you read labels. We realize this request poses an inconvenience for you when packing your child's lunch. However, the parents of these students wish to express sincere appreciation for your support and understanding of this potentially life-threatening allergy.

**Safe Arrival & Departure**

Students arriving or departing by personal motor vehicle during posted bus loading zone times (7:45-8:30am and 2:00-2:45pm) should be dropped off/picked up on Church Street. Vehicles stopping and pedestrians crossing Owen street through bus lanes during the posted times is distracting to bus operators and unsafe. Pedestrians needing to cross Owen Street or Church Street can do so at the intersection of these two streets. A staff member is posted there during peak periods at the beginning and end of the day. Nothing is more important to us than the safety of your children.

**Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

It is important to check your children's hair for head lice and nits (eggs) as part of your weekly routine. If we all take the time to check (and treat) now, it will minimize the number of cases. Also please remind your child(ren) not to share combs, brushes or hats. Thanks for your co-operation. If you would like more information about what to look for and how to treat lice go to our school's website we have posted a brochure that is very helpful. Thank you

**Unscheduled Student Pickup**

The end of the school day is a very busy time. If you are picking up your child, please send a note to the classroom teacher. This will avoid miscommunications and missed connections. Daily routines are very important to the learning environment. Numerous phone calls and drop ins at the office after 2 PM, from parents expecting to have their children paged are very disruptive to classes. **Please try to contact the school by noon to schedule pickups. Remember that the school day ends at 2:25 PM.**

**Bus Delays & Cancellations**

Search for notices or sign up to be notified by email if your bus is running late or has been cancelled at <http://triboard.ca/>

**Home Baked Goods in the School for Sharing**

Occasionally, some classrooms have special events or celebrations, and parents are invited to send in food items to be shared. Food to be shared within the school community must be prepared in an commercial setting. This means we may not bring in home baked goods to share with classmates. When bringing in a commercially produced item to share, such as a tray of squares from Sobeys, be sure to consult with the classroom teacher well in advance. Arrangements can also be made to access our school/parish kitchen for food preparation with your child's classroom teacher.

**Sacramental Preparation**

**Our Staff work with Fr. Chisholm and our Parish partners to prepare our students for First Communion/Reconciliation (grade 2), and Confirmation (grade 7 & 8 every other year). Children must have a Baptismal certificate on file at the Parish in order to receive these Sacraments. Please ensure that we have this by the end of September. Baptismal preparation may be offered to students requiring it. Please contact the school or Parish office if you would like to have your child baptised or if you have any questions regarding your child's eligibility to receive the Sacraments. The Rite of Christian initiation for adults is also offered through the Parish.**

**If you have already expressed interest in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism for your child, expect to be contacted shortly after Thanksgiving.**

**Please Remember to Sign in when visiting the school!**

As we start this new school year, please remember to come to the office and sign-in when visiting the school. Our secretary will be happy to call your son/daughters classroom to have them come to the office and meet you. This is a safe schools policy to insure the safety of our children. Thank you for your co-operation.