

St. James Major Catholic School Newsletter September 2017



"I by my works, will show you my faith."

St. James Major Catholic School Mission

``Guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission at St. James Major is to instill the joy of life-long learning while encouraging our development as contributing members of the community``.

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Lori Bryden
Principal: Mr. Kevin Douglas
Secretary: Mrs. Debra Robinson
Superintendent: Ms. Terri Slack

Parish Priest: Father Cyprian Ihedoro
Trustee: Mrs. Wendy Procter

Welcome Back

Dear God,

You are truly great, and have created all things out of love and goodness.

In this new school year, help me to always honour myself as Your beloved child ~ one who loves and respects others, as You love and respect me.

Teach me to live in the Spirit of Jesus who showed respect and reverence for all.

Amen

Welcome to another great school year at St. James Major Catholic School! We extend a special welcome to our new students, families, staff and parish priest who are joining us this year.

Thanks to the exceptional work by our caretaker, Mr. Angelo DiCintio, our school looks amazing! Thanks also to Mrs. Debra Robinson and all staff for their preparations to get us ready for the new school year.

Our school is blessed with the strong partnership with parents, the spiritual guidance of Father Cyprian and the support of our Catholic School Trustee, Mrs. Wendy Procter.

Our ALCDSB Director, Mr. Jody DiRocco, reminds us that "Catholic schools in the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board inspire and nurture strong communities of faith, engaged communities of learning and compassionate communities of service." *Reverence, Respect and Relationship* will continue to form the foundation upon which our Catholic school system is built, and each day we continue to look to see the face of Jesus Christ in those we encounter in our lives.

We look forward to a great year of learning and growing in faith.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Lori Bryden



Sept. 6— Picture Day

Sept. 14—Fire Safety Drill

Sept. 15—Gr. 6-8 Trip to Frink Centre

Sept. 20— Catholic School Council 5:00 pm

Sept. 21— International Day of Peace

Sept. 21— Open House and Bbque 5:30-6:30 pm

Sept. 22— Terry Fox Walk @ 1:00 pm; International Dot Day

Sept. 26—School Mass-11 am

Sept. 27— Gr. 2-5 Author Visit @St. Patrick Harrowsmith a.m.

Sept. 29— PA Day

Website: www.alcdsb.on.ca/school/jams

Email: flhpjams@alcdsb.on.ca

Twitter: @alcdsb_jams



**We are a
Peacequest
School!**

Important News



Family Information Forms:

Please fill out and return to the Office as soon as possible. We require one form per student. Please ensure that we have a complete and accurate record at the office as this is the information we rely on in the event of an emergency.

Parent/Teacher Communication:

Parents of students in Gr. JK-1 will be using the student agenda as a means of ongoing communication between school and home. Parents of students in Gr. 2-8 will have the option of using the agenda or the RemindApp as a form of communication.

If you would like to discuss daily progress or have questions about your child, please contact the teacher to set a time to meet.



School Messages:

Any changes in your child's regular bus or pick up routine should be relayed to the office either in your child's agenda or by phone as soon as possible. Ms. Robinson is in the office on Mon. Wed. and Fri. On the other days, a message may be left on the answering machine which is checked a couple of times throughout the day. Messages received after 2:00 p.m. may not be retrieved until the following day. To ensure that changes to bussing routine is received, please call and speak to a staff member.

Signing In and Signing Out



A sign in/out sheet is in the main foyer for parents/guardians to sign in their child when they are arriving late and sign out when they are picking up their child early. ***Parents/guardians are asked to please ensure that staff know that the child has arrived or is being picked up.***

Milk Orders and Hot Lunch Program:



Milk will be available for purchase again this year beginning September ---12th. Order forms will be sent home this week. Please complete the information and return the form to the school in order to place an order for your child(ren).

We are looking for your input as to what kind of hot-lunch you would like your children to have this year. Please complete the survey information which will be sent home the first week of school.



EcoSchool News

We have continued to be a **Gold** EcoSchool! Thanks to Mr. Veryzer and his students for their work. We will be working harder this year to be even more environmentally friendly.

Boomerang Lunches



To reduce the amount of garbage collected at the end of each day, we invite staff and students to bring their lunches in reusable containers and to take home any garbage accumulated during lunch and snack.



Special thanks to Mrs. Nancy Miller for maintaining our gardens this summer!

Electronic Newsletter



Families have the option of receiving the school newsletter electronically. This will assist us in our goal to reduce the amount of paper used as part of our on-going efforts as an Eco School.

Please complete the form and return it to the school as soon as possible.

The monthly newsletter will continue to be posted on the school's website as well.

WEATHER STATION! St. James Major now has its own weather station! Thanks to Dr. Charlotte Macalister and funding from the Ministry of Education. If you are interested in knowing the weather in Sharbot Lake go to:

<http://www.theweatherlink.com/user/stjamesmajor/indexphp?view=summary&headers=1>

St. James Major Catholic School Staff 2017-2018

Welcome to our new staff and those staff returning this school year:

Gr. K-1 Teacher— Ms. Mary Wringe

Gr. 2-5 Teacher— Mrs. Colleen Veryzer

Gr. 6-8 Teacher— Mr. Michael Veryzer

Youth Worker— Ms. Jessica Biggs

Educational Assistant— Kaycee Mattice

Secretary and Library Resource— Debra Robinson

Custodian— Mr. Angelo DiCintio



St. James Major's School Schedule

8:10 Buses arrive/Recess

8:25 Instructional Time

10:25 Recess

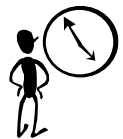
10:40 Instructional Time

11:20 Recess and Lunch

12:00 Instructional Time

2:20 Recess

2:35 Dismissal



~Safe Arrival Program~

Every School Day Counts

Parents/guardians are asked to call the school at **613-279-3300** whenever your child will be late or absent. A message may be left at any time on the answering machine. Please indicate your child's name, grade, teacher and your name. If no call is received, staff will use the contact information provided to locate the child or the parent regarding the absence.

Morning Supervision

Supervision of students begins at 8:10 a.m. each morning. Parents who are dropping off their children are asked to do so after this time. Students will go directly to the playground and will enter the school at 8:25 a.m. from the playground.



**A Self-Directed,
Responsible,
Lifelong Learner**

A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.

The **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations** provide both a vision and a practical tool to insure that the treasures of our Catholic faith and tradition properly inspire all that we do in our schools.

In September, we will focus on CGE 4: A Self-Directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner.

"I set goals and use my God-given talents and gifts to reach them."



Electronic Devices



Cell phones and other electronic devices must be powered off and kept in backpacks during school hours, unless with staff consent for instructional purposes. Students will have access to the school telephone in the event of an emergency. Handheld electronic games and iPods are not permitted on the school yard. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged electronic devices.

Fire Safety and School Lockdown Drills

Over the next few weeks classes will be practicing fire drills and lockdown drills.



Medication and Medical Information Forms



It is important that the school is aware if your child has a severe medical condition. School staff may only administer medication to students with written authorization from the parent/guardian **and** the prescribing physician. New forms for this school year will be sent home in the first week of school. If your child has medical needs, please contact the school to discuss these needs.



Anaphylaxis: If your child has allergies, please ensure that the medical form has been completed and returned to the office.

Transportation Safety



Parents must communicate in their child's agenda if it is necessary that the child ride a different bus. Staff will then complete the **Bus Permission Form**.

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. Parents can assist us immeasurably by being aware of the regulations and making sure your children understand and follow them. Our partners at Triboard remind us that **riding the bus is a privilege**. More information about busing may be found at www.triboard.on.ca

During the month of September, we will be practicing proper safety as it relates to busing.

PURPLE BAND PROGRAM

Junior and Senior Kindergarten students can participate in the **Purple Band Program** instituted by Tri-Board Transportation. *The Purple Equals Parents Program* is a quick, safe, effective safety measure for kindergarten students. Students place a purple band on the handgrip of their backpack to let bus drivers know that someone will be at the bus stop to meet them. Additional information and purple bands will be sent home with students.

Catholic School Council



St. James Major Catholic School is blessed to have a very active Catholic School Council. Our Catholic School Council plays an important role in our school community as they work closely with staff and parish to support our children in all aspects of their school experience. All parents are invited to the meetings and are encouraged to become involved.

Our first Catholic School Council meeting will be held on **Wed. Sept. 20 at 5:00 pm**. Our yearly election for executive positions on our Catholic School Council will be held at this meeting.



St-James Major Parish Information

We welcome Father Cyprian Ihedoro, our new parish priest. Father Cyprian was a parish priest in the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall and was the former Vicar General and Regional Superior of the Congregation of the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy.

Father Cyprian will be visiting our classes on a weekly basis. One class each week will attend mass on Tues. at 11 a.m. and the whole school population will attend mass together once a month.



Mass Times for September

Tuesday @ 11:00 am & Sunday @ 8:45 am

JOIN US FOR OUR SCHOOL MASSES!

FIRST SCHOOL MASS IS SEPTEMBER 26 AT 11:00 A.M.

Support Catholic Education Today

To register, check, or change your *Direction of School Support Designation* contact **The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board** at 613-354-2255 or visit voterlookup.ca

Volunteers St. James Major welcomes volunteers, as their work enriches our community. Volunteers can assist with a host of activities. In compliance with Board policy, all volunteers must have a valid police check (Criminal Background Check) and Vulnerable Sector Check completed and presented in its original format. Confidentiality agreements will also be signed at the office.

Mrs. Robinson will now be at St. James Major on Mon. Wed. and Fri. all day. Afternoons are designated as Library Resource Days. We have been blessed to have Linda Chappel categorizing all of our library books for us. Thanks Mrs. Chappel!

Amber's Legacy

Grad 8 Graduate Amber Minutillo wanted to leave something behind for students to enjoy as she leaves St. James Major for Grade 9 at Holy Cross CSS. Amber planned and organized new playground games which she painted on the pavement. This is Amber's legacy.

Good luck to our graduates: Amber, Hailey and Tierra. We will miss you!

