**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!**

**Vice-Principal’s Welcome Message:**

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I am thrilled to be joining the Sacred Heart, Wolfe Island, community as a new Vice-Principal. I look forward to learning and growing along with your children!

To this new role, I bring 12 years of experience, teaching students from grade 3 to 8, across three different schools in ALCDSB. I am also a mom to three wonderful kids, myself! A core belief of mine is that ALL students can learn. Further to this, I believe that in this rapidly changing world, although we can’t predict the jobs and opportunities that will await our students upon graduation, what we can and must do is create environments for learning where students develop the core competencies, essential knowledge and skills, and self-confidence to excel at whatever awaits them. I look forward to working with the school community to support the design and implementation of learning opportunities that are equitable, engaging and innovative, and that result in high achievement for all of our students.

The role of Catholic schools, as the Pastoral Letter from our Ontario Bishops, “Renewing the Promise” (2018) reminds us, is to “provide the good soil each school day for the roots of faith to grow in our students” and to “keep Jesus at the centre” of our school community and our lives. Through a strong home-school-parish-community network, we will strive to nurture a strong community of Catholic faith where students grow in faith and are supported to become all that God knows and hopes them to be.

As we embrace our board theme “I by my works, will show you my faith” (James 2:18), students will have opportunities throughout the year to grow in their capacity as collaborative contributors, who find meaning, dignity and fulfilment in work that contributes to the common good, and exercise Christian leadership in the achievement of individual and group goals.

As a life-long Kingston resident (and hockey mom!), I know I have already crossed paths with many families, and I am looking forward to meeting many new faces in the days and weeks ahead! Please don’t hesitate to contact me at the school for any reason. Most of all, I look forward to meeting and working with your children, and to a fantastic year ahead at Sacred Heart!

Sincerely,

Laurie Day

Vice-Principal

**Monthly Mass:**

Our first school mass of the year is Wednesday, September 11th at 1:00 p.m. with Fr. de Souza. Please join us if you can!

**Fire Drills**

Each year, schools are required to conduct at least 6 fire drills during the school day. Dates for September fire drills will be sent home shortly!

**Peanut/Nut Safe School**

Sacred Heart is a peanut/nut safe school! We have community members who are severely allergic to peanuts and nut products (a life-threatening reaction will occur). We are asking for your assistance by not sending nuts or peanut ingredient snacks or lunches to school. Thank-you!

**Open House**

Our Open House “Kick-Off” event is scheduled for **Thursday, September 12th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.!** Classroom/school visits 5:30 – 6:30; Parents/teachers vs. students soccer game 6:30 – 7:00. More information will follow closer to the event!

**Catholic School Council**

Catholic School Council is a forum through which parents/ guardians and other members of our school community can contribute to improve student achievement and well-being. The Sacred Heart Catholic School Council is a dynamic and integral part of this school community. The Catholic School Council will meet on a regular basis and all meetings are open to parents/guardians from our school community. All meeting dates will be announced in our monthly newsletter. Please look for our School Council table during the Open House on September 12th in order to learn more. **Our first Catholic School Council meeting of the year will be Monday, September 23rd. All are invited and welcome to attend!**

**Staff**

Please join me in welcoming returning and new staff!

Nienke Hoedeman – Principal

Laurie Day – Vice-Principal/ Special Education Resource Teacher

Nicole Chown – Administrative Assistant and LRA

Sherry Payne – Custodian

Danielle McCarron – Kindergarten

Nicole LaPrairie – Grade 1-4

Frances Sherriff – Grade 5-8

Kathy Cornfield – Educational Assistant

Selena Benevides – FSL Teacher

Judy Gladstone – Itinerant Arts Teacher

Mrs. Leeman – Lunch Supervisor

Fr. Raymond de Souza – Pastor

**Student Agendas**

Student agendas have been ordered however they are unfortunately late arriving! Students and families are asked to use notebooks (provided) in the meantime and we will send home agendas as soon as they arrive!

**Schedule:**

8:20 **–** Morning Supervision

8:35 – School Begins

10:35 – First Recess

11:40 – 12:30 – Lunch

2:40 – Last Recess

2:55 - Dismissal

**School Website**

Families are encouraged to access our school website at <https://www.alcdsb.on.ca/School/shrt> to learn about what is happening at Sacred Heart. We will refresh feature stories regularly and include notices about upcoming events. Please also visit our site to sign up to receive our monthly newsletter by email!

**Digital Portfolios (Freshgrade)**

Ontario’s Ministry of Education has implemented an education and career/life planning program for Ontario schools to create pathways to success for all students. It is designed to help students achieve their personal goals and become competent, successful and contributing members of society. Again this year, students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will continue to create a digital portfolio using FreshGrade, an online portfolio application that students and staff will use to upload learning artifacts to share with families. FreshGrade is currently in the process of upgrading its platform to *FreshGrade Next*, which should be available to parents and students in the coming days. Additional software improvements will continue to be rolled out this fall and more information will follow at this time!

**Students Receiving Medication** Forms for any pupils receiving medication during the school day must be completed and returned prior to medication being administered at school. This also includes EpiPens and inhalers. Please contact the school secretary if you require additional copies. If we are unaware of your child’s medical needs, please let us know as soon as possible. We require Parent/Guardian signed authorization and a Physician’s statement for **each school year.** Thank you for your co-operation.

**School Cash Online **

Sacred Heart is pleased to announce that we will continue to offer School Cash Online, which provides you with the convenience of paying online for school items such as milk and hot lunch. School Cash Online is a great way to pay without the need for cash or cheques. Please follow the link below to register online – it takes less than five minutes! Once you have registered your child, you will be able to see when they have a new item posted online for purchase. You also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school expense due, so you don’t have to worry about missing the deadline. To register: https:// schoolcashonline.com/Home .Thank you!

**Drop off/Pick-up/Visitors to the School**

As part of a Ministry of Education initiative to help us provide a safe environment for your children, all doors to the school, including the front door, will remain locked. All visitors to the school are required to ring the buzzer at the front door. Visitors are required to sign in at the office and wear a Visitor’s Tag while in the school. The visitor log book must be signed upon entry/exit to the school. Thank-you!

**Safe Arrival & Signing In/Out at the Office**

Parents/Guardians are reminded to call the school to let us know if your child will be absent or late on any particular school day. If your son/daughter is late for school, please sign him/her in at the office. If your child has an appointment and needs to leave early, please sign him/her out at the office. Thank-you!

**Criminal Background Checks for Parent Volunteers**

The Board requires that parent volunteers provide a Criminal Background Check that is current (within 3 years). Working with children requires a Vulnerable Sector Check, which can take a significant amount of time. If you anticipate that you would like to serve as a volunteer in our school, or be a chaperone for a school activity or field trip, you are encouraged to initiate the process as soon as possible in anticipation of a possible delay. Thank you in advance!

**Other Upcoming Events:**

**Terry Fox -** September 24th

**PA Day (Health and Safety/School Improvement)** – September 27th

**Picture Day -** October 23th

**Follow us on Twitter:** @alcdsb\_shrt



“Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit.”

* Pope Francis