**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!**

**Vice-Principal’s Welcome Message:**

Welcome to the 2020-21 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 child/children!

To this new role, I bring 18 years of experience with the ALCDSB. Through the years, I have taught at St Martha and St John XXIII Catholic Schools and was also a Numeracy Special Assignment Teacher. I am also a mom to two wonderful kids, Olivia and Nolan! 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’s pastoral theme, “All Are Welcome in This Place”, all families are reminded that everyone in the community are welcomed with open arms to our school and should feel safe and included, just as Jesus did with everyone He encountered in the Gospels.

As a long-time 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,

Amy Cuthbert-Brown

Vice-Principal

**Return to School Plan**

-Masks are mandatory for ALL students and staff. Please send in extra in case they are broken or lost.

-Teachers will inform you about school supplies that are needed.

-Students will eat lunch in own classroom and will be staggered when exiting and entering the school for recesses.

-Please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. You will be called and asked to come and pick him/her up if showing signs of sickness.

-We are attempting to keep the day running as normal as possible. Please be patient and flexible as we try out our plan and make alterations, as required.

**Monthly Mass**

Mass will be on hold for now. Teachers will be conducting classroom formal prayer and liturgical gatherings.

**Tick Checks and Sunscreen**

Students will be spending lots of time outside this year. We will have them complete tick checks at school, but please also conduct thorough ones at home. We suggest that you apply sunscreen on your child before leaving home in the morning.

**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.

**Open House**

On hold

**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. **Our first Catholic School Council meeting of the year will be taking place VIRTUALLY on Monday,**

**September 28th at 6:00. All are invited and welcome to attend! Please let Mrs Cuthbert-Brown know if you would like to attend so she can send you an invite virtually!**

**Staff**

Please join me in welcoming returning and new staff!

Nienke Hoedeman – Principal

Amy Cuthbert-Brown – Vice-Principal/ Special Education Resource Teacher/Itinerant Arts Teacher

Nicole Chown – Administrative Assistant

Sherry Payne – Custodian

Pascal DiRocco – Kindergarten/1

Nicole LaPrairie – Grade 2-4

Fran Sherriff – Grade 5-8

Kathy Cornfield – Educational Assistant

Selena Benevides – FSL Teacher

Jessica Biggs-Child and Youth Worker

Mrs. Williams – Lunch Supervisor

Fr. Raymond de Souza – Pastor

**Student Agendas**

Student agendas will be used for communication between home and school. Please check it daily for notes and paperwork.

**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!

**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.**

**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, when they become available for purchase again. 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

**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 will remain locked. All visitors to the school are required to ring the buzzer at the front door.

A staff member will greet you, since we will NOT have any visitors coming inside the school. If you require a meeting with a staff member, it must be pre-arranged. Anyone entering the school for a meeting is required to complete a Covid checklist, sign in and wear a mask.

**Safe Arrival**

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.

**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. **Unfortunately the school is not accepting volunteers or going on any trips for the time being.**

**Other Upcoming Events:**

**PA Day September 25th**

**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