

St. Carthagh Catholic School Newsletter



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

Website: www.alcddb.on.ca/school/cart

September 2020

Staff

Mrs. Heather Healey	Principal
Mrs. Nicole Boyce	JK/SK
Mr. Riley Allen	JK/SK
Mrs. Amanda Coates	Gr. 1/2
Ms. Nettie Robertson	Gr. 1/2
Mrs. Jill DeMille	Gr. 3
Mrs. Michelle Campbell	Gr. 4/5
Miss Rachel Weir	Gr. 6/7
Mr. Arthur Allore	Gr. 7/8
Mr. Riley Allen	SERT
Mr. Denis Francoeur	FSL
TBD	Arts
Ms. Lynne Gunter	ECE
Mrs. Liz Sagriff	EA
Mrs. Angela McGuire	EA
Mrs. Karen Vilneff	EA
TBD	LRA
Ms. Amber Hudson	CYW
Mrs. Connie Lessard	Administrative Assistant
Mr. Roger Brenay	Custodian
Mr. John Wighthouse	Custodian

Daily Time Schedule

School Entry	9:20
Recess K-3	10:40-11:20
Recess 4-8	11:40-12:20
Lunch K-3	12:00-12:40
Lunch 4-8	12:20-12:40
Recess 4-8	2:00-2:20
Dismissal	3:40

IMPORTANT-Self Screening

Parents have the responsibility to self-screen students for symptoms of COVID-19, common cold, influenza and any other respiratory illness each day prior to arriving at school. Please see attached the required daily Self-Assessment for COVID-19 tool.

Principal's Message

We can't wait to see you in just a few short days! For those of us who are participating in the Remote Learning program, we will miss you and look forward to seeing you again soon!

Just a reminder that students in SK-3 will start on Thursday, September 3rd and students in 4-8 will start on Tuesday, September 8th. First year kinders have been notified with their start dates as well!

Although our school day periods are varied to allow for proper sanitation of classrooms, we will be following the same procedures for start and end of day. Bus lines will be used with added physical distancing measures. **Arrival for students after 9am will be supervised.** In special circumstances, students who are here before this will need to go to the front door of the school and buzz the office. Please call the office ahead of time in this situation. Students will be required to go to their outdoor classroom cohort zones upon arrival which will be clearly marked. Staff will assist with this as well. At the end of the day, please arrive **no earlier than 3:40pm** in the parking lot with a pick-up at the front steps. **Please stay in your car.** Younger walkers can be met by parents on the sidewalk in front of the school. **We ask that you do not come onto the property at this time as we will be using all space to socially distance our students in these two lines.**

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 JK-8 wear masks when riding the school bus and indoors. 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 will be using designated bags / holders for masks when students

go outside so that they can wear in the halls and then take off to play.

We are so excited to see everyone! Together is Better #nearandfar

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. Information will be added as it occurs so check us out often. Emergency correspondence will continue to be sent home with students.

Elementary Student Information Forms

Due to COVID 19 we are trying to send as little paperwork between home and school as possible. Therefore, Student Information Form and Freedom of Information Form for each of your children attending St. Carthagh's will be emailed to you directly. **Please respond with any corrections/changes by September 18th.** This form contains important information for parental contact in case of emergency.

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, credit card or e-wallet. To register please go to: <https://alcddb.schoolcashionline.com>.

Student Accident Insurance

Parents who wish to purchase student accident insurance should visit www.alcdsb.on.ca . Select Parents/Community, select Student Accident Insurance. If you have any questions please call us.

School Council Meeting

The first **VIRTUAL** meeting of the 2020-2021 school year will be held on September 24th at 6:30 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.

Anticipated Increase in Bus Delays

Tri-Board anticipates a higher than normal number of delays and/or cancellations at the start of the school year due to COVID-19 isolation-related bus driver absences. As with any other bus delay/cancellation, notices will be posted to our website and pushed to anyone subscribed by email or through the BusPlanner app. Please see the Delays and Cancellations tab on triboard.ca. This is the most efficient method for communicating real-time bus delays and/or cancellations throughout the school year.

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 . You may check your child's bus by using his or her OEN (Ontario Education Number) which can be found on their Report Card.

School Mass

We are not able to gather for School Mass at this time.

Milk & Pizza Weekly Program

At this time we are not able to provide any food programs within the school.

Food for Learning

At this time we are not able to provide any food programs within the school.

Peanuts are Welcome!

At this time St. Carthagh will allow 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. If a student does not follow this rule the phone will remain with Mrs. Healey until a parent can pick up.

St. Carthagh Twitter

Please follow us on twitter as staff will be posting regularly, [@alcdsb_cart](#)

Safe Arrival/Dismissal

At this time no 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 on the yard prior to 9:00 so students should not enter the 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.

September 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labour Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 First Day of Autumn	23	24 VIRTUAL School Council Meeting 6:30	25 PA Day	26
27	28	29	30			

St. Carthagh Catholic School

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September 3, 2020

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-Dewey
Superintendent of School Effectiveness

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. (***Please note that due to the current physical distancing requirements we plan to review the required drills verbally and plan for the practice of drills at a later date upon recommendation of Public Health and the Fire Marshall.***)

I invite you to attend our School Council meeting scheduled for @ 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

COVID-19

Screening Tool

Parents and caregivers should review the following checklist with their child before sending them to school each day.

Does your child have any of the following:

**Fever
37.8°C or higher**



**New or
worsening cough**



**Shortness
of breath**



**Sore throat,
trouble swallowing**



Runny nose



**Loss of taste
or smell**



Not feeling well



**Nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea**



Not related to seasonal allergies or other known conditions

E.g., chills, fatigue, pink eye, lack of appetite



In the past 14 days, has the child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

Yes
 No



Have you or your child returned from travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

Yes
 No



If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, stay home and self-isolate right away. Call your health care provider or go to an assessment centre to find out if you need a COVID-19 test.