

St. John XXIII Catholic School

September, 2017

Welcome Back!!

**Act Justly
Love Tenderly
Walk Humbly
Learn Joyfully
With our God**

A Prayer « And So They Come To Us »



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And so they come to us-
The speeding summer gone-
With faces mirroring their past.
Some show remembrance of last June,
And some of yesterday, or of this morning-
For no child comes to school alone.
Each comes with hopes, and fears, and dreams.
Each comes with memory of home-
The mother's kiss and father's fond embrace.
Or grim reality of emptiness.
Some parents have no time to wave goodbye;
And so they come to us-
With laughter and with tears,
The sturdy strong and woeful weak,
The members of the throng
Who look and act alike-
Their dress and manners of a kind-
Yet each a separate mind and soul,
Unlike whatever was before in all of time.
They come to greet the world,
To seek life out,
To find their own identity in space.
And so they come to us-
And we reach out to them
With understanding and with love.
We share the sacred trust we hold,
Yet know that each of us
Must somehow stand alone
With every child in turn
To help each see, and hear, and feel.
Our children come to learn
The way to truth-
And so they come to us.



2017-2018- Staff

M. Gagne.....JK / SK
R. Watts.....SK / SK
L. DupelGrade 1
B. Whalen.....Grade 2
V. Barnes.....Grade 3
L. Limoges..... Grade 3/4
B. Carrigg.....Grade 4/5
K. Carlin-Adam.....Grade 5/6
C. CourneyeaGrade 6/7
P. WatsonGrade 8
B. HicksI.A.T.
J. Spooner.....Spec. Ed.
E. Sheahan..FSL
C. Prior.....FSL
L. Lodge...Youth Worker
S. Ouellette.....Custodian
T. Davison.....Custodian
D. Archambault.....E.A.
P. Delaney.....E.A.
J. Day.....E.A.
L. Legros.....E.A.
T. Daniel.....E.A.
C. Utom.....E.A.
K. JoyceE.C.E.
A. Kenny...Secretary
D. Dodge.....Principal

Joseph Manch

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! I trust that the summer months have given families an opportunity to enjoy holidays to rest and break the routines associated with school. I look forward to meeting the new families who make up the wonderful school community of St. John XXIII Catholic School.

Thank you to our custodians Sandra and Ted, who have worked all summer to make our school shiny and clean for students and staff to return to. Thank you to the Teaching and Support Staff who have been in during August to prepare classrooms as well as engaging lessons to begin the school year. Finally, a big Thank You to Parents/Guardians for helping their children prepare for back to school as well as helping to manage the excitement that comes with this time of year. Soon, firm routines will settle over both school and home.

We would like to welcome the new staff members who will be joining our school community this school year. Please refer to the updated staff list in this newsletter. As mentioned earlier, I am looking forward to getting to know you and working with your children. I will make a regular habit of visiting classrooms frequently to get to know all of the children.

**You are cordially invited to our
Open House on Tuesday, September 26th from 6—7 p.m.**

Sincerely,
David Dodge
Principal

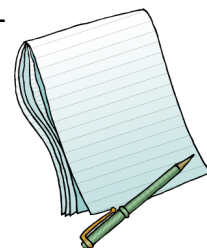
NEXUS

St. John XXIII is pleased to welcome the NEXUS program to the school community. This program is operated through a partnership with Pathways For Children and Youth of Kingston, the Algonquin and Lakeshore District School Board and the Limestone District School Board. While the NEXUS classroom, supporting 8 primary students, operates on its own schedule with designated staffing, we look forward to growing and learning together in this new school year.

Information Forms

Family Information, Health & Safety and Freedom of Information forms have been sent home last week. These forms need to be reviewed to ensure that all information is correct. It is critical that we know right away about any special medical conditions, such as bee or peanut allergies or asthma so that our staff can be prepared in the event that something happens. If it is necessary for your child to have medication at school or if you need to leave an Epipen at school for allergy purposes, Board policy requires that you and your doctor complete and submit the appropriate medical/consent forms to the school. It is also important that we have at least one alternate phone number so that we can contact you in an emergency.

We are always putting the safety of your children first and appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



Code of Conduct/ Student Agendas

All students in grade 1 to grade 8 will require a student agenda. The cost is \$8.00. Please make cheques payable to St. John XXIII Catholic School. The agendas are designed to help students with organizational skills and as a communication tool with parents. The « Code of Conduct » is included in the student agendas. The Code is based on directives from the Provincial Government and Board Policy. Please note that many sections apply to parents, visitors and staff in addition to students. Please review the code of conduct with your child and have both yourself and your child sign the acknowledgement section on page 11 of the student agenda. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Milk Program

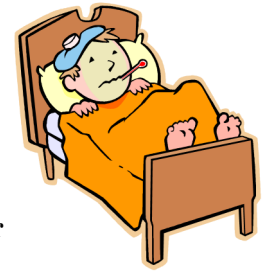
The milk order forms will be sent home this week. The cost is \$.95 per carton.



Student Illness

We do not have facilities at school to accommodate children who are ill. Whenever a child becomes ill, we will telephone home to request that someone pick him/her up. We therefore require an emergency contact number in case no one is available at home.

(Please refer to the « Family Information » form, which has been sent home.)



Student Dress

Student dress is expected to be in good taste and to be reflective of the Catholic nature of our school. This is especially relevant to tshirts and « summer » wear. Please refer to the Code of Conduct for further details. All staff will be monitoring compliance with this school and school board expectations. Students are required to have indoor and outdoor footwear. Fire Safety regulations require that students wear shoes at all times.

Educational Excursions/Field Trips

Teachers will be leading their students on educational excursions/field trips on various occasions throughout the school year. Please note our board policy stipulates that parental consent must be given and is only acceptable in written form. Please note that only students who submit signed parental consent forms will be permitted to participate in school excursions/field trips. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Terry Fox Run

Our school will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 28th. Parent volunteers are more than welcome to join us.

More details to follow.

Answering Machine

Secretarial hours are between 8:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m., Monday to Friday. If you call before or after these times, you may leave a message on the answering machine. **It is very important that you call the school if your child will not be in attendance.** A message can be left on the answering machine night or day). At times, all lines may be busy when you call during the day. In these cases the answering machine will also be engaged.



Yard Supervision

The school yard, kindergarten rooms and the bussing areas will be supervised by adults beginning at 8:45 a.m. There will be no supervision provided before 8:45 a.m. Please refrain from dropping off or sending students to school before this time. The Junior and Senior Kindergarten students go to their classrooms on arrival, all other students go directly to the school yard.



Indoor Shoes

Indoor shoes are a must for cleanliness and safety purposes. Please do your best to provide your child with a second pair of shoes. I have asked teachers to be very diligent in enforcing this requirement and so you may be hearing about it from your children. If this is an impossible request please contact me directly.

Volunteers and Criminal Background Checks

A criminal background check is mandatory for all adults having regular and direct contact with students. If you wish to volunteer in any capacity and have not yet completed this requirement please contact the Kingston Police or the O.P.P. for the necessary paperwork. A Criminal Background Check must be renewed every three years. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Nut Allergies

A crucial, possibly life-threatening reminder to parents: 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 that 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.



Lost and Found

Please take a few minutes to label your children's belongings. Last year, several bags of unclaimed belongings left this school headed for charitable organizations. This is an area that we must improve on, so please step up the pressure you put on your children to look after their belongings and we will do the same.

Teacher Contact

I encourage open and timely communication between home and school, however contacting teachers during the school day can be problematic. Please contact the office to arrange a before or after school meeting or a telephone conversation. If I can assist in any way, please contact Mr. Dodge, Principal.

School Accident Insurance Forms



You can buy School Accident Forms at
<http://www.insuremykids.com>

You are under no obligation to purchase this insurance and forms are to be sent directly to the broker. When students are injured on school premises or at school activities, the injured students and/or the parents of the injured students are primarily concerned with payment of incurred medical and dental accounts. Medical coverage is readily available to students through Student Accident Insurance. Student Accident Insurance is a valuable coverage, especially for payment of injuries sustained at school. It is important for parents to understand that the board does not provide accident insurance to cover accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expenses including dental that occur as a result of accidents during school activities. Unfortunately accidents do happen on the playground, in the gym, on school grounds, or during extracurricular activities. If the student is involved in a sports activity there may be a heightened risk of injury.

This insurance coverage may provide additional financial assistance to parents to help offset the costs incurred due to an injury incurred by their child.

Student safety and security is a large responsibility and extremely important for students well being. Thank you for your support on all of these measures as we work together to ensure safety for all during this school year.



Looking for Lego Donations

Lego donations will be accepted anytime by Miss Spooner for the schools Lego Club. Old, Used or New.

School Newsletters

This month is the only month that the newsletter will be sent out in paper form.
To access our school website and school newsletter and calendar, please follow these directions

Type in: www.alcdsb.on.ca
Click on Find a School
Click on St. John XXIII Catholic School
At the top click on Parent Info
Then Newsletters

St. John XXIII School Council

School Council Meeting

The first meeting of the year will be:

Wednesday, September 27th 7:00-8:00pm
St. John XXIII staffroom.

There is an average of 8 meetings per school year.
Everyone is welcome to attend



Who are we?

St. John XXIII School Council is made up of volunteers such as parents, teachers and our principal. These are just some of the many volunteers that help our school. The School Council's annual budget is determined by the fundraising events which are held each year. With that in mind, we have made a conscious effort to hold fun, student oriented events each year as fundraising events in lieu of traditional sales of items. We would like the focus to remain on the children's studies, athletic pursuits, and family and community involvement. These fundraisers provide many resources for our children. In order for these events to be successful, we need **HELP** from parents and the community.

How have our children benefitted from these fundraising events?

The impact of your School Council is everywhere. Your child is benefitting from:

- The climbers, picnic tables, benches and many of the trees were purchased by School Council.
- The interactive smart boards in each classroom were purchased by School Council.
- Half of the funding for the team uniforms for our students came from School Council.
- School Council provides funding in The Arts, including dance classes and art enrichment experiences for our students.

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Where does our budget come from?

Our current year's School Council budget is based on the amount of funds that were raised by the School Council from the previous year. The budget fluctuates depending on the success of fundraising events. Our 2016-17 Operating Budget was over **\$17,000.00**. This was used to provide funding for a variety of events and resources for the students that they would not otherwise receive throughout the school year.

Due to a declining number of volunteers, it has become increasingly more difficult to carry out successful fundraising events as we do not have the manpower. More volunteers are needed so

that School Council can facilitate all fundraising events. Without additional parent volunteers, School Council will not be able to provide additional funds to benefit our children, and resources will be cut from the School Council budget

What are the benefits of being part of School Council?

Whether you choose to be a member of the School Council, a classroom parent representative or an event volunteer there is a enormous benefit in knowing what is going on within your school.

School Council meetings allow parents to know what is happening in the school ahead of time through the Principal's Report, and the Teacher's Report. You will also find out about the upcoming events that the School Council is organizing.

You are given opportunities to meet and socialize with other parents from St. John XXIII.

As a member of School Council, you ***have a say*** as to how the money is raised where the money raised is spent.

We understand that everybody leads very busy lives and if being a School Council member is not your thing ***please*** at least consider volunteering for even just one event, even just for one hour. It will make an enormous difference and the effort will be greatly appreciated!

We need your help!

School Council members and parents are needed to help organize and run events. Without these volunteers, we will be unable to continue to hold these events which means that our children will no longer benefit from these resources. School events help to build a positive school environment and encourages children and families to be part of a greater community. Many students look forward to the events that School Council provides or helps to facilitate.

All our children benefit.

Without ***more help*** and support in the coming years it will become much harder to give our students this extra boost.

Please, even if you only have one hour we would truly appreciate the help! Whether it is setting up for an event, organizing or handing out hot lunches, lending a hand for Movie Night or Chapter's Book Night, the list goes on. We cannot do this alone. Help is always welcome!

'Many hands make light work.'

List of events that School Council organizes and/or provides funding for throughout the year:

Events
Welcome BBQ
Thanksgiving Hampers & Food Drive
Valentine's/Spook-A-Thon Dance
Confirmation
Movie Night
Advent Hampers & Food Drive
Lunch Box Love
Chapter's Book Night
Shrove Tuesday
Library Books
School Dance Classes for all grades
School Art Classes for all grades
First Communion
Senior Kindergarten Graduation
Grade 8 Graduation
Junior Kindergarten Open House
Pizza Lunch
Hot Lunch Program
Hot Lunch Fund for Students
Easter Hampers & Food Drive
School Yard Improvement
Track and Field ribbons
Classroom Resources for all grades
Classroom Prizes
School Community Appreciation Lunch
Fun Fair

Yes! I can help!

If you are interested in becoming part of School Council, a classroom parent representative or a volunteer for *any* of our events - **THANK YOU!**

Please fill in your information below and hand it back into the school or **EMAIL** us at: **stjohnxxiisc@gmail.com** and we will follow up with you for the upcoming school year.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Your Child's Name, Grade and Teacher:

I am interested in:

- Council Member and/or
- Classroom Parent Rep
- Helping with an Event(s):

Do you have a fundraising idea? Please let us know.

Thank you for helping to foster a positive and enriching environment for our students school community!

