

St. Martin of Tours Catholic School

Newsletter

September 6, 2022



Superintendent of School Effectiveness: Mr. Darcey French
Principal: Ms. Tara McEnery
Primary Teacher: Mrs. Rebecca Armstrong
Junior/Intermediate Teacher: Ms. Sharleen LaValley
Custodian: Mr. Adam Wannamaker
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Marta Walczak

Trustee: Dr. Peter McEnery
School Council Chair: Stacey Finch
Pastor: Father Malachy
School Phone: 613-637-2720
School Fax: 613-637-2873
OLM Phone: 613-332-3300

Principal's Welcome Message

Welcome back to school St. Martin of Tours School families! We are so very excited to be back at school with your children and are delighted to have our teaching back to a much more 'normal' state this year.

I would like to welcome our new and returning staff to the school this year! Mrs. Armstrong will be back this year and will be teaching our Kindergarten to Grade 2 students. Ms. LaValley will be joining us this year to teach the Grades 4 to 8 class. Mrs. Kirkaldy will continue to teach each class for part of the day on Tuesdays and Mrs. Fitzgerald will join us on Thursdays to teach each class for part of the day. Marta Walczak will continue to serve as our Administrative Assistant. Mr. Wannamaker will continue to serve as our custodian for both St. Martin of Tours and Whitney Public Schools. Mrs. Batchelor will return this year to serve as our Child and Youth Worker and will also be providing Speech and Language Support to our youngest learners and any other students who may require it. You may, at times, hear your child speak of other teachers who support their learning as well. Our Board has several Special Assignment teachers who support students and schools in a variety of subject areas. For example, you will likely recall Mr. Bibby, who will be back this year to offer Outdoor Education programming a few times throughout the year.

I wanted to let you know that though I will spend the majority of my time at Our Lady of Mercy School this year, I will also continue to spend time at St. Martin of Tours as I am Principal of both schools. My current plan is to head to St. Martin of Tours 1 to 2 mornings each week and return to Our Lady of Mercy for the afternoon. I will be at one of our two schools unless Board based meetings take me off site and I can be reached by phone anytime.

Please know that my door is always open, and I welcome your feedback and encourage you to come forward with any questions or concerns you may have at any time.

Looking forward to a wonderful year with your children and yourselves,
God Bless!

Tara McEnery



Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
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Mrs. Armstrong's Welcome Message

Hello and Welcome Back!

I'd like to begin by saying thank you to all of you who reached out to me, prayed for me, or kept me in your thoughts while I was on medical leave last year. Your thoughts and prayers truly meant the world to me.

I am so excited to be back at St. Martin of Tours and I am honoured to teach your children once again. We are going to have a wonderful year, filled with many adventures and learning opportunities. I can't wait to see what this year will bring!

As always, thank you to the school and parish communities for your support. I'm looking forward to working with each of you again this year!

Blessings Always,
Rebecca Armstrong

Ms. LaValley's Welcome Message

Hi everyone, I am so pleased to be the new Senior Classroom teacher this year!

Being a community member, along with being a former SMT student, makes this year very special to me.

I look forward to contributing to the success of our students and to having the most amazing year! Please feel free to contact me via email or by contacting me here at the school.
Sharleen Lavalley

slavalley@alcdsb.on.ca

"In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn".

-Collins

New Student!

We would like to extend a big warm welcome to Hollie Grace! We are so excited to have you in our school and look forward to getting to know you and watching you grow in your faith and education! May God bless you!



2021-2022 Graduates

We would like to again extend a big Congratulations to our most recent graduates Ben and Ryan! We wish you the very best in your new adventures in high school! We are so proud of all you have accomplished in your years at St. Martin of Tours, and we pray that you continue to succeed in your educational journeys. Many blessings to you and your families as you embark on this new and exciting chapter in your lives!



Upcoming Events



Our 42nd Annual Terry Fox Run is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022. We are excited that we can once again participate with Whitney Public School and run for Terry's legacy together! We will be sending pledge forms home with students, but fundraising can also be done online.

On Tuesday, September 20th, please ensure your child(ren) is/are prepared to be outside to participate in the run.

St. Martin of Tours C.S. is proud to take part in this year's 42nd Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.

Please help show your support by donating to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/StMartinofToursCESWhitney>

Little Caesars Fundraiser



Little Caesars Pizza

We are excited to announce that we are once again planning on fundraising with Little Caesars Pizza Kits! This has been a wonderful fundraiser throughout the years and is a great way to fundraise for field trips, activities and extra equipment and special supplies, etc. for our students. We thank you in advance for your participation in this fundraiser again this year and we look forward to seeing how much we can raise for our school! Information and order forms will be sent home soon! Remember, we may be small, but we are MIGHTY! Order forms will be due back to Ms. Walczak by Thursday, September 29th.

Grade 7 Immunizations



We will be sending Health Unit forms home to Grade 7 students regarding immunization that will be taking place on October 4th. Please have these filled out and back to the school by September 14th.

Picture Day!



Picture day will be held on Wednesday, September 28th. Please remember that students are to NOT wear Green as this will result in them blending into the background of the green screen. We look forward to seeing our students dress in their Sunday best!

Four Corners Camping & Glamping/Meet the Teacher BBQ



Owners of Four Corners Algonquin Camping and Glamping, Angela and John Pollack have graciously donated a night of camping to our students and families! We are so grateful for this opportunity to have a night away be donated to us! This will take place on Friday, September 30th and we will be incorporating our annual Meet the Teacher BBQ for this evening as well. We will be sending home more information soon to get numbers to the owners as soon as possible. We are looking forward to this amazing opportunity to spend with you, our SMT Family!



Formed in the Faith

2022/2023

The vision of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is that we imagine a world where every person is empowered to reach their full potential through faith and service. Our mission is the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board builds faith-filled learning communities where each member is loved, inspired, and successful. The new annual pastoral themes for the ALCDSB call us to express our faith through our vision and mission statements. Through last year's theme we focused on being valued as "*Beloved Children of God*", called to celebrate the inherent dignity of each person who is created in the image and likeness of God. We then respond to God's invitation to be "*Formed in the Faith*", seeking God, growing deeper in our relationship with God, and accompanying each other along our faith journey.

Morning Supervision

There is no staff supervision available on the yard before 8:30 a.m. (when the first bus arrives at the school). Therefore, we ask that if parents are driving their children to school that they do not drop them off before 8:30 a.m.

Important Notice for Parents Regarding Student Absences

It is important that you notify the school in the morning if your child is going to be absent. Your child's safe arrival at school is verified by Ms. Walczak by 9:00 a.m., so if you inform the school (613-637-2720) between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00a.m., this will assist us in implementing the most efficient process of confirmation of student safe arrival or absence. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please note that we are also required to report all student absences (e.g., an illness, parental permission, bereavement, medical appointment, etc.). Parents are required to call the school and/or write a note to the school explaining the reason for the absence or lateness of your child. You need not reveal any personal details, just the general reason for the absence.

Important Notice to Parents

It is imperative that you inform the school immediately whenever a change occurs in your family information (e.g., change of address, telephone number, busing information, sitter information, etc.). Also, if applicable, the school must receive copies of legal documents. **The school can only enforce child custody orders by following written court directives.**

Visits to the School

We are excited that we are allowed visitors in our school again! We ask that you sign in upon entering the building and that you report to the office to Ms. Walczak.

Nutritional Snacks



Positive self-esteem and body image, healthy eating and physical activity are fundamental to healthy development for your children as they grow. Children need snacks between meals to ensure that they consume adequate intake of food groups. **Nutritional snack examples include fruit, vegetables and yogurt dip, oatmeal cookies and milk, crackers and cheese.** Please do not send pop, sugar-based products and/or candy as snack items with your children. Many studies have identified the correlation between nutrition and academic performance. All conclude a child's academic performance is directly affected if his/her nutritional needs are not met. Learning sound nutritional habits is not merely an academic exercise. Help us put what your child learns into practice!

Medication Protocol

All medication (excluding puffers) to be taken by students during the school day must be kept in the office and administered under the supervision of an adult (usually the principal or secretary). Parents must fill out an "Administration of Medication" consent form which indicates the reason for the medication, name of drug, routine of administration, and parent's authorization for designated staff to supervise or administer medication. All medication is carefully labelled, and a log of all administered doses is kept in the office. **Medication cannot be administered until forms are completed.**

Student Health Considerations

Parents/guardians should inform the school immediately of any health issues that we should be aware of (e.g., severe allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, physical limitations, etc.).

Pediculosis (Head Lice) Control

Spring and fall are the seasons when **HEAD LICE** commonly infest school children. Head lice feed on blood and cement their eggs, commonly called nits, to strands of hair at the scalp. The nits take approximately 7-10 days to hatch. While lice are not considered a health hazard, they can, if untreated, cause problems such as infection, loss of attention and social trauma to students. Please check your child's head weekly. If you find evidence of head lice or nits, information about how to remove them is available from your **family doctor, health unit and most pharmacies.**

Indoor Shoes

All students must have indoor shoes at school to put on when they come in from the yard. Outdoor shoes/boots are taken off when they enter the school. If there is a fire drill or an emergency that requires students to evacuate, there is not time for students to put on their shoes before exiting the school.

Policy on Appropriate Use of Technology in the School

A reminder that as stated in our school's Code of Conduct, the following expectations with respect to the appropriate use of technology apply during school hours. Students are to visit only school related websites; devices will be used only if / when advised by teacher and as part of direct instruction / lesson; devices will not be used during recess or lunch time.

Bringing of Personal Items to School

As stated in our Code of Conduct Students should only bring to school items that are related to instruction. Should students choose to bring their own devices to school for instructional purposes they will assume the risk of loss, damage, and/or possible theft. Classroom teachers, in consultation with the principal and their students, will develop classroom protocols regarding the use of personal devices. Items not approved by the principal or classroom teacher will be taken and parents will be contacted.

Student Pick-Ups and Transportation Changes

If parents need to pick up their child(ren) early in the day, they MUST call ahead to the office and the office will call the classroom and have your child(ren) meet you at the front doors. Parents are encouraged to contact the office before 1:00 p.m. if possible, as the phone is only checked periodically after 1:00 p.m.

WE ASK THAT ALL CHANGES FOR TRANSPORTATION OR PICK UP BE MADE IN WRITING. Changes over the phone will be accepted in emergency situations only.



This program provides students, from age 4 to 14, with 24-hour protection of MedicAlert emergency information services at no cost. Some conditions emergency responders need to know are Anaphylaxis, diabetes, food allergies, asthma, needs Epipen, Autism, ADHD. Please contact the school for the brochure that will allow you to order a free MedicAlert bracelet/necklace.