

St. Martin of Tours Catholic School

Newsletter

September 15, 2020



Superintendent of School Effectiveness: Mr. David Giroux
Principal: Mrs. Patricia Flagler-Edwards
Vice Principal: Ms. Tara McEnery
Custodian: Mr. Adam Wannamaker
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Marta Walczak

Trustee: Dr. Peter McEnery
School Council Chair: Kelli Nicholas
Pastor: Father Malachy
School Phone: 613-637-2720
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Welcome Back Students!

Welcome back St. Martin of Tours families! We are so very excited to be back at school with your children!

The past several months have been full of uncertainty and tricky to navigate for all of us. We are delighted to have our teaching a little bit more 'normal' and to have face to face time as a community again! As you know, we have had to make many changes to our usual practices while trying to keep things as safe and comfortable as possible for your children and also ensure they are learning effectively! We are so fortunate in the amount of space we have here at St. Martin of Tours to spread ourselves out! You have probably heard that, with the exception of 'micro-cohort' groups of children under 6 years old, students are not allowed to share or handle one another's materials while indoors. Fortunately, we are very blessed at St. Martin of Tours to have access to enough materials to allow for one on one use of much individual equipment such as instruments including ukuleles, hand drums, and bucket drums as well as many physical education materials such as balls and ping pong paddles.

We have one-on-one use for i-Pads and have even been able to borrow enough LEGO robotics kits that we can have one for each student to support learning coding which is now part of the new Mathematics curriculum that was released by the Ministry of Education this summer.

I am particularly thrilled with our outdoor classroom which has been seeing improvements and additions almost every day. We know that the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses such as colds and flu is significantly reduced when people are outside and spread out, so we are planning to be out there as much as possible breathing fresh air! Please ensure that your children dress in layers and are ready for the weather. The students seem to really enjoy being outside and being able to take off their masks as long as they are warm enough. We are going to try to be out there every day!

Please know that we are working hard and doing our best to serve your children's learning needs in these challenging circumstances. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to come forward with any questions or concerns you may have at any time.

Personally, I am looking forward to a great year and want to make the most of the time we have together! I think we are very well positioned to have a very successful re-opening at this school. I keep saying to the students that we are very lucky to be here at St. Martin of Tours. There is no other school that I would rather be at this year!

God Bless!
Tara McEnery



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Welcome Back Everyone!

I am really happy to be back at school! It was so nice to see all of my students when we returned. They were missed dearly!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support during the Emergency Remote Learning experience. I know it was stressful and difficult, but I would like you to know that I appreciated all of your effort, understanding and kindness during that time.

I understand that this school year will be different and will present some challenges, but I am confident that we are going to have an amazing year. All of the staff members at St. Martin of Tours are committed to ensuring that your children are safe, comfortable and content. We will continue to work together, and with all of the students and families, to make this school year awesome!

I wanted to share our classroom door with all of you because the messages that the students wrote (completely on their own) proves that we are strong, resilient, and hopeful. We may be small, but we are definitely mighty!

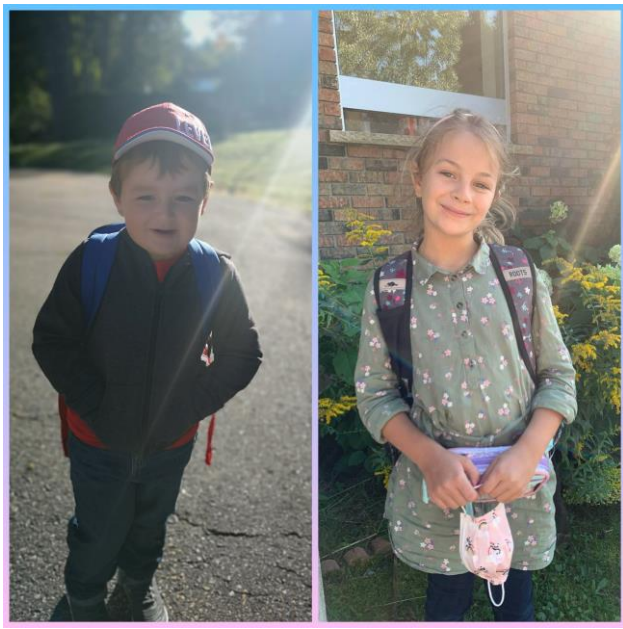
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I'm always available by phone!

Blessings Always,
Rebecca Armstrong



We are striving to have our students outdoors as much as possible to minimize the indoor classroom contact between students and staff. This also gives the students a chance to remove their face masks for some welcoming fresh air. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately to be outdoors for the day. They should dress in layers as it often warms up in the afternoon and even snow pants may be appropriate for chilly mornings.

The St. Martin of Tours C.S. is pleased to welcome our two new students Addie & Ryder to our school community.



Students enjoyed tie dying shirts in the sunshine during our first week of school!



Newsletter

We will be producing a newsletter every second Tuesday. We will keep you updated on any items that are time sensitive. We will be sending newsletters, and all other news electronically as often as possible. Please provide an e-mail address that will be checked most often to the office.

Please Note

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. Please ensure that if children have any symptoms of Covid-19, that they are reported accordingly to the school and your healthcare provider. Your child's safe arrival at school is verified by Ms. Walczak by 9:00 a.m., so if you inform her 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. Ms. Walczak will not be accepting these notifications via her personal phone. 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

Due to Covid- 19 precautions we are not able to let parents or visitors in the building at this time. It is best to call the school if you have anything to discuss or to let us know if you need to pick up your child at an earlier time, and they will meet you at the front doors.

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). **At the beginning of each school year,** 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.**

Hot Lunches, Milk Program and Healthy Snacks

At this time due to Covid-19 precautions we are not able to provide or organize any hot lunches, snack program or milk. If there are any changes made we will reinstate these programs as soon as we can as we feel they are beneficial for our students.

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 situation 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.



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 MedicAlert bracelet/necklace.

School Protocol 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 at all 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.

Due to Covid-19 we are not permitted to issue bus passes to anyone at this time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THESE SAFETY MEASURES

Upcoming Events



Our 40th Annual Terry Fox Run is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions our school run cannot be a whole school event; therefore, each class will participate with their classmates. Also, due to COVID-19 restrictions pledge forms cannot be sent home but are available at the above website.

On Wednesday, September 30, 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 40th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.

Please help show your support by donating to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/StMartinofToursCESWhitney> Students can even get involved by creating their own fundraising page under our school name:

<https://terryfox.org/schoolrun/students/>