



ST. MARTHA

Catholic School *Newsletter*



Principal: Karen Moran

Vice-Principal: Dianne LaFortune

September 2017 Newsletter

Welcome back to school after a cool and refreshing summer! We look forward to working with all families to kick off the 2017-2018 school year. A special welcome is extended to families who are new to St. Martha from across Canada and elsewhere!

Families are encouraged to access our St. Martha Catholic School website at www.alcidsb.on.ca to learn about what is happening at St. Martha. We will refresh feature stories weekly and include notices about upcoming events. We ask all families to please access our school website during the first week in September to request a monthly newsletter by entering your email address to receive monthly newsletters and notices by email. Each month we will send home a paper calendar. However, the remainder of the Newsletter will be sent electronically to your email. Alternatively, you may request a paper copy. Thank you for taking the time to complete the important task of signing up on our school's website to receive an electronic newsletter each month!

We look forward to assisting your child (ren) to reach his or her full academic, social, physical and spiritual goals, thereby experiencing success at school with your continued support.

We will have an opportunity to meet at our Welcome Back BBQ and Open House, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 21st, 2017.

As the year progresses and you would like to meet, please do not hesitate to call the Office to schedule an appointment.

Once again, we are excited about this new beginning as we embrace our Board's theme, *"I by my works, will show you my faith"* (James 2:18), with a particular focus on our 2017-18 school-wide theme of *Grace*.

Karen Moran and Dianne LaFortune
Principal and Vice-Principal

Welcome Back BBQ and Open House

Our Open House is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 21st from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Again this year, we invite all families to a BBQ before the Open House.

Members of the Knights of Columbus and St. Martha School Council have generously agreed to barbeque hot dogs. Juice boxes and cake will also be served between 5:30-6:30 p.m. As there is no cost for families to attend the BBQ, we ask families to please consider donating juice boxes or water for the BBQ, which can be dropped off to the Main Office beginning the week of September 18th. Thank you to St. Martha School Council for co-ordinating the BBQ. Looking forward to meeting families on September 21st, 2017!



Kingston Author Visit

St. Martha is pleased to participate in Kingston's Writers' Festival this fall. We look forward to hosting local author Lori

Weber, as she presents her book My Granny Loves Hockey to students in Kindergarten to Grade 3-4 on September 27th in the morning. All families are welcome to attend!

Staff List

Principal	Ms. Moran
Vice-Principal	Mrs. LaFortune
Secretary	Mrs. Jobin
Secretary	Mrs. Norwood
Caretaker	Mr. Kilminster
Caretaker	Ms. Payne
Caretaker	Mr. Ashie
FSL	Mr. Lester
FSL	Mme Dzierniejko
FSL	Mme Fil
SERT	Mrs. Levac
SERT	Mrs. LaFortune
JK/SK	Mrs. Murphy
JK/SK	Mrs. Hepburn
Grade 1-2	Mr. Pitts
Grade 1-2	Mrs. Stelter
Grade 1-2	Ms. Smallegange
Grade 2/3	Ms. Ranieri
Grade 3/4	Ms. Burns
Grade 4/5	Ms. Overvelde
Grade 4/5	Mrs. St-Jacques
Grade 4/5	Mr. Couture
Grade 5/6	Mrs. Couture
Grade 6	Mrs. Ryan
Grade 7/8	Mr. Kenney
Grade 7/8	Mr. Coulter
Grade 7/8	Mrs. McLeod
Itinerant Arts:	Ms. Jessica Williams
LRA:	Ms. Fanning
Youth Worker:	Mrs. Rowe- Ovens
ECEs:	Mrs. Greenis
	Mrs. Cabral

Educational Assistants:
Ms. Clayton, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Marques,
Mrs. Brill, Ms. Gottieb and Amanda Doyle.

Yard Supervision begins: 8:05 a.m.
School Begins: 8:20 a.m.
Recess: 10:20 – 10:40 a.m.
Lunch: 12:00 – 12:40 p.m.
Recess: 1:40 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Dismissal: 2:40 p.m.

Yard Supervision

Please note that students are welcome to come onto the yard and be received in Kindergarten classrooms beginning at 8:05 a.m. Prior to 8:05 a.m., staff are preparing classes and no supervision is provided.

Monthly Mass

Our first Mass will take place for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 on Friday, September 15th in the Gym at 9:15 a.m. with Fr. Wes. Please join us if you can.



Digital Portfolios

Ontario’s Ministry of Education has implemented an education and career/life planning program for Ontario schools to create pathways to success for all students. It is designed to help students achieve their personal goals and become competent, successful and contributing members of society. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will continue to create a digital portfolio using [FreshGrade](#), an online portfolio application that students and staff will use to upload learning artifacts to share with families.



The artifacts will serve to start a conversation with families about their child’s learning and to eventually offer feedback to children about their learning and interests. Throughout the 2017-18 school year, we will be using this tool to share student learning with families. We look forward to learning and sharing together. If you are new to the school or new to the electronic portfolio, please watch for additional information and a Consent Form to come home mid-September. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school. Parents who signed the consent last year are not required to sign the consent again. Only first time St. Martha

students will be given a consent form to have parents sign and return to school. Thank you for your attention to this important detail.

Student Agendas

Today all children in Kindergarten to Grade 8 have received a Student Agenda. The Agendas have proven to be a useful communication tool between home and school as well as an opportunity for all students to learn responsibility by recording important information and dates for success at school. While the cost of the Agenda remains the same, **we are asking families to please pay \$8.00 per Agenda or a maximum of \$15.00 per family to help cover the cost of this resource.** Please submit payment by Friday, September 8th to your child(ren)'s teacher. Students come to rely on their agendas for daily organization and routines well into the future.

A copy of the updated St. Martha Catholic School Handbook and Code of Conduct is also in the agenda. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this information and review it with your child(ren). Parents/Guardians are asked to sign the final page of the Code of Conduct to indicate that they have read and reviewed it with their children. Thank you for your continued support. Please submit payment to classroom teachers by the end of this week. Thank you!

Students Receiving Medication

The necessary forms for 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.** Thank you for your co-operation.

Fire Drills

Each year, schools are required to conduct at least 6 fire drills during the school day. Please note that the first three fire drills are scheduled for: September 12th a.m., September 20th p.m. and September 25th a.m. The remainder of the drills will take place in the spring.

Peanut/Nut Safe School

St. Martha is a peanut/nut safe school! We have several students who are **severely allergic** to peanuts and nut products. If peanut butter or even the smallest amount of peanut/nut containing food enters their body, these children experience a life-threatening reaction.



In order to keep our students safe, we are asking for your assistance by not sending nuts or peanut ingredient snacks or lunches to school. This may sound simple. However, it requires an extra effort to read labels to ensure that food taken to school is peanut/nut free. Thank you for your diligence.

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, including the front door, will remain locked.** All visitors to the school are required to ring the buzzer at the front door and identify themselves to staff before being granted access. As has been past practice, all visitors are required to sign in at the Office and wear a Visitor's Tag while in the school. The visitor log book **must be signed** upon entry/exit to the school. Please note that our staff may be assisting children, answering phone calls and meeting with students, parents and staff during the course of the day. However, we will endeavour to

respond to front door calls in a timely manner. Thank you again for your on-going patience and co-operation.

At dismissal time parents/caregivers are asked to wait outside at the designated areas to pick up their children. This request is made in order to reduce congestion in the hallways and minimize disruption to the instructional day.

The doors through which your child will be dismissed are the same ones they will be using for recess. Again, thank you in advance for your continued co-operation with regards to this matter.

Volunteers Needed



Do you enjoy working with children and have the gift of time to give? If so, St. Martha is looking for volunteers in the following areas: reading with children, math tutoring, re-shelving materials in the Learning Commons, Hot Lunch program, Milk Program, Fundraising, Special Events, and ECO Team. If these opportunities interest you, please fill out the attached sign-up sheet and return it to your child's teacher. All volunteers must have or be willing to get a Criminal Background Check. Thank you!

Criminal Background Checks for Parent Volunteers

The Board requires that parent volunteers produce a Criminal Background Check that is current (within 3 years). Recently the RCMP has changed the screening criteria for Vulnerable Sector Checks such that it can take a significant amount of time to complete the screening process. This can result in a delay of several months before a Criminal Background Check can be produced. 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 as soon as possible in anticipation of a possible delay. Thank you in advance!

Seeking Paid Lunch Time Supervisors

St. Martha is seeking Paid Lunch Time Supervisors to work one hour each day from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. As a Lunch Time

Supervisor, you are responsible for the supervision of students while they are eating lunch or playing on the yard. If you enjoy working with children and have good problem solving skills, please call Mrs. LaFortune at 613-544-4050 or email at lafortun@alcdsb.on.ca. This position requires that you have or be willing to get a Criminal Background Check.



Friday, September 29th, 2017 PA Day

Please note that Friday, September 29th, 2017 is a PA Day. As such, there are no classes for students. This PA Day is a school-based day with a focus on reviewing EQAO results and school improvement planning for student achievement and well-being.

Spring 2017 Grade 3 and 6 EQAO

Results

Preliminary school results from EQAO Assessment of Reading, Writing and Math will be available to schools in early September to review and verify. Individual Student Reports for students who wrote the Grade 3 and 6 assessments last spring will be sent home in October, shortly after they arrive at our school.

Picture Day

Students will be having their school pictures taken on **Wednesday, October 4th, 2017**. Please note this on your calendar at home! Picture retakes will take place on October 30th, 2017.

Leaving School Grounds during Lunch Hour

As we are not able to ensure the safety of students off school property, we do not permit students to leave the school grounds at any time, particularly during the lunch hour. If students will be walking home regularly for lunch, Parents/Guardians must provide written permission allowing students to walk home for lunch on a regular basis during the school year.

Parents/Guardians who wish to take their child out for lunch should sign their child out at the office. **At no time** are students to leave school property without written permission.

Safe Arrival & Signing In/Out at the office

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. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

If your son/daughter is late for school, they **MUST** be signed in at the office. If your child has an appointment and needs to leave early, they in turn **MUST** be signed out at the office.

For safety purposes it is essential that we know when students arrive and when they leave.

School Newsletter

Each month, our school publishes a Newsletter and calendar of upcoming dates for parents/guardians. The calendar will continue to be printed and sent home with the youngest and only child in each family. The Newsletter will be sent to your email inbox. Please go to our school's website at www.alcdsb.on.ca and request a newsletter by entering your email address on our home page. This will ensure that a copy of our newsletter is sent to you electronically. If you have any problems or concerns, please contact the school.

Ride the School Bus Safely!

It is a new school year and everyone wants it to be a safe one. If you ride the bus, please remember to follow your bus driver's instructions and rules to ensure the safety of all students. Please review the bus expectations with your child which are outlined in the student/parent handbook in the Agenda.

School Bus Emergency Phone Number

Because emergency issues related to school bus transportation can often occur either before or after regular secretarial hours at schools, please take note of the following phone number.

This number will connect you to the Tri-Board

Transportation Authority between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.: 613-354-1981 ext. 317.

Please visit an updated Tri-Board website at www.triboard.on.ca. This site will inform you of any bus cancellations.



Lost & Found

Parents are requested to ensure that their children's clothes, boots, gloves, scarves, running shoes, lunch kits, etc. are marked with the child's name. Clothing does get misplaced and many children have

identical or similar clothing. If a child has lost or misplaced articles of clothing, there is a good chance it will be in the Lost & Found box. Parents are also encouraged to come to the school and look through the Lost & Found box. Every year many excellent articles of clothing are left behind. At the end of each month, these items will be collected and sent to charitable organizations.



Hot Lunch Program

Thank you to Nancy Watters and Serra Russell who have volunteered to co-ordinate the Hot Lunch Program again this year.

We are pleased to offer hot lunch on both Wednesdays and Fridays this year.

Volunteers are needed.

Please contact the hot lunch team if you are able to help.

We will be offering online ordering only for all orders so as to ensure accuracy and to

make the process as easy for everyone as possible.

The online system will allow parents to order up until 48 hours before the menu date if they so choose.

Here's how to get started...

- ✓ Go to:
<http://stmarthakingston.hotlunches.net>
- ✓ Click on "Click Here to Register"
- ✓ Enter Access Code **SMHL**
- ✓ Complete the rest of the registration form. Including your email address will ensure you receive reminder emails about hot lunch order deadlines, and your child's hot lunch order for the upcoming week.
- ✓ Click the "**Register Now**" button at the bottom
- ✓ Follow the instructions to add each child in your family who attends St. Martha Catholic School
- ✓ Once your child(ren) are registered, click on "Orders"
- ✓ Proceed to order hot lunch for your child(ren)

PayPal:

We only accept hot lunch order payments through PayPal (www.paypal.com). **No cheques or cash payments will be accepted at any time.**

You can either pay with a **credit card or debit card** as a PayPal guest (Visa, MasterCard or Amex), or set up your own PayPal account (required for debit card). Again, if you are able to volunteer for about



one hour on Wednesdays or Fridays from 11:45-12:30 p.m. please call the school.

Thank you again to our Hot Lunch Team!

Milk Program

We are currently seeking a volunteer to assist with the Milk Program at school. If you are interested in assisting with orders and working at lunch time to deliver milk to the classrooms, please call the school at 613-544-4050. Thank you for your consideration of this important program in our school!



Music Lessons

Again this year, private music lessons are offered to students at the school.

You may wish to contact the following music instructors if you are interested:

Jodie Compeau (Piano) 613-328-3212

Sarah Baetz (Piano) 613-634-1391 or at sarahbaetz@icloud.com



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 T-shirts and "summer" wear. Please refer to the "Code of Conduct" for details. All staff will be monitoring compliance with 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.

St. Martha Catholic School Council

St. Martha 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. Membership on School Council includes representation from parents/guardians, the parish, the community, teaching and non-teaching staff, and school administration. The role of

any school council is to work, as part of the school community, to improve student learning, achievement and well-being.

The St. Martha School Council is a dynamic and integral part of this school community. All parents are encouraged to become involved with School Council. As vital members of this school community, your involvement and input are encouraged to help meet the needs of all our children.

Through the organization of various social and community building events as well as fundraising efforts, this group of dedicated members has supported the purchase of learning materials, playground equipment, technology upgrades, arts programs, graduations and donations to local charities that benefit our children.

St. Martha Catholic School Council meets 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. Please look for our School Council table during the Welcome Back BBQ and Open House on September 21st to learn more.

If you are interested in serving on the St. Martha Catholic School Council as a Parent Member and you cannot make it to the first meeting, or you would like more information, please contact Ms. Karen Moran directly by Monday, September 25th, 2017. Our first School Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 26th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All are welcome to attend.

St. Martha Child Care

Did you know...

St. Martha Child Care Centre provides a **Before and After School Program**, licensed by the Ministry of Education, for children 3.8 years -12 years of age right in the St. Martha Catholic School!

This seamless day concept enables the children to continue to learn and grow hours after the school bell rings with fewer transitions and disruptions to contend with during their day and their family's day. Full Day School Age Care is also offered on all P.A Days.

Spaces are currently available and you are invited to contact us at (613)549-2151 or visit our website at

www.kingstondaycare.org for further information on how to register your child today!



