

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 3, 2021

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear families,

Welcome back! We have missed seeing all of you at St. Francis, and we hope that everyone stayed safe and healthy throughout the summer. Thank you to all essential workers who continue to help us navigate COVID-19 safely. Thank you to all staff who have worked diligently to prepare our school for day 1.

Information for parents will be communicated through notes home, the daily agenda, our automated School Messenger messaging system and on the school website. Please ensure we have an updated email address on file. We firmly believe that ongoing, open communication between home, school and parish makes the difference in the success achieved by our students. Feel free to contact the school at any time should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of our school as we look forward to achieving, celebrating, and worshipping with all of you this year.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. Gencarelli
Principal

Mrs. Day
Vice Principal

PASTORAL THEME - "BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD"



The second of five pastoral themes, "Beloved Children of God", calls us to delight in the understanding that each child and every person is cherished, valued and loved unconditionally by God. We are amazed by the love and mercy that God freely offers all of us, without exception. As a Catholic education community, we celebrate the inherent dignity of each person who is created in the image and likeness of God.

The word beloved means completely and fully loved. This is a declaration of our Christian identity as a part of God's family. We understand that we belong to a loving, protective Father who is always with us. God sees us as forgiven, saved and full of beauty and hope.

Our goal at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is to ensure that each member who walks through our doors knows that they are precious and loved above all else.

A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL

Masks:



Masks are mandatory for Grade 1 to 8 students and strongly encouraged for Kindergarten students. Masks are not required outside at recess, but students should maintain 2 m distance when possible.

Water Bottles:



Please pack a refillable water bottle each day.

Lunch Bags:



Boomerang lunches: Everything that comes to school will be returned home. Please use re-usable containers where possible.

Personal Belongings:



Students should bring only what they need for learning. Students are not to bring personal belongings, such as toys, to school.

SAFE ARRIVAL - DROP-OFF AND PICKUP

Safe Arrival

When students arrive before school, they are to **proceed directly to their classroom** according to the map below. **Supervision begins at 8:00 a.m.** and classroom doors will be unlocked at this time. We ask that students are not dropped off before this time.

Students may enter the school yard according to the map below. To ensure the safety of all students, parents/guardians are not to enter the school yard with their child.

In order for us to ensure that all students have arrived safely at school, it is important that you call the school if a child is going to be absent or late. The school has an answering machine and therefore can receive messages whenever you call. Please include in the message the child's name, teacher and reason for the absence or lateness. If your child is late arriving at school, please be sure to ring the buzzer, sign them in between the set of doors at the main entrance, and we will escort your child to his/her classroom.

Please note: Parents/guardians may not enter the school unless by appointment only.

Bus Lanes & Designated Parking Areas

In front of the school on Wiley Street there is a designated lane for school buses. This lane is used by buses when they arrive at school for student drop off and after school for student pick up. If you are dropping off, or picking up your child at school, please do not park in the designated school bus lane. We would ask that you use the designated vehicle dropped off/picked located off of Weller Avenue located near the staff parking area. Please do not park next to the church in front of the the sidewalk. This area is designated as church parking only. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that parish parishioners have a place to park.

WHERE DOES MY CHILD ENTER/EXIT THEIR CLASSROOM/YARD?



COVID-19 SCREENING TOOL

Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education



COVID-19 screening tool for students and children in school and child care settings

Version 1: August 26, 2021

Students and children must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school or child care. Parents/guardians can fill this out on behalf of a child.

Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____

Screening questions

1. Is the student/child currently experiencing any of these symptoms?

The symptoms listed here are the symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19. Our guidelines for children and adults continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how it affects people in different ways.

Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions they already have.

Fever and/or chills Yes No
Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and/or chills

Cough or barking cough (croup) Yes No
Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Shortness of breath Yes No
Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Decrease or loss of taste or smell Yes No
Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions they already have

Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea Yes No
Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions they already have

2. Did the student/child receive their final (or second in a two-dose series) COVID-19 vaccination dose more than 14 days ago, or have they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared? Yes No
If YES, skip questions 3, 4, 5.

3. Is someone that the student/child lives with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? Yes No
If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select "No."

COVID-19 SCREENING TOOL

4. In the last 10 days, has the student/child been identified as a "close contact" of someone who currently has COVID-19? Yes No
If public health has advised you that you do not need to self-isolate, select "No."
5. In the last 10 days, has the student/child received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone? Yes No
If they already went for a test and got a negative result, select "No."
6. In the last 14 days, has the student/child travelled outside of Canada AND:
• been advised to quarantine as per the federal quarantine requirements AND/OR
• is the student/child under the age of 12 and not fully vaccinated?
If travel was solely due to a cross border custody arrangement, select "No." Yes No
7. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that the student/child should currently be isolating (staying at home)? Yes No
This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.
8. In the last 10 days, has the student/child tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit? Yes No
If the student/child has since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select "No."

Results of screening questions

- !** If you answered "YES" to any of the symptoms included under question 1, do not go to school or child care.
- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if the student/child needs a COVID-19 test.
 - Siblings or other people in your household must stay at home until the student/child showing symptoms tests negative, or is cleared by your public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.
- !** If you answered "YES" to question 3, do not go to school or child care.
- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - The student/child can return to school or child care after the individual with symptoms tests negative, is cleared by your local public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.
- !** If you answered "YES" to question 4, do not go to school or child care.
- The student/child must isolate (stay home) for 10 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if they need a COVID-19 test. The student/child can only return to school/child care after 10 days, even if they get a negative test result, as long as they do not develop any symptoms.
 - Siblings and other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
 - If the student/child develops symptoms or tests positive, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

COVID-19 SCREENING TOOL

- !** **If you answered "YES" to question 5, do not go to school or child care.**
 - The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Visit an assessment centre to get them a COVID-19 test.
 - If they test negative (they do not have the virus), they can return to school/child care.
 - If they test positive (they have the virus), they need to continue isolating and can return only after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
 - If they develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Siblings or other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other, non-essential reasons until the individual who got the COVID alert tests negative, or is cleared by your local public health unit. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

- !** **If you answered "YES" to question 6, do not go to school or child care.**
 - The student/child must follow federal guidelines for individuals who have travelled internationally, including not going to school/child care for 14 days after their arrival and getting tested as per federal requirements.
 - If the student/child has been directed to quarantine, they must stay home for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency. For more information on federal requirements for travellers, please see the [Government of Canada's website](#).
 - If the student/child develops symptoms and/or tests positive, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

- !** **If you answered "YES" to question 7, do not go to school or child care.**
 - The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Follow the advice of public health. The student/child can return to school/child care after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
 - If the student/child develops symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Siblings or other people in your household must stay at home until the student/child tests negative, or is cleared by your public health unit. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

- !** **If you answered "YES" to question 8, do not go to school or child care.**
 - The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Visit an assessment centre to get them a COVID-19 test.
 - If they test negative (they do not have the virus), they can return to school/child care.
 - If they test positive (they have the virus), they need to continue isolating and can return only after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
 - If they develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Siblings or other people in your household must isolate until the individual who tested positive on the rapid antigen test or home-based self-testing kit tests negative on a PCR test or is cleared by the local public health unit. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to isolate.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS

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, we will report to our evacuation site and emergency services will secure the area.

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. The practice drills will be scheduled at a later date.



ALLERGIES

Several children in our school have a severe life threatening food allergy (anaphylaxis) to peanuts/nuts. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from peanuts or nut products.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. With your help, we will do our best to prevent mishaps and to make sure that all of our students are safe, healthy, and able to concentrate on learning.

If you would like further information about our policies and practices, please feel free to call the school at your convenience.



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our breakfast program will change to a "grab-and-go" snack only. Families will be notified soon regarding start date and time.

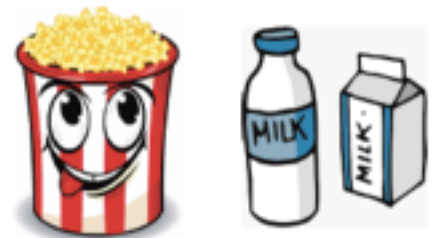


SCHOOL INFORMATION FORMS

Your child(ren) will be receiving a number of forms within the first week of school. We ask that these forms be filled out and returned to school as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

HOT LUNCH/MILK AND POPCORN

All Milk/Popcorn and Hot Lunch Programs are on hold for the time being.



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We believe that a strong partnership between home, school and parish is critical to the ongoing success of every child. For this reason, information for parents and guardians will be communicated by a variety of means including notes home, the daily agenda, our automated School Messenger messaging system and on the school website at <http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/school/stfa/Pages/default.aspx>.

Please be sure to check our school website regularly for important updates as this will be updated regularly.

Our Twitter handle is @alcdsb_stfa for those who use Twitter as well. We would strongly recommend that parents and guardians follow us on Twitter as it allows us to provide timely information on a regular basis.



The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic Education Foundation (ALCEF) is a registered charity that raises funds and provides financial support to assist families within our schools during times of crisis or poverty.

This assistance may include the provision of eye glasses, medical supplies, accommodations, food, clothing, or transportation.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/Board/Pages/Foundation.aspx>

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH

At St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, we develop the whole child - mind, body and spirit. The spiritual growth of our students would not be made possible without the strong partnership with our Parish - Holy Family Catholic Church. Our students attend mass twice per month, leading and participating in Gospel readings, song and prayer.

While our school masses are currently on hold, we look forward to finding alternative ways (ex. virtually) to gather in prayer as a school community.

