

St. Patrick Catholic School

3889 Wilton Rd., Harrowsmith, Ontario K0H 1V0
Tel: 1 (613) 372.2251 **Fax:** 1 (613) 372.2726
flhpstph@alcdsb.on.ca www.alcdsb.on.ca/school/stph



September Newsletter

September 5, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to another great school year! We hope that everyone had a safe, relaxing, and fun summer!

I am very pleased to be back at St Pats for a third year. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated staff who work hard for the benefit of our students. I am excited for all the great opportunities that are on the horizon this year for our school community.

Information for parents will be communicated through notes home, the daily agenda, our automated School Messenger messaging system, and on the school website at <http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/School/stph/Pages/default.aspx#/=> . Our Twitter handle is @alcdsb_stph for those who use Twitter as well. Please be sure to check our school website regularly for important updates, as we update the site daily. Feel free to contact the school at any time should you have questions or concerns at (613) 372-2251.

This year, our students and parents will have a new voice and a new face in our main office. Ms. Miller has moved on to another school, so we welcome Ms. Kenward to St. Pats as our new secretary. Ms. Kenward brings much experience with her and has also been part of our parent community for many years now.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school, as we look forward to achieving, celebrating, and worshiping with all of you this year. Have a great school start-up!

Blessings,

Mr. Carmine Minutillo
Principal

Mr. C. Wells
Vice-principal

Our Mission Statement

St. Patrick Catholic School, together with parents and Church, will work in harmony to develop a spiritual, caring and safe learning environment so that students can attain their full potential

St. Patrick Catholic School lives by and treats all who enter our school by the quote boldly written on our front signage, "What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to God". All students are treated as a true gift and are led to live their lives like Jesus did. It is our mission to help our students make connections to our local and global communities through charitable work and social justice projects.

Welcome New Families, Staff, and Friends!

Welcome to the new families and friends that have become part of the St. Patrick Catholic School community. A special welcome to our new Junior Kindergarten students attending school for the first time and to our new staff members; Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Gladstone, Mr. Burchett, Ms. Mattice, Ms. Kenward, Ms. McAllister, Ms. Cordeiro, Mr. Archambault, Ms. Stankusz, Mr. Veenendaal, and Ms. Lincoln-Gouett. We know you will all enjoy your time here at St. Patrick, "a caring and welcoming school!"

Door Security System

All elementary schools in the ALCDSB have their front doors locked during school hours. This is part of a Safe Schools initiative support by Ontario's Ministry of Education. Please press the button on the camera intercom at the front main entrance doors and identify yourself and your purpose for visiting. Whenever possible, families will be asked to wait outside the door for Ms. Kenward to assist you.

Morning Supervision

We ask that students are not dropped off at the school before 8:50 am, as there is no supervision available. Due to our board's safe school's policy, parents cannot escort students onto the yard. We thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Valuable Items

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing valuable items to school unless they are being used to support learning. Such items could include cell phones, electronics, trading/sports cards, etc. If your child does bring valuable items to school, please ensure that the child's name and teacher is clearly labelled on the item.

Student Pick-up, Drop-off, Parking, and Road Safety

In our efforts to promote safety, please be very careful as you navigate the parking lot or when you are pulling on and off the road. **We ask that parents only pick up or drop off students on the school side of Wilton Road.** This will prevent students from crossing over Wilton Road during the busiest traffic times. The school has been working with the Township over the past few years to increase safety on Wilton Road. Flashing speed signs are present. Thank you very much for helping us out with drop off and pick up along Wilton Road.

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Pick-up During the School Day

If you are picking up your child before 3:35 pm dismissal, please buzz in at the main front entrance and we will call your child/children down to meet you at the door while you wait outside.

End of day pick-up

We have two runs of buses; Buses that are here prior to day's end and those that come over from Harrowsmith Public School. When waiting for buses, all our students will be waiting in the parking lot on the west side of the school. Students are not permitted to walk to the parking lot or cut through the buses. If you are picking your child up, please meet them in that area. **Once again, please ensure you pick up your child on the school side of Wilton Road so that crossing Wilton Road is not required.**

Safe schools reporting

Just a reminder that safe arrival phone calls will be made in the event of student absences. **Please use the SchoolMessenger App to inform the school of your child's absence.** More information about the SchoolMessenger App can be found at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home> . There is also an information sheet accompanying this newsletter informing parents about downloading the app. Using the SchoolMessenger App instead of calling or emailing the school saves Ms. Kenward, our secretary, many hours of work each week so that she can attend to other tasks. Please communicate any bussing changes in the agenda or in a note to the office. Please call before 2:30 pm if you are making changes to your child's end of day routine.

Parent/Teacher Communication

Communication between home and school is vital for fostering a solid partnership between our students, staff, and parents. Parents are to contact their child's teacher when questions or concerns arise. Your child's teacher should be your first contact by way of the student agenda or by telephone. The best time to reach your child's teacher is before 9:05 am or after 3:35 pm. A message will be taken for all calls received during instructional time and calls will be returned in a timely fashion. The Student Agenda is a valuable tool to enhance and support home/school communication and organization. There will be no charge to families for the agendas again this year.

Water Bottles

Students are asked to bring their own water bottle to school each day as we use refillable water stations throughout the school. Paper disposable cups are not provided due to the cost and the ecological footprint they create. It's always a great idea to ensure your child's name is on the water bottle in case it gets misplaced or another student has the same design.

School Organization

Principal	Mr. C. Minutillo
Vice-Principal	Mr. C. Wells
JK/SK	Ms. B. De Sa
ECE	Ms. A. McAllister
SK/Gr. 1	Ms. B. LaPierre
Gr. 1	Ms. A. Stankusz/Ms. L. Smith
Gr. 2	Ms. S. Johnston
Gr. 2/3	Ms. R. Hurley
Gr. 3	Ms. S. Gee
Gr. 4	Mr. J. Burchett/Ms. J. Choquette
Gr. 5/6	Ms. Funnell/ Ms. A. Rand
Gr. 5/6	Ms. S. O'Brien
Gr. 7	Ms. M. Summers
Gr. 8	Ms. M. Shibley
French	Ms. J. Trousdale, Ms. A. Murphy, and Mr. Archambault
Spec Ed/Resource	Ms. T. Forster
Educational Assistants	Ms. C. Laird, Ms. K. Mattice, and Ms. G. Cordeiro
Itinerant Arts	Mr. S. Ivits
Secretary	Ms. F. Kenward
Caretakers	Mr. M. Veenendaal and Ms. B. Galt
Child and Youth Worker	Ms. C. Stewart

Food Allergies

Some of our students and staff suffer from severe allergic reactions with peanuts or foods containing peanut/nut oil. Every child has the right to feel safe at school. If another child eats food containing nuts or traces of nuts and does not wash his/her hands well, everything that he/she touches – a desk, a doorknob, the water fountain, etc., could become the source of a reaction. Presently, students at St. Patrick Catholic School have this kind of reaction to nuts and shellfish. Parents are asked to ensure that their children refrain from bringing any food items containing peanuts/nuts. A reminder that there will be no food allowed on the yard or on busses.

EcoSchools

As stewards of the earth, it is our responsibility to look after and care for our world. This year, we will continue to promote boomerang lunches as we cut back on the amount of garbage that we collect each day. All recyclable items will be sent back home in support of our EcoSchools efforts.