

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 7, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! After a very long absence from being together at our school, we are happy to see all our students again!

As in the past two years, this year will present us with continued challenges. Our staff has been working hard to ensure student safety is at the forefront of all we do. I want to offer a sincere thank you to our school community for your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we sort through the many logistical challenges that we have faced and will continue to face.

On a personal note, I am very pleased to be returning to serve the St. Patrick Catholic School Community again. I taught at St. Pats many years ago and have great memories of my past time here. I look forward to getting reacquainted with our school community and meeting our current students, parents, and staff.

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#/="](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 will be updating the site during the month of September and onward. Feel free to contact the school at any time should you have questions or concerns.

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

Blessings,

Mr. Carmine Minutillo
Mr. C. Wells
Principal Vice-principal

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

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 who are attending school for the first time and to our new staff Mr. Minutillo, Mr. Wells, Ms. Williams, Ms. Stockermans, Ms. Beattie, Ms. Irving, Mr. Nadeau, and Mr. Stewart. 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. Miller to assist you.

Morning Supervision

As in the past, we have asked that students are not dropped off at the school before **8:50 am**, as there is **NO** supervision available. We also ask that parents drop students off at the front door during school hours or at the kindergarten gate in the morning recess time frame. 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 grade is clearly labelled on the item.

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

Student Pick-up, Drop-off, and Parking

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.

1) Pick-up

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.

2) Morning Drop-off

We ask that any parents who are getting out of their vehicles are socially distanced, wearing a mask, and move through this procedure as quickly as possible.

3) 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.

Safe schools reporting

Just a reminder that safe arrival phone calls will be made in the event of student absences. If you know in advance that your child is going to be away, please call the office and speak to our secretary, Ms. Miller, or send her an email at milleran@alcdsb.on.ca with the details. 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.

School devices

If you borrowed either an iPad or Laptop computer from the school during the remote learning program last year, we ask that these items be returned to the school with their chargers as soon as possible.

Freedom of Information Form

The Freedom of Information Form will be sent home shortly. Please complete the forms and return to the school as soon as possible.

Family Information Forms

Please fill out and return to the Office as soon as possible when you receive the forms. We require one form per student. It is important that the information requested is completed and accurate. Please update the Office to any changes throughout the year.

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

School Organization

Principal	Mr. C. Minutillo
Vice-Principal	Mr. C. Wells
JK/SK	Ms. L. Smith
ECE	Ms. C. Sluytman
JK/SK	Ms. T. Forster
ECE	Ms. L. Hazel
Gr. 1	Ms. S. Johnston
Gr. 1/2	Ms. A. Stuper
Gr. 2/3	Ms. S. Gee
Gr. 3	Ms. S. Seaton
Gr. 4/5	Mr. B. Nadeau/Ms. J. Choquette
Gr. 5/6	Ms. A. Gauthier
Gr. 6/7	Ms. M. Stockermans
Gr. 8	Ms. M. Williams
FSL	Mme. W. Shea and Mme. J. Beattie
Spec Ed Resource	Ms. M Shibley
Educational	Ms. C. Laird
Assistants	Ms. J. Fillion
	Ms. S. Irving
	Ms. J. Keats
Itinerant Arts	Mr. S. Ivits
Secretary	Ms. A. Miller
Custodians	Mr. T. Stewart
	Mr. K. Girard
Child and Youth	Ms. C. Stewart
Worker	

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 9:00 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 for the agendas this year.

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

School Dress Code

At school, there are several considerations regarding the types of clothing deemed acceptable. Protection from the sun, modesty, and the academic setting all play a role in the selection of clothing appropriate for school. Parents are asked to ensure that their children are dressed appropriately for school. In general, our dress code encourages appropriate clothing for an academic setting in a Catholic School.

- *Students are expected to be neat, clean and dressed appropriately.
- *Backs and midriffs must be covered.
- *Any tank top worn must be modest in nature.
- *Clothing such as skirts, shorts, and dresses must be an appropriate length.
- *Profane or suggestive pictures or slogans are not acceptable.
- *Hats are to be removed when students enter the school.
- *Students can make some styles appropriate by wearing bicycle shorts under short shorts or tank tops under open backed shirts.
- *Students who are not dressed appropriately will be requested to change into more suitable clothing. If they have nothing appropriate available, alternate clothing will be provided, or a parent may bring a change of clothes (should a student refuse these 2 options the parents will be contacted to pick up their child)
- *The principal will be the final voice of appropriate dress for school.

Food Allergies

Some of our students and staff suffer from severe allergic reactions with peanuts or foods containing peanut/nut oil. For some sufferers, the mere smell is enough to set off an allergic reaction. For those with an anaphylactic reaction, breathing becomes difficult to the point that individuals may become asphyxiated. Sufferers always have access to an EpiPen, which must be injected within minutes. The sufferer must then be rushed to the hospital. 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 or 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, shellfish, and grapefruit. Parents are asked to ensure that their children do not bring any food items containing peanuts/nuts or grapefruit to school. A reminder that there will be no food allowed on the yard or on busses.

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

Covid Update

Once again this year, face masks are necessary for all of our students. As a staff, we know that it can be difficult to wear a mask all day long, particularly for our youngest learners, but we will continue to be compassionate, encouraging, and understanding in helping everyone to do their best to keep those around us safe at school. We would ask that parents please ensure that you are also wearing a mask if you happen to be at our school to drop off or pick up your child or are visiting our school for whatever reason. In the best interest of student safety, students are required to wear their masks indoors and outdoors again this year as well.

All staff and students are required to self-screen for Covid symptoms each day before coming to school. If any Covid symptoms are present, students will need to remain at home. For your convenience, the most recent Health Unit Screener is attached to this newsletter.

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 home in support of our EcoSchools efforts.