

# 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](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/school/stph)

## September Newsletter

September 6, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! We hope that everyone had a safe, relaxing, and fun summer! We are very much looking forward to enjoying a more ‘normal’ school this year that includes many of the extra-curricular activities that would typically take place at school. We are also very much looking forward to seeing more of our parent community this year.

As in the past two years, this year will continue to present challenges around the pandemic. Our staff has been working hard to ensure student safety is at the forefront of all we do. I want to thank our school community sincerely for your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we navigate this pandemic together.

On a personal note, I am happy to be back at St Pats for a second year. Last year, it was difficult to really be able to meet our parent community and get to know our students outside of the regular classroom activities. I am looking forward to being able to do that this year.

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 update the site daily. 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 worshiping with all of you this year. Have a great school start-up!

Blessings,

Mr. Carmine Minutillo  
Principal

Mr. C. Wells  
Vice-principal

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## 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. Rand, Ms. Summers, Ms. LaPierre, Ms. Reynolds, and Ms. Arnott. We also welcome back Ms. Trousdale. 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.

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## **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 year to increase safety on Wilton Road. Flashing speed signs will also be present. Thank you very much in advance for helping us out with drop off and pick up along Wilton Road.

## **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 attached to this newsletter informing parents about downloading the app. Using the SchoolMessenger App instead of calling or emailing the school saves Ms. Miller, 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.

## **Freedom of Information and Family Information Forms**

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

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.

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## School Organization

<b>Principal</b>	<b>Mr. C. Minutillo</b>
<b>Vice-Principal</b>	<b>Mr. C. Wells</b>
<b>JK/SK</b>	<b>Ms. L. Smith</b>
<b>ECE</b>	<b>Ms. C. Sluytman</b>
<b>JK/SK</b>	<b>Ms. T. Forster</b>
<b>ECE</b>	<b>Ms. L. Hazel</b>
<b>Gr. 1</b>	<b>Ms. De Sa</b>
<b>Gr. 1/2</b>	<b>Ms. A. Stuper</b>
<b>Gr. 2</b>	<b>Ms. S. Johnston</b>
<b>Gr. 3/4</b>	<b>Ms. S. Gee</b>
<b>Gr. 3/4</b>	<b>Mr. B. Nadeau/Ms. J. Choquette</b>
<b>Gr. 4/5</b>	<b>Ms. A. Rand</b>
<b>Gr. 6</b>	<b>Ms. M. Summers</b>
<b>Gr. 7/8</b>	<b>Ms. R. Hurley</b>
<b>Gr. 7/8</b>	<b>Ms. B. LaPierre</b>
<b>FSL</b>	<b>Ms. J. Trousdale and Ms. A. Murphy</b>
<b>Spec Ed Resource</b>	<b>Ms. M. Shibley</b>
<b>Educational Assistants</b>	<b>Ms. C. Laird</b>
	<b>Ms. R. Reynolds</b>
	<b>Ms. S. Irving</b>
	<b>Ms. C. Arnott</b>
<b>Itinerant Arts</b>	<b>Mr. S. Ivits</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms. A. Miller</b>
<b>Custodians</b>	<b>Mr. T. Stewart</b>
	<b>Mr. K. Girard</b>
<b>Child and Youth Worker</b>	<b>Ms. C. Stewart</b>

## 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

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home/school communication and organization. There will be no charge for the agendas this year for classrooms that are making use of them.

## **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 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 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.

## **Covid Update**

Again this year, face masks are optional for all of our students. 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. Students and staff are also encouraged to continue to practice frequent hand hygiene. Our caretakers will continue with enhanced cleaning and HEPA filters will remain in place in all classrooms. Thank you for all your support over the past few years in navigating the many challenges we have faced together.

The Ministry of Health and Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health have provided families the [School and Child Care Screening Tool](#).

Anyone who is feeling sick or has any new or worsening symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home until their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours for nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea) and they do not have a fever, and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed. The presence of symptoms, particularly respiratory symptoms, increases the risk of transmitting to others.

[Downloadable versions](#) of the tool continue to be available; please note that there is a specific tool for individuals who are immunocompromised or living in a highest risk congregate care setting.

It is recommended that students and visitors continue to self-screen every day before attending school. As a reminder, individuals should stay home if they are feeling ill to prevent the spread of illness.

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## **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.