



Mother Teresa Catholic School

1044 Lancaster Drive

Kingston, ON K7P 2L6 (613) 384-8644



SEPTEMBER 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to all students and especially to all new students and their parents! Our school community continues to grow. Our enrolment as of today is 385 students!

We welcome our new staff members and wish those with new assignments all the best. Please look to page 2 for a full listing of our team for the upcoming school year.

We are all very excited to pilot our Balanced Day Schedule this year. More details about this schedule and how it will impact learning and extracurricular activities can be found on page 5.

Your children's success and well-being is our mission. A positive partnership between our school team and you, the parents, is essential for this success. Please know that your first call when you have a concern is to your child's teacher. Our staff will do their best to meet the needs of your child and to help them achieve to their fullest potential.

On a personal note, I am excited to begin my second year as Principal of Mother Teresa Catholic School. We have a vibrant group of students and staff and I look forward to a productive year of learning ahead.

Sincerely,

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS?

Go to our website (see below) and fill in your email where it says "Sign Up for Our Newsletter"! Then click GO. The September issue is the only one that will go home in paper form. We want to save our trees. Thank you!

FOR ALL IMPORTANT DATES PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.alcddb.on.ca/school/trsa/Pages/default.aspx>

Follow us on Twitter:

[@alcddb_trsa](https://twitter.com/alcddb_trsa)

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.
Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.
Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.
Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.
Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.
Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.
Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year! Amen.

DISCIPLESHIP

Introducing.....Our Amazing School Team

Pastor: Father Sebastian Amato, St. Paul the Apostle Church

Kindergarten Teams

(Teacher/Early Childhood Educator)

Mrs. Ellen Lowe and Mrs. Nancy Troiani

Mrs. Kathryn Muise and Mrs. Pamela Turcotte

Mr. Greg Corcoran and Mrs. Sara Borges

Grades 1—8

Gr. 1s—Mrs. Kim Coulter and Mrs. Isabel Chase

Gr. 2s—Mr. John Amyot and Mrs. Daniela Peirson

Gr. 3—Mrs. Julie Halle

Gr. 3/4s—Mr. T.J. Cox and Mrs. Andrea Fraser

Gr. 5—Mrs. Tish Ball

Gr. 5/6—Mr. Brad Douglas

Gr. 6—Mrs. Diane Urie

Gr. 7/8s—Mr. Tom Doyle and Mrs. Christine Edwards

FSL Teachers:

Mr. Chris Fraser and Mme. Celine Gillis

Special Education Resource Teacher:

Ms. Kelly Steele

Educational Assistants:

Ms. Paula Finucan, Mr. Ryan Mills,

Ms. Brittany Carroll, Ms. Colleen Cowan,

Ms. Mackenzie MacDonald

Learning Resource Assistant:

To be determined

Custodians:

Mr. Dennis Carrigg, Ms. Pam Pollard

Secretary:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This week all students will receive a Family Information Form, a Freedom of Information Form, and a Anti-Spam Legislation Consent Form. Please ensure that your child's name is on each form; please read, fill out and sign each form. All forms are to be returned to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

It is critical that we know about any special medication conditions such as peanut or bee allergies or asthma so that our staff can be prepared. If it is necessary for your child to have medication at school or if you need to leave an Epipen at school for allergy purposes, Board policy requires that you and your doctor complete and submit the appropriate medical/consent forms to the school. Please contact Ms. Chapman in the office and the forms will be made available to you.

OPEN HOUSE—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 TH

5:30—6:30 - Bring your chairs and join us in the front driveway area for hot dogs and juice boxes.

6:30—7:30 - Come and meet your child's/children's teachers and see their classrooms.

Thanks to our School Council and the Knights of Columbus for hosting and cooking for this event!

Safety of our Students

TRANSPORTATION—It is essential that you indicate on the Family Information Form how your child will return home at the end of the school day. If your child is to walk to a babysitter's or is to be picked up by someone at the end of the day on a regular basis, please indicate this on your form. In the interest of reducing the possibility of confusion and the risk of sending your child to the wrong place, any change to the regular transportation arrangement for your child(ren) should be communicated to us in advance. Please try to be on time to meet your children. Thank you very much!

VISITORS—All visitors to our school must check in with Ms. Chapman at the office and obtain a Visitor's Pass. This allows us to keep track of who is in the school for emergency situations as well as to provide security to all students and staff. Should you wish to speak to your child's teacher(s), please remember that you must call to make an appointment. Teachers are responsible for all students at the beginning and end of the day and so are not able to discuss individual matters during those times. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

INSURE MY KIDS PROTECTION PLAN—The Insure My Kids Protection Plan is now available ONLINE through our board website: www.alcdsb.on.ca. Go to the tab at the top right hand corner entitled "Parents/Community".

Students with Anaphylactic Reactions

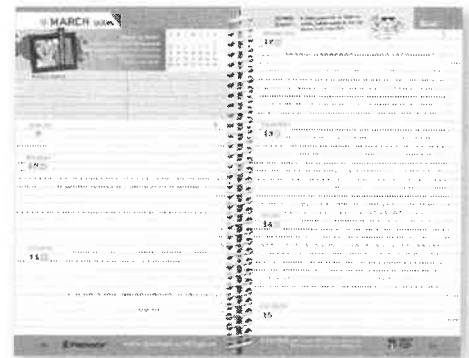
At our school we have a number of students and staff who have life-threatening peanut allergies. Those parents have provided us with all of the necessary information. We ask all parents to be very vigilant in making sure that no peanut or nut products are sent to school in your child's lunch. In some cases, reactions can occur even through touch, that is, the allergen does not have to be ingested. We have a few students who have allergies to shell fish, fish, wasps, eggs, soy, tree nuts, etc. Those particular allergens will be shared on a class-to-class basis. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all of our students safe.

**We Are A
NUT-FREE
As Possible
School**



SCHOOL AGENDAS

Once again, the school has purchased Student Agendas for students. These agendas assist students to develop skills in managing their own daily tasks. Students can record test and assignment dates, homework and extra-curricular activities. The agendas also allow parents and teachers to communicate important information about the student. Important letters and notices will be placed in the plastic pouch at the front of the agenda. Please initial your child's agenda daily. As well, the school's Code of Conduct is included in the first few pages of the book. Please review the Code of Conduct so that you and your child are aware of the expectations for all students in our school community. **We are asking parents to donate \$6.00 to help with the cost of the agendas. Thank you!**



VOLUNTEERS

We are so appreciative of the work that the volunteers in our community do to enhance learning and fun experiences for our students. In accordance with Board policy we require all parents and adults who are volunteering at the school/ accompanying students on trips to have a valid **Police Criminal Background Check**. These are available through the local Kingston Police Force. It is imperative that even for field trips, that we have copies of CPICs on file. This year, all teachers and staff members organizing events will be asked to check with the master list in the office to be sure that volunteers are covered. If you do not have a CPIC we can not allow you to join us!

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, you are encouraged to initiate the process as soon as possible in anticipation of a possible delay. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance in our school community!

COLLECTION OF MONEY

The Board office has asked each school to record the amount of money collected according to individual categories. As well, writing one cheque for multiple children for trips/food orders etc. requires an inordinate amount of time for Ms. Chapman to track. Therefore, we ask that all cheques/money sent be written separately for individual students and activities. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this request!

CASUAL FRIDAYS

Our staff are participating in “dress down” Fridays to support a variety of charities in our community that support children and their families. Donations will be made to the United Way, the Food Sharing Project or the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board Foundation.

ECO SCHOOL INITIATIVES

WE DID IT—WE ARE NOW AN ECO SILVER CERTIFIED SCHOOL!

We continue to encourage parents to use reusable containers for packing food for lunches. This reduces our garbage creation at school. All “waste” (wrappers, saran wrap, etc.) will be taken home by students at the end of the day for recycling at home. At this point in time all compostable materials will also be sent home but we are planning to begin the

NEW MILK PROGRAM

This year we have made some changes to the milk program. Parents will purchase a “milk card” for their child for 30 milks (chocolate or white) for the cost of \$30 (the cost of cartons has increased). Milk helpers will deliver milk to classrooms each day and for those students who have a milk card and who are present, they receive a milk and one of their numbers from 1 to 30 is checked off. When the milk card is used up, it will be sent home with your child that day. When you return a cheque for \$30 your child will be issued a new milk card and will continue to receive milk. This alleviates parents losing money for milk not used during a field trip or due to absence from school. We are thankful to volunteer, Ms. Carla Cordova, for managing our milk system for us, along with our student milk deliverers who make it all possible. **The order form is attached!** Feel free to print and send in with your child

WANTED—HOT LUNCH COORDINATOR

We need a parent volunteer who would be willing to manage our hot lunch program. Duties would involve processing orders, managing the funds and helping to organize distribution by senior students of hot lunches on Wednesdays! **PLEASE CONTACT MS. CHAPMAN!**

BALANCED DAY SCHEDULE

This year our school, along with St. Margeurite Bourgeoys Catholic School in Kingston, is piloting a new schedule whereby students will participate in two Nutrition/Activity Breaks during the school day rather than two short recesses and one longer Lunch/Recess break. Rationale for this schedule include: less time transitioning to maximize learning and instruction; more opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities during the two longer breaks (e.g. team practices, clubs, committees, etc.).

Our new schedule is:

School Entry: 9:05

Nutrition/Activity Break #1—11:05—11:45 and Break #2—12:45—1:35.

Dismissal Time: 3:35

Students will be able to go outside once they eat their food (and verify with the supervisors that they have eaten). This way, those students who like more time for physical activity will be able to achieve that goal while students who may take longer to eat will be able to finish eating. Staff members will be outside to supervise those who eat more quickly while other staff members remain inside to supervise the nutrition break.

Our students will take a while to adjust to this new schedule. We will be seeking feedback from parents, students and staff as the year progresses.

A FANTASTIC STAFF TEAM READY FOR A GREAT YEAR OF LEARNING!



ASUS

SHINERAMA

Family
FUN FAIR

 **Loblaws**[®]

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9TH

1100 Princess Street, Kingston

12pm-6pm

- BBQ - Car Wash - Bouncy Castle - Facepaint - Bean-bag Toss
Kingston and Queen's Jugglers - Scooter-board Races -
...and so much more!!

QUEEN'S SHINERAMA

STUDENTS FIGHTING CYSTIC FIBROSIS