



St. Michael the Archangel CES

161 Via Campanile Woodbridge, ON L4H 3K5
Tel: 289.553.3802 | Fax: 289.553.3587
Website: <http://smal.ycdsb.ca>
Twitter: @st_smal



NOVEMBER 2020 EDITION

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Opiyo Oloya

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Joanne Bortolussi

Vice-Principal

M. Caruso

To report student absences and lates, please dial:

1-855-856-7862 or visit go.schoolmessenger.ca

SMAL School Day:

8:55 - Supervision Begins

9:10 - Morning Entry

10:30 - AM Recess

12:10-12:30 - Lunch

12:30-1:10 - Lunch Recess

2:30 - PM Recess

3:40 - End of Day

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This month, we celebrate All Saints Day, the saints of the people of God. We give thanks for the good example of the lives of the saints and all good people who are models of compassion, love and justice. On All Souls Day, and throughout the month of November, we remember our relatives, friends, and the faithfully departed who are in God's great love.

Remembrance Day offers us the opportunity to say "thank you", and remember all those who have served and are currently serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. During the first half of the 20th century, 1.5 million Canadians were called upon to defend peace and freedom. We are truly grateful to those who sacrificed their lives to make Canada a safe, peaceful and free country. We will be marking Remembrance Day at SMAL on November 11th with virtual celebrations and activities that will take place in classrooms.

The new Hybrid Learning Model was also implemented during the month of October. Staff and students have adapted well and we are happy to welcome our remote learners back HOME! Please note that Progress Reports will be sent home on Friday, November 20, 2020. Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held by phone or Google Meet between November 23 and 26. More information to follow from your child's teacher. This is an important time to review student successes and areas for growth. It is an opportunity to work together to set goals, and select and implement strategies to achieve them. We look forward to continuing to work together for the betterment of our students, your children.

Yours in Catholic Education,

J. Bortolussi,
Principal

M. Caruso,
Vice-Principal

*Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed,
kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace.
Guide with Your pure and peaceable wisdom those who make decisions for the nations of Earth;
that in tranquility, Your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth be filled with the knowledge of Your love, through Jesus, our Lord.
Amen*

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values

Excellence Equity
Fiscal Responsibility Catholicity Inclusion
Integrity Respect

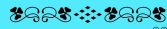
Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement
Effective Use of Our Resources Engaging Our Communities

OCTOBER VIRTUE RECIPIENTS:



COMPASSION



The virtue of the month for October was compassion. We would like to congratulate the following students for demonstrating this virtue throughout the month: **Kindergarten:** Vanessa C., Violet T., Christian M., Bianca O, Grace G.; **Grade 1:** Alessia C., Teya G., Natalie F., Kinlee D., Gianluca Z.; **Grade 2:** Ninos R., Brooklyn C., Mia L, Dylan R., Angelina J.; **Grade 3:** Ava C., Filipe D., Anthony C., Catherine L, Joseph N.; **Grade 4:** Isabella D, Dareen K, Julianne R., Michael M.; **Grade 5:** Olivia B., Ashley I., Alessio F., Giorgio R., Alessia S.; **Grade 6:** Justin C., Jesse F., Sabrina M., Loukas T., Salvatore G.; **Grade 7:** Nico R., Alessandro C., Lucas T., Joey P., Samantha G.; **Grade 8:** Milena S., Georgios S., Luca R. ***Well done, virtue recipients!***

NOVEMBER VIRTUE:

In the month of November, we focus on the virtue of *justice*. As a school community, we reflect on the following statements: ***I will treat others in a just, equitable and unbiased manner; I will play by the rules, take turns and share; I will be respectful of others; I will seek peaceful solutions to problems.*** We look forward to acknowledging our November virtue recipients in the next newsletter.

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI: COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION FOR STUDENTS WHO HAD TO POSTPONE DUE TO COVID19:

The following are dates/times issued by Msgr John at St Clare of Assisi Parish for First Holy Communion & Confirmation (only for the students who had to postpone their sacrament due to COVID-19):

First Holy Communion Date

School	Parent Meeting/Time	First Communion Date
St. Michael	Nov. 18, 2020 @ 6pm	Nov. 21, 2020 @ 3:00pm

Confirmation Dates

Students with Last Names A-J: December 7, 2020 @ 7 pm
Students with Last Names L-Z : December 10, 2020 @ 7 pm

For the most current, up to date information we urge you to visit the church's website at: <https://saintclareofassisi.ca/the-sacraments>.

TREATY RECOGNITION WEEK:



The YCDSB celebrates Treaty Recognition Week, **November 2-6, 2020**. It was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. We recognize Treaty Week as part of our ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation. As we continue this journey together, we gratefully acknowledge that our York Catholic schools rest on traditional territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island and The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations.

During Treaty Recognition Week, we acknowledge the many Treaties that the Canadian Government signed with the First Peoples of this land. These Treaties compel all people in Canada, all of us, to be Treaty people. Each of us has an obligation to ensure that the Treaties be honoured.

We celebrate the contributions of Indigenous peoples to the development of Canada. Indigenous peoples were the first stewards of the land, waters and resources. Indigenous peoples offered assistance to the first European travelers to this region, and shared knowledge for survival in what was, at times, a harsh climate. We journey in relationship with Indigenous People of this land; a relationship among neighbours based on honour and deep respect.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL:

A sincere thank you to our newly appointed CSC for your support and dedication to our school community. Please note the following:



Ann-Marie Colosimo- CHAIR
Frank Mazziotta- TREASURER
Grace Recchia- SECRETARY

We value each and every member and we look forward to a continued positive partnership!

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will take place virtually on **Thursday, November 26 at 7PM.** Parents are always welcome to attend meetings. A Google Meet link will be shared with you as well as the agenda closer to the date. Please remember that the Google Meet is limited to the first 100 guests, first come first serve basis. We hope to see you there!

TERRY FOX WEEK SUCCESS: Thank you to all staff and students for engaging in physical activity in the name of Terry Fox Week. Thank you also to our entire school community for raising **\$1,575** for cancer research in honour of Terry Fox. We look forward to next year!

DIABETES AWARENESS:

Did you know that November 14th is World Diabetes Day? This day is devoted to helping bring more awareness and education around type 1 and 2 diabetes. Let us continue to bring awareness to diabetes and its effects on children and their families.

CANADIAN DOWN SYNDROME WEEK: The week of November 2-6 is Canadian Down Syndrome Week. At St Michael the Archangel we encourage the inclusion and celebration of people with Down Syndrome.

We are declaring Thursday November 12th a free (PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY) BLUE civvies day. (Blue is the colour associated with Diabetes Awareness as well as Down Syndrome Awareness.)

FRENCH IMMERSION OPEN HOUSE:

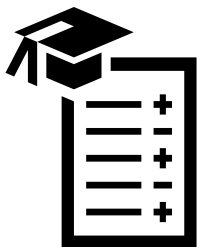


Is your child entering Grade 1 in September 2021? Are you interested in French Immersion? The YCDSB will host a centrally facilitated parent information night. This event will be held on **December 2, 2020, at 7 pm** and will be live-streamed via the YCDSB Youtube channel. Find more information [here](#).

YORK REGION ALLIANCE OF AFRICAN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES: The [York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities](#), supported by the Government of Canada, is hosting its Sankofa Virtual Saturday Mornings Storytelling and Poetry Program. The program is “rooted in African and Caribbean art” and is free for Black students in Grades 5 to 7. It will take place every Saturday beginning November 14, 2020 until March 27, 2021 from 11:30 am to 12 pm. Please click [here](#) for more information. As well, to register, students and/or families can email sankofa7@yorkregionaacc.ca or call 647.807.6306.

PROGRESS REPORTS:

Progress reports will be sent home with students on **Friday, November 20, 2020**. The Elementary Progress Report Card is designed to show student's development of learning and skills, and work habits during the fall of the school year. Additionally, its purpose is to provide parents and guardians with information on their child's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects. The progress report supports constructive discussion between teacher and parents/guardians.



PARENT—TEACHER INTERVIEWS: Interviews will be organized for the week of November 23 to November 26 via phone or Google Meet. More information will be forthcoming from your child's teacher.



REMOTE LEARNING CODE OF CONDUCT: The following are expectations for our Remote

students:

- The remote learning platform is a classroom;
- Students attending remotely are expected to show the same classroom preparedness and willingness to follow school and classroom rules, routines and expectations as if attending in-person (i.e., attending class and being punctual, being presentable and dressed for learning, having learning materials ready and homework completed);
- Students are expected to be prompt and in attendance by the start of the school day. Any students who are late will be marked late and parents will receive a call from Safe Arrival.
- As in a regular classroom, remote learners are expected to show courtesy, respect and consideration for their teachers and peers. The school's code of conduct and progressive discipline apply in instances of inappropriate behavior; and

- Where there is inappropriate behavior, the teacher will report the incident to the principal for further investigation and follow-up with parents.

Parents of Remote students should note the following:

- All student absences must be reported via the Board's Safe Arrival procedures;
- The remote class is imbued with the same sanctity as a regular classroom;
- The teacher is the person of authority in the classroom and is responsible for establishing and maintaining class order and management;
- When there is any concern (i.e., live feed is not working), the parent will call the school office to report the occurrence and wait for school administrator to respond;
- At all times, where there is concern about content, the parent will contact the teacher through established teacher-parent communication protocol including a phone call or email to the teacher. Additionally, the parent can also contact the office with any concerns. **Parents are not to use the chat feature to address concerns.**
- Taking pictures, video or audio recording of the live proceeding is strictly forbidden to ensure the privacy of staff and students.
- **Providing unwelcome feedback/comments about the proceedings of classroom lessons on social media is inappropriate. Any comments should be addressed directly with the teacher.**
- Under no circumstance during synchronous live teaching will a parent or guardian interrupt the proceeding of the classroom. As outlined in the Education Act s.212 (1), *'it is an offense for any person to willfully interrupt or disquiet the proceedings of a school or class.'*

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ON THE SCHOOL YARD:

We respectfully ask all parents and guardians to stay off the school yard area. Please wait behind the fence, kindly wear a mask and maintain physical distance. Thank you for respecting our school's entry/exit routines.

DISMISSAL: A gentle reminder to all our students and parent community that when the bell rings, students must follow whatever home time safe arrival procedures have been established by parents and guardians.

STUDENT ABSENCES: Once students enter school, it is recommended they remain at school until the end of the school day. Wherever practical and possible, we ask that parents and guardians schedule appointments for students outside of school hours. Accumulated student absences can adversely impact a child's learning. While we understand that certain appointments cannot be rescheduled, we kindly ask that this be an ongoing consideration in scheduling appointments. If appointments must happen during school hours, please inform your child's teacher and/or the office. For our Remote learners, these students must use SafeArrival when communicating student absence and/or late. This will also minimize disruptions to the classroom. In addition, a gentle reminder that it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school of a student's absence before the morning bell. This helps our safe arrival program run more efficiently, supporting our ability to ensure all students are accounted for at school. The few minutes it takes to make this important call saves us much time at school, and supports us to do the best job we can. We thank you most sincerely for your cooperation in this matter. Contact information for our safe arrival program is on page one of this newsletter.

Please note the following for REMOTE Learners: Students are expected to attend live instruction just as they would as if In-Person. Attendance is recorded twice daily in the morning and the afternoon.

In Person learners who are absent GREATER than one day can access synchronous/live instruction.

COVID UPDATE:

Throughout the month of November, York Region Public Health is hosting a digital campaign intended for youth. This campaign is to remind children and young adults that the *Choices You Make Matter*. The posters can be accessed [here](#).

Reminders include:

- Wearing a mask or face covering;
- Physically distancing;
- Washing your hands; and
- Monitoring your health.

In adherence to York Region Public Health, please use this [COVID-19 School Screening Tool](#) to determine if your child should stay home from school. Here are some resources from York Region Public Health to assist families in navigating COVID-19 protocols:

- [Common COVID-19 Symptoms](#)
- [Kids – How to put on and take off face mask](#)
- [Kids - How to Hand Sanitize](#)
- [School Screening](#)
- [When to wash your hands](#)



INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Winter is just around the corner and with that in mind, please remember to dress children appropriately for outside conditions. Hats, gloves, scarves, and boots will keep your child(ren) warm during recess. It is also recommended to have an extra pair of clothes at school in the event that they get wet as flurries arrive. **Please note we are not accepting drop offs of winter clothing items in the office.** Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately when he/she leaves home in the morning. We will continue to do our part by reminding students to dress warmly for recess.

FORGOT SOMETHING?

Please refrain from dropping off forgotten items such as clothing, technology, homework, lunch etc as these items will not be permitted into the building. Further details can be found on the school board website, under YCDSB re-entry Plan.

SOCIAL WEBSITES: Our school is obligated to protect our students' and families' personal information. Images of students are considered personal information. Parents sign the *Freedom of Information* consent form upon registering their child with our Board. This consent, when signed, allows pictures to be posted on the School Board's or school's website. We caution all parents and staff that when taking pictures during school activities or field trips that those pictures, when they include students, NOT be posted on any social networking sites or apps. Thank you for respecting this rule.

PARKING LOT SAFETY: Everyone must feel safe and welcome when they come to our school, and that begins in our parking lot. We highlight parking lot safety in our newsletters so our community is aware of our parking lot expectations. We are grateful for the support of our parent community, our community liaison officer, and municipal parking officers for their guidance, cooperation and support.

KISS AND RIDE: Thank you to parents and guardians for your efforts to use SMAL's Kiss and Ride effectively before and after school. You are reminded that this area is not intended for parking or stopping, but rather designated for drivers to pull in, unload safely, and drive through. Parents and guardians, please continue to park in available parking spots or use of street parking where appropriate if you wish to accompany your children to/from the playground or kindergarten pen. Our collective efforts will make a real difference to the efficiency of morning drop offs and pickups, and most of all keep our students safe!

FIRE ROUTE: We respectfully remind our community not to park or idle in our bus route, entry or exit gates. This area is for buses and emergency vehicles. Vehicles parked or idling in this area block traffic flow which is a disruption to everyone. Please do not choose haste and convenience over the safety of our children. We also ask that drivers do not drive into the parking lot from the exit gate at the north side of the lot. The front driveway is designed for one way traffic only with vehicles entering, when appropriate, from the south entrance. This space must be kept clear as well for pedestrians and students on bicycles. Thank you for respecting these traffic safety rules.