



# St. Michael the Archangel CES

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## JANUARY 2021 EDITION

Trustee, Vaughan Area 3  
**Maria Marchese**

Pastor  
**Msgr. John Borean**

Associate Pastor  
**Rev. Andre de Lima**

Superintendent of Schools  
**Opiyo Oloya**

CSC Chair  
**Ann-Marie Colosimo**

Office Staff  
**Maria Iazzi**  
**Rosanna Dragone**

Principal  
**Joanne Bortolussi**

Vice-Principal  
**Livio Porcelli**

To report student absences and lates, please dial:  
1-855-856-7862 or visit [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

**SMAL School Day:**  
8:55 - Supervision Begins  
9:10 - Morning Entry  
10:30 - AM Recess  
12:10-1:10 - Lunch & Recess  
2:30 - PM Recess  
3:40 - End of Day

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas, welcoming the blessing of time to gather together with family in celebration of our Saviour's birth. We look forward to 2021 with anticipation of continuing to create exciting and meaningful learning opportunities for students, and strengthening partnerships between home, school and church.

This month, we welcome Mr. Livio Porcelli as our new Vice Principal to the SMAL school community. We know Mr. Porcelli will make a wonderful addition to our school and we look forward to working together in partnership. A heartfelt 'thanks' to Mr. Caruso for partnering and joining our team over the last few months. We would also like to take this time to thank Ms. Quadrini for all her work and commitment to quality learning over the past 2 years. Our most deep congratulations extends to Ms Flabiano, Grade 3 Teacher, on her retirement. Ms Flabiano has devoted many years to the YCDSB and has been a teacher at our school since we first opened our doors many years ago. She has been an asset to her Grade 3 team, as well as the entire St Michael the Archangel community. Her gentle and loving disposition will be greatly missed, however, we wish her many years of happiness and health on her next adventure.

We look forward to a bright 2021 and wish you and your families a healthy, prosperous and positive new year!

Sincerely,

**J. Bortolussi**, Principal

**L. Porcelli**, Vice-Principal

*Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
Be with us today and always.  
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.  
Be our Strength, our Courage and our Sanctifier.  
May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,  
A time of welcoming Your graces and gifts,  
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,  
and a time for growing in virtue and goodness.  
Come, Holy Spirit, Be with us today and always.  
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

### 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

### Strategic Commitments

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

## Catholic Communities of Faith

**DECEMBER VIRTUE RECIPIENTS:** The virtue of the month for December was hope. Congratulations to the following students for demonstrating this virtue:

**FDK Recipients:** Aiden K., Michael A., Veronica D., Joseph M., Carla R., Evangelos Q.

**Grade One Recipients:** Victoria S., Jayden G., Olivia L., Joseph S., Gianmarco M.

**Grade Two Recipients:** Arianna D., Adorinna Y., Lorenzo M., Sienna F., Gabriella J.

**Grade Three Recipients:** Giacomo C., Marco S., Adam F., Oliana M., Alivia F.

**Grade Four Recipients:** Alexander G., Christina E., Julian Q., Stefan I., Matteo L., Christopher E.P.,

**Grade Five Recipients:** David S., Sofia C., Nicholas B., Lauren M., Lorenzo D.,

**Grade Six Recipients:** Anastacia G., Julia M., Ramin R., Gianna F., Emily F.

**Grade Seven Recipients:** Kaleb R., Luca A., Ava P., Massimo B., Angelina G.

**Grade Eight Recipients:** Camila S., Jacqueline C., Sabrina B., William F.F.

**JANUARY VIRTUE:** January's virtue is Unity. This month, we reflect on the following statements: *I will make everyone feel welcomed and appreciated; I will take some time to learn about the similarities and differences in my community; and, I will empower people with my words not put them down by calling them names.* As always, we look forward to recognizing our January virtue recipients in our upcoming newsletter.



### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL:**

Our Catholic School Council will meet **Monday, January 18, 2021 at 7pm**. Our meeting will be held virtually. As always we welcome parents and guardians to join us and share their ideas, opinions and input. Please see the school website for the meeting agenda and to review previous meeting minutes. Thank you to our CSC for all they do in support of our school.

*God of harmony and unity,  
You want us all to work together to build your kingdom.  
May our ears hear your voice clearly, may our eyes see your beauty in all.  
May our understanding break down walls of fear and prejudice.  
May we make our school a place of friendship, a place of belonging,  
a place of welcome, where everyone feels safe, where everyone has a place,  
Where we all are united in You, dear God. Amen*

### SEPTEMBER 2021 CLASS PLACEMENTS:

At St. Michael the Archangel, staff and administration work together to ensure our students are placed in a class where they will be both challenged and supported in a faith-filled, Christ-centred learning environment.

Our primary concern when creating class lists is to leverage our professional judgment to address individual and collective needs, as well as the spiritual, educational and social needs of SMAL students. Our staff and administration take this task very seriously, and confer with each other regarding observations and experiences over the year, with each child. It is also important for parents to recognize that students are in the care of a number of teachers, including itinerant staff, throughout the day. SMAL is blessed with strong, effective and committed teachers and support staff, all of whom work collaboratively to deliver a challenging, supportive and inspiring program to our students.

From time to time, parents will contact us with requests for a student to be with a friend or to be with a specific teacher. While these requests seem straightforward, they are not. Our commitment to all students in our care is to provide them with opportunities to excel as their best self in a well-balanced class with an excellent teacher. When we attempt to address the request of one parent, we begin to compromise our ability to offer our best to the students as a whole as we consider the following: learning styles, academic abilities, social groupings, language needs, special education needs, balance of males and females, behavioral needs and previous placement in combined grades.

We know you appreciate that creating the best and most functional class groupings possible is no easy task. Accepting parental requests for specific teachers is not in the best interest of all children in the school as it restricts school staff in forming what we consider the most ideal classroom groupings. On this note, we will not be accepting parent requests for class placements. Thank you for considering this information. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to school administration.



### NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS:

#### COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

**#HOUROFCODE:** During the month of December, Primary students participated in a series of lessons on coding and coding principles in efforts to start investigating computer technology and the series of steps that need to be understood in order for code to work and have an effect. Junior and Intermediate Classes were engaged in Coding Workshops (at specified times) to delve deeper into the exciting and intriguing world of Coding. This year, with the shift to hybrid learning, remote learning and a quest to conquer COVID-19, it is even more evident that computer science is a subject that needs to be taught and a field to be ventured into as we create a better future for all of us. Coding is important to the lives of our students, and our society as a whole! So...let's venture into 2021 with a mindset to continue the 'talk' surrounding code...and inspire, create and get excited about CODING!

#### CODING WITH STEM MINDS:

This month, our Grade 4-8 students will be participating in a virtual workshop by Stem Minds presented by our SMAL CSC. Stem Minds will deliver hands on coding experience to students. More specifically, our students will be creating their OWN video games! Along the way, students will focus on the fundamental concepts of code, directly tied to the Ontario Math Curriculum expectations. Get ready to become a video game design expert! We hope that COVID restrictions will allow us to continue with this learning experience virtually. Stay tuned...

**SMAL IS A CHARACTER SCHOOL:** Our expectation is that students keep their hands and feet to themselves at all times and use only kind words and positive language. We remind students daily that if they find themselves in a problem they cannot resolve on their own, to seek the help of a caring adult or administrator.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE & REMOTE LEARNING IN JANUARY:**

As per the correspondence from the YCDSB dated December 23, please note the following:

- From January 4-8, 2021, all elementary schools will be closed to students. All students will participate in remote online learning during this time. Elementary schools are expected to reopen to students on Monday, January 11, 2021.
- Before and after care programs will not operate while schools are closed to students.
- **Connecting to the Virtual Classroom:** Most students should be well aware of how to log into their virtual classrooms. For students who have not yet entered their teacher's virtual classroom, the classroom teacher will either provide the class code, or invite them into their classroom and students will accept the invitation. Student schedules will remain the same.
- **Tech Requirements:** If your child is in need of a Chromebook or iPad to participate in remote online learning, a survey (one survey per child) was sent out and had to have been completed by December 28, 2020. We have gathered information from the survey, and we will be reaching out to parents for device pick up information. Please note that the number of devices a school can lend out will depend on availability.
- **Technical Support:** Families looking for technical support during remote online learning are encouraged to visit our Call Centre website <http://help.ycdsb.ca/vle>.
- **Resources for Families:** Parents/guardians looking for additional resources, including assistance on how to navigate virtual classrooms such as Google Classroom and Brightspace D2L, can visit the Parent Resources section of the Board's website. The Ministry has also made available some online resources on the following Ministry and TVO/TFO websites: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/learnat-home>, and TVO Learn

- **Mental Health and Well-Being:** The mental health and well-being of students is more important than ever during these challenging times. If you are concerned about your child's emotional well-being, please contact your child's school principal. Mental health professionals are available for assistance, and resources are also available on the Mental Health and Well-Being page of the Board's website. You can also stay up to date on what the Mental Health Team is providing by following them on Twitter @YCDSB\_MH.
- York Region Public Health: If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID19, please refer to the YRPH website [HERE](#).
- SMAL and the YCDSB will continue to share updates and information with you as they become available. **For more information and updates please follow us on twitter @st\_smal or the YCDSB on Twitter: @YCDSB or visit: [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)**

**PEDICULOSIS:** YCDSB recognizes and appreciates concerns related to Pediculosis at the school, community, and regional level. The Board also recognizes that the Ministry of Health does not designate Pediculosis as a communicable disease, and as such, it is not considered a health hazard to the community. Anyone can get head lice, regardless of cleanliness. Head lice is not a public hazard, as it does not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. Please check your child's head regularly for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, kindly contact the school office. Students will be readmitted to school once treatment has been administered and confirmed by the parent, in accordance with the procedures of this policy.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** Winter weather is here! 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 students get wet as flurries arrive. We will continue to remind students to dress warmly for outdoor routines. SMAL's inclement weather temperature is -20°C (with the wind chill). At -18°C to -19°C (with the wind chill), students may go outside for a shortened recess for some fresh air and exercise at the discretion of the administration.

**CAUTION - SLIPS & FALLS:** Please exercise caution around the school during snowy and icy conditions. While the Board and the school work to minimize slippery ice patches or other hazardous conditions, we caution everyone to use great care when walking in and around the school. Although we plow, shovel, salt, sand and mop, winter weather in Canada comes with its challenges. Thank you for your cooperation in minimizing falls!