



# St. John XXIII Catholic School

## The Monthly - September 2017



**Trustee**  
Carol Cotton

**Superintendent**  
Nancy Di Nardo

**Principal**  
Chris Mills

**Secretary**  
Elizabeth Marincola

**Parish**  
St. Justin Martyr

**Parish Priest**  
Monsignor Vid Vlasic

**St. John XXIII Catholic School**  
125 Krieghoff Avenue  
Unionville, Ontario  
L3R 1V8  
905-477-3288  
<http://j23.ycdsb.ca>



A warm welcome back to returning families and a special welcome to all new families joining our St. John XXIII school community this September. I hope you all enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer.

We are all looking forward to another exciting year of learning and growing – we are grateful for our wonderful and very special SJXXIII school family!

Please plan to attend our annual Curriculum night on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in the school gymnasium at 6:30 p.m. This evening is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to learn more about the curriculum and exciting learning opportunities your child will enjoy this coming year.

Ongoing communication between home and school is essential in creating a positive environment conducive to student success and well-being. Parents are invited to participate in their child's education by staying informed and involved by reading our newsletters, visiting our school website on a regular basis, volunteering at school events, joining our Catholic School Council, and using your child's agenda to communicate with their teacher.

We are grateful to the efforts of our St. John XXIII staff and board personnel for their tremendous work over the past few weeks in preparing our school for September.

Looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. C. Mills

Principal

*A Prayer for a New School Year*

Loving God, you give us this new school year and new friends with whom to share it.

Bless each student of St. John XXIII as we begin our year of praying, learning, working, and growing together.

Bless our staff in their important work of service to our students.

Bless the parents of our community in their work as the "first teachers" of our students.

Grant that this year will be one of growth fulfillment and joy for all members of our school community

This we ask through Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

### Celebrating the Virtue of

*Courage*

*I will stand up for what I know is right and just.*

*I will face challenges, fears, and difficulties with fortitude.*

*I will take responsibility for reaching my God-given potential.*

### Mission

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.

### Core Values

Catholicity, Excellence, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect

### Vision

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

### Strategic Commitments

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



*"We believe in the power of prayer."*

# Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

## St. John XXIII Catholic School Staff 2017-2018

Grade	Staff Name	Position	Staff Name	Position	Staff Name
FDK	Mrs. L. Christidis	Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. N. FitzGerald	Lunchtime Supervisor	Mrs. S. Breton
FDK	Ms. J. Sciulli	FSL	Mme S. Cardinale	Lunchtime Supervisor	Mrs. M. D'Costa
One/Two	Ms. E. Burdi	ESL	Ms. C. McClelland	Lunchtime Supervisor	Mrs. C. Lee Wah
One F.I.	-Mlle S. Sassone	Core Resource	Mr. J. Silveri	Lunchtime Supervisor	Mrs. Varela
Two F.I.	-Mme J. Lu	Primary P.E.	Ms. L. Faria	Head Secretary	Mrs. E. Marincola
Three F.I.	-Mlle C. Forte	Primary P.E.	Ms. S. Lowe	Head Custodian	Mr. S. Mefailoski
Four F.I.	-Ms. M. Jugdeo and M. D. Kunce	Music	Ms. L. Luff	Custodian	Mr. P. Cialone
Three-Four	Ms. M. Ofilan	ECE	Mrs. A. Marsala	Principal	Mrs. C. Mills
Five	Ms. M. Seymour	EA	Mrs. A. McLean		
Six	Ms. C. Lau	EA	Mr. M. Sciulli		
Seven	Ms. C. Fantauzzi	Office Support	Mrs. J. Palma		
Eight	Mr. F. Yu				

### Safe Arrival Absence Reporting System

Any absences or late arrivals should be reported on our Safe Arrival Absence Reporting System that was implemented in the later part of the last school year. You can call the toll free number @ 1-855-856-7862 OR go to the website @ <http://yorkcddb.schoolconnects.com>.

Calls must be made **prior to 8:55 a.m.** Please note that vacation dates, appointments and future absences can be input ahead of time. Thank you for your support on this important safety protocol.

### Safe and Caring Schools

Your child's safety is our highest priority, and several measures have been put in place to ensure that all students are safe at school.

- ✓ all visitors to the school must sign in at the office
- ✓ no unauthorized adults are to be in the school yard or hallways without the consent of school
- ✓ all exterior doors are locked during school hours
- ✓

Parking lot safety is also a concern. Students should be picked up in the loop, and never walk through the parking lot.

### Student Punctuality

Our morning bell rings at 8:55 a.m. and students must be in the building at this time so that they will not be recorded as "Late". Prompt attendance at school is essential to maximize instructional time and to teach children the importance of punctuality and responsibility to tasks. Students who arrive late to school must report to the office and have their agendas stamped with a LATE notice before entering their classrooms. If your child is late on a consistent basis, you will be contacted to discuss this issue.



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## The Protection of Anaphylactic Students

The York Catholic District School Board has a comprehensive policy to help protect students with life threatening allergies. Protecting anaphylactic students from exposure to life threatening substances creates a major challenge to all elementary schools.

As outlined in the policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies immediately and are required to fill in specific forms which are available in the office. Each form must have three passport size pictures attached so that the student is easily identifiable to staff. Parents are also asked to ensure that students for whom Epi-Pens are prescribed, have two Epi-Pens at school. It is strongly recommended that one Epi-Pen be worn by the student in a fanny pack at all times, which includes on the bus, on excursions, and on all other school related activities/sports. The other Epi-Pen must be stored in the school office for emergency use only. This Epi-Pen will also be taken on trips.

The following are avoidance strategies we will be implementing at St. John XXIII to help keep all our students safe.

- ✓ We will continue with our “nut-safe” school environment via food restrictions. Students will be informed of and reminded that they are not to share food. The school environment includes entire school grounds, buses and other modes of transportation, school trips, before/after school/weekend programs, and school sanctioned events involving pupils;
- ✓ We will prohibit food outdoors to minimize exposure to insects (i.e. wasps, etc.);
- ✓ We will continue to communicate regularly to the entire school community that we are a “nut-safe” school via newsletters, and posting of “nut-safe” signs throughout the school;
- ✓ We will take special precautions around holidays and special celebrations, by planning activities that ensure the health and safety of our students. No cakes, cupcakes, muffins, donuts, and the like, will be allowed in the school for birthday recognition purposes. However, non-edible items will be permitted.
- ✓ Special communication and instructions will be given to individual classrooms where students with allergies are enrolled regarding allergens in that particular classroom;
- ✓ We will continue to ensure that all products sold through the school for fundraising or other purposes are nut free;
- ✓ We will continue to ensure that permit holders, visitors and all school staff are aware of these precautions;

At present, a number of children in our school have life-threatening allergies to nut products. Something as simple as a trace of peanut butter on the door knob or on a child’s desk, could mean life or death for these children.

**We ask that NO PRODUCTS be brought into the school** that may contain nut products such as peanut butter, Nutella, certain types of candy bars, cookies, and donuts. Fresh vegetables, fruit, “no nut” granola bars, raisins, etc., make great snacks for your child and do not pose health risks. Please contact the office if you have any questions.



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## Protection of Students with Asthma

In accordance with the *Act to Protect Pupils with Asthma* (Ryan's Law: Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools, 2015) the Board approved a new policy # 206: *Protection of Students with Asthma* at its June 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that there are some students within the school system who have a diagnosis of asthma which could be life threatening. The York Catholic District School Board also recognizes that asthma management is a shared responsibility among students, parents, caregivers and the entire school community.

It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to advise the school immediately upon registration and/or when in receipt of a diagnosis of asthma. It is also the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all medical information pertinent to their child's diagnosis of asthma is always current.

If your child has a diagnosis of asthma please contact the school office immediately so that the appropriate forms are completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Policy 206.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request and your ongoing support in the shared responsibility for asthma management in our school. Please refer to the Board's website for more information related to Policy 206.



### Medication

If students are required to take medication while at school, they must follow the protocols of school board policy. ***Forms are available in the office and must be filled out by parents. Please do not send medication to the school without first notifying us.*** Medication is to be stored in the office.

## Emergency Information Forms

An Emergency Information form was sent home on the first day of school. This completed form is critical in enabling us to reach you, the parents, or your designated emergency caregivers, in the event of an illness or an emergency. On some rare occasions, if parents cannot be reached, the Principal may need to take immediate medical action for your child that may involve hospitalization. For this reason, please make sure that all information is current and any drug allergies or existing medical conditions that would be helpful in the absence of your presence are recorded. Please return these forms by **Friday, September 8 or sooner.**



## Pediculosis (Head Lice)

"The York Catholic District School Board 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." (Policy 210)

Anyone can get head lice, regardless of cleanliness. Head lice are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent this from becoming a problem at St. John XXIII CES we all need to work together. Please check your child's head weekly for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, contact the office so that we can notify other parents in the class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice.

Readmission to school is contingent upon lice no longer being present and all the (nits) eggs have been removed. For more information or advice on the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice, please contact the Public Health Nurses at Health Connection, 1-800-361-5653.



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## Instructional Day

The following is the daily instructional schedule:

8:55 a.m.	Entry and school begins
10:25–10:40	Recess
12:00–1:00	Lunch hour
2:20–2:35	Recess
3:25 p.m.	Dismissal



It is our expectation, and in keeping with the Education Act, that students arrive at school on time and prepared for class. Students who arrive late to school (after the bell rings) are to report to the office to receive a late notice for admittance into class. Arriving at school on time offers students the best opportunity to begin their day in a positive and organized manner.

## Student Drop-off and Pick-up

Student safety is our collective first priority. Ensuring that we are providing a safe environment for all students both within, outside, and coming to and leaving from school is our shared responsibility. School staff will follow specific safety protocols to ensure your child's safety and we would ask that parents also adhere to the safety practices outlined below.

Parents of Kindergarten students are asked to bring their children directly to the Kindergarten yard at the front of the school between 8:40 a.m. and 8:55 a.m.

Parents who normally walk or drive their children to school are asked to say their good-byes before the children enter the school yard. In addition to fostering a sense of independence, this handing-over routine affirms the school's safety protocol that the only people on the school yard are the supervising teachers wearing the bright orange sashes. Supervision is provided in the school yard each morning for students beginning at 8:40 a.m. As our students require supervision at all times, students are not permitted to be in the schoolyard before 8:40 a.m. Therefore, we ask that parents please not send children into the school yard prior to this time.

Parents who drive their child(ren) in the morning and drop off them off using the school "Kiss and Ride" driveway loops at the front of the school, please ensure that you proceed through the identified drop-off lane, stop, and let your child(ren) out of your car. Please see helpful guidelines attached to the end of the newsletter.



**No parking is permitted in the clearly demarcated "no parking" zone located near the school sidewalks.**

The same parameters are to be followed for afternoon student pick-up. Please adhere to the foregoing procedures and the driveway safety signage. Your child's safety and that of all of our students depends on your vigilance in the dropping off and picking up of your children.

## Lunch Drop-Off

Children should arrive at school with their lunch in the morning. However, at times you may find it necessary to deliver lunch at school.

### Thank you for:

- keeping lunch drop-offs to a minimum
- having your child's name on the bag and delivering the lunch to the table outside the office by 11:50 a.m.



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## Hot Lunch Programs

We are continuing our daily hot lunch program this year. Please look for order forms from our hot lunch providers in the next few weeks.



## School Photographs

September 21!  
Wear your smiles!



## Running Club

Our Running Club will begin once again for all interested students from Grade 3 to 8. Running Club will be held three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:00 a.m. More information will follow shortly.

## Cross Country Team

This year, our Cross Country Meet for students from Grades 4 to 8, will be held on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Bruce's Mill. Students will train for our annual meet during their physical education classes and Running club. More information will follow in the next week.



## Toonies for Terry

On Friday, September 22<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our annual Terry Fox Fundraiser for cancer. More information will follow.



## Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

We would ask that all our students have a pair of indoor shoes to change into once they arrive at school. Our custodians have spent the summer getting our school ready for students and staff and they have done a terrific job! Our floors are shiny and clean and we would like to keep them that way by making sure mud and dirt are not tracked in. The school is your child's "home" for 6 hours and we want it to be a healthy environment for them.



Please put your child's name on the inside tongue of their shoes for easy identification. Students will be instructed to leave their indoor shoes in their assigned space before and after recess and at the end of the day. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## St. John XXIII Library Learning Commons

Welcome back to school! My name is Mrs. FitzGerald and I am the teacher-librarian at St. John XXIII. Once again, this year I hope to create a learning commons that is busy, creative, exciting and a hub of social justice.

We will start the year considering the importance of a "growth mindset". This refers to how students perceive their abilities. According to Dweck's research, "Students who believed their intelligence could be developed (a growth mindset) outperformed those who believed their intelligence was fixed (a fixed mindset)." (<http://yourbrainhealth.com>) There are many wonderful storybooks that will provide a context for this discussion. As the year progresses I will encourage students to develop this mindset as they are challenged with makerspace activities. (More information on makerspaces will follow in October's newsletter.)

Our library will also be a place where students learn about social justice. In addition to participating in "Weaving Wednesdays" to create mats out of milk bags, we will also start to collect pillow cases (for pillow case dresses), used stamps (to raise funds for Canadian Food for Children) and pop can tabs (to purchase wheel chairs). I hope to have a guest speaker discuss the impact of these contributions with our students in the fall.

As you can see, our library learning commons will be a busy place. Please ask your children about the above topics as well as monthly jokes and facts. I hope September is a wonderful month for all St. John XXIII families.



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# Integration of Our Catholic Faith

## St. John XXIII- A Community of Faith



The home-school-church relationship is very strong in our community. Our three St. Justin's parish priests, Monsignor Vid Vlastic, Fr. Derek Ali, and our Youth Minister, Andrew Santos, make it possible to have not only frequent celebrations of the Eucharist but, also, many classroom visits throughout the year.

Our fall mass date ushering in this new school year is Wednesday, October 11th at St. John XXIII at 10:45 a.m. October 11<sup>th</sup> is also the feast day of our patron saint, St. John XXIII. You are most welcome to join us.

We typically celebrate four masses an opening mass, an Advent mass, an Easter mass and an end of year mass. Parents and relatives are always welcome at our school masses. Please read the attached St. Justin Martyr Church newsletter, for information about parish events and sacramental preparation.

## Sacramental Preparation

While the school works in partnership with the church in preparing students for the sacrament, your commitment to your child's faith development will be instrumental in helping your child realize their relationship with God and church.

A letter to parents of sacramental aged children will be sent home soon and will highlight important sacramental preparation details and dates.

## Monthly Virtue Recognition and Celebration Assemblies

The spirit of this school-wide initiative is to celebrate our faith and recognize student effort and participation. Each month we hold an assembly to recognize students who have demonstrated the month's virtue in a particularly special way and to celebrate student efforts in our school initiatives.



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# Engaging Our Communities

## Catholic School Council Election—Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Our Catholic School Council is passionate about contributing to the important work and well-being of St. John XXIII. A hard working group of parents representing our school comes together to support learning in many different ways. By way of example, members of our Council and the volunteers who support their committees, coordinate parent speaker events, provide critical input on relevant educational policies and initiatives, organize hot lunches for our students, fundraise, volunteer in the classrooms and on trips, support sacramental celebrations, organize our annual community BBQ, support our many social justice projects and above all, provide constant feedback to us to help support the academic, social and spiritual aspects of our school.



We invite all parents to consider becoming a member of the Catholic School Council. Your active participation can only serve to enhance all the wonderful things that happen in our school.

**A nomination form and further information will be coming home this week.** Please fill it in and let your name stand for election to the St. John XXIII for the 2017/2018 school year. **Nominations must be submitted to the office by September 20th.** We look forward to your involvement.

## School Volunteers—We need you!

We value the assistance of many parent volunteers at St. John XXIII. Would you like to get involved in some way? Look for our Volunteer Information Table on Curriculum Night and consider signing up for at least one initiative/committee. Opportunities for involvement include:

- Catholic School Council
- Hot Lunch Committee
- Gardening Committee
- Safe School Committee
- Social Committee
- Faith Committee
- Heathy Schools Committee
- BBQ Committee
- etc...



### **Great reasons to volunteer:**

- To make a difference in your child's school
- To help the teachers do what they do best - teach our children
- To help your community and meet other parents
- To provide extras for our kids - hot lunches, performances, etc.
- To be involved in your child's life at school



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## Reading Tips for Parents

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning. Reading can be a family activity. Spending time with word games, stories, and books will help your child to:

- gather information and learn about the world
- learn how stories and books work - that they have beginnings, ending, characters, and themes
- build a rich vocabulary by reading and talking about new words
- learn how to listen and how to think
- learn the sounds of language and language patterns
- fall in love with books

Source: Ministry of Education, Helping Your Child to Read



## School Monthly Newsletter!

To support our environmental initiatives, save trees and use less energy, our school monthly newsletter will be posted on our school website with an email notice to parents that it has been posted. The newsletter will be posted the first day of each month on our school website. A limited amount of paper copies will be available in the office for pick up. We thank you in advance for supporting our ECO efforts.



## School Bus Transportation

School bus transportation is provided for eligible students who live within the school boundaries by the York Catholic District School Board. If you have any questions or concerns regarding busing, you can go to [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).



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## St. John XXIII School Driveway Safety

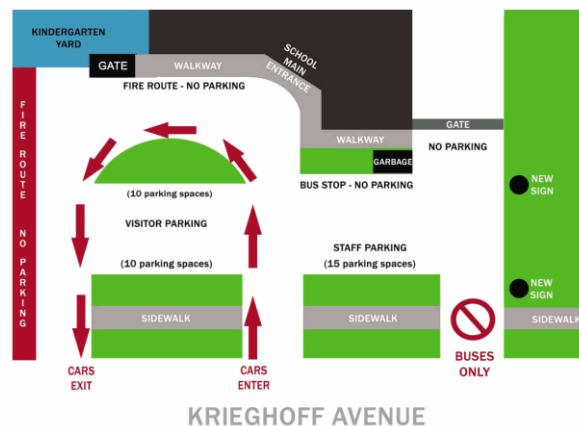
Thank you from the parents, students and staff of St. John XXIII for following the guidelines below ensuring the safety of everyone!

### Please do:

- ✓ Enter by the middle driveway only.
- ✓ Exit by the East driveway.
- ✓ Park in the designated visitor parking spaces.
- ✓ Use the **LEFT INNER LANE** of the drive through, and pick up or drop off students in front of the gate.
- ✓ Use the walkway in front of the school if you ride home on a bus or in a car.
- ✓ Unless waiting for a ride, students in grades 4-8 should avoid the gate.
- ✓ Use the sidewalk closer to the road if you are walking home.
- ✓ Exercise **patience, consideration and caution.**

### Please don't:

- ✓ Don't park and get out of your car in the drive through or on the fire routes. You risk the safety of our children, and you risk getting a **parking ticket.**
- ✓ Don't let children to come to you or your car, so that they must cross driveways, between cars, unescorted. If you park in the visitor's parking spaces instead of driving through, go and pick them up at the gate or walkway.
- ✓ Don't block parked cars.
- ✓ Don't hold up those behind you with lengthy goodbyes or conversations. Please avoid lingering in the kindergarten yard.
- ✓ Don't use the bus entrance.
- ✓ Don't block the school bus from entering or exiting the property. If you use available staff parking spaces, you must wait till both buses have left.
- ✓ Don't park across from the entrances and exits. This makes it difficult for the school bus and cars to manoeuvre the turn.



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# St. Justin Martyr Parish

3898 Highway 7 East - Unionville, Ont. L3R 1L3 (905)-479-2463

[www.stjustin.com](http://www.stjustin.com) September 2017 School Newsletter



## Welcome Back from St. Justin's

Here we are, at the beginning of another year together, and we couldn't be happier. We hope you and your family had a safe and relaxing summer, having had the chance to rest, relax and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. September is not only a busy month for us here in the parish, but an exciting one too! We look forward to partnering with our parish schools and staff, those who are new and those returning, over the year! For myself, I am so happy to be part of this community, having been a Pastor in Mississauga for the last 13 years. If there is anything that we can do to be of service and strength to you and your family, please reach out to us. - Msgr. Vid Vlastic, (new) Pastor

## Sacramental Prep

### Grade 2 Reconciliation/First Communion

We invite your child(ren) to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion this year. A very important meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 18 at 7:30pm in the Church. For more information, please contact Karen Garcea via the parish office.

### Grade 7 Confirmation

Students in our parish schools who are in Gr. 7 this year are invited to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, after completing a time of preparation with the parish. There will be an important meeting for all parents on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 PM in the Church with Andrew Santos. Please make every effort to attend. Information letters are available in your Catholic school and at the parish office.

### RCIC Program

For children in public/private schools who are missing Sacraments or have none at all. Come by our parish office to sign up for a registration interview.

## What's Happening!

### September 16 Installation of new Pastor

*Our new Pastor, Monsignor Vid Vlastic, who was assigned to St. Justin's at the end of June, will be formally installed by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick at the 5:00pm Mass. Reception in hall to follow.*

### Sept. 30/Oct. 1 "Welcome Back" Drive-In

*Join us in our parish parking lot at 8:30pm on Sept. 30 for an outdoor screening of Disney's hit movie, Moana. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 for a Family Pass of 4. Lots of concession type treats for sale. You won't want to miss this back to school fun activity! Invite your family and friends and let us formally welcome you back to the parish this fall.*

### September - April 2018 RCIA Program

*We are inviting friends and family members in the parish and greater community to join our faith family here at St. Justin's. Want more information on how you can become Catholic? Contact Msgr. Vid Vlastic for more details on our program and classes. Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program will begin in mid-September.*

*\* Are you new to the community or have you been away for a while? Visit [www.stjustin.com](http://www.stjustin.com) for more detailed info on what's happening! We look forward to seeing you again soon.*



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