



St. John XXIII Catholic School

The Monthly - October 2017

Trustee
Carol Cotton

Superintendent
Nancy Di Nardo

Principal
Chris Mills

Secretary
Elizabeth Marincola

Parish
St. Justin Martyr

Parish Priest
Monsignor Vid Vlasic

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Unionville, Ontario
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905-477-3288
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Celebrating the Virtue of *Compassion*

*We understand compassion not only as
the ability to empathize
with another but also to act on behalf
of that other person.*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Give Thanks

*Autumn leaves are falling,
Pretty colours everywhere.
Thanksgiving day is almost here,
Another day that we may share.
The things we take for granted
Are blessings from above.
The needs He has provided,
Were given to us in love.
Let's give thanks for what we have
Bow our heads and together pray.
As we join our friends and family,
This Thanksgiving Day.*

Amen

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

Message from The Superintendent of Education

Dear Administrators, Staff, Students and Parents:

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that as of October 16th I will be assuming the role of Superintendent of Human Resources for the *York Catholic District School Board*.

During my four-and-a-half-year tenure I have experienced great joy and satisfaction forging relationships with the administrators, staff, students, parish priests and parents of the schools in my care. Relationships of trust and mutual respect have assisted us in making many challenging transitions seamless, thanks to the hard work, dedication and passion shared by all to ensure our students' continued achievement and well-being.

I was blessed to be able to attend and participate in many activities such as school visits, school and parish masses and liturgies, student excursions, dramatic performances, Christmas and Advent events, concerts, graduations, Catholic School Council meetings, Boundary and Program Review meetings and Pupil Accommodation Review and Transition meetings. The ability to participate in these school events has helped me to stay focused on my personal goal of maintaining a student centred practice in my professional roles.

I have been reminded by many that this is not goodbye but simply 'Adieu'. I will be leaving this role of *Superintendent of Education: School Leadership* with an over joyous heart, full of wonderful memories of you all. I take great comfort in knowing that you will be left in the care of Ms. Laura Sawicky, the newly appointed *Superintendent of Education: School Leadership for Area 2*. Ms. Sawicky comes to this role with a wealth of experience and knowledge and is very much looking forward to assuming her new role mid-October. I wish Ms. Sawicky and all of you God's Blessings as you move forward with this School Year.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Nancy Di Nardo

Safety Awareness Week-September 25-29

During Safety Awareness Week, we practised a variety of safety drills including; Fire drills, Lockdown and Hold and Secure. If your child came home and told you that the school was in lockdown, don't panic! It was just a drill, unless you hear otherwise from the school.

**SAFETY
MATTERS**

Grade 4 Testing

In September, our Grade 4 students completed the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test. This test provides us with information that helps us with programming for all the students, as well as enables us to begin a selection process for the Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE). Parents of Grade 4 students will be notified if their child is determined to be a candidate for the PACE program.

"We believe in the power of prayer."

We Day 2017

We are very fortunate to have been invited to this year's We Day celebration at the Air Canada Centre on September 28th. Eight Intermediate students from our Luke 4:18 Committee accompanied Ms. Burdi and Ms. Scullin to this event. 'We Day' is an annual event held in Toronto and in other major cities around the world and is an initiative of 'Free the Children'. The goal of We Day is to inspire and empower young people to make a difference by getting involved in both local and global charitable initiatives. A select number of St. John XXIII students participated this year in recognition of our school's campaigns during the 2016-17 school year: Neaveh, Andrew, Garrett, Noah, Erica, Jacob, Luke and Georgie.



Take a Stand, Have a Voice, Make an Impact!

Halloween at St. John XXIII!

Your child may wear a costume to school on October 31st. Please ensure that your child's costume does not depict violence, or include a weapon replica (sword/knife/gun, etc.). **Please do not send any Halloween treats to school.** Our Halloween activities and dance are planned for Tuesday, October 31st. Nov. 1st is the Feast of All Saints and Nov. 2nd, is also the feast day of All Souls!



School Yard Supervision

Students are supervised in the school yard beginning at **8:40 a.m.** Please ensure that your children do not arrive before that time as there will not be a teacher to supervise the students. Please note that, for the safety of the children, no other adults are allowed in our school yard during recess breaks other than our school staff who always wear the brightly-coloured safety sashes.



Toonies for Terry-A Huge Success!

Congratulations to the Luke 4:18 students and staff for organizing a very successful and engaging fundraising campaign to support the Terry Fox Foundation. Students, teachers and parents participated in the circuit walk/run around our field. Thank you to everyone – your donations helped raise \$1052 for this worthy cause.



"We believe in the power of prayer."

Cross Country Meet 2017

Cross Country practices have begun at St. John XXIII in preparation for the Cross Country Meet which will be held on **Monday, October 16th**, at Bruce's Mill. Practices are held at 8:00 a.m. on Mon., Wed. and Fri. mornings, as well as during Physical Education classes.



World Teachers' Day

World Teachers' Day, held annually on October 5th since 1994 - when it was created by UNESCO - celebrates teachers worldwide. Its aim is to mobilize support for teachers and to ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers. We at St. John XXIII have been blessed with a staff of professional and dedicated teachers. Let's make this day an opportunity for us to show our appreciation to our teachers and all that they do for us.



From the St. John XXIII Library Learning Commons

If you have not had a chance to visit our library, please do so soon! With your help, we have had new shelves installed in the story book section. They look just beautiful and function so well! Thank you for your support of this project.



This month, the students will be introduced to their first Makerspace activity of the year. It will involve creating animals from pipe cleaners! This challenge follows our discussions on growth mindset. It provides an opportunity for children to apply this method of thinking as they face a fun and creative challenge. Students will be encouraged to observe, learn from each other, take risks, persevere and use positive thoughts and words in the process! It's amazing how something so simple can help our students to develop such important life skills. Please keep your eyes open for your children's creations throughout the library in the near future. Also in October, Mrs. S. Gusz will come to our school to speak with our students. She will share her experiences with the students regarding her work with the charitable organization Children of Hope Uganda. During our Scholastic Book Fair, we will sell products made by women of the community Mrs. Gusz works with to help raise funds. In addition, Mrs. Gusz will explain why we weave milk mats, collect pop-can tabs and used postal stamps. Mrs. Gusz will present at our school on Friday, October 13, 2017. Please start collecting and sending in the above items. It would be most helpful! I hope that your children will take advantage of these resources.

Eco Committee News

At St. John XXIII we are committed to being conscientious environmental stewards of the earth. Promoting and living the 3Rs (reuse, reduce, and recycle) are our goals. Throughout the course of the year, our ECO Committee seeks ways to support this "green" mindset and encourage personal and collective accountability and leadership. Hats off to our ECO Spirit Committee members: Christina V., Bianca L., Maya L., Gloria A., Chloe H., Ethan W., Ethan A., Fiona A., Solomon A., Matthew C., Kai K., Tony Y., Kelly L., Charles O., Vincente D., Carmen F., Bettina A.



Special thanks to Ms. Ofilan and Ms. Burdi, for heading up this important committee. For October, our two initiatives are *Energy-wise Consumption* and *International Walk to School Day*.

Energy-wise Consumption

Saving energy and reducing waste are good for everyone! They are not only reflective of responsible citizenship but they also bring financial and environmental gains. We at St. John XXIII are doing our part to make sure that we are eco-wise in our school. Everything from turning off lights, computers, printers, etc. when they are not in use to reducing needless waste and recycling all recyclable materials efficiently and consistently. We are definitely on an eco-mission.

"We believe in the power of prayer."

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

Thanksgiving and Feast Day Mass

Please join us on Wednesday, October 11th at 11:00 a.m. as we celebrate our first school mass of the year. The theme for the mass will be Thanksgiving and we will also celebrate the Feast Day of St. John XXIII. Thank you to the Intermediate team, Mr. Yu and Ms. Fantauzzi, and along with our staff choir directors, Ms. Luff, Mr. Yu and Mme Cardinale for all their efforts. Our Grade 7 students will be participating in a Confirmation Retreat on October 24th and our Grade 2 students in a First Reconciliation Retreat on November 2nd. Both retreats will take place at St. Justin Martyr Parish.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

The York Catholic District School Board and The Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor kindly invite your generous support of our **"One For Haiti" Thanksgiving Food Drive**. Each student is invited to bring to school at least one food item for the families in Haiti that have been devastated by Hurricane Matthew and are now suffering from the damages and flooding of Hurricane Irma. The Luke 4:18 Committee is organizing a Thanksgiving Food Drive from **Tuesday, September 26th to Friday, October 6th, 2017**. Here are some food item suggestions:



- Canned goods (i.e. tuna fish, canned meat, canned soups, canned vegetables)
- Dry packaged goods (i.e. pasta, rice)
- Other non-perishable nutritious foods



Winter Coat Drive

The Luke 4:18 Committee is assisting St. Justin Martyr Parish and York South St. Vincent de Paul in organizing a **Winter Coat Drive** to assist local families on low incomes. There are families in York Region who struggle throughout the year to make ends meet, and find it especially difficult during winter months to buy necessary items to clothe their children appropriately. We need your help in collecting gently used clean winter coats for children, women and men in all sizes. The Winter Coat Drive will run from **Tuesday, September 26th to Thursday, October 19th, 2017**. Thank you for your generosity!

Monthly Virtue Recognition and Celebration Assemblies

Living our faith is the spirit of this school-wide initiative. Each month we hold an assembly and recognize those students who have demonstrated the month's virtue. While we know that all students show each month's virtue in one way or another, some students demonstrate the virtue of the month in a particularly special way. We celebrate the following September Virtue of Courage Award recipients: Mia B., Jordan C., Emma Y., Isaac R., Mya L., Christa G., Maelle V., Daniella Y., Clara F., Cole N.W., Gloria A. C., Jessica W., Alvin X., Matthew A., Emily A., Matthew S., Carman F., Bettina A., Fiona A., Kelly L., James M., Charlotte P.



St. John XXIII's Luke 4:18 Committee is comprised of Grade 7 & 8 students who are interested in social justice issues. This year, we have a large number of students who have volunteered to take on various initiatives during the 2017-2018 school year.

Grade 7: Ethan A., Julia C., Dylan B., Erica C., Georgie A., Jacob G., Luke M., Noah L., Elle V., Ada S.
Grade 8: Andrew H., Garrett B., Erica C., Nevaeh T.

Thank you to staff leaders: Ms. Burdi, Ms. Ofilan, Ms. Sciulli, Ms. Sassone, and Ms. Faria.

This is a very inspiring event and participants often return to school with a renewed passion for making a difference. During the month of October, our committee will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Thanksgiving food drive. We continue to collect milk bags which will be woven into mats for third world countries. We look forward to another inspiring and productive year with our Luke 4:18 group.

"We believe in the power of prayer."

Engaging Our Communities

St. John XXIII Catholic School Council 2017-2018

We are very pleased to announce our new Catholic School Council for the 2017-18 school year.

Chair: Annette S.

Vice Chair: Normand B.

Secretary: Anna F. and Betty V.

Treasurer: Susan J.

Voting Members: Annette S., Susan J., Anna F., Normand B., Rob C., Elena C., Grace H., Judy L., and Betty V.



Teacher Representative is Nora FitzGerald.

We welcome all our new members and look forward to an excellent year! Our next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. All parents are welcome.



We are pleased to provide you with the attached highlights of our school results on the provincial EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) test written last spring. We will be reviewing our detailed EQAO results and other school assessment data, in order to build on our strengths and address areas requiring improvement. The students who participated in the assessment will be receiving their individual results this month. For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of the assessments, you are invited to visit www.eqao.com and/or view attachments at the end of the newsletter.

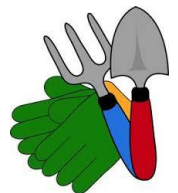
International Walk to School Day - Wednesday, October 4th

Schools all over the world are celebrating International Walk to School Month on Wednesday, October. It is a chance to celebrate our environment by keeping our air clean, to share walking safety skills with our children, reduce traffic pollution and to spend valuable time with one another.



Garden Volunteers

Thank you to our parent volunteers, Mrs. Tworzyanski and Mrs. O'Reilly, for their care and maintenance of the beautiful gardens and planters at the front of the school – they have also worked hard at maintaining the courtyard and peace garden for many years - we are very appreciative! We are looking for additional volunteers who can spare just a few hours in the fall and spring for clean-up and maintenance of our gardens. Please let the office know if you are interested – thank you!



"We believe in the power of prayer."



We are so excited to offer a healthy fundraiser, [Fresh From the Farm](#), that can be educational, exciting and profitable. To give you a little bit of background on the Fresh from the Farm program- let's look at the facts:

- The students will be selling Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables to our local school community – supporting our local economy and Ontario farmers.
- Fresh from the Farm is a collaborative initiative: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Dietitians of Canada, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association.
- 40% of all sales go directly to the school – so if we sell 200 of each Bundle – that's \$2400 profit!
- The window of time to run the fundraiser for St. John XXIII this year is short, October 2 to October 6 (order is submitted by October 11), with delivery in November.
- There are 2 produce bundles for sale:
 - 'A' sells for \$13– 5 lb white potatoes, 3 lb carrots, 3 lb yellow onions, 3 lb sweet potatoes;
 - 'B' sells for \$15– 8 lb box of 20-25 fancy grade Empire apples.
- Parent volunteers assist to bundle root vegetables into bags on delivery day.

Why is Fresh from the Farm a good thing for our school?

- It's the ONLY fundraiser – eligible to over 5000 schools - featuring Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables.
- It supports Ontario's Well-being Strategy for Education and the School Food and Beverage Policy.
- It provides opportunities for introducing the related topics of agriculture, food and healthy eating into the classroom. Visit the EDUCATORS page of the website to access information on classroom resources: www.freshfromfarm.ca.

In order for this initiative to proceed, we need to have a minimum of 40 bundles ordered by October 6th Please make cheques payable to St. John XXIII. Thank you for you supporting an initiative that helps our kids raise funds – in a healthier way! Please see brochure on next page for further information. Information and order forms with home with students on October 2.

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facebook.com/freshfromfarmON



twitter.com/freshfromfarmON

Key Dates

May 2 – October 2

School Champion enrolls the school and orders the toolkit www.freshfromfarm.ca/Enrol.aspx.

September 5

Students begin to fundraise.

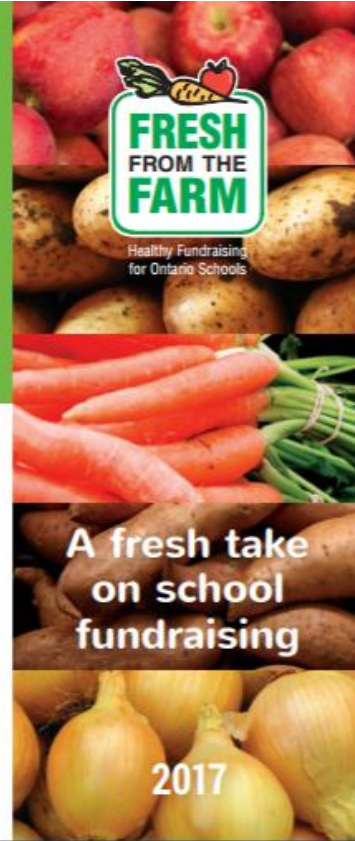
October 11

Deadline for orders/changes

November 5 – November 30

Deliveries to schools

Fresh from the Farm is a collaborative initiative.



Healthy Fundraising for Ontario Schools

What is Fresh from the Farm?

Fresh from the Farm was designed to provide healthy alternatives to schools by selling Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables to school communities.

- Schools keep **40% of sales**.
- Families enjoy value priced Ontario-grown food.
- Since 2013, 665 Ontario schools have participated in *Fresh from the Farm*. They collectively have distributed over 1.6 M pounds of fresh, Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables to Ontario families with total sales over 1.7 M dollars.

Why Participate?

Fresh from the Farm is the only school fundraiser offered to over 5000 schools, selling Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables.

Fresh from the Farm:

- Provides opportunities for students to learn about agri-food and healthy eating, creating a more supportive nutrition environment in schools.
- Raises awareness about the important role good nutrition plays in the development and well-being of children and youth.



- Supports Ontario government initiatives—Local Food Act, School Food and Beverage Policy, Student Nutrition Program, The Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy.
- Contributes to the local economy and supports our Ontario farmers.

Who can Participate?

For a list of eligible school boards and schools visit freshfromfarm.ca/FAQ.aspx.

What Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables are sold?

Bundle A—\$13

5 lb potatoes, 3 lb carrots, 3 lb sweet potatoes, 3 lb onions

Bundle B—\$15

8 lb of Empire apples

How does it Work?

- Schools enrol May 2 – October 2.
- Students fundraise beginning September 5.
- Schools submit orders by October 11.
- Product is delivered to schools during the month of November.
- Volunteers receive, sort and bundle vegetables.
- Parents pick-up their order.

For More Information

- Call EatRight Ontario 1-877-510-510-2
- Visit www.freshfromfarm.ca
- Email contact@freshfromfarm.ca



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York Catholic District School Board Land Acknowledgment

School Boards across Ontario are demonstrating their commitment to Truth and Reconciliation by providing Land Acknowledgements that honour Indigenous Peoples and traditional lands. At the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), we echo the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) in their response to the Calls to Action through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

It is in this response that YCDSB acknowledges that for thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have lived on this land. Acknowledging the territory where we gather and the people who have traditionally called this land home is one of the ways the YCDSB is participating in the actions necessary for Truth and Reconciliation.

YCDSB's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Steering Committee (Indigenous Elders and YCDSB Board and school staff) developed a Land Acknowledgement Statement. This statement is inclusive of all Indigenous Peoples. It honours those who have walked this land, in the past, present, and those who will walk it in the future. It is a respectful validation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The YCDSB Land Acknowledgement will be embedded as a distinct school practice and will be recited at all large school community gatherings.

It reads:

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.

We respectfully acknowledge those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.

We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the Earth.

For more information about the YCDSB Land Acknowledgement, please contact:

Michael Way Skinner
FNMI Lead
905.713.1211 ext. 13616

or

Shannon Ulgiati
FNMI Steering Committee Chair
905.713.1211 ext. 13641

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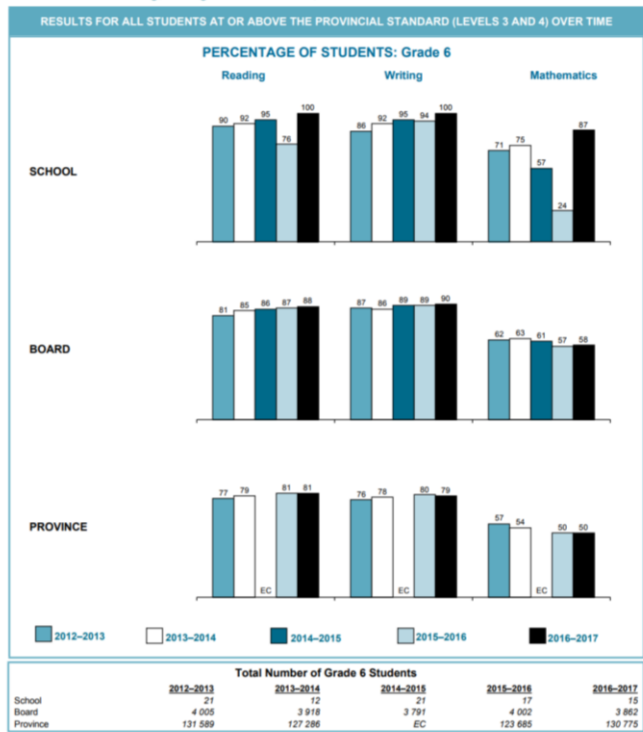
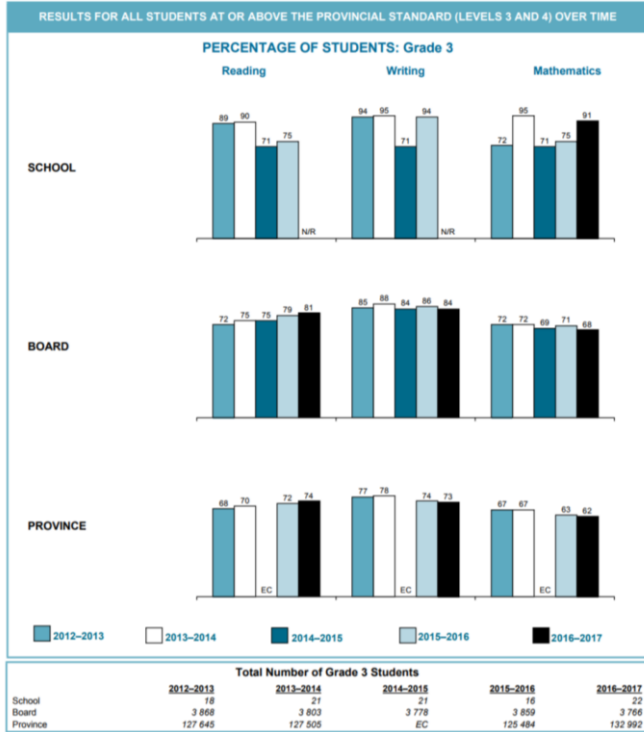
EQAO Results

School Report
Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, 2016–2017

St. John XXIII Catholic Elementary School (724220)

School Report
Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, 2016–2017

St. John XXIII Catholic Elementary School (724220)



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