



September 2023 Newsletter

Prayer for a New School Year

Loving God,
 Bless us all and bless this day of new beginnings.
 Smile upon this staff and student body, and surround us, Lord,
 with the soft mantle of your love.
 Teach this community to follow in your footsteps, and to live
 life in the ways of love, faith, hope and charity.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Welcome to the many blessings of a new school year at St. John XXIII. It is truly with great excitement that we welcome back our students and staff and gladly receive new families and teachers to our school community. As always, our primary goal is the spiritual, emotional, physical health and welfare of all the students we serve coming together as a community to be present for one another, rooted in our Catholic Faith and commitment to prayer and reflection. We look forward to our continued partnership in Catholic Education.

We invite each and every one of you to become an integral member of the school community. Catholic Education is a partnership that cannot occur without the support of every staff member, the involvement of every parent and the commitment of every student. At St. John XXIII, we strive to help our students become successful through dynamic, differentiated learning experiences, while supporting their transition from childhood into adolescence.

Communication is of prime importance. We remind you to frequently check the board website for updated information as well as read the ongoing communication via the school website and emails shared with the community.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we wish you all a safe and wonderful start to a new school year.

God Bless,
 Mr. B. Dulcigno

Chair of the Board
 Mr. Frank Alexander

Trustee
 Ms. Carol Cotton

Director of Education
 Mr. Domenic Scuglia

Superintendent of Education
 Ms. S. Wright

Principal
 Mr. B. Dulcigno

Office Staff
 Ms. K. Balsmeier

Pastor
 Rev. Msgr. Vid Vlastic

The School Day:

Entrance: 8:55 a.m.
 Recesses: 10:15 a.m. and 2:10 p.m.
 Lunch 11:50 a.m. -12:50 p.m.
 Dismissal: 3:25 p.m.

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



Strategic Commitments



To report students absences/lates, please dial: 1-855-856-7862 or online at <http://go.schoolmessenger.ca/> before 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Communities of Faith

CATHOLIC VIRTUES

Each month we recognize a different Catholic virtue. Through our daily prayers, words and actions, the virtues are emphasized throughout the school.

Students are encouraged to demonstrate the attributes related to the virtues in their daily actions and words with one another. Students who demonstrate the virtue of the month will be recognized. Their names will be published in our monthly newsletters and they will receive a certificate.

September's Catholic virtue is **Courage**:

- ◆ I will stand up for what I know is right and just.
- ◆ I will face challenges, fears and difficulty with fortitude.
- ◆ I will take responsibility for reaching my potential.



Sacraments at St. Justin Martyr Parish ~ 2024 Season

First Holy Communion

Registration Deadline: **Sunday, September 24, 2023**

Confirmation

Registration Deadline: **Sunday, October 1, 2023**

Please consult the parish website for additional information: <https://stjustinmartyrun.archtoronto.org/#>

Safe and Caring Schools

Student Safety

Student safety and well-being is our highest priority. To ensure that every child's safety is maintained at all times, all parents/guardians must adhere to the following measures and protocols:

- ⇒ Please do not drop off students at school prior to 8:40 a.m. Supervision at the school begins at 8:40 a.m.
- ⇒ If you are walking your child to school, please do not enter the school yard. In order to maintain proper safety, the supervising staff members need to have a clear and unobstructed view of the school yard and students.
- ⇒ Parking is not allowed in the "Kiss and Ride" loop. The "Kiss and Ride" is for temporarily stopping along the curb to drop off your child; vehicles in this area should never be left unattended or idling.
- ⇒ Late students are to report directly to the front entrance in order to sign in.
- ⇒ Parents are NOT permitted to enter the building. This will assist us in securing a safe environment for all children.
- ⇒ Visitors, including parents, must use the buzzer located at the front entrance and identify themselves through the intercom system when visiting the school.
- ⇒ Access to the "Before and After School Program" will be through the side door only located in the Kindergarten pen, not the front entrance.
- ⇒ Should you need to speak to your child's teacher, please call the school to leave a message for that teacher.
- ⇒ Please avoid communicating with your child throughout the day via cell phone texts or calls as this is contrary to the School Board's Policy regarding the use of electronic devices at school.



Morning Routines

Similar to recess routines throughout the school day, students will be in their designated yard area with staff members on duty for supervision.

Please note the following important information pertaining to morning routines:



- When students arrive at school, they must proceed to their designated yard area where they will join their peers to play on the yard until the morning bell rings.
- **Only students and staff are permitted in the school yard. We ask all parents/guardians that are dropping off to please refrain from entering the school yard between 8:40-8:55 a.m.**
- To maximize student safety, parents/guardians must stay behind the fence/ gate or along the perimeter of the field.
- The field will remain closed to students during the 8:40-8:55 a.m. period. All students will be on the pavement areas of the school yard.
- When the morning bell rings at 8:55 a.m., students will join their class line and proceed into the building under the supervision of their classroom teacher.
- In case of inclement weather (rain or icy conditions in the winter), we will switch to indoor recess routines; in this case students will be directed to enter the building upon arrival at school.
- As morning temperatures may be chilly in the Fall, students are expected to come to school dressed for the weather
- When students in Kindergarten arrive at school, they are to remain in the Kindergarten yard. Kindergarten parents are not permitted to enter the Kindergarten yard during morning drop off or enter the Kindergarten classrooms. Please refrain from peeking into the classroom after the bell rings as this causes a disruption to the morning routines of the teacher and students.

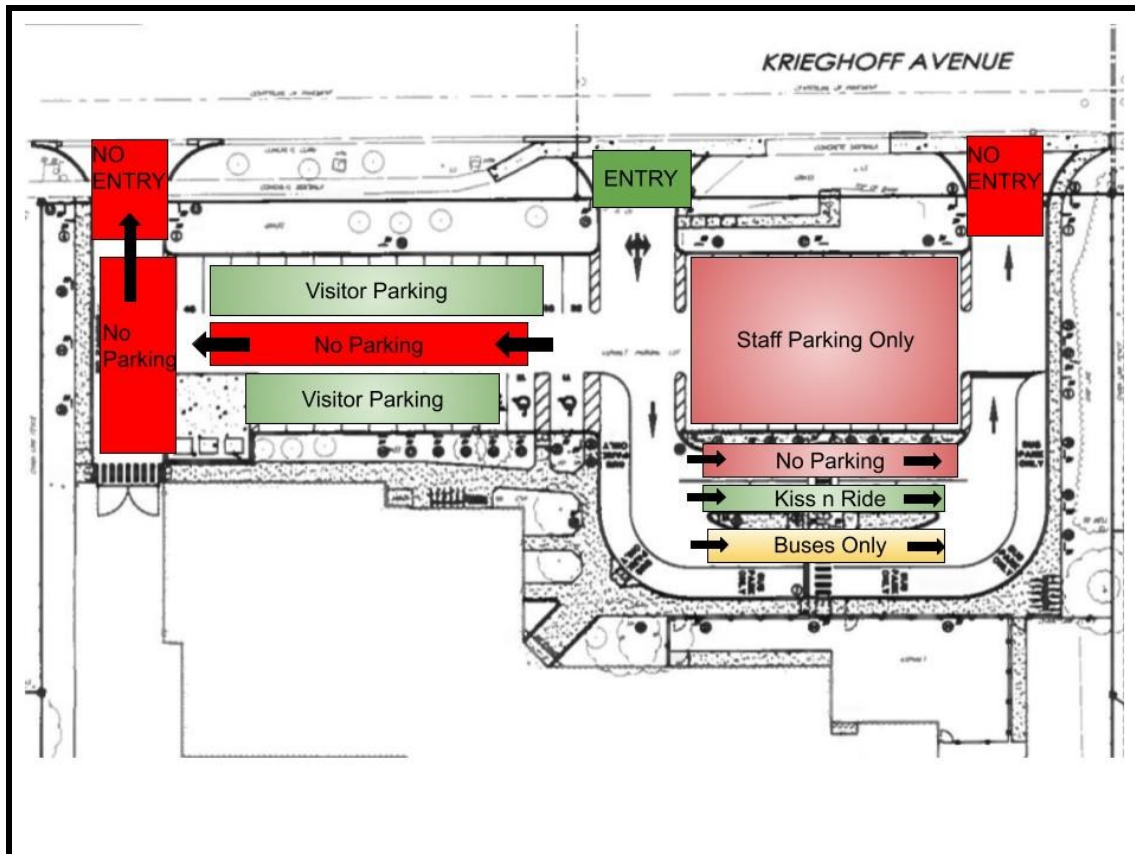
Safe and Caring Schools

New Kiss N' Ride

- We have a new designated Kiss n' Ride lane! Please be mindful of the signage. (Please see the image below.)
- All students should exit the passenger side of the car (right side) on the designated curb.
- Please do not have children exit into the moving lane on the left.
- Cars should not be parked in the left lane of the Kiss N' Ride. That is for moving vehicles only.
- Vehicles may only park in the designated visitor parking spots, nowhere else.
- Please observe the flow of traffic as indicated by the arrows.

School Bus City

- Please be sure to check the status of your child's bus on School Bus City
- <https://bp.schoolbuscity.com/>



Safe and Caring Schools

Kiss and Ride Procedures

The safety of our students, parents and staff is paramount. To ensure a smooth and orderly drop off in our Kiss and ride every morning, please follow the expectations below:

- When approaching the kiss and ride loop, please follow the direction of the administrator on duty.
- When pulling into the Kiss n Ride loop, please move your vehicle as far forward as possible to allow for other vehicles to come in behind you.
- You will be directed to enter the loop when a spot along the curb becomes available to stop your car and allow your child to be dropped off.
- Please only drop off students along the curb (right side of the car) and not in the thoroughfare lane.
- Parking in the Kiss and Ride loop is not permitted.
- Leaving your car unattended and idling is not allowed and not safe. We want to ensure a safe school environment.
- Drivers are asked to remain in their vehicle at all times to avoid disrupting the flow of traffic. Please respect the nature of the Kiss and Ride system to help facilitate a smooth and easy drop off.
- Parents are to share this information with family members picking up the children.
- Please do not park in the thoroughfare on the west side of the parking lot.



A valid accessible parking permit is required by law for all vehicles using our handicapped parking spots. City of Vaughan Parking bylaws designates the exclusive use of these spots for vehicles displaying the appropriate permit in the front windshield.

Picking up Students from the School Yard at Dismissal



The school yard is off limits to parents, guardians, and visitors during school hours from 8:40 a.m.—3:25 p.m. Parents and guardians who pick up their child(ren) from the primary and junior school yard at dismissal **MUST** wait behind the fence and **NOT** in the school yard until the dismissal bell rings at 3:25 p.m. With the warm weather we are experiencing, classes are outside for physical education and daily physical activity periods. We ask parents not to gather in the school yard before 3:25 p.m. as classes are being held outside and this causes distraction and it is not safe for the students. We thank you for respecting the children's outdoor learning time and we appreciate your cooperation and diligence in this matter.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are required to call the SAFE ARRIVAL LINE at 1-855-856-7862 or visit go.schoolmessenger.ca to report their child's absence.

All absences must be reported prior to 8:30 a.m. the day of the absence. Parents must obtain a confirmation number or email, or the absence has not be recorded properly.

All absences, including vacations, early leaves from school for any reason, illness, late arrivals, appointments etc., should be recorded through the Safe Arrival Line.

Students are encouraged to be on time for school. Late arrivals cause disruptions to classes that are already in session.

If your child's absence has not been reported, the system will call you to verify that your child is not at school and you will need to punch in the appropriate absence code.

Safe and Caring Schools

DRESS CODE RULES

Dress Code

All student attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect principles of modesty and **shall not** include the following:

- Halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti strap tops (narrower in width than 3 fingers) or tube tops
- Half t-shirts, tops with cut-outs, tops made of mesh or netting type material
- Short shorts or skirts
- Low necklines, front or back
- Language and/or representation (pictures) on attire that indicates gang affiliation and/or depicts violence, profanity or discrimination of any kind whatsoever or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group
- Accessories not in keeping with the spirit of the Dress Code as determined by the local school
- Tops, pants, shorts and skirts **must** cover the entire midriff.
- Crocs have become increasingly popular with students. While they make comfortable indoor shoes, they are not best suited for outdoor recess and phys ed. We encourage appropriate footwear for students when they are being very active indoors and out.

Bell Schedule

Supervision Begins	8:40 a.m.
Entry Bell	8:55 a.m.
A.M. Recess	10:15 –10:30 a.m.
Lunch Break & Recess	11:50- 12:50 p.m.
P. M. Recess	2:10 - 2:25 p.m.
Dismissal	3:25 p.m.



Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices (PED)

At St. John XXIII, we are committed to providing a safe, caring and healthy learning environment for all of our students, using good digital discipleship. Students are expected to use technology, including personal electronic devices, in a safe, respectful and positive manner.

The Provincial Code of Conduct addresses the use of cell phones and other personal mobile devices in *Policy and Program Memorandum 128*. This policy restricts the use of all personal mobile devices during instructional time. Students are expected to comply with the policies and procedures in place set by our School Board. Access to the YCDSB wireless network is a privilege, not a right. Any use of the wireless network shall entail personal responsibility and compliance with all York Catholic District School Board policies and school expectations or guidelines.

We understand that some parents may wish to communicate with their children throughout the day, please know that this is contrary to Board policy. If you need to communicate with your child for a specific reason, please contact the office and we will connect you with your child.

Failure to comply with the guidelines may result in a loss of PED privileges and/or other consequences deemed necessary by school administration.

Safe and Caring Schools

ST. JOHN XXIII IS A NUT SAFE SCHOOL

Anaphylaxis-Life Threatening Allergies

The York Catholic District School Board has a policy in place to help protect anaphylactic students and staff with life threatening allergies. As outlined in the policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies and are required to fill in "S15 and S15a" forms which are available in the office. Parents are also asked to ensure that students who have EpiPens prescribed have two EpiPens at school; one EpiPen must be worn by the student in a fanny pack at all times, this includes on excursions and all other school related activities, and the other EpiPen must be stored at the school for emergency use.

St. John XXIII is an allergen safe school. In our school we have students with a potentially life-threatening form of allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. An allergy-safe school and classroom is a shared partnership. We ask parents to read ingredient labels carefully and not to pack any foods in your child's lunch bag that contain or may contain nuts, peanuts, or tree nuts. Please accept our appreciation for everything you do to help keep our school a healthy environment for all of our students.



At St. John XXIII we will.....

- ⇒ Continue with our "allergy safe" school environment via food restrictions (i.e., no food containing nuts allowed in the building).
- ⇒ Inform and reminded students that sharing food is not allowed.
- ⇒ Prohibit food outdoors to minimize exposure to wasps/bees/insects.
- ⇒ Communicate regularly to the entire school community that we are an "allergen safe" school via notices and the posting of "allergy safe" signs.
- ⇒ Communication and instructions will be given to individual classrooms where students with allergies are enrolled regarding allergens in that classroom.
- ⇒ We will continue to ensure that all products sold through the school for fundraising or otherwise are allergen free.
- ⇒ We will continue to ensure that visitors and all school staff are aware of these precautions.

PEDICULOSIS-HEAD LICE

As we begin a new school year we remind parents that this may be a good time to check your child's head for pediculosis (lice). If there is a case of confirmed pediculosis in your child's class, parents will be notified. In such cases, the most effective approach to minimize the spread is to have parents check their child's hair and their siblings, for nits/lice. For further information on this topic, please refer to Policy #210 in the York Catholic District School Board Policies, which can be found on the Board's website.

MEDICATION

Medication cannot be administered by the school staff unless directed by a doctor and an "Administration of a Prescription Medication" form has been completed and signed by the parent and family doctor. If your child requires medication (prescribed by a physician), please notify the school and complete the necessary S16 form (available upon request). All medication must be sent to the office for safekeeping.

Please contact the office if you require further information.

Engaging Our Communities

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL



What is the Catholic School Council?

The St. John XXIII Catholic School Council is a group of hardworking parents: dads, moms, working professionals, just like you! Working alongside the parents are a select group of teachers, the school principal and school support staff.

Role of the Catholic School Council

Members of the Catholic School Council will be expected to attend and participate in meetings. Members will work collectively with other Council members, school administration and the Board to improve student achievement, promote parental involvement, help set school priorities and build community. Parent representatives are voting members and elected for a one-year term by parents.

Getting Involved as a Parent Representative on our St. John XXIII Catholic School Council Team

As a parent/guardian of a child at this school, you are eligible to self-nominate or nominate another parent/guardian of a child at this school to be a voting member of the Catholic School Council (a "Parent Representative"). You will have received an email with a link to a Google Form for the nomination process. Nominations are due by Thursday, September 14th at 3:00 p.m. On the Google Form, you can express your interest to be a voting "Parent Representative" or a member of our "CSC Executive" (more details to follow). Please ensure that you respond by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14th with your nominations.

Is There a Spot for Me on the CSC Team?

Yes! In the event of more than 19 nominations this school year, an election process may take place. **Elections will take place in-person on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at our Catholic School Council Meeting.** Each parent or guardian of a child at this school who attends the in-person meeting is asked to submit only one vote for Catholic School Council candidates. Ballots will be counted and election results will be posted on the school website by Thursday, September 29, 2022.

Our First Meeting

Our first meeting will take place in-person on Thursday, September 21st at 7:30 p.m. in the library. All Parent Representatives will be introduced and vote for the 2023-2024 CSC Executive on this evening.

Thank you for your continued support of our students at St. John XXIII CES!

Quality Learning for All

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Orange Shirt Day, September 30th

(to be observed on September 29th)

Equity and inclusivity has always been a priority of the York Catholic District School Board, as a key tenet of our Catholic faith. Over the years, we have acknowledged the need to foster better relationships with members of our communities, in particular, the Indigenous community of York Region, so that we can work together to make our schools safe places to learn and grow academically and spiritually.

As we continue to build our collective understanding about the history and struggles of Indigenous peoples in Canada, we are reminded that the Canadian Catholic Bishops urge all Catholics to commit to continuing to walk together with Indigenous peoples and to build a more just society, where their gifts, and those of all people, are nurtured and honoured.

The federal government passed legislation to recognize September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. September 30th is also Orange Shirt Day and it reminds us of the harms that the Residential School system had on our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Orange shirt day stems from Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's experience in a Residential School and it represents an important day of remembrance.

On Friday, September 29th all staff and students are invited to wear an orange shirt to school to show that every child matters.



ST. JOHN XXIII TERRY FOX WALK

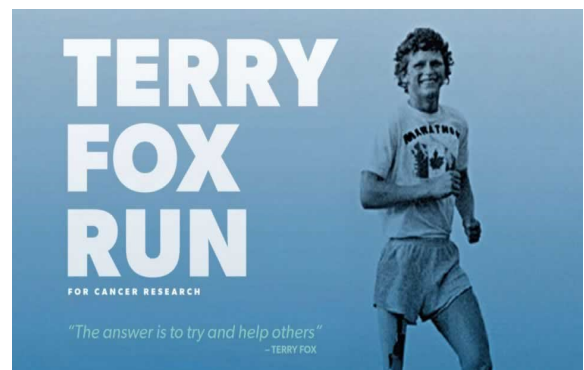
Date: September 27, 2023

It was 43 years ago that Terry Fox captivated Canadians with his determination, commitment and energy to find a cure for cancer. This year, St. John XXIII will commemorate the Marathon of Hope by holding our annual Terry Fox School Run on **Wednesday, September 27th, 2023**. Our theme this year is *The SJXXII Amazing Race!*

The students may voluntarily bring in their donation(s) some time on or before September 27th, 2023. Donations can also be made online through the following fundraising link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/StJohnXXIIICESUnionville>. Another option for donating is by purchasing a Terry Fox T-Shirt. *Please note that all cheques should be made out to the Terry Fox Foundation. The cost of the T-shirt is considered a donation and added to our fundraising total. The T-Shirts can be purchased on-line, through the Terry Fox Foundation or place an order through the school on Thursday, September 21st during our annual Curriculum Night.*

Thank you for your continued support!

Let's make Terry proud!
Please donate.



Mark your calendars! The staff at St. John XXIII will be hosting Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 21st, 2023 between 6:30-7:30 P.M. We look forward to welcoming our parent community back to a new school year! As a reminder, our CSC meeting and elections will be held in the library immediately following curriculum night.

Quality Learning for All



- ◆ EQAO assessments will occur in the Spring of 2024 for students in grades 3 and 6
- ◆ **Indoor running shoes with non-marking soles are needed for physical education classes in our gymnasium.**
- ◆ The Ministry of Education has recently changed the elementary Language Curriculum. Details of the changes can be found on the Ministry of Education [website](#).
- ◆ A revision has been made to the Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum with the addition of **mandatory** Holocaust education.
- ◆ A revision has also been made to the Grades 1-3 Social Studies curriculum- revised to strengthen **mandatory** learning on residential schools and foster greater understanding of the contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals, communities and nations to our province and country while learning about their histories and cultures.

We Need your Help!

Emergency Substitutes Needed

The success of a school relies heavily on the involvement of its community members. As a small school we are very reliant on emergency call-ins for classroom teachers and lunchtime supervisors. If you are in any way able to help us out during the day, especially during lunch time, please contact the school

Upcoming Important Dates at SJ23:

- Sept. 21 - Curriculum Night from 6:30-7:30 PM
- Sept. 21 - CSC Meeting and Election 7:30 p.m. in the library
- Sept. 22 - PA DAY—No school for students
- Sept. 26 - Grade 7 & 8 Immunizations
- Sept. 27 - SJ23 Terry Fox Walk
- Sept. 27 - Rowan's Law Day, **Purple shirt Day**
- Sept. 29 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, **Orange Shirt Day**
- Oct. 9 - Thanksgiving Day! No school
- Oct. 11 - Thanksgiving Mass in the gym with Father An
- Oct. 12 - Cross Country at Bruce's Mill Grade 4-8
- Oct. 24—YRPH Dental Screening
- Oct. 27—School Photo Day



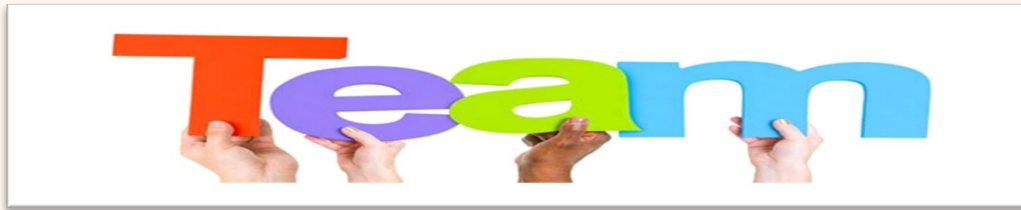
Photo Day



School Photo Day is scheduled for Friday, October 27th, 2023.

Both individual as well as class photos will be taken.

2023- 2024 Staff at St. John XXIII



English Stream Classroom Teachers:

Grade:	Teacher Name:
FDK	L. Christidis
SK/1	N. DeFilippis
2	N. Pedron
3/4	C. Lau
5	M. Silva
6	C. Kilisian
7/8	M. Ofilan

Non-Classroom Teachers:

Position:	Teacher Name:
Core Resource	K. Ho
Library	N. Fitzgerald
FSL	A. Morcos
Phys. Ed.	S. Lowe
Phys. Ed.	D. Henry
Phys. Ed.	P. Magee
Music	M. Gallo
Music	S. Giordano
ESL	L. Bucci
ILIT	R. Molinaro

French Immersion Classroom Teachers:

Grade:	Teacher Name:
1 FI	A. Hodara
2 FI	J. Lu
3 FI	B. Mok
4/5 FI	M. Rosolen
5/6 FI	J. Riccelli-Cabral
7 FI	G. Capano
8 FI	F. Yu

Educational Support Staff

Position:	Name:
ECE	L Sisti (ECE)
EA	A. McLean
LTS	J. Lyn
LTS	S. Breton
LTS	M. Han
LTS	A. Gomez
LTS	I. Lau
LTS	C. Yu

Office and Custodial Staff

Principal	B. Dulcigno
Head Secretary	K. Balsmeier
Head Custodian	S. Mefailovski
Custodian	J. Garsone