

April Newsletter 2019

St. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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<http://stmatthew.wcdsb.ca>

*Heart of the Community, Success for
Each, A Place for All*

It is hard to believe that it was only 40 days ago that we began our Lenten Journey, marked with the ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Now, we look forward with great joy to the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Throughout Lent, our school community has been focusing on the importance of this liturgical season as we prepare to enter into the Triduum, the holiest days of the year. Lent exists so that we can prepare ourselves for the Easter Triduum. Triduum comes from a Latin word meaning "three days." The three-day observance begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening of Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and ends with evening prayers on Easter Sunday. These liturgies of the Triduum are the most important liturgies of the Church year. These liturgies teach us the meaning of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We hope that together with your families, you are able to be part of the parish celebrations at St. Agnes Church, or your parish church during this time. Together with the St. Matthew School community, we extend our very best wishes to all families for a happy and Holy Easter. May the peace of the risen Christ bless your homes, your hearts and your families.

G. Johnstone

Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Praise to our Risen Lord!

Together In Faith

Umbrella Project: Intrinsic Motivation

Intrinsic Motivation is a skill and takes practice! Intrinsic Motivation is:

- Motivation that comes from inside you instead of from external rewards like money or grades

Principal
G. Johnstone

Administrative Assistant
M. Voisin

Superintendent
J. Merkel

Trustee's
Melanie Van Alphen
Jeanne Gravelle

Parish
St. Agnes Parish
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- the pleasure a person gets from the task itself
- the drive to do something because it is interesting, challenging and absorbing
- the motivation to adopt or change a behavior for your own happiness

Stations of the Cross

On April 15, 2019 at 2:40pm we will be gathering in the gym for the re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross. All parents are welcome to join us for this special celebration. Thank you to the grade 8 students, Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Barbosa for their hard work and dedication.



St. Agnes Church Easter Schedule:

Holy Thursday

(Apr 18) 7 pm — Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

(Apr 19) 10 am — Passion and Death of our Lord
(Family and Children's Liturgy)

3 pm — Passion and Death of our Lord

Holy Saturday

(Apr 20) 11 am — Blessing of the Easter Baskets

Easter Sunday

(Apr 21) 9 am — Easter Mass

11 am — Easter Mass

(No 7 pm Mass)

We continue to talk about kindness and forgiveness. We turn to the Gospels to reflect on the teachings of Jesus. The Gospels help us make good decisions on a daily basis and to keep God at the centre of all that we do and say. For Catholics, Easter is far more than just a one-day celebration. Easter is actually a seven-week season that begins at sundown the evening before Easter Sunday and lasts for six more Sundays until Pentecost. Signs of Christ's new life fill the Church during this season, such as the colour white, representing Christ's victory over death; and a large Easter candle reminding us that Christ is the light of the world. Easter is a time of new promise, new life and new energy. If we look around at the beauty of nature in spring, we are reminded again of the glorious resurrection of Jesus. The dark, cold, days of winter are (finally!) giving way to green grass and eventually; flowers. More so than ever, Easter is truly a time of newness in our Church and in our world.

Easter Mass



St. Matthew school will celebrate our Easter Mass on April 11th at 9:00am in the gym at St. Matthew school. All parents are invited to join us. Let us embark on this faith journey together.

School Procedures

Are You Moving?

To help us with our planning for next September, it would be appreciated if you could let us know now, if you will be moving out of our school area over the summer. If you know of any families moving into the area with children who plan to attend St. Matthew, it would be helpful if you could alert us. The more information we have, the better we are able to organize staff and students for September. Thanks!



Dress Code

We expect all students at St. Matthew to come to school dressed in clean, neat and modest clothing (clothing suitable for younger children may not be appropriate for older children).

Reporting Absences:



All students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually. In the event that your child will be late or absent, please call the school and follow the prompts to leave a message. This can be done 24 hours a day. For students who are absent and for whom a call is not received, we will attempt to contact you.

PLEASE CALL: 519-886-9311

Please leave the following information:

- Date of the absence
- Student's full name
- Grade level and teacher
- Reason for absence

All students who arrive after 8:50 a.m. or 12:35 p.m. must obtain a Late Slip.

***Students are considered late if they do not enter their classroom with their classmates!**



Respect for Self, Respect for Others

As a staff, we continue to work together to provide examples and consistency in modeling Jesus' message to our students. We will assist and remind students of the importance of being respectful and working together to create a safe, caring, inclusive community.

Appropriate classroom attire excludes such things as, short shorts, or skirts, cut-off jeans, skintight yoga pants, shirts or tops which do not cover the midriff, spaghetti string tank tops and any shirt with offensive or questionable messages. Proper footwear is to be worn at all times (runners for gym, indoor shoes for class, boots for rain and snow).

Sunglasses and hats should be removed upon entering the school.



Allergy Awareness



Please do not send birthday snacks / cakes / treats into the school. There are many alternatives such as stickers and pencils.

We appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community. We want St. Matthew Catholic School to be a safe environment for all students.



Medication

School staff cannot administer medication, including aspirins and Tylenol without a "Request and Consent for Administration of Medication" form, completed and signed by a doctor. A properly labeled container is required, including the instructions and conditions that are to be followed for the administration of the medication for the safety of the child.

Parents of children with life threatening medical concerns/allergies are asked to notify Mrs. Voisin in the school office and fully complete an Emergency Medication Protocol form each September and return it to the school as soon as possible. All medication is stored in the office area. The only exception to this requirement has to do with any child who, because of life threatening allergies, must carry medication.

Visitors to the School

We would like to thank all of our parents and other visitors to the school for respecting the designated waiting areas outside your child's exit door. In the event you have an appointment or are volunteering, please be reminded that all visitors to the school are to report to the office, sign in and wear a visitor's sticker. This helps to ensure the safety and security of all students.



No Parking in Front of St. Matthew

Please be aware that there is to be no parking in front of St. Matthew school. You can however, stop, and let out a student, but you should not leave your vehicle at any time. Parking Enforcement will be around to make sure that everyone is safe. Please see attachments to this Newsletter for further information.

As well, in respect to our neighbours, please do not block driveways or turn around in a driveway. Together we can make St. Matthew very safe for all our children!

Student Supervision



School yard supervision does not begin until 8:35 a.m. every morning. Please, for the students' safety, do not drop students off at the school prior to 8:35 a.m. unsupervised. In the event of **Inclement Weather**, students are to enter the school through the front doors, and go directly to their classes beginning at 8:35am. If students are in the portables, they will remain in the foyer until 8:50am and then will be escorted to the portables.

Student Safety Continued...

For student safety, we would like to remind all parents and visitors to please use designated waiting areas outside the school yard from 8:35 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. These measures will help to protect the security of all students as well as help to reduce the congestions at busy drop off and dismissal times. **Remember you are a stranger to most students!**

Parking Lot Procedures

No one would disagree that student safety is the single most important priority for all of our students here at St. Matthew C.E.S. Please review the parking lot procedures, and I ask that you please inform anyone (grandparents, friends, neighbours, etc.) who drop off your child in the parking lot before school or picks him/her/them up after school.

The only vehicles that will be allowed to enter the parking lot at St. Matthew C.E.S. will be: **OWL daycare staff, OWL daycare parents, St. Matthew staff, and WCDSB personnel.** All of the above mentioned people will have a parking pass that will hang from their rear view mirror. Staff members from St. Matthew, who are on morning and afterschool duty, will be looking for these passes on vehicles. Those vehicles that do not have passes will be asked to turn around and exit the parking lot. The lot may be monitored by City of Waterloo By-Law officers. Please be respectful of this policy here at St. Matthew C.E.S. and understand that our yard duty teachers, who patrol the lot before and after school, have your child's safety and best interest at heart. It is our moral imperative to provide a safe place for our students each and every day they come to school. Thank You for all that you do to keep our kids safe.



Playground Safety

Playgrounds provide a great source of exercise and a place where children can socialize, play creatively and test their skills. With the milder weather approaching, we want to ensure that students are involved in activities that are healthy while enjoying the great outdoors. These safety tips help to create a welcoming and inviting area for all students during recess!

Here are a few simple tips to help keep students safe on the playgrounds:

- Play safely and take care of yourself and others
- Rocks, sticks and sand stay on the ground
- Use outdoor equipment safely; alert a supervisor if items go out of bounds. Do not try and retrieve items from parking lots or backyards
- Show teamwork and good sportsmanship
- Play cooperative games and invite friends of all skill levels to play.
- Solve conflicts with words or tell the supervisor on duty
- Do not swear
- Listen to reminders from supervisors. Be prepared to work out a conflict by using Accountable Talk
- Respond to signals/bells and proceed to line up quickly
- If someone is hurt or injured, let a supervisor know as quickly as possible.

Above all:

- Have fun! Recess is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and hang out with friends!

Community Corner

Math Night for Parents

On Wednesday, April 10th, (rescheduled due to weather) we will host a special presentation to parents outlining the latest curriculum initiatives in math and how the way it is now taught, differs from the recent past. Parents will have an opportunity to partake in classroom activities and to view a math lesson in the division of their choice. Thank you to all the teachers who will present to the parents: Mrs. Healy, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Riddell, Mrs. Barbosa, Mr. Poulin and Mr. Patrick. For those families that have already responded that they are coming, you do not have to RSVP again.



Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks is dedicated to facilitating global research into the causes and treatments of autism. Tuesday, April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day, the students and staff of St. Matthew school are encouraged to wear blue on that day.



Catholic Education Week



May 5-10

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is "*Living as Joyful Disciples.*" There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Day 1: Rooted in Prayer
- Day 2: Living in Community
- Day 3: Doing Justice & Creating Hope
- Day 4: Journeying Together in Faith
- Day 5: Sharing the Good News

Using these resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are *Living as Joyful Disciples.*

Big Crunch



In support of St. Matthew's Healthy School Initiative, at the assembly on Friday, April 5th, all students will be handed either an apple or a carrot, as they choose. We will then have an all-school BIG CRUNCH!

Catholic School Council

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out to make our Shrove Tuesday pancake celebration a success! We served up nearly one thousand pancakes to all the students and staff. It was a fun morning of celebration, thanks to the efforts of the amazing volunteers!

School Council was also pleased to welcome Dr. Jen Forrestal of the Umbrella Project last week, on April 28th. Dr. Jen provided a great overview of the program for parents. We hope all who attended gained a better understanding of the Umbrella Project, and some tips for strengthening your family's umbrellas! Our council is committed to continued support of the Umbrella Project for our school families, through our PRO Grant funding.

The next meeting of the school council will take place on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30pm. We welcome any members of the school community to attend. Please contact us at smatthewcouncil@outlook.com if you have questions regarding council events and initiatives.

A hand-drawn sign in red marker that says "MARK YOUR CALENDAR!". The text is written in a bold, slightly irregular, all-caps font. The sign is rectangular and has a white background with a subtle drop shadow.

April 1	April Fool's Day
April 2	Autism Awareness Day (wear blue) Catholic School council meeting at 6:30
April 5	Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff event Backward's spirit Day
April 8-10	Grade 4 CCAT test
April 11	Easter Mass at 9:00am in gym
April 12	PD Day
April 15	Stations of the Cross
April 18	Holy Thursday
April 19	Good Friday- no school
April 22	Easter Monday- no school
April 23-25	CAT 7 for grade 7's
April 25	Team Picture Day
April 26	Earth Day Clean-up SuperHero Day
April 30	First Communion retreat
May 4	First Communion celebration at 5pm