

May Newsletter 2019



St. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Phone: 519-886-9311 Fax: 519-886-9121

<http://stmatthew.wcdsb.ca>

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

A blessing and prayer tribute to all Mothers

"Blessed be all mothers
Who have come into our lives
Whose kindness, care and loving
Remain with us to guide.

Your inspiration in us
Made us strive in every way
Especially to remember
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute
Flows directly from my heart
You are so loved and cherished
Invaluable, one and all, you are.

Together In Faith

Umbrella Project: Integrity

Integrity is a skill and takes practice! Integrity is:

- An inner sense of wholeness, where what we do is not separate from our beliefs
- The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles
- A regular pattern of behavior that is consistent with your values
- Treating others with care
- Honouring your word

Principal
G. Johnstone

Administrative Assistant
M. Voisin

Superintendent
J. Merkel

Trustee's
Melanie Van Alphen
Jeanne Gravelle

Parish
St. Agnes Parish
75 Bluevale St. N.
Waterloo, ON
N2K 3R7

519-885-4480



-
- The sincere presentation of yourself and your values to others
 - Doing the right thing even when nobody is looking
-

First Holy Communion

On May 4, 2019 at 5pm our Grade 2 students will be celebrating their first Holy Communion. Please join me and the St. Matthew staff in congratulating our Grade 2 students on such an amazing event. We wish you all of God's blessings on your special day and always.



Confirmation

On June 1, 2019 at 5pm our Grade 7 students will become adults within the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please join me and the St. Matthew staff wishing all of the Holy Spirit's blessings on these students. May the Holy Spirit be with you always as you journey through life.



May is the month we dedicate to Mary, the mother of our Saviour, Jesus. During the month of May, as we honour Mary and all mothers, we are reminded of the many blessings mothers bestow upon their children each and every day.



School Procedures

Grade Three and Grade Six EQAO/ Provincial Assessment

Each year grade three and grade six students in Ontario are assessed in reading, writing and mathematics. The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has developed the assessment that is used in all schools. This year at St. Matthew School the dates for the Primary and Junior Division Assessments will take place between May 21st and June 3rd. Kindly avoid booking dental, doctor and other appointments, vacation or activities during the test period in order to support maximum participation by all students. More information for grade 3 and 6 parents will follow with exact dates and times.



Toys in School

As the weather is warming up many of our children are bringing toys to school, such as skipping ropes, soccer balls, tennis balls, rubrics cubes, and fidget toys. Although we do not want to prevent children from bringing things to school to play with during recess, we want to remind everyone that the school does not take responsibility for anything that is brought from home. Therefore, if something is broken or lost, please understand that neither the teachers nor the office will be held responsible. Therefore, we are asking that nothing of value be sent to the school, in case of a mishap.



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!

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.

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).

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.





Bicycle Safety

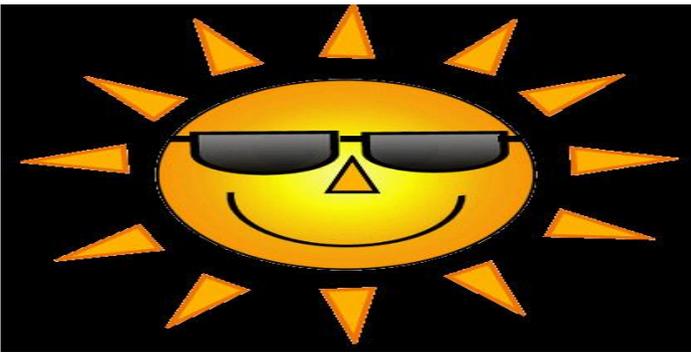
It is wonderful to see students bringing their bikes to school, however students are reminded of the following regarding the safe operation of their bicycle:

1. Wear a helmet
2. Obey all traffic rules when coming to school/ going home
3. Walk your bike when on school property
4. Students are asked to park and lock their bike on the bike racks

Protection from the Sun

As the weather warms up it is important that students are reminded of the danger of overexposure to the sun. Please remind your child(ren) of the following:

1. Wear protective clothing to cover exposed skin
2. Wear a hat to protect both the eyes and skin
3. When possible, stay out of direct sunlight
4. Wear sun block, the higher the protection factor number, the greater the protection
5. Bring ample fluids to school to ensure hydration



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 Gulp



In support of St. Matthew's Healthy School Initiative, after the assembly on Tuesday, May 7th, all students will be taking a drink of water. Please make sure to send in a water bottle with your child.

Catholic School Council

We have a new name! Many of the parent school councils within the Board previously had differing names: parent council, school council, advisory council. Moving forward the Waterloo Catholic District School Board will use the term Catholic School Advisory Council to name the parent committee that contributes to this very important role within our Catholic Schools. The name: Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) will more clearly define the advisory role of the council as well as highlight the Catholic lens from which all of our decisions are made.

Thank you in advance to all volunteers who will be donating items for the Staff Appreciation Breakfast on May 7th. We feel fortunate to have such amazing group of people to guide our students on their faith-based educational journey.

School Council is pleased to announce another Family Fitness Night on Wednesday, May 15th. 'HoopOut' will be in the gym from 6:30 - 7:30 to lead us in hula hooping skills, hoop tricks and games. Why Hoop? Laughter and exercise are a tough combination to find and hooping has it all. You won't believe all you can do with a hoop! Haven't picked up a hoop in a while, that's ok. There are many on- and off-body tricks for the whole family to practice together. The one hour session will cover approximately 12 tricks and 2-3 hula hoop games. Free event, everyone is welcome, no RSVP required.

The next meeting of the Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) will take place on Tuesday May 7th at 6:30pm in the Learning Commons. We welcome any members of the school community to attend. Please contact us at stmatthewcouncil@outlook.com if you have any questions regarding CSAC events and initiatives.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

May 4	First Communion celebration at 5pm
May 5-10	Catholic Education Week (pamphlet that came home)
May 8	Gr. 4/5 trip to Zehrs
May 9	Hep B Immunization for Gr. 7's
May 10	Spirit Day/ Sports and Board Games
May 15	Intermediate Soccer Tournament
May 16	'Hoop Out' Family Fitness Night @ 6:30
May 22-28	Track and Field Meet @ St. David's Gr. 4-8
May 22	Gr. 3 EQAO
May 28-June 3	FDK Parent Information Night 6-7pm
May 28	Gr. 6 EQAO
May 29	Gr. 8 Trip to U of W
May 30	Gr. 7 Confirmation Reconciliation
May 31	Gr. 7's at St. David
June 1	Confirmation Rehearsal at 6:30pm
June 4	Spirit Day/ Twin Day
June 5	PD Day
	Confirmation @ 5pm
	Gr. 4/5 Apps4Learning @ St. Mary
	Cross Country Meet @ Bechtel Park