
June 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*

As the school year comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of St. Matthew School Community for working together to make our school an amazing place to work and learn at. To the teachers, whose dedication and commitment have provided opportunities for students both academically and spiritually, by working collaboratively so that all students achieve success.

A special thank you to Mrs. Voisin, our Administrative Assistant, for the wonderful work she does each and every day to keep the school running so efficiently. We couldn't do it without her. As well, thanks to our custodial staff who keep our school clean and safe.

We would also like to thank Father Aleks and the parish team for the leadership and commitment to our students, especially those who have received the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.

We would like to thank Judy Merkel, our Superintendent, for all of her support this school year, and always.

To our Graduating Grade 8 students, we want to wish you God's blessings as you move onto Secondary School. We hope you remember your time with St. Matthew School as a happy and wonderful time. To parents and students who will be leaving and joining another school community in the fall, we wish you well.

We would like to say a heartfelt farewell to some of our staff members who are leaving: Mrs. Heffernan and all the Long-term Occasional teachers, Ms. Allen, Mr. Patrick, Ms. Caldas, and Ms. Forbes. Finally we would like to wish Mrs. McKinnon all the best, as she retires from Waterloo Catholic District School Board. We will always remember your time, talent and dedication to our students and our school.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all of you for your support and dedication to our school, our students and our community. As the school year closes, we wish you all a safe and restful summer with family and friends, and may Christ watch over you during the summer months.

May God bless you all throughout the summer!

G. Johnstone

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.
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Together In Faith

Umbrella Project: Mastery/ Hope

Mastery and Hope are skills and take practice! **Mastery/ Hope** are:

- explain what mastery means;
- recognizing examples of mastery in the world;
- giving examples of the benefits of mastery;
- giving examples of times where mastery may be hard;
- working on mastering something that I am interested in and understand that it takes patience, time, and lots of practice;
- understanding that mastery has a positive impact on how I feel about my life

First Holy Communion

On May 4, 2019 our Grade 2 students celebrated 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 celebrated 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.



Year End Mass

We will be celebrating our Year End Mass on June 21st at 12:45 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Lockdown/ Fire Drills

As mandated by the Ministry of Education, we will be completing our two lockdown practice procedures, as well as our Hold & Secure procedure this month. As well, we will be having 3 spring fire drills. All of these drills are part of our safety plan, to keep all students and staff safe in an emergency situation.

Volunteers and Criminal Reference Checks

All volunteers are required to have criminal reference checks. The CRC's are required for all parents volunteering both on trips as well as within the school. If you intend on volunteering please pick up a Criminal Reference Check form at the main office.

School Procedures



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!

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.



Transportation Details for 2019/2020

Transportation details for the 2019 - 2020 school year will be available on Monday, August 19, 2019.

Parents can login and view your child's transportation details by going to www.stswr.ca and following these easy steps:

- Click on "Student Login"
- Enter your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN)
 - This can be found on your child's report card
 - Numbers only, no space, no dash
- Enter your child's birth date
- Enter your child's street number
 - house number only
- Select the school your child is attending from the drop down menu

Please note: any address changes need to be done through your school. If you are moving this summer or change caregiver arrangements for the fall, you should communicate the change of address to your child's school before the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

You can also visit www.stswr.ca to see bus delays and cancellations, subscribe to receive e-mail notifications for late buses and closures and follow us on Twitter.



On Thursday, May 16th all of our Junior and Intermediate students participated in a Track and Field Day, which was a huge success! It was so great to see all students participating in a variety of events and challenging themselves to try something new. Thank you to all those involved with the planning, organizing and running of stations, it was because of your efforts that things ran so smoothly and that the day was so fun for all the students involved.

Mission Day/ BBQ

Mission Day will be taking place on Friday, June 14th beginning at 12:45pm. Advance tickets went on sale on Monday, May 27, 2019. Tickets will be on sale until June 11th. As well, this year, the annual BBQ will also take place on June 14th.

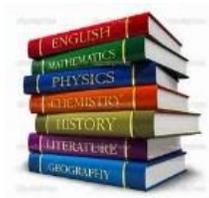
We are looking forward to seeing many of you for both of these amazing events!

Pencil Case Project

St. Matthew school will be participating in the Pencil Case Project in support of students in Trinidad and Tobago, (please see the flyer that is attached). If you would like to contribute please bring the items to the foyer. Thank you for your support.

Collecting all Books and Team Uniforms

School textbooks and team uniforms are school property and are “loaned” to students annually. Please remind your students to “search” their rooms for any school items and return them as soon as possible. Library books are to be returned no later than June 14, 2019. Students and/or parents may be held responsible for lost or damaged materials. Thank you for your help and cooperation in this regard.



Catholic School Council

The Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) will host our final event of the school year, our summer BBQ, on Friday June 14. All members of the St. Matthew school community (students, staff, parents, grandparents, caregivers) are invited to attend a lunch-hour BBQ to celebrate the close of an amazing school year! The BBQ will include hotdogs, watermelon and water bottle filling stations. The lunch is FREE for all attending; event is sponsored by St. Matthew CSAC together with generous donations from Battlefield Rentals, FreshCo and Crystal Clear Water Centres. The BBQ will take place immediately before the start of Mission Day festivities, so we invite all family members to come early and join us for lunch, from 11:35 – 12:35.

The final CSAC meeting of the school year took place on Tuesday June 4th. The CSAC thanks all the families of our school community for their support of initiatives and events throughout the school year, with special thanks to the volunteers who helped make these events a success. We encourage anyone who is interested to come out to a Council meeting next year. Watch the NewsWire in September for meeting dates and times.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June 1	Confirmation @ 5pm
June 4	Gr. 4/5 Apps4Learning @ St. Mary
June 5	Cross Country Meet @ Bechtel Park
June 12	FDK Open House for New Students 4-5pm
June 13	AAAA Track and Field Meet
June 14	Mission Day/ BBQ
June 16	Happy Father's Day
June 18	Junior 3-pitch tournament
June 21	Year-end Mass @ 12:45pm Neon Day!
June 25	Report Cards go home FDK trip to Waterloo Park
June 26	Gr. 8 Graduation
June 28	Last Day of School!
September 3	First Day of School