
November Newsletter 2019

St. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

405 Pastern Trail, Waterloo, Ontario N2K 3V6

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

<http://stmatthew.wcdsb.ca>

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



Remembrance Day Prayer

God our Father, your Son Jesus surrendered His life to free us from the power of sin and death. He showed us that the greatest love is in giving up one's life for others.

This month, we remember those who fought and died for our freedom. We ask you to bless and console them together with their families. Help us to understand the sacrifices they made in leaving their loved ones to face the horrors of war. May we never forget their generosity.

May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to resist evil in all its forms and show us how to be peacemakers through prayer and action, lest we forget those who fought, suffered and died that we might have the freedom and peace we enjoy today. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Together In Faith

UMBRELLA PROJECT- GROWTH MINDSET

What is Growth Mindset?

- The believe that our abilities are changeable not fixed
- The belief that you can acquire any ability through effort or study.
- The understanding that talents and abilities can develop through persistence, good teaching and hard work.
- The ability to see mistakes and setbacks as opportunities to learn and improve.

Principal
G. Johnstone

Head Secretary
M. Voisin

Superintendent
J. Merkel

Trustee's
Melanie Van Alphen
Jeanne Gravelle

Parish
St. Agnes Parish
75 Bluevale St. N.
Waterloo, ON
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Together in Faith, continued...

All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2nd, is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven.

Advent Mass

St. Matthew School will be celebrating our Advent Mass on December 12th at 9:00am at our school. All Parents are welcome to join us in our celebration.



Safe Schools Initiatives

Early Pick-Up

If you need to pick up your child prior to the end of the school day, 3:20 p.m., please send a note with your child in the agenda, advising the teacher when to send him/her to the office. Please be prepared to sign your child(ren) out at the Main Office.

Students Leaving School Property

Please make sure to inform your child's teacher of regular lunch arrangements for your child. If there is a change to the regular arrangements a note signed and dated must be given to the classroom teacher. No students from grade 1- 7 will be allowed to leave the school property without first being signed out by a parent/guardian. Students in grade 8 will be able to leave school property, for lunch, if a note has been provided by the parent. **NO** permission will be granted over the phone. Permission must be done in writing, **every** time the child leaves the school.



Remembrance Day Celebration

We will be celebrating Remembrance Day on November 11th at 10:30 p.m. All are invited.

Umbrella Project Assembly

Our Assembly for Growth Mindset will be held on November 6, 2019 at 9:30am, hosted by our Grade 2 students and staff. All are invited to attend.



Student Safety



Peanut and Other Life Threatening Allergies, Sabrina's Law Anaphylaxis Reaction

As we begin the new school year, we would like to inform you that St. Matthew School is an allergen aware school. There are pupils in attendance at our school who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe and life threatening reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe and life threatening allergic reaction. We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by **NOT** sending any lunches or snacks that contain peanuts/nut products. We want St. Matthew Catholic School to be a safe environment for all students. Thank you for your assistance with this initiative.

If your child has been diagnosed with an allergy and you have not notified the school, please do so immediately. There are forms that must be completed.

A written communication will be sent to the parents of children notifying them of the nature of a life threatening allergy when it is specific to their child's classroom. Your continued cooperation in support of our efforts to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all is greatly appreciated!



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.

Be Safe! Arrive on Time!

The Ministry of Education states that it is the responsibility of each parent to ensure that his/her child *"be in attendance at all classes and scheduled activities on time and with the proper materials required for full participation.* At St. Matthew School, we endeavor to teach children to be on time for their scheduled classes.

The school bell rings at 8:50 a.m. Any student arriving after the bell is considered late.

Your child's lateness affects not only their academic program but also disrupts the class. Regular attendance on the part of the student is vital to the process of learning. Students who are late for class suffer in the evaluation process

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.

because their participation and achievement are affected. Please help us to work together and ensure that your child/ren are arriving to class on time each day.



Lock Down, Fire Drills & Hold and Secure

During the month of September and October we rehearsed with students a number of emergency response situations including fire drills. During the month of November, we will be rehearsing Lock Down drills and Hold and Secure Drills. All schools are required by Board policy to practice these procedures throughout the year. We have these 'rehearsals' for precautionary purposes only so that in the event of an actual emergency, students will be prepared to respond in a safe and responsible manner. During a drill, outer doors will be locked for the time of the drill, not allowing anyone to enter, and an emergency protocol will be followed. The day continues as normal following the drill. Thank you for your understanding.

Medical Concerns

If your son / daughter has any medical concerns, please ensure that you inform the school. Information may be shared directly with the classroom teacher / office. If medication is required, forms will be sent for completion by parents and the family doctor. All information is held in confidence.



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.

If you are dropping your child off late, please know that NO parent can walk a child to their classroom, either a teacher or EA will come to get them and escort them if they require assistance.





Cold and Flu Season

Please use discretion in keeping your child home to recover if they are ill. A child who is coughing, wheezing, vomiting or with fever is not in a state to learn and risks infecting others. As well, if your child is well enough to attend school, they should be well enough to go outside at recess in supervised areas. Please be sure to continue to encourage your children to wash their hands frequently. Good hygiene is the best preventative measure. Also use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or your sleeve if without a tissue. Refrain from sharing pencils, erasers, scissors and snacks. If your child is absent, please let the school know.

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.



Volunteers - Criminal Reference Check

We are pleased to welcome our volunteers for another year to support learning in our school. We appreciate your commitment and support and look forward to a great year.

In accordance with the Safe Schools Act, all volunteers, including those going on one day school trips, must have a Criminal Reference Check.

Lunch Routines



If you are delivering your child's lunch to school, please do so between 11:25 a.m. and 11:35 a.m. When lunches are delivered late, it reduces the amount of time that students have to eat. Please also write your child's name on his/her lunch bag and place it on the table **by front entrance**. Thank you for your support.

For safety reasons, if a student is going home for lunch, a **written request signed and dated in your child's agenda or a separate note from you** is required for each occurrence. Unless you have indicated that your child goes home every day.

Clubs, Teams and Sports News

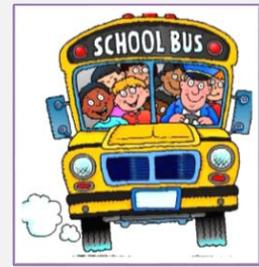
EcoTeam News

St. Matthew School Eco Team is thrilled to announce that last year we received "Gold" status on our Eco-Schools certification. We are striving for Gold again this year and you can help! Please try to send litterless lunches to school every day. This means using reusable containers for snacks and drinks rather than prepackaged foods. This helps to reduce the amount of garbage generated by our school and also provides an opportunity for you to compost left over food at home rather than dispose of it in our garbage bins at school. Thanks, in advance, for your help. Together we are making a difference!



Battery Drop Off

We now have a depot for battery drop off, if you would like to dispose of your batteries, you can bring them here to the school and place them in the buckets!



Transportation

Information pertaining to Transportation can be accessed online at www.stswr.ca. You can also go to the board website www.wcdsb.ca and use the link for student transportation.

Please ensure that for those children who are transported via school bus, they know which bus and which stop is theirs. If you wish to change the bus stop, please make your request in writing. **Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that kindergarten and grade one students are met at the bus.** If the bus driver does not see a parent or sitter at the scheduled stop, the child will be returned to the school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the office.

CLEAN OUR OCEANS

Some very enthusiastic grade 6 students have taken on an initiative to fundraise for the "Clean Our Oceans" foundation. More information will follow.

CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG/ CRAFT DAY (Save the Date)

On Thursday, December 19th in the pm, classes will be inviting parents in to enjoy some time with their children in the classroom. Later that afternoon, we will come together as a school for a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. More information is to follow in December.



Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) Update

The Catholic School Advisory Council wants to take a moment to thank everyone involved in this year's successful Dance-A-Thon. Our wonderful volunteers helped everything run smoothly and ensured that all of our children had an amazing time. Of course, the Dance-A-Thon would not have been nearly as exciting if we did not have everyone's favourite DJ pumping out the tunes and wowing the kids with his video dance party!! Thanks DJ Carlos!

The CSAC would also like to acknowledge the generous donations we received for our raffle. We have 94 prizes to be won! The raffle will be set up in the front foyer of the school until Tuesday November 12.

Parents, friends and families, we greatly appreciate your generous donations to help our school reach our fundraising goals for the 2019/2020 school year!! We will announce the total amount raised in early December after the final numbers have been settled at the next CSAC meeting.

The next CSAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30pm in the school library. All are welcome, we hope to see you there.

SAVE THE DATE! The next CSAC event will be a family movie night in the school gymnasium on Thursday, December 5th (December 6th is a PA Day). Stay tuned for details about timing and which movie we'll be showing!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

November 1	All Souls Day
November 2	All Saints Day
November 3	Daylight Savings Ends
November 5	Progress Reports Go Home
November 6	Gr. 8's to St. David's
November 7	Le Voyageur Presentation Gr. 4-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences in pm
November 11	Remembrance Day Celebration @ 10:30am
November 15	PD Day- no school
November 20	Laurier Hockey Game- Gr. 6-8
November 25/26	gr. 4's Sidewalk Smarts
November 28	Gr. 6-8 @ St. David's for Musical
December 2	First Week of Advent
December 3	Hep B/ HPV needles
December 5	Advent Reconciliation Gr. 3-8 Community Movie Night
December 6	PA Day- no school
December 12	Advent Mass at 9:00am- All are welcome