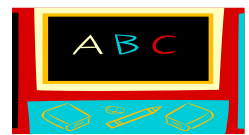




October 2024



St. Theresa Tribune

Sowing the Seeds of Faith, Blossoming in Knowledge
St. Theresa Catholic Elementary

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Dear Jesus, you have blessed us with children who are here to teach each other, their parents and teachers. Continue to bless us all with the wisdom to teach our children, the fortitude to gently re-direct, the patience to let them problem solve and reason, and the love to see the gifts all children are from your creation. Lord, we teach in reverence.



Principal's Message

This first month of school has been simply outstanding. I continue to be very honoured to be your principal. I am so very impressed by your children, their behaviour and respectful interactions.

Our new school year is merely a month old and it has been bustling with activity for both our students and staff. Congratulations to all students on your successful beginning to this school year. We've settled into our new classrooms and are delving into our new curricula. Parents are asked to continue encouraging their children to maintain their daily communication between home and school by talking about the school day, keeping their school materials organized and ensuring that they are ready for each school day. All classes are effectively learning using a varied approach of whole class lessons, small group work, paired/partner work and independent work. Daily attendance and arrival at the start of the day are paramount for student success.

Our Terry Fox Walk was a huge success as we were sporting red and white colours in honour of our Canadian Hero. Our children proudly wore their dedication stickers to honour loved ones who have journeyed with cancer. Teachers engaged students in age appropriate lessons on head injuries, concussions and the need to have all bumps to heads reported and monitored as part of the learning on Rowan's Law Day. September 30th was National Truth and Reconciliation Day, your children wore orange t-shirts as an action statement for this day. We dedicated time during the day for prayers, conversations and reflections on how we as a society must achieve reconciliation and how we as Catholics can live out the healing for society. God Bless all children!

Thank you, our parent community, for your support of St. Theresa Catholic School staff. We are honoured and privileged to have your children under our care and instruction. St. Theresa staff are to be commended for their daily dedication and commitment to our students. Together with the students these teachers and support staff are responsible for the outstanding school spirit of our school.

As we enter the fall season, we need to reflect on all the wonderful gifts that God has given us. We should celebrate with thanksgiving for our harvest, food, family, spiritual gifts and personal gifts. We, the staff of St. Theresa, wish you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Dan Trainor
Mr. D. Trainor, Principal

Parking Lot Safety

Parents are cautioned when driving in and out of the school parking lot. Students who walk to school may be crossing the driveway to get to the sidewalk. Student safety is our first priority and we ask that drivers please be vigilant.



If you are dropping off or picking your child(ren) up at our "Kiss and Ride" we ask that everyone keep the traffic flowing in this space at a slow speed to ensure students are safe. It is preferred that you park your vehicle in the parking lot and escort your child(ren) to the front of the school during morning drop off and repeat the same procedure at the end of the day by meeting your child(ren) at the exit gates. Parents are not to park in the "Kiss and Ride" lane and hold up traffic attempting to enter the parking lot. Thank you, safety of our children is our first priority.

Bell Times

A.M. Entrance:	8:30 a.m.
Nutrition Break #1	10:40 - 11:00 a.m.
Physical Break #2	11:00 - 11:20 a.m.
Nutrition Break #1	12:40 - 1:00 a.m.
Physical Break #2	1:00 - 1:20 a.m.



Dismissal: **2:50 p.m.**

*Morning supervision begins at 8:20a.m. Students should not be on the school yard before 8:20 to ensure they are being supervised. Thank you!

Dress Purple Day

Every October, Children's Aid Societies across Ontario raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families through the provincial Dress Purple Day campaign. The campaign is more important than ever, since the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional stressors for families, and in some cases has increased risk for the well-being and safety of children and youth.

This year, **Dress Purple Day** will take place on Friday, October 25, 2024.

We are calling on all Ontarians to wear something purple to show children, youth, and families that they are here to help!

Grade 1 and 2 are off to Pumpkin Patch

Our Grade One and Two students will be going to the Bryanne Pumpkin Patch on Wednesday, October 30th. The trip supports our learning in Social Studies, Science and Physical Education/Health curricula. More information about the trip will be sent electronically in early October.



Classroom Spotlight Grade One

September has been an exciting month for all of our Grade 1 students as they begin their new adventure in school! This year is all about learning new things, following rules, building routines, and making new friends.

In Grade 1, students are learning something new every day. From reading books and writing their first stories to solving math patterning problems and discovering science, there's so much to explore. They're also learning to work with their classmates and how to be independent learners.

Students are learning about themselves as children of God. Students have been working on being kind to one another and helping each other out. Whether playing at recess or working in small groups, they are learning how to share, cooperate, and include everyone. This will be a great year!

We are looking forward to our class trip to the Pumpkin Patch!



Anaphylaxis Awareness & Action Plans



All classrooms at St. Theresa are **peanut, tree nut and milk safe classrooms**. **No peanuts, peanut products, or tree nuts are allowed at any time**. We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and peanut products. **Please do not send in any food items for class distribution.**

We also have a student with **dairy allergies**. We must ensure that we handle all dairy food items carefully.

Students who share the classroom with our student with a dairy allergy have been informed and know that they are to wash their hands after lunches and snacks that contain dairy items. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or dairy products for breakfast/lunch at home. We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safety of all students.

Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.

Emergency Practices

Throughout September and October your child(ren) will be participating in three fire-drills and one lock-down drill.

Students will be taught their exit routes prior to the fire-drills. The lock down drill will occur on **Oct. 17th**. There will be notice to all parents/guardians prior to the lock-down drill.

It is wise for families to talk about the drills and why we must practice at school and at home. Thank you for your support.

Medication

For safety reasons, no child is to bring any form of medication to school. If medication is necessary, there is a form that must be filled out by your doctor to indicate dosage, instructions, etc., and the prescription container clearly labeled with names (child, parent, doctor), phone numbers and must be left at the office. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.

St. Theresa Spirit Wear

We will be offering St. Theresa Spirit wear for all students this year, including GRAD hoodies for our grade 8 students.

Orders will be done directly through Exclusive Imprint. You can order spirit wear at anytime and it will be delivered to the school.

Catholic School Council

Our first Catholic School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1st at 6:00 p.m. We are excited to continue the great work that we have been doing over the last few years. We welcome back our previous members and are so excited to see new parents join us. Our meetings are approximately every 6 to 8 weeks, usually run about 90 minutes. Come out, share your ideas and meet fellow parents. Our second meeting is scheduled for November 26th, at 6:00 p.m.

Intermediate Homework Club

We have been approved for a funding grant set aside for students in grades 7 to 12, for homework help and extra reinforcement of skills. The club will run weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:50 to 4:15 p.m. in the grade 7 and 8. Ms. DeLuca, Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Trainor will be the staff moderators of the club. As part of the learning students will have access to technology and also use various literacy and numeracy games to reinforce their skills. A letter will be sent home to all intermediate students to confirm participation in our homework club. Homework club will begin on Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 and run until Thursday May 29th, 2025

Cell Phone use for Students



The Ministry of Education has directed schools and school boards to not allow elementary students to have cell phones on them during the school day. To fairly manage this mandate along with parenting decisions made for each of our students; we thank you for respecting the following

compromise. If you are providing your child(ren) with a cell phone as part of their communication and safety tools as they transit from home to school and back, be advised that all cellphones will be placed in the classroom "cell garage" or in each student's backpack for the instructional day. If you are texting your child during the day — please expect them to only get the message at dismissal time (2:50). All communication must go through the main office. If students are using their cells as a personal device for research, teachers will direct them to access their cell phones. If students are required to bring a device for a specific purpose, the teacher will send a message in their digital platforms, such as the "NCVLE-classroom, School Messenger" so parents are aware of the request.

Thank you for your support.

Book/Math Buddies

Every Day 5 from 1:50 to 2:30 pm, our students will be engaging in peer learning by having time with their Book/Math Buddies. Students will be practising and modelling reading and decoding strategies, sharing comprehension of texts and playing many math games to build stronger additive reasoning and multiplicative thinking. Our younger students have been paired with older classes for this productive learning time. Watch for posts showcasing this learning time on our Instagram account.

Professional Development Day

Our next PD day is **Friday, October 11th, 2024**. Teaching staff will be participating in our Faith Formation Day. Students will not have school on this day. Students are able to enjoy an extra long weekend.

Hallowe'en

St. Theresa Catholic students will participate in Hallowe'en activities on Tuesday, October 31st. Students may choose to wear a costume that allows them to sit in their desk and complete school work. Students will wear costumes all day. Students are also invited to wear **black and orange** clothing and accessories. Black and orange clothing allows our children to enjoy the Hallowe'en activities in comfortable clothes. Black and orange are typically clothing items that children have and therefore our Hallowe'en activities are hopefully not placing an additional expense on our parent community. Students are to wear their costumes or black and orange clothes for the whole school day. Hallowe'en activities will occur in the afternoon in each classroom.

For safety reasons, students are **not to wear full head costumes, facial masks or paint their full faces**. We need to be able to see their faces in the event that a child develops an allergy to foods or environmental factors. Thank you for respecting this safety rule and for making any alterations to your child(ren)'s full costume.

Candy and Snacks shared from our homes will be allowed but they will be sent home with each child so parents can decide what treats are to be eaten. Teachers will allow the children to have one to two treats during the day. We must follow the board nutrition policy on these days. We understand our families wanting to share treats for our children, we ask that if you send items that they be things that can be easily sent home with your children's classmates.

School Picture Day

Individual school pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024.

The retake date has not been set as of yet. Students are to be in full dress code on picture day. We will use the composite layout for the class photo so we do not miss any students who are unable to be here on the first picture day.

Grade Eight

Graduation picture date will be set for early 2025.



Terry Fox Walk-A-Thon

On **Friday, September 27th**, students in grades K-8 walked in the annual Terry Fox Walk-a-Thon. We raised \$200.00. We are very proud of our students and the effort they made for this fundraiser. Thank you to our grade eight students for all the announcements you made to inform our students about "why we walk" and for leading us in the Terry Fox assembly. Thank you, Mrs. Rogers for organizing this successful event for our school.



Holy Childhood Walk-a-thon

"Children Helping Children"

During the month of October we are reminded of those children throughout the world who are in immediate need. The Holy Childhood Association invites everyone to become missionaries for Christ by praying and sharing their time for needy children in the developing world. St. Theresa students will participate in the Holy Childhood Fundraiser Walk-a-thon. We are asking for each child to donate \$2.00. Our Holy Childhood Walk will take place on Friday, October 18th, 2024. Thank you in advance for your support.



St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School Newsletter & Website

We will send home a paper copy of the school calendar each month. The newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website. This will generally happen on the last Thursday of the current month. Watch for your newsletter as it contains much information regarding school activities. All information is sent home with the youngest or only child in a family. Newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website! Please visit this exciting showcase of our great school.

Upcoming Dates:

November is Diabetes Awareness Month
 November 1st to 5th - Treaties Recognition
 November 5th - Gr. 7 Immunization Clinic
 November 6th - Gr. 8 Day at Denis Morris
 November 7th - International Inuit Day
 November 8th - Indigenous Veterans' Day
 November 10th - Gr. 8 Confirmation at 10:00 Mass (tentative)
 November 11th - Remembrance Day
 November 11th - Progress Reports on parent portal and will be sent home
 November 19th - Parent teacher interviews will occur
 November 22nd - CSC at 6:00 p.m.
 November 27th - Dental Screening JK/SK
 November 29th - P.D. Day
 December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 20th—Advent Liturgy in our Gym
 December 20th - Last day of school before Christmas Break
 January 6th - We are back to school!!!
 May 7th - Grade 7 Immunization Clinic
 June 24th - Grade 8 Graduation at 5:00 pm



Dance-a-thon "Country Fair"

We are so excited to announce our major fundraiser for this school year. On November 22nd, 2024 our students and staff will be dancing all day long to earn the pledges for our dance-a-thon. Our theme this year is "Country Fair", students may wear western themed items to showcase their style. Pledge forms are going home October 10th, 2024 and are due back November 20th, 2024. The funds raised by Kindergarten to Grade 7 will be used directly to purchase new Timberwolves Jerseys/t-shirts for our school teams. Grade 8 pledge funds will be used for grade 8 graduation and their year-end trip. We are hoping to raise \$6000.00 to \$8000.00.

The top 3 sellers will have a chance to be awarded on-line shopping prize amounts of:

1st = \$400.00 2nd = \$200.00 3rd = \$100.00

We will be selling glow items for \$1.00 on the day of the dance-a-thon. Cash will be accepted (shh don't tell)

Important: All pledges for this fundraiser will be submitted through schoolcash online ONLY.

NO CASH/CHEQUE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

We ask that all students collect pledges from people you and your family know. Door to door soliciting is not encouraged; our students' safety is our priority. For every \$10.00 a student raises they will get 1 ballot towards a chance to win a "Karaoke Machine" which will be on display in the school.

World Teachers' Day & Designated Early Childhood Educators' Day

Saturday October 5th is World Teachers' Day and October 24th is dedicated to our Early Childhood Educators. We thank all for their dedication to our students. We pray for them as they live their teaching vocations. God Bless you all.