



St Augustine Catholic School

I would like to thank the entire St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School Community for their continued help and support in ensuring that the first month of school has gone so well. The entire St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School staff are very dedicated, committed and are exemplary in all that they do. Day in and day out, they work tirelessly in ensuring that your child's academic needs are met. As well, they continue to ensure that all students are safe

Our first Catholic School Council meeting which took place on Monday, September 30 was filled with many positive parents, eager to support the school in any way to assist staff in the promotion of student achievement. It is truly a family atmosphere at St. Augustine where everyone is working together for the benefit of our students.

I am very proud to be the principal of St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School and, with the support of the staff, parents and students, I am confi-

dent St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School will continue to be "a school where we work in partnership with the home and parish to foster academic, social and spiritual growth according to the teachings of Jesus Christ".



Thanksgiving Blessings

For all blessings that are ours,
For all our food, for lovely flowers - give thanks.
For trees that give us fruit to eat,
For winter cold and summer heat – give thanks.
For Mother's love and Father's aid,
For all the wonders God has made – give thanks.
For friends and toys with which to play,
For restful night and joyous day – give thanks.

May the almighty and merciful God bless and protect the St. Augustine Community.



SAFE ARRIVAL ATTENDANCE REPORTING

IF YOUR CHILD(REN) IS/ARE GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON, THE ABSENCE MUST BE REPORTED BY CALLING:

1 844 287 6287

or visit

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

You can no longer call the school to report absences!! We must account for every child. Please make every effort to remember to contact the school via one of the above methods when your child is absent. The telephone line and web site are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

ELF the Musical



On Thursday, December 5 the student's in grades 5-8 have the opportunity to attend **Elf the Musical** in Niagara Falls. The cost of the ticket is \$25 this includes transportation to the theatre. Tickets can be purchased via SchoolCash Online. The **deadline** to purchase tickets is **October 18**.

BUSSING/PARKING LOT

As part of our continued safety procedures, we ask parents to use the front of the school for pick-up and drop-off of their child(ren). Staff will be available to meet your child(ren) every morning starting at 8:20 am. Do not send your children earlier than 8:20 am. Thank you for your co-operation.

SUPERVISION

Morning supervision begins at 8:20 am. Due to a variety of other responsibilities teachers fulfill leading up to this time, students are NOT supervised prior to this time. Student should not arrive before 8:20 am. Students are asked to leave promptly at 2:55 pm. Thank you for your support.

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

On Monday, September 30th, St. Augustine Catholic School Council met to assign new members to our council. Elections took place and the following are the parents that have been chosen for this year's School Council:

Chair: **Amanda Policella**

Co-Chair(s): **Kailey Costabile & Andrew Levesque**

Congratulations!

PROGRESS REPORT CARDS and PROVINCIAL REPORT CARDS

The Progress Report Card will show the development of the learning skills and work habits along with progress in the achievement of the curriculum expectations in each subject from September to November.

The first Provincial Report Card will reflect achievement of curriculum expectations, development of learning skills and work habits from September to February. A Parent-Teacher Conference may be requested to discuss the achievement of your son/daughter.

The second Provincial Report Card will

reflect achievement of the curriculum expectations introduced or further developed from February to June, as well as the students' development of the learning skills and work habits during that period. The achievement from the first Provincial Report Card is also shown to provide you with an overview of your son's/daughter's achievement.

Even though there are two reporting periods during the school year, ongoing communication with parents and students regarding student achievement and progress is continuous throughout

the school year by means of parent-teacher conferences, parent-teacher telephone calls, and parent-student-teacher conferences, portfolios of student work, interviews and informal reporting to parents and guardians. At any time during the school year, I would invite you to contact the classroom teacher about the achievements of your son/daughter. If you have any questions regarding the reporting on student achievement process, please contact the teacher.

Specific dates as to when the report cards will be available will be forthcoming.

TERRY FOX WALK

Thank you Mrs. Cercone Ponting for organizing this year's Walk.

On September 27, students at St. Augustine walked for Terry. A total of **\$242** was raised by the St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School Community for the National Cancer Institute of Canada. I know that every family has been touched by cancer in some way. This money will contribute to our goal of one day finding a cure for all cancers.

We thank you for your generous support and donations



ALERT: ANAPHYLAXIS

At the beginning of every school year, we remind all students and parents/guardians of our Board's Anaphylaxis Policy.

At St. Augustine, we have Emergency Guidelines which clearly state what medical procedures must occur for those students who have various life-threatening medical conditions. We are reminding all students and parents/guardians that we have students in our school who are known to have a potentially life-threatening allergy called Anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is a severe life-threatening form of an allergic reaction. It may begin with severe itching of the eyes or face, a sense of constriction in the throat, then other symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea and difficulty with breathing may develop. This may lead to coma and/or death.

Foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, and wheat, as well as bites from insects such as bees and wasps, latex products and medications are the most common allergies that produce an anaphylactic response.

Anaphylaxis requires **immediate** first aid response and **immediate** medical intervention.



DOORS/PROMPT ARRIVAL

As you are aware, the school has a Safe Arrival protocol that requires parents and visitors to sign in upon arrival. Students arriving after the bell must also report to the office.

Our secure door procedures are working well, however, we ask for your assistance to ensure smooth transitions at important parts of the day.

We ask that students arrive on time so that the door buzzers are not interrupting announcements and the start of the school day.

We also ask for your patience when you are ringing the buzzer. We are unable to immediately respond to you when we are on the telephone likely assisting another family.

SCHOOL SECURITY/SIGN-IN PROCEDURES

As mandated by the Ontario Government Code of Conduct, all schools under the Safe Schools Act are to have Sign-in Procedures in place. The Act also requires school boards to ensure that no one, other than regular school staff and students be allowed to enter a school building without signing in at the Main Office.

For the continued safety of all students, the Niagara Catholic District School Board requires that all elementary school entrances be kept locked during the school day. A card access system was installed by the Board at St. Augustine, which enables staff on outdoor supervision to access the building through the front, rear or side doors. All visitors must use the main entrance, which is equipped with a video camera, a voice intercom/doorbell panel and a door release mechanism. All exterior doors at St. Augustine will be locked at all times.

All students are required to enter and exit via their assigned door. If your child arrives after 8:35 am, due to an appointment, please have them use the front door to enter the school.

This will ensure that all students are safe.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our school improvement plan focuses on continued improvement of literacy and numeracy skills within a Catholic Community context. Staff work together as a professional learning community to ensure we strive for the follow-

CURRICULUM:

To create a literacy-rich environment for all of our students to enhance student success across the curriculum. We are committed to implementing a variety of strategies and resources to achieve this goal such as common assessment practices from the Early Years through Grade Eight document, student data collection and analysis, differentiated instruction, divisional collaboration, Board initiative, creative planning, parent involvement and ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers.

To continue to focus on the development of the mathematically literate learner. We encourage parents to support our efforts by taking an active roll in their child's learning and accessing a range of information.

To continue to access various resources provided by the School, the Board, the Ministry and other reliable, proven sources. Students who are mathematically literate:

Communicate their mathematical thinking and procedures successfully in a variety of ways.

Select and use manipulatives, calculators and computer applications to investigate.

Select and apply multiple strategies to solve problems.

Connect mathematical relationships with other subject areas and real-life contexts.

SCHOOL CLIMATE:

To foster respect, responsibility and social justice within a distinctively Catholic culture.

We, at St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School, are committed to creating an atmosphere of high expectations for positive behaviour and meaningful involvement in which children can develop the self-confidence and social skills needed to be productive, compassionate and contributing citizens of the 21st century. We strive to maintain a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students, staff and community members involved in school programs. Student safety and well-being are our primary concern.

A variety of strategies, programs and resources will enable us to nurture a positive Catholic school climate. Ultimately, the collaborative effort, creativity and commitment of staff, families and parish members, and the larger community will be essential to achieving this goal.

FIRE & LOCKDOWN DRILLS

All Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary school, Continuing Education, and Alternative Learning Sites are required to conduct two practice lockdown drills annually. Parent/Guardians will be notified at least one day prior to the lockdown drill through School Messenger. The practice drill is to ensure that staff and students are informed and follow emergency response procedures in the event of an actual incident.

Fire Drills must be conducted a minimum of six times each school year – three per term/semester at various time of the day. The first fire drill of the year must be completed by the end of the second Friday of September.

Fire and Lockdown drills must be conducted between September and May 31 of each school year.

OCTOBER IS INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH

Lace up your shoes or snap on those bike helmets for an active trip to school.

If you live far from school, park a few blocks away and walk part of the trip.

If you ride a bus, take part by walking to your bus stop.

Here is a quick trivia question to have fun with at the dinner table tonight.

Walking and wheeling to school can improve:

- a. **Health**
- b. **Happiness**
- c. **Stress Level**
- d. **Grades**
- e. **Safety**
- f. **All of the above**

If you said **F** – you're correct! Walking and wheeling to school has many benefits and those are just a few.

(Source: activesaferoutes.ca)

Tips to remember when walking or biking:

Look left, right and left again when crossing the street

Never run or dart out into the street between parked cars

Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them and watch out for cars that are turning or backing up

It is always best to walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are none, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible

Cross streets at corners, if possible

Watch out for cars coming out of driveways and alleys

If what you are doing has wheels, protect your brain – always wear a helmet

When riding your bike, ride in the same direction as the cars are driving.



IN CLOSING

As a Catholic Community, we once again ask God's blessing on all of us. It is our hope that the continued strong partnership of home, school and church will provide our children with a solid foundation for spiritual, emotional and academic growth. We continue to move toward the future with a renewed sense of pride and anticipation of the wonderful things to come at our school!

You miss **100%**
of the shots
you don't take
-Wayne Gretzky