



## ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*"We are proud to be part of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools"*

Principal: Mr. Paul Moccia

Superintendent: Mrs. Kim Kinney

**NOVEMBER 2024**

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

October has been a busy month as we settled into our routines for the school year. In our classrooms we have been focusing on "time on task." This means we have been concentrating on making every instructional minute count. Research tells us the more time students attend to an academic task, the higher the academic achievement. We are making an extra effort to limit classroom interruptions. We appreciate the efforts of our staff and parents to ensure instructional time is not interrupted. Our goal here at St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School is to ensure that each student reaches their full academic potential. While we are busy with academic tasks, school spirit is very important to us. Our students are proud to be St. Augustine Gators! During recesses, as well as before, during lunch etc. students and staff are working hard to provide a variety of opportunities for our students. It is because of the support of our staff and our Catholic School Council that we are able to do so many activities for our students. Your support is truly appreciated. It is through the home-school-church partnership St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School continues to share its gifts and talents to be "a school where we work to foster academic, social and spiritual growth according to the teachings of Jesus Christ."

**The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.**

### SAFE ARRIVAL ATTENDANCE REPORTING

**IF YOUR CHILD IS 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 phone line and web site are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

### ORANGE SHIRT DAY

The Every Child Matters campaign is a campaign that helps raise awareness for the children who went to residential schools. On **September 30<sup>th</sup>**, St. Augustine Catholic Elementary school took part in Orange Shirt Day to raise awareness about residential schools.

### ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will take place virtually and in person at the school on **Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. in the library.** Please feel free to join us. As well, all agendas and minutes are posted and can be viewed by going to [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca), click elementary schools, St. Augustine, Catholic School Council meeting and minutes. **All are welcome to attend.**

### PROGRESS REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS

Progress Reports can be viewed electronically starting **Monday, November 11.** Our in-person meetings will take place on **Wednesday, November 20 from 4-6 pm.** If you are unable to meet this evening, please reach out to your child's teacher. Specific information will be forthcoming closer to the date.

### UPCOMING POPCORN DAYS

Our next scheduled popcorn days in November are:

- **Thursday, November 14**
- **Wednesday, November 27**

Special thanks goes out to our Catholic School Council members for assisting with this. Purchases may be made via School cash on line.

### 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 every morning starting at **8:20 a.m.** Do not send your children earlier than **8:20 a.m.** Thank you.

## NIAGARA NUTRITION PARTNERS

Did you know...each day we serve a healthy meal/snack (a fruit/veggie, grain and/or protein) to student's at St. Augustine's Catholic Elementary School? All students have access to food provided through our nutrition program that is funded by Niagara Nutrition Partners and contributions from local partners. This program is very beneficial to the growing minds and bodies of our students, and it provides such a positive start to their day.

## SUPERVISION

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

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

### LEST WE FORGET

On **Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, we will remember those who have died for us in war as we celebrate Remembrance Day.

## DOORS / PROMPT ARRIVAL

As you are aware, the school has a Safe Arrival protocol that requires students, parents and visitors to sign in upon arrival. 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 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 phone with another call.

## ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEBSITE

To access our monthly newsletter, calendar, parent council agenda and minutes, please visit **[www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca)**, **elementary schools, St. Augustine** to keep you informed about events happening at the school.

## NOVEMBER-PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

**Friday, November 29** will be a Professional Activity Day for all staff. There will be no school for the students on this day.

## BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of **November 18-22** as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. During the week, students and school staff and parents/guardians are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

Bullying is defined as a form of REPEATED, persistent and aggressive behavior directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

At St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School, we have implemented within our School Improvement Plan, a School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan which promotes a whole-school approach to ensuring a safe, accepting, equitable and inclusive environment, free of bullying, harassment and discrimination.

## COLDER WEATHER

November means a time of cold weather and perhaps our first snowfall. Students are asked to remember to dress appropriately for the weather.

## 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 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 **death**.

Foods such as peanuts, other nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, and wheat as well as insect stings from bees and wasps, latex products and medication, are the most common allergies that produce anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis requires **immediate** first aid response and **immediate** medical intervention. If you require any further information contact Mr. Moccia at the school.

## 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, which will enable staff on outdoor supervision to access the building through the front, rear or side doors. All visitors must use the main entrance, which is now equipped with a video camera, a voice intercom/doorbell panel, and a door release mechanism. All exterior doors at St. Ann will be locked at all times.

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

## UPCOMING DENTAL SCREENINGS-NOVEMBER 13 REMINDER

As previously communicated, Niagara Public Health Dental program will provide mandatory dental screenings for students in **Kindergarten, Grade 2, 4 and 7 on November 13.**

## HEAD LICE ALERT

Please access the revised Head Lice Guidelines for Schools. This document can be accessible from the Niagara Region website at the following web page:

[http://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health\\_wellness/healthyschools/headlice.aspx](http://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/healthyschools/headlice.aspx)

Please note that Public Health also offers a Head Lice Hotline. This recorded message is available by calling the following telephone number: 905-688-8248 ext. 7371.

## SAFETY TIPS

### Safety Tips to keep our kids safe on the journey to school

Back to school means more children walking or biking to school and bus stops. We thank parents for being mindful of active travelers and obeying the speed limit.

Here are some tips for the safe walk to school:

- Children under 10 years old should cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, it can be hard for kids to judge speed and distance of cars until age 10.
- Talk to your kids about how to be safe and aware while walking.
- Tell kids to look left, right and left again when crossing the street. Teach them to never run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Remind kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them and to watch out for cars that are turning or backing up.
- It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Cross streets at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Most injuries happen mid-block or someplace other than intersections.

See more [active transportation safety tips](http://www.parachutecanada.org) at [www.parachutecanada.org](http://www.parachutecanada.org)

## FINALLY-THANK YOU!

I would like to conclude the November newsletter by thanking our dedicated St. Augustine staff, St. Augustine students, St. Augustine parents/guardians for all that they do and for a great start up to a successful school year. The partnership between the home, school and parish is fundamental and key. THANK YOU!

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR ECO TEAM:**

**Waste-Free Lunch Day - Wednesday,  
November 6th, 2024**

School lunches can generate lots of waste. Our friends at Recycling Council of Ontario state that the average student's lunch generates a total of approximately 66 pounds of waste per school year.

**On Wednesday, November 6th, we are having our first WASTE-FREE Lunch Day at school, and are asking you to pack a lunch for your child that does not generate unnecessary waste!** A waste-free lunch may include reusable food and drink containers, washable cutlery, and cloth napkins, instead of prepackaged foods, single-use plastic baggies, juice boxes and pouches, paper napkins, aluminum foil, and disposable utensils. When you go waste-free, you are helping to reduce the environmental impacts caused from the unnecessary transportation, production, and disposal of packaging products. Take action by tackling the first of the 5 Rs by *reducing* the amount of waste generated at our school!

Tips for Waste-Less Lunches

- **Have a lunch kit or bag that is reusable.**
- **Pack food and drinks in reusable containers.**
- **Use cloth napkins and reusable cutlery.**
- **Make your own granola bars, cookies, chips or fruit snacks and pack them in reusable containers.**

- **Buy bulk instead of single servings. Buy a large yogurt and put smaller portions in reusable containers.**
- **Give children responsibility. Children can learn food preparation by helping to make lunches and help clean reusable containers.**

Please help St. Augustine's School reduce the amount of waste from student lunches by packing a Waste-Free lunch for your child on Wednesday, November 6th!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO MRS. BERARDOCCO FOR LEADING THE ECO TEAM