



# St. Joseph NEWS

*We are proud to be a part of the Lakeshore Catholic and St. Michael Family of Schools.*

# SEPTEMBER 2025

## We are called by name to grow with God!

It is with much excitement that I look forward to the upcoming school year. I feel blessed to share this journey with you, your children, the staff and extended community of St. Joseph! I, along with the dedicated staff, will do everything necessary to support your child and your family, in order to strengthen the already dynamic triad between your home, our school and St. Joseph Parish.

Our faith journey will be rooted in Niagara Catholic's theological theme, **Called By Name: Go and Make Disciples**. Together, as a strong faith community, we will strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and those around us who continually put their faith into action, in word and in deed.

On behalf of the entire staff of St. Joseph, we warmly welcome those who are new to our family, whether from another school or coming to school for the first time. We also welcome new staff members to our school! No doubt our new students, families and staff members will quickly feel right at home.

I ask God's blessing on our students, families, staff and all individuals who are a part of the St. Joseph Catholic community. As September begins, we reaffirm our commitment to Catholic Education and our drive to continually provide exemplary education at St. Joseph! We welcome the support of all members of our community so that we can continue to grow together with God, with determination, fortitude and success!

**Happy New Year Everyone!** Mrs. S. Walsh Principal



### **A Prayer for A New School Year**

*God of wisdom and might,*

*We praise you for the wonder of our being,*

*Our Mind, body and spirit.*

*Be with our children as they begin a new school year.*

*Bless them, their teachers and staff.*

*Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;*

*Wisdom and knowledge to their minds*

*as they search for understanding;*

*And peace and zeal to their hearts.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

### **Information Envelope**

Due: Friday, September 12th

Several pieces of information have been included in the envelope each **youngest or only** child has brought home today. We ask that you please respond to each piece of information as requested. For each child, kindly fill out the blue consent form. Please make all necessary changes to the Student Information Sheet, specifically any changes in phone numbers (home and emergency contacts and a current email). It is so important that we have the accurate contact information should an emergency arise with your child and we need to contact you. **Throughout the year, as information changes, please keep us updated.**





Growing with God! Growing with God! Growing with God! Growing with God!

## Our Starting Lineup 2025 - 2026

Kindergarten:	Mrs. Figliomeni, Mrs. Breen (DECE),
Grade 1 /2:	Mrs. DellaSmirra
Grade 2/3:	Mrs. Horton
Primary Team Member:	Mdme Bambara
Grade 4 /5:	Mrs. Corcoran
Grade 5 /6:	Ms. Hay
Grade 7/8:	Mr. Vukovic
FSL:	Madame Bambara
Itinerant Arts:	Mrs. Paraskevopoulos
Resource Teacher:	Mrs. Walsh
Educational Assistants:	Ms. Grenier, Mrs. Bilodeau and Mrs. Richmond
Child and Youth Worker:	Ms. Belcamino
Library Assistant:	Mrs. Salvati
Caretaker:	Ms. Michelle
Secretary:	Ms. Amanda
Principal:	Mrs. Walsh

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A very heartfelt thank you to: **Ms. Michelle** for ensuring our school is clean, organized and ready for another great year; and to **Ms. Amanda** for welcoming our new students and for preparing the school for a smooth transition. To the amazing staff of St. Joseph, thank you for your dedication to our school family. Your commitment to making St. Joseph a safe and inviting environment, where children are excited to come and learn and grow is appreciated! To all of our families - thank you for your support as we navigate another school year! Your kind words, your donations and most importantly, your trust is a blessing!

## NEW School Day Schedule : BALANCED DAY

Entry Bell: 9:15am
First Nutrition Break: 11:25am - 12:05am
Second Nutrition Break: 1:25pm - 2:05pm
Dismissal: 3:32pm Pick-Ups / 3:25pm Bus Students

**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO SUPERVISION IN THE SCHOOL YARD UNTIL 9:00 am. Students will remain outside until the entry bell rings at 9:15am. ONLY KINDER STUDENTS WILL HAVE A FLUID ENTRY BEGINNING AT 9:00am. Daycare families please use the side entrance next to the playground for drop-off and pick-up.**

## Friendly Reminder: Cell Phone Use Regulations

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, we will continue to reinforce and implement the ministry required cell phone regulations.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your understanding and support.



## Catholic School Council: Helping Hands Wanted

Our Catholic School Council is a dedicated group of parents who strongly support our students, staff and school. All parents / guardians are invited to consider becoming a part of the Catholic School Council. Our first CSC Meeting will be **Monday, September 22nd.**

### Standardized Dress Code

Students are required to wear standardized dress code which includes the following: navy pants, jeans (dark navy), shorts, skirts or rompers ; white or navy shirt **with a collar**; and a navy sweater and/or hoody with no logos. We ask that students wear shoes that they are able to put on and take off independently. If they are unable to tie shoes, please have them wear shoes without laces.

**PLEASE label all clothing items.**

We have some gently used, clean items available for families that are in need of items. If you require gently used clothing items, please send an email to: [St. Joseph CES](mailto:St. Joseph CES) with your child's name, their size and we will send clothing home if available. If you have gently used clothes to donate, we very much appreciate your generosity!

### Stay Informed, Be Connected!

Effective home and school communication is key to the growth and success of our entire St. Joseph's family. In order to continue to build upon communication between home and school, **please ensure we have your most current email.** Through email, you will conveniently receive newsletters, event announcements and friendly reminders. We will readily be using **School Messenger**, linked to your email, to share events that will occur.



## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

A Prayer for Orange Shirt Day

*Loving God, our Creator, help us to be living signs of Your healing love. Open our hearts to welcome, to include and to stand up for the dignity of each other as we go forward together with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. Strengthen and guide us on our journey towards reconciliation; and help us to celebrate all Indigenous people of Turtle Island for the many gifts they share with us. May we go forward in hope, as the children of One Creator and loving members of the family of God. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

Orange Shirt Day is the story of Phyllis Webstad, an Indigenous woman who shared her experience at an Indian Residential School through the children's book, *The Orange Shirt Story*. By participating in Orange Shirt Day, we recognize the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential School system in Canada. The first Orange Shirt Day occurred on September 30th, 2013 as Chief Fred Robbins saw Phyllis' story as a way of bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Since that time, Orange Shirt Day has grown into a national awareness among schools, businesses, and communities. In June 2021, the Federal Government of Canada designated September 30th as the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. While this addresses Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliations 94 Calls to Action, it coincides with an established day that was created by Survivors of Indian Residential Schools. As a Board we can acknowledge the Federal statutory day, but for school and student activities, for the present time, it remains "Orange Shirt Day" as a way of respecting the grass root Indigenous movement.



## From Public Health

### Eyes Ready for the School Year!

Proper vision is important for a student’s learning and social development. A full eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist) is the best way to ensure a healthy eyes and good vision. [The Eye See...Eye Learn®](https://optom.on.ca/esel/) (<https://optom.on.ca/esel/>) program is for students in junior and senior kindergarten to have a full eye exam (covered by OHIP) with a [participating optometrist](https://find.optom.on.ca/) (<https://find.optom.on.ca/>) \*Participating optometrists will have a note beside their name saying “Eye See...Eye Learn doctor.” If a child needs glasses, they will receive a free pair donated by Plastic Plus, Modern Optical Canada and the participating optometrist. For children aged 19 and under, OHIP covers the cost of a complete annual eye exam and any follow-up assessments that may be required.

A yearly eye exam is recommended – [find an eye doctor near you](https://find.optom.on.ca/) (<https://find.optom.on.ca/>).

For more information, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>



### Check Your Child’s Routine Vaccinations or Exemption Information



Public Health is checking vaccine records and exemptions for all school-aged children. Often, children are up-to-date with their [routine vaccinations](https://www.ontario.ca/page/vaccines-children-school) (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/vaccines-children-school>) but their records have not yet been reported [Public Health’s Vaccine Team](https://niagararegion.ca/health/vaccinations/default.aspx) (<https://niagararegion.ca/health/vaccinations/default.aspx>). Doctors, childcare centres, and schools do not automatically share these records with Public Health.

#### How to check your child’s vaccination record:

Log in to [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](https://nrph.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome) (<https://nrph.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome>)

- Make sure all the vaccines your child has received are listed. Add any that are missing.
- Look at the “Immunizations Needed” section. If something is missing, book an appointment to get your child vaccinated. After the appointment, add the new vaccine to ICON.

**For exemptions:** If you have an exemption, make sure it’s still valid for school-aged children. Exemptions from childcare expire when your child starts school in September.

If we don’t have all the information, Public Health may contact you later this fall.

For questions, call the Vaccine Team at **905-688-8248** or **1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425**.

If English isn’t your first language, interpreter services are available.



## From Public Health

### Safely Packing Lunches

#### Clean

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before preparing any meal
  - Make sure you sanitize countertops, utensils and any lunch boxes or lunch bags
  - For surfaces and lunch boxes/bags: mix 2.5 ml (1/2 tsp) of bleach with 1 L (4 cups) of water.
  - Apply to surface and let stand briefly.
  - Rinse with clean water and air dry or use a clean towel.
- Wash raw fruits and vegetables before eating

#### Keep Cold Food Cold

- Meat, chicken, seafood, eggs, and dairy products must stay cold to stay safe. Use frozen packs to keep food at or below 4° C (40 F).
- Use an insulated lunch bag and place freezer packs between foods that need to stay cold. Refrigerate the night before to get your lunch bag off to a cool start.

#### Keep Hot Food Hot

- Hot food must stay hot at above 60°C (140°F). Use insulated containers and keep them closed until ready to eat or take your food cold and reheat it.

For more information visit [https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health\\_wellness/inspection/safe-food-handling-dine-in.aspx](https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/inspection/safe-food-handling-dine-in.aspx).

### Active School Travel

#BackToSchool season is the best time to start planning your child's active route to school this September. This year, take the stress out of driving and consider walking, biking, and scootering or rolling to school with your child! Plan your active journey to school and try it out this back-to-school season! There are several benefits of active school travel for your children:

1. More people walking means fewer cars and cleaner air around the school
2. Kids who walk, bike, or roll to school arrive alert and ready to learn
3. Active transportation to school counts towards daily physical activity needs for your children and much more!

To help build confidence and participate in active transportation safely, consider reviewing the resources below:

[Blue the Butterfly](https://vimeo.com/449360434/fe564ed3b1) (https://vimeo.com/449360434/fe564ed3b1) – a pedestrian safety video for families.

[Cycle Safety Virtual Bike Rodeo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-JdZN1-iaK) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-JdZN1-iaK) – education and training for safe cycling featuring skills like putting on a helmet, using hand signals, and doing shoulder checks.

