



St Edward Catholic School September 2018 Newsletter



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From the Principal's desk

On behalf of all of the staff at St. Edward Catholic School, **WELCOME** to the 2018-2019 school year. We pray that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer and that you are all excited and ready for the wonderful year that we have planned. We welcome all of our new staff, students and families, who will be attending St. Eds for the first time. You are joining an amazing school community. This year promises to be an excellent year!

I am very excited to be returning as the Principal of such a great school! St. Edward Catholic School has a great reputation in the community and in our School Board. Together with the whole staff of St. Ed's, we would like to wish each of you a school year filled with a **Love of Learning** and God's Blessings.

We begin the first year of the CDSBEO's new three year theme:

Be Holy! Joy Springs from a Loving Heart!

Our theme will bring to life our Board's vision: Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we transform the world with justice and peace through Catholic education. Our theme is a personal call to be inspired and transformed within our intimate relationship with Jesus, and at the same time to move outside of ourselves to acts of love where we respond to the call to let Jesus inspire and transform others, through us.

We will continue to focus on Restorative Practices. Every class will be holding regular classroom meetings throughout the year and students will have the chance to work out problems that may arise in a non-threatening way or discuss positive things that have been happening. Through Restorative Practices we change the focus from punitive consequences to working out the issues and finding solutions so that every experience can be a learning experience.

Please consider becoming involved in school activities. We are always in need of volunteers and we continually strive to build our Catholic School Council (CSC). This is an opportunity for you to attend 4-8 meetings throughout the school year to have a **voice** and **offer advice** for the activities that are going on in the school. We want to hear your ideas! Please watch for the notice that will be coming home and consider joining. The first meeting is **Thurs., Sept. 13th at 6:30 pm**.

Your Partner in Catholic Education!

Dan Lesser (dan.lesser@cdsbeo.on.ca)

Please call if your child is absent or late:
613-273-2926.

Open House & BBQ:

Wed., Sept. 19th from 5-6:30 pm.

Please plan on joining us to meet the amazing staff of St. Ed's.

We will also have tables set up with many of our community partners so you can explore the many resources that are available to families in our area.

More info will be sent home next week.



Volunteers!



Criminal Reference Checks are MANDATORY!
Avoid disappointments later in the year and get it completed now!

We are always in need of volunteers. We require a police check, which is free for volunteers. This helps to keep all of our students safe. If you are planning on volunteering this year, it would be a good idea to get the paperwork done now. These are only valid for 12 months from when they were issued. September is the perfect time to do this.

- Reading with children - one-on-one reading is very beneficial to every student. Maybe you have a morning or afternoon that you are available to come into the school and read with students?
- Library - Our library is **always** in need of volunteers to shelve books, gather books on a specific subject, help students find a book and help run the Book Fair. Training is provided.
- Sports - if you have a talent in any sport, we can use you! Sometimes staff members can use the extra help coaching a sports team. Staff members will always be there, but you can help to run the practice and help to coach the team during games/tournaments.
- BBQ assistance or food handling/selling for the Open House/BBQ on **Wednesday, September 19th, 5:00 -6:30 pm.** It would be great to have enough help to free up many staff members in order to be able to mingle and talk with parents and guardians.



Dismissal Procedures:

Our first priority is always the safety of our students. In order to be sure all students are safe at dismissal/bus time, and be sure that they go where they are supposed to, we need **YOUR** help!

- If your child needs to leave early or there is a change to the regular dismissal procedure, we ask that you write this in the student agenda so we will be aware first thing in the morning.
- If something comes up and there is a change during the day, please call the school **before 2:15 pm** so we will have time to make sure everyone is aware. Dismissal time is the busiest time of the day. Please do not call at the last minute to make changes to the regular dismissal procedures.
- If students are being picked up, and this is not a regular procedure, they will need to be **picked up and signed out at the front office**. If they are not signed out, they should not be leaving.
- If we have not been made aware of a change (by a parent), we will follow the regular dismissal procedures for your child.
- Please do not walk between the buses for any reason.

Other Important Information:

- Please review the Information pages in the student agendas. There's great information about Bullying, Restorative Practices and common school and classroom expectations. Students will sign the front page of the agenda to indicate that they have reviewed these pages and we'd ask that Parents/Guardians also sign this page.
- Agendas are \$8.00 to help cover the cost. Your feedback is always welcome and we ask that you check the agendas every night and initial to show that you have seen it. This donation of \$8 will help to offset the cost of the student agendas and we as a staff feel that they are an invaluable tool for communication purposes.
- Catholic School Council: The St. Edward Catholic School Council is a vital part of our school community and usually meets 4-8 times over the course of the school year. Please consider joining and attending the meetings so that you will have an opportunity to play a larger part in your child's education. Nomination forms will be sent home after the first meeting for you to either nominate yourself or nominate someone else to be a member of the 2018-2019 School Council. Our first meeting will be held in the School Library on **September 13th at 6:30 p.m.**
- Please look over the Student Information Update Form once you receive it, and update/return it as soon as possible.
- Our Open House/Meet the Teacher BBQ will be on **Wed., Sept. 19th from 5-6:30 pm.** The school lunch program will start in the next 2 weeks.
- Lunch orders will be taken for one month at a time. We are very hopeful that parents will be using School Cash Online. Please sign up for School Cash Online ASAP!
- The St. Edward Terry Fox Walk will be held in the morning on **Thurs., Sept. 27th.** We ask all students to donate a Toonie for this important cause.
- School Pictures will be taken on **October 25th.**



Restorative Practices:

By using the Restorative Questions listed below at home, you will help to reinforce what we are doing at school and you will find that your child is much more open to discussing what happened with you.

Restorative Questions:

When things go wrong:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who has been affected and in what way?
5. What needs to happen to make things right?



When someone has been hurt:

1. What did you do when you realized what happened?
2. What impact has this had on you and others?
3. What has been the hardest thing for you?
4. What needs to happen to make things right?

Building your Child/Youth's Resiliency, Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing:

Have you ever wondered why some people are particularly good at dealing with ups and downs and seem to go through life with a positive attitude? There are many reasons why people approach life the way they do, but those who are good at coping with challenges have something in common: **resiliency.**

Resiliency is not one specific thing, but a combination of skills and positive attributes that people gain from their life experiences and relationships. These attributes help them solve problems, cope with challenges and bounce back from disappointments.

Obviously, resiliency is something we want our children to develop and maintain. In life, things go wrong and we sometimes experience big changes. Being able to deal with those setbacks and transitions is a key factor in positive mental health, as well as school, career and relationship success.

There are four key areas that our school board has recognized as crucial in building resilient students: developing caring relationships, fostering the establishment of realistic and achievable expectations, encouraging meaningful engagement of children and youth, and promoting their choice of healthy responses when challenges or difficulties arise.



Personal Electronics:

We all know how important and sometimes essential cell phones and personal electronics are these days. However, there is a time and a place for such electronics. We ask that all students follow our guidelines for the acceptable use of personal electronics. All cell phones are to be on "Silence" mode with vibration turned off and are to be stored in backpacks during the school day, **including during recess.** Occasionally some teachers may allow other personal electronics to be used in class for educational purposes, such as using an iPad to create a movie project. Teachers will let students know when this is appropriate. The general rule is to keep them in their backpacks at all times so that we avoid interruptions and issues with privacy.

Physical Education:

Phys. Ed. is an essential part of our curriculum and of living a healthy lifestyle. Habits learned in elementary school can stay with a person throughout their whole life. All students are expected to participate fully in Phys. Ed. and are expected to wear appropriate running shoes at all times. Older students should bring a change of clothes as well.

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Pay School Fees Online! Fast ~ Simple ~ Secure
Pay for trips, athletic fees, hot lunch, spirit wear and more with



Register now at: www.cdsbeo.schoolcashionline.com

School Swimming Lessons:

As part of the physical education program, swimming lessons for the Grade 1/2, Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 classes will begin on Tuesday, September 18th. Students will attend swim classes on September 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27 and October 2 and 3. There will be two classes each afternoon, one for the grade 1/2 group and one for the grade 3/4, 5/6 group. Information has been sent home. Please fill out the permission form and return it as soon as possible.

By focusing on teaching the value of positive behaviour, positive relationships, strategies students can use to deal with bullying, and forgiveness and restoration, our school will be a "Community of Peace"

School NEEDS to be a positive experience and all students NEED to be comfortable, feel that they are loved and be happy at school. If this is not the case, please contact your child's teacher first and we will all work together to figure out how we can assist your child.