



St. Gregory Catholic School

September Newsletter



Lord Jesus,

I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you have had a fun and enjoyable summer. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the 2018/2019 school year. We are looking forward to working with you and excited to welcome so many friends to St. Gregory Catholic School. Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure that your child/children meet with success and have a positive school year!



God Bless, Mrs. Perrault,
Principal



With so many new families joining our St. Gregory community, we hope to answer many of your questions and concerns regarding the school day.

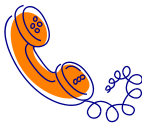
We welcome new staff members: Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Sutherland, Ms. McCaw, Mrs. Nolan, Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Diotte, Ms. Capello, Ms. Faris, Mrs. Roesler and Ms. Hannigan. We are very excited to begin the new school year with all of you!

Supervision Times: Supervision on the yard begins at 8:55 am. As a safety precaution, parents should not drop off their children in the yard or in the school prior to this time. End of day pick up from walker and car gates is at 3:25 pm, as there is no supervision after this time. If you cannot be here to pick up your child by 3:25 pm, please make arrangements for someone else to come and let the office know.

Due to parent requests, we have added a first wave at car gate only, for 3:15 pm pickup. This will help alleviate traffic and parking for the second wave of parents who prefer to pick up at 3:25 pm. You must commit to early pick up everyday to facilitate routines for our students and staff. Please write a note in your child's agenda if you would like your child moved to 3:15 pm pick up.

Absence Reporting

The Safe Arrival Policy of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario mandates that we account for each child who does not arrive at school. On that note, we ask parents to call the school if your child is not coming or will be late. Our voicemail is available 24 hours a day or you can jot a note in your child's agenda about an upcoming absence. Please call the school even if your child was sick the previous day or went home early the previous day due to illness. We must hear from a parent every day that the student is not at school.



Absenteeism Policy

Early identification of school attendance issues is critical to a child's education. When irregular attendance is identified by school personnel, intervention at an early stage is beneficial to both the school and the child. Poor attendance patterns are often developed early and the probability of successful intervention is more likely if referrals are made before student absence becomes chronic or habitual.

If you are going on a trip and will be away from school for a week or more, please pick up a Temporary Absence Form from the office or put a note in your child's agenda and we can send one home with your child.

Limit Interruptions



Protecting classroom instructional time is very important to us at St. Gregory Catholic School. Please help us limit interruptions to classroom instructional time by having your child arrive on time and stay until the end of the day. We realize children may have to leave early from time to time, on these occasions please make a note in your child's agenda or call the office before noon and we will let the teacher know.

Missed Calls



If you have a missed call from the school, please check to see if there is a message first before calling back. It helps us to direct your call if we know who called you. If there is no message, please be assured that it is not an emergency and the person will try again at a later time. If it is an emergency, we will definitely try all your contact numbers listed and leave a message at each one.

Changes to End of Day Routine

All changes to end of day routine should be written in your child's agenda. Calls to the office for changes should be emergency situations only and made by noon to help minimize classroom interruptions.

Lost & Found

To help minimize our lost & found, please label children's belongings, including clothing and lunch containers. Ask them to check the lost and found frequently when they lose something. Parents are always welcome to come and check our lost and found. All items will be washed and donated to charity at the end of every month. **Our school has registered with Mabel's Labels to help students identify their lost items. Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com to register your child.**



Security Doors

For the safety of all students and in keeping with CDSBEO policy, all doors coming into the school are locked at all times. To gain entry to the school please use the buzzer at the front door. This door is opened using the main telephone at the office. If one of the secretaries is on the phone with an outside call, it may be a few minutes before they can hang up to open the door.

School Agendas

All students from junior kindergarten to grade three will receive a school agenda for use throughout the school year. This is a valuable tool to help organize students. The cost of the agenda is covered in the Student Activity Fee. The School Activity Fee is \$13.00. Student activity fee is a voluntary amount requested to supplement a student's school experience through materials and activities. The Activity fee would include, guest speakers and presentations, Library Commons, subsidize bussing for field trips, Winter Carnival activities, Jump Rope etc.. We invite all parents to pay this through our School Cash Online program. Should there be financial concern, please contact the school. Please take the time to read the insert at the front of the agenda to help answer any questions you may have. Please use the child's agenda as the primary source of communication. Staff will be able to respond on the same day in most cases. Communication between home and school is essential to ensure safety and success.



Lunch Program

For those who wish to participate, St. Gregory has milk and pizza available for purchase. White or chocolate milk is available every day and pizza day this year will be **Thursday**. Due to the amount of work involved in co-ordinating the lunch program, we ask that all orders be completed by the due date as no late orders will be accepted. Order forms are available on School Cash Online, please register at SchoolCashOnline to see ordering dates and information. Please see School Cash Online at end of this newsletter for more info.



Please note for Inclement weather days on Thursdays, pizza will be served to those students who are here only. No make-up day will be scheduled or reimbursement given in the event of absences on inclement weather days. For inclement weather days, reimbursement will only be given if explicitly requested in writing.

School Day Schedule

Grades 1-3		JK/SK	
8:55-9:15	Supervision begins/recess	8:55 - 9:15	Supervision begins/recess
9:15	School day begins	9:15	School Day begins
10:45-11:00	Recess	11:35-11:55	Lunch (4 classrooms)
12:20-12:40	Recess	11:35-11:55	Recess (3 classrooms)
12:40-1:00	Lunch	11:55-12:15	Lunch (3 classrooms)
3:10-3:25	Recess	11:55-12:15	Recess (4classrooms)
3:25	Dismissal	1:35 - 2:05	Recess
		3:25	Dismissal



Anaphylaxis Policy/Administration of Medication Policy

Our school has a number of students who suffer from anaphylaxis, a potentially life threatening allergic reaction to an allergen (primarily peanut and nut products). Please remember we are a peanut and nut safe school. As per board policy, all medication provided to the school for administration to students must be prescribed by a doctor and a "Request for Administration of Medication" form completed and signed by the physician and parents/guardians. A new form is required every school year. This includes over the counter medication. Students are not to have medication with them in their backpacks with the exception of EPIPENS and inhalers which must be worn on their person.

Due to several peanut and nut allergies, we respectfully ask that you not send WOW butter products to the school. The products look too similar for us to tell the difference. Thank you for your support.



Catholic School Council

Catholic School Council is an excellent way for you to get involved with St. Gregory staff and community. Council meetings are open to every one, you do not have to be a member to attend. It is a great way to keep up with what is happening in the school.

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 pm**. All parents are invited to come and take part. If you wish to attend but require childcare, please let us know before noon of the day of the meeting. Elections will be held during the October meeting for School Council Chair, Secretary, Treasurer etc



Nutrition Program



St. Gregory recognizes the important relationship between healthy eating and the ability of our students to learn and perform in their classrooms. To ensure this, Catholic School Council provides a Nutrition Program; a program funded by a grant from Food for Thought Lanark County and contributions from School Council, parents/ guardians and the community. All classrooms are provided with a variety of high fibre/low sugar cereal and cracker snacks, as well as applesauce and fruit cups. These snacks are not meant to replace a student's lunch or snacks brought from home, but to supplement them if required. If you are interested in assisting with this program by ensuring that all classrooms have adequate supplies of the snacks, preparing snack kits or purchasing supplies, please put a note in your child's agenda.

Using Our WITS! What are the WITS programs?

The WITS Program is designed to bring together schools, families and communities to create responsive environments that help children learn the skills they need to deal with bullying in a positive way.

WITS Primary Program teaches Kindergarten to Grade 3 children to **W**alk away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it out and **S**eek help when faced with peer conflict. The acronym also provides a common language that children and the adults around them can use to talk about and respond to problems.

Teachers reinforce the programs by reading popular children's books, which emphasize WITS messages, to their students. We encourage students to use their WITS on the yard, in the classroom and even at home!

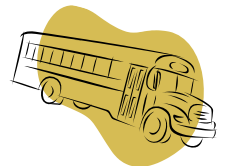
Want to know more? Explore the WITS website at www.witsprogram.ca.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets the last Wednesday of every month. Parents are always welcome to attend. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm at the Kemptville Board Office. Next meeting is Wednesday, September 26th.

STEO - Student Transportation

All student transportation is co-ordinated by STEO (Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario). They have been working tirelessly for our students throughout the summer to provide bussing. If changes are required regarding your child's transportation, please put a note in your child's agenda. **All transportation changes are handled through the school.** Please allow 3 days for STEO to put the changes into effect. Should you have any questions regarding your child's bus route, you may contact Premier Bus Lines directly at 613-253-8863.



School Volunteers

In keeping with the Policies and Procedures of the CDSBEO, volunteers for any school activity (field trips, Jump Rope for Heart, helping in classroom, nutrition program, etc.) must provide the school with a criminal reference check with vulnerable sector screening. The checks are acceptable for one school calendar year and must be resubmitted annually by the volunteer. You can pick up a Request for Vulnerable Sector Criminal Reference Check at the office or write a note in your child's agenda requesting the form. We suggest you get a police check early in the school year and it will be valid for the whole year. If you wait until field trip time, there could be a backlog at the police station and you may not get it in time to go on the field trip.



Casual Lunch Monitors

We are in need of supply/casual lunch monitors, to fill in on an as needed basis. These are paid positions from 11:35 am -1:00 pm. Please write a note in your child's agenda if you are interested. Police check as noted above is required.

School Cash Online

For safety and efficiency reasons the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario has reduced the amount of cash coming into our schools. School Cash Online allows parents to pay for school activities and fees online simply and efficiently. It takes less than 5 minutes to register if you haven't done so already. To register please go to <https://cdsbeo.schoolcashionline.com> and select the "Get Started Today" option. Helpful hints: the support tab contains answer to many frequently asked questions.

Open House BBQ - Meet the Teachers!

Our Open House BBQ is scheduled for Thursday, September 27th. The BBQ will be from 5:30 - 6:30 pm and classroom visits will be from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. The Catholic School Council Open House flyer will be coming home soon to pre-order your meal on School Cash Online. We look forward to seeing you then!

Please visit our school website and Facebook site for up to date information and news.



www.stgregory.cdsbeo.on.ca or Facebook

St. Gregory Catholic School – Carleton Place