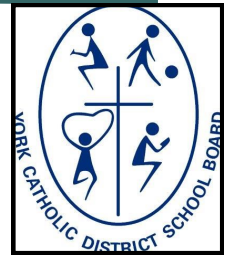


St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Elementary School

475 Brownridge Drive
Thornhill, ON
L4J 5Y6
Tel: 905-738-5703
Catholic Virtue: Honesty



June 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The staff at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic School is committed to providing quality learning experiences, inspired by Jesus, to ensure that each child reaches his or her full potential. We are guided by the school board's mission, vision, and goals for academic excellence, and we model Catholic morals and values, which permeate every aspect of the students' lives, here at school. My sincere appreciation to our teachers, educational assistants, office staff, and custodians, for their dedication and commitment to cultivating and maintaining a nurturing environment for all students, where everyone feels supported, valued, and encouraged to be the very best they can be; academically, socially, and spiritually. Students are challenged to become life-long learners, who are responsible, critical and creative thinkers, and effective problem-solvers; skills essential for our leaders of tomorrow.

We thank our parents, the Catholic School Council, Trustee, the Parish, and the school board's Senior Administration, for supporting our many initiatives and programs, including the numerous joint activities planned with Holy Family this school year, to ensure a smooth transition through the PAR process in preparation for the merging of our two school communities in the Fall. This spirit of friendship, helpfulness, pride and optimism, and our shared faith unite our staff, parents, and our two school communities, in our common goal of providing students with a solid Catholic education. These valued partnerships ensure that our students will graduate grade 8 with an education that has formed character and conscience - an education informed by the Catholic principles of faith combined with sound reasoning. We look forward to an exciting new year ahead and we welcome Holy Family students, staff, and families with open hearts and arms!

Ms. C. Donovan
Principal



KEY DATES

- June 5**– Groove Experience for K-3
- June 6**– Gr. 7 Seneca Trip
- June 7**– Gr. 2 First Communion Celebration
- June 8**– Junior Seneca Trip
- June 14**– Spring Concert
- June 15**– York U Track Meet
- June 16**– Play Day & Fun Fair
- June 18**– Father's Day
- June 22**– Gr. 8 Graduation
- June 26**– School Mass
- June 28**– Gr. 3 FI Pioneer Village Trip + Gr.8 Trip to Wonderland
- June 29**– Last Day + Assembly + Reports

School Hours:

9:00 a.m. –School starts
10:20—10:35am recess
12:00 -12:20pm Lunch
12:20—1:00 pm recess
2:20—2:35pm recess
3:30 pm—Dismissal

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Trustee: Cathy Ferlisi

S.O.: Mrs. DiNardo

Pastor: Fr. Mario Salvadori

Principal: Ms. Donovan

Secretary: Mrs. Pontes

* * *

SAFE ARRIVAL HOTLINE

(call before 9:00 am)

1-855-856-7862

or call the school
after 9:00 am

Catholic School Council: Dinner Meeting @ Mezza Notte on June 19 @ 7:00 pm

***Check out the school website weekly for important updates!**

<http://sjw.ycdsb.ca/>



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values



Strategic Commitments



Superintendent's Message

This past academic year has been a most fulfilling experience for me as the Superintendent of Area 2 with the YCDSB. I have had the pleasure of visiting blossoming schools and inquisitive classrooms, attending Catholic School Council meetings, and participating in various exhibits of the hard-work of students, staff and communities at school activities.

Throughout all this challenges have presented themselves this year with the anticipated consolidation of Holy Family CES and St. Joseph the Worker CES this coming June. I have witnessed the phenomenal accomplishments achieved through the continuing collaboration of our transition committee members, our schools' staff members, our students, our parents and our community priests during this transition year. Their joint efforts speak to the gospel values of acceptance and love as our students have participated in collaborative and welcoming activities throughout this experience. They have been welcomed and given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with their new school environments. I am truly blessed to work in such compassionate and caring communities. This year has also brought collaboration amongst the dedicated and hardworking parents and staff from the four Markham South schools: St. Vincent de Paul, St. Benedict, St. Francis Xavier and St. Mother Teresa. We have worked through the various stages of a Pupil Accommodation Review of Markham South and for all of your patience and understanding, I am grateful.

During this year of opportunities and challenges what prevailed most was the importance of the strengthened collaboration of school, home and parish. We continued to work together in partnership, to teach our students to be discerning believers formed in our Catholic Faith; students who have developed attitudes and values founded on Catholic social teachings, students who act to promote social responsibility and the common good of all. Through the work of student-led committees such as the Luke 4:18 Social Justice committee, our students live the Beatitudes on a daily basis and exemplify compassion, empathy, love and respect for one another and the community at large.

To our graduates, as you embark on a new chapter of your academic career, may your futures be filled with memorable experiences as you venture off on your various academic journeys. May you continue to live life with Jesus as your role model and may God bless you and your families as you enter this next stage of your academic lives.

May God bless you and keep you safe this summer.

Mrs. Di Nardo
Superintendent of Education: School Leadership

Trustee's Message

The end of the school year is fast approaching and our schools have been busy with many events and activities.

I extend my congratulations to the students who celebrated the Sacraments of their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

To the students who are moving on to high school in September, I wish you my very best and I hope you enjoy this new chapter in your life. Grade 8 graduates; every day is an opportunity for you to do something GREAT. Don't let anyone or anything get in your way. You are God's children, walk the narrow path.

To our retiring staff, I thank you for all of the contributions you have made to our schools and our Catholic community. Enjoy your retirement in good health.

A Happy Father's Day to each father, grandfather, uncle, Godfather, son and brother! Enjoy the special day with family.

I look forward to attending as many school barbeques as my schedule will allow. Congratulations to the Grade 8 graduates. As the school year draws to a close, I wish each of you a wonder-filled, safe summer.

As always, you may reach me at 416-565-7087 or at cathy.ferlisi@ycdsb.ca. Feel free to visit my board website at: www.trustee.ycdsb.ca/ferlisi. Find me on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/trusteeferlisi and follow me on Twitter @TrusteeFerlisi.



CSC News

**Dinner Meeting for CSC members:
June 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Mezza Notte**

STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

We are very grateful to our Catholic School Council members and volunteers who are organizing our 2nd Annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast that will take place on Friday, June 9, 2017. It is with heart-felt thanks that we express our gratitude for your thoughtfulness and generosity. This is just another example which highlights the amazing partnership that we have with our parent community, as we work together to deliver a quality Catholic education to the children of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic School!

FUN FAIR

Please join us for our annual school Fun Fair hosted by our Catholic School Council. This fun-filled community building event will take place on Friday, **June 16, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** on the school grounds. Many thanks to our Catholic School Council, who have been working tirelessly to organize this special event, and to the many volunteers who will be coming out to help. There will be lots of food, fun, great vendors; and two bouncy castles!! For more information, please review the CSC flyers that went home last week regarding this event (these were also emailed to you). Thank you.

SHARING THE FAITH

CONFIRMATION

On Saturday, May 13th, our Grade 7s made their Confirmation. Special thanks to Mrs. D'Annunzio for helping to prepare our students for this special day. Thank you also to our Catholic School Council for the special Confirmation gifts. The Confirmandi will be recognized at our Year-End Mass on June 26th by the CSC.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Throughout the month of May, our Grade 2 students made their First Holy Communion. To celebrate this milestone in their faith journey, the communicants will be participating in a special liturgy followed by some refreshments on the morning of **Wednesday, June 7th**. Thank you to our Grade 2 teachers for organizing this wonderful event, and thank you to our Catholic School Council for providing each communicant with a special gift.

YEAR END SCHOOL MASS

On **Monday, June 26th**, we will have our year-end mass. This will be an opportunity for us to come together and reflect on, and give thanks for the many blessings this school year.

SCHOOL NEWS

TRACK & FIELD

A full day Track & Field event took place on Thursday, June 1, 2017 for our Junior and Intermediate students. Thank you to Mrs. Ursino and the Junior/Intermediate staff for organizing this fun, athletic experience event. Congratulations to our lucky winners, who will be going on to compete at the York University Track Meet on **June 15th**.

GROOVE EXPERIENCE

Our K-3 students will be participating in an interactive dance experience in the gym on the morning of **June 5th** with their peers from Holy Family. This fun-filled movement-based approach to learning also supports children's physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development.

SCHOOL NEWS

BROADWAY IN THE WOODS

The Junior, and Intermediate students and the Primary Choir are excited to present the musical "Broadway in the Woods" to you on June 14 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. **Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.00 ea.* (DVDs of the show can be purchased later)

JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE SENECA TRIPS

The grade 4-7 students will be joining Holy Family at Seneca College to participate in a variety of physical team-building activities in early June.

PLAY DAY

Our School Play Day will take place on the morning of **June 16th** on the school grounds. The event will be run by Soccer Plus and our Intermediate students and will be open to all students in K-8, including Holy Family. The event will conclude with a free pizza lunch courtesy of Cathy Ferlisi. This will be a nice way to wind down the school year and for the students from the two schools to mingle. Then everyone can return for Fun Fair!!

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

The Grade 8 students are looking forward to their Graduation ceremony and reception, which will take place on **June 22nd at The Paramount** in Woodbridge. Only those who have purchased tickets are allowed to stay for dinner. We thank Mr. Despostas, Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. Sazon, and Mrs. Won for all their help with this event.

GOODBYES

We wish the following staff the best of luck as they move on to other adventures in their lives: Mr. Despostas, Mrs. McMillan, Mme. Ngaa, Ms. Palozzi, Mr. Bablanian, Ms. Spano, Ms. Di Bacco, Ms. Larter, Mrs. Marini, and our beloved secretary of 17 years, Mrs. Pontes. We thank you for your hard work and dedication. We will miss you, but we are hopeful that our paths will cross again! These staff will be recognized at our assembly on **June 29th**.

REMINDERS



YEARBOOKS

The 2016-2017 yearbooks will be delivered to the school in the fall. Thanks to the Bono family for all their hard work on this year's yearbook.

CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

You will be notified of your child's class placement on the first day of school. Teacher requests from parents are not accepted.; the staff works very hard to place students accordingly. Thank you for your understanding.

FINAL REPORT CARDS

Term 2 Report Cards will be sent home on the last day of school and may not be released to parents prior to Thursday, June 29th.

SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS

We will continue to practice some final school safety drills over the next month (e.g., fire drills, lock downs etc.).

APPROPRIATE SUMMER DRESS

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for school:

NO: short-shorts, tops with spaghetti straps, mid-driff tops, tops with plunging necklines, mini skirts
 YES: hats, sunscreen, t-shirts, appropriate shorts, capris, tank tops with wide straps etc.

ALLERGY ALERT

Please continue to be mindful of student food allergies, particularly to nuts and nut products. Students are not allowed to share food, so birthday treats for classmates are forbidden. Thank you for your cooperation.

***Check the LOST & FOUND box and ensure your child has brought home all his/her belongings for the summer**

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

We are currently accepting registrations for September 2016. Children must be 4 years of age by December 2016. At the time of registration the parent or guardian is responsible for providing:

- A Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate for the child
- Child's birth certificate
- Proof of residency
- Proof of Canadian Citizenship or landed immigrant status
- Proof of separate school support, (2015 tax assessment)

*You may register in the school office from Monday to Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.



**Please inform the office, as soon as possible, if you are moving or if your children will no longer be attending St. Joseph the Worker in September 2016. Thanks you!*

BACK TO SCHOOL: September 5th, 2017

Please have your children congregate on the hardtop at the back of the school- staff will organize the students into their classes on the first day back. In the event of rain, we will meet in the gymnasium. *Stay tuned for changes to the recess boundaries, as we will need to go back to using the church-side yard as well as the main yard to accommodate the growth in student population

***N.B. Welcome Back School Mass: September 11th @ 1:30 p.m.**

