



St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Elementary School

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



September 2017

Dear Families:

I hope that you enjoyed a fun-filled summer vacation and that everyone is looking forward to an exciting new school year ahead! We are delighted to welcome the Holy Family school community to St. Joseph the Worker school! We have a beautiful new school mural of yellow roses, symbolizing joy, friendship, and unity, to commemorate the joining together of our two school communities. Students' family names and staff names are proudly featured on the mural to mark this special year. Please check out our Twitter account to see the mural: SJW_YCDSB. We thank Julia Yung, the talented artist, who is also a teacher with the YCDSB, for her amazing work!

The staff has been working hard to prepare for a wonderful school year! The teachers have been collaborating with their new colleagues to plan and prepare enriching programs for the students, our new secretaries, Mrs. Graham (Head Secretary from Holy Family school), and Mrs. Stirpe (part-time secretary) have been busy in the office registering new students and organizing student files and materials, and our custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility and assisting with moving and organizing furniture from Holy Family School to get all the classrooms ready for the school year. Our many joint school activities organized by both the school and the Catholic School Councils from Holy Family and St. Joseph the Worker have also helped to prepare the students for a smooth start to the school year. I would like to thank everyone for their collaborative efforts, flexibility, and positivity. We are a caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, empathetic students, with a strong faith in God, and promoting high-level learning.

Class Placements

We have aimed to balance our 2017-2018, classes both academically and socially, and our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes. Thank you for helping your child understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best-friend or teacher. Our staff is dedicated to making school a positive experience for ALL students. Keep in mind that it may take a few weeks for a child to acclimatize to a new grade, peer group and teacher; please encourage your child to be patient and to keep an open mind. Please see staff list on next page.

Facilities' Update

The grounds' work slated to take place over the summer has now been postponed till next summer due to more pressing projects like preparing 7 new classrooms, including a fully renovated third Kindergarten classroom. There are some nice new games painted on the primary yard.

School Yard Recess Boundaries

Due to our rapid growth in population this school year, all of our grade 1-3 students will now spend all recesses on the church side. Our grade 4-8 students will continue to congregate on the field side.

It remains an honor and a privilege to serve as the Principal of St. Joseph the Worker School. The staff and I are looking forward to an exciting new year! If you have any questions, please contact the school. For regular updates, key dates, and information, please check the school website at sjw.ycdsb.ca and read the emails, regularly sent to you, through Synervoice. Thank you and God Bless;
Ms. C. Donovan, Principal

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: Mrs. Ferlisi

S.O.: Mrs. DiNardo

Pastor: Fr. Mario

Principal: Ms. Donovan

Secretary: Mrs. Graham

Secretary: Mrs. Stirpe

Childcare: Ms. Di Sotto

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SAFE ARRIVAL

HOTLINE

(call before 9:00 am)

1-855-856-7862

or call the school

after 9:00 am

SCHOOL BUS INFO:

Schoolbuscity.com



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

Excellence Equity
Fiscal Responsibility Catholicity Inclusion
Integrity Respect

Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement
Effective Use of Our Resources Engaging Our Communities

Trustee's Message

I hope that you and your family have enjoyed a safe and happy summer. My heartfelt welcome to new families and to those families returning to the St. Joseph the Worker school community. I invite you to join me at the Welcoming Mass taking place on Monday, September 11 at 1:30 pm at St. Joseph the Worker Parish. I encourage you to contemplate joining St. Joseph the Worker's Catholic School Council - involved parents really do make a difference. I look forward to working with you during this school year. As always, you may reach me at 416-565-7087 or by email at: cathy.ferlisi@ycdsb.ca. Feel free to visit my board website at: www.trustee.ycdsb.ca/ferlisi. Visit my Trustee Facebook page "Trustee Ferlisi" and follow me on Twitter @TrusteeFerlisi. May the Holy Spirit guide your children during this school year in appreciating the love of Jesus Christ.



SJW's Catholic School

On behalf of all the CSC, I would like to welcome everyone to the start of a brand new school year! We have some very exciting plans for the upcoming year! School Councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school engagement. Regular meetings dates will be set at our **first meeting on September 27th, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.** *If you are interested in an executive position on the council, please fill in a ballot form and return it to the school office by Friday, September 22nd, 2017. Thank you!

MEET OUR STAFF

2017-2018 School Year

- JK/SK:** Mrs. Dellaripa & Mrs. Chai (ECE)
JK/SK: Ms. Fantauzzi & Mrs. Ziobrowski (ECE)
JK/SK: Ms. Samonte & Mrs. Fernandes (ECE)
- Gr. 1:** Mrs. Ali
Gr. 1: Mrs. D'Annunzio
Gr. 1 French Imm.: Mme. Mancinella
Gr. 2: Mrs. Santos-Salb
Gr. 2 French Imm.: Mme. Ortiz
Gr. 2/3: Mrs. Gribbons
Gr. 3: Mrs. Thorose
Gr. 3 French Imm.: Mme. Geronimo
Gr. 4: Mrs. Ursino
Gr. 4 French Imm.: Mme. Calabretta & Ms. Lowe
- Gr. 4/5:** Mrs. Monteleone
Gr. 5/6: Mr. Tunzi
Gr. 6: Mrs. Ferrigni
Gr. 7: Ms. Petrilli
Gr. 7/8: Mrs. Adamo
Gr. 8: Ms. Croce
- FSL:** M. Buscemi & Mme. Montebello
Core Resource: Ms. Di Mondo & Mr. Tersigni
ESL: Mr. Di Giacomo
Phys-Ed: Ms. Charron, Mrs. Iannetta & Mrs. Moran
EAs: Mrs. Albi, Mrs. Alcini, Mrs. Gullo, & Mrs. Rocha

SHARING THE FAITH

Each day we strive to incorporate gospel values throughout the curriculum and in all that we do. Our Catholicity and strong gospel values make our schools unique. We work closely with St. Joseph the Worker parish to ensure that students get the best Catholic education possible.

Welcome Mass: September 11, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the church.



CURRICULUM NIGHT

Curriculum Night will take place on **Thursday, September 21, 2017**. More details to follow.

BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

On **Friday, September 15**, all students will participate in a bus safety program. Students will learn how to safely board, ride and leave the bus, as well as how to evacuate the bus safely in the event of an emergency.

COMMUNICATION

To ensure parents are fully involved in their children's learning, we encourage open communication. A monthly newsletter will be posted on our school website and it will also be emailed to families who have provided the office with an email address. NO hard copies will be sent home after September. Please look for the following forms / information in your child's backpack:

- Freedom of Information form
- Student Emergency form
- Anaphylaxis information
- Walking excursions/Lunch form
- Agenda Letter
- Scientist in School Letter
- Catholic School Council information

Please return necessary forms to the office this week.

**Please use the agenda to contact your child's teacher and/or phone the school to make an appointment. Also, visit our school website: sjw.ycdsb.ca*

SAFE SCHOOLS POLICY

It is the policy of the YCDSB to provide a preventative approach to student behavior management, progressive discipline and school safety. Students are not permitted to leave the school premises without written permission from parents. Students must always be signed out by a parent/guardian. Only bus students are allowed on the school bus- friends of bus students may not go on the bus. **During the week of September 25th, students and staff will be reviewing the schools safety protocols and procedures and engaging in some drills.** Please report any instances of bullying to your child's teacher or the principal, so that any issues can be quickly resolved and restorative practices can be implemented.

SAFE ARRIVAL & TRANSPORTATION

Please call the safe arrival line when your child is **absent or late** prior to the bell time for the current day: **1-855-856-7862**. For school bus information, go to: schoolbuscity.com

SUPERVISION

Morning supervision begins at 8:45 a.m. Please **DO NOT** drop off your child prior to this time. **Student supervision ends at 3:30 p.m.** While we know that emergencies happen, if your child is repeatedly left at school past 3:30 p.m., he or she may be placed in the Before & After School Program and a fee may be charged. **Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Thank you for helping us to keep your child safe. **If you need SJW Childcare/B'N'A services, please phone Fabia DiSotto at: 905-660-3527**

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Please **DO NOT** park in the driveway, this is a fire route and must be kept clear at all times for Emergency vehicles/school buses/taxis. The **RESERVED** spots are for office staff/special visitors to the school. **At the end of the day:**

- *Primary students will exit on the church side
- *Junior/Intermediate students will exit out the back
- *FDK students will exit through the main doors
- *When it is inclement weather, all students must exit through the main doors and parents can pick them up there. Thank you for your cooperation.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

All visitors to the school must report to the office upon entry to the building. You will be required to sign-in at the office. If you are volunteering at the school, the secretary will give you a visitor's lanyard to wear while you on the premises. All volunteers must have criminal checks prior to volunteering at the school (must be updated every 3 years). If you wish to see your child's teacher, please ensure that you have set up an appointment with him or her in advance. Students must be signed out by a parent/guardian at the office, if they have to leave the school.



LUNCH DROP-OFF

We require that you follow these instructions to keep our students safe and to minimize classroom disruptions, when dropping of lunches:

- Label the lunch bag with your child's name and teacher's name
- Drop the lunch off on the lunch table in the front foyer preferably by 11:45 a.m.
- Do NOT linger in the foyer, as our first priority is student safety and we want the foyer to remain clear at all times
- Inform your child in the morning that you will be dropping lunch off or let the office know
- Students may come down to pick up their lunches after the bell rings at noon and are expected to head immediately back to class

*Parents are NOT allowed to wait in the foyer to see their children unless they are signing them out

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM/ALLERGIES:

We are pleased to continue to offer the following paid lunch programs until further notice:

Tuesdays: 2-4-1 Pizza

Wednesdays: Kids' Kitchen

Thursdays: Villa Panini

Fridays: Subway

Order form information will be sent home soon!

While we recognize the significance of birthdays; we ask that edible birthday treats NOT be sent to school. We have numerous students who suffer from life-threatening food allergies, therefore, no nuts of any kind are allowed at school. Thank you.



MEDICATION

All students requiring prescription or non-prescription medication to be administered at school, must have their parents/guardians complete a special form and submit it to the office. All medication will be administered in the office and a medication log will be kept for each student requiring medication. **Students who suffer from Anaphylactic allergies must provide the school with 2 Epi-pens: one will stay on the child at all times (in a fanny pack, preferably) and the second one will be kept in the office in case of emergency.** Students who suffer from Asthma are also asked to provide the school with two puffers.



HEAD LICE

Please routinely check your child's head for live lice and/or nits (eggs). If you find head lice, please inform the office immediately. You are encouraged to use a treatment to kill the lice and remove all the nits from your child's hair before your child returns to school. Please provide a doctor's note letting the school know that your child is clear to return to school.



LIBRARY NEWS

All students are encouraged to borrow books from the library. It is the student's responsibility to take care of the books and to make sure they are in good condition when returned. If books are lost/damaged, you will be required to replace them at a cost to you. We now have an excellent Parent Resource section that our CSC helped to create, which we are continually adding to. Check it out!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY SCHOOL STAFF

- Primary Fitness Club
- Sport Stack Club
- Cross Country
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Love of Dance Team (Junior/Intermediate)
- Rosary Club
- Choir
- Cookie Sales (\$2.00 each sold 3x a week at lunch- led by Grade 7s)
- Popcorn Sales (\$2.00 a bag sold daily at lunch- led by Grade 8s)
- All students participate in school masses in liturgies that occur approximately 7-8 times a year

LUNCH HOUR PAID ACTIVITIES RUN BY OUTSIDE COMPANIES

This year we hope to offer several paid lunch-hour programs at the school. Depending on enrolment, we would like to start them the first week in October. Stay tuned for more information!

Ten Ten Sports (likely grade 1-6)

Hatch Canada (typing/coding/computer skills- all ages)

North Karate (Karate program- all ages)

Music Star (instrumental music for grades 4-8)



STUDENT REGISTRATIONS

We are still accepting registrations. Children must be 4 years of age by December 2017. Please provide the following at the time of registration:

- A Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate for the child (or proof that one parent is Roman Catholic)
- Child's birth certificate
- Proof of residency
- Proof of Canadian Citizenship or landed immigrant status
- Proof of separate school support, (2016 tax assessment)

YEARBOOKS

The 2016-2017 yearbooks will be delivered to the school in the fall. Thank you to the Bono family and to Mrs. D'Annunzio for all their hard work on this year's yearbook.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for school:

NO to: hats indoors, short-shorts, tops with spaghetti straps, mid-drift tops, tops with plunging necklines, and mini skirts (especially if students are in grades 5-8).

YES to: hats, sunscreen, t-shirts, appropriate shorts, capris, wide-strap tank tops etc.



PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are expected to keep all personal electronic devices in their backpacks. We do not want students distracted during their instructional periods, nor do we want them using these devices inappropriately. The YCDSB assumes no responsibility for the loss, repair, or replacement of any personal electronic device brought onto school property. **To prevent loss, confiscation by the office or damage, students are asked to leave these devices at home or keep them out of sight until school is over.**