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St. Raphael the Archangel CES

Respect, excellence, faith in Action



SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

Volume 2

A Smooth Start to Our School Year

Dear Parents and Guardians, Thank you again for your support in transitioning your child(ren) back to school. It was so lovely to see the smiles on our students' faces. The Staff are looking forward to our year together.

We ask that you read through this newsletter as it contains information regarding School COVID Protocols, events scheduled, curriculum night, and clarification of some of our school procedures.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Ms. Susin

CURRICULUM NIGHT

This year's Curriculum Night will take place in the evening of Thursday, September 23, 2021. Teachers will be preparing a virtual night of information for their parents. Specific notes will be sent home informing parents of time and Google Meet Links. To sign on to the meets, you will need to use your child's logon. We look forward to seeing our parents on the virtual meets.



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Superintendent
A. Arcadi
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Pastor
Father Peter
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289-553-1610

CSC Chair
A. Maione

Principal
P. Susin

Secretaries
G. DeAngelis
M. Robinson

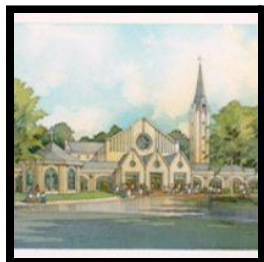
School Website
sra.ycdsb.ca

@SRA_YCDSB



Safe Arrival
1-855-856-7862

CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF FAITH



SCHOOL AND ST. ANDRE BESSETTE PARISH PARTNERSHIP

At St. Raphael the Archangel CES, we incorporate Gospel values throughout the curriculum and in our actions and words. We value the partnership the school has with St. Andre Bessette Parish and our pastor, Father Peter Choi. Together with parents, we support our students in the formation of their faith. With guidance from the Parish, the school assists in the preparation of the students for the Sacraments. We will gather as a school faith community to celebrate our first virtual liturgy on Wednesday, September 29 at 10:40-11:45. Please see the attachment below for details on the Parish Gala.



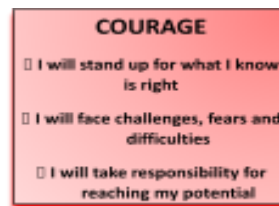
SACRAMENTS

Currently, St. Andre Bessette Parish is preparing to register our Grade 2 and Grade 7 students for their sacraments this year. Please visit the Parish website to read details regarding registration, locations, and time requirements: <https://standrebessette.ca/>. Parent letters and assignments have also been posted on our school website: <https://sra.ycdsb.ca/>. Finally, your child's teacher will also be posting the details on their VLE platform for future reference.

MONTHLY VIRTUES



Each month, we celebrate a new Catholic Virtue. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their daily actions and words with one another. By doing this, we show that we always strive to respond to Jesus' call as a community. In September, the Catholic Virtue of **Courage** will be highlighted in our daily prayers and in our classroom reflections. We look forward to recognizing those students at SRA who best demonstrate courage in this first month of school.



SRA CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL - NOMINATION FORMS And Election Process



This year's election process has begun. [Nomination Forms](#) were sent out on Monday, Sept 13th. The deadline for submitting a nomination form to serve on the St. Raphael the Archangel Council is on or before **Friday, September 24, 2021 (3:00 pm)**. The Nominee names will be posted on the school website for consideration prior to the Election Ballots being sent out. Nomination Forms and Election Ballots will be distributed using Google Forms.

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

EVERY CHILD MATTERS



On September 30, 2021, students and staff from across the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) will commemorate Orange Shirt Day. Staff and students are encouraged to wear orange to acknowledge the impact of the residential school system, raise awareness and honour Indigenous communities, to promote reconciliation.

CASUAL DAYS FOR CHARITY



We continue this school year by supporting Casual Days for Charity on the first Friday of each month. On some of these days, we will collect toonies for charity. We will inform you in advance if/when we collect such funds. Students are reminded to wear appropriate attire that follows our school and board policies. The next casual Friday is scheduled for Friday, October 1st

TERRY FOX RUN

While maintaining our COVID protocols, on Thursday, September 17th, our students will be participating in their classroom cohorts to participate in a walk/run within the schoolyard boundaries, in support of the Terry Fox Run. Throughout the week and month teachers will be talking of courage and the ways we can demonstrate and support each other using courage. We encourage families to consider donating directly to the Terry Fox Foundation <https://terryfox.org/> in support of your child's participation. Our rain date is set for: September 20th.

QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL

YEARBOOKS



Yearbooks for the past academic year (2020-2021) have arrived. Students who purchased a yearbook will receive their copy during the week of September 20th.



HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is a relevant, purposeful out-of-class learning activity in partnership between school and home. It is used to practise and consolidate skills or to prepare for the next class. Due dates of homework or dates for tests/quizzes/assignments shall not be assigned on the day immediately after a scheduled holiday or religious day of observance. Homework is assigned and monitored by the teacher. As a general guideline, the daily average number of homework minutes is ten (10) minutes per grade as follows: Grades 1-3: 10 – 30 minutes Grades 4-6: 40 – 60 minutes and Grades 7-8: 70 – 80 minutes.

RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



Each morning, over the announcements, students are reminded to treat others with respect and kindness. If students should ever find themselves in difficulty and cannot resolve a problem on their own, they are reminded to approach a staff member for assistance. We review, daily, that we must always keep our hands and feet to ourselves.

Both the YCDSB and our school places excellence, equity, community, and positive relationships at the heart of student success and well-being. Working as partners to promote these important attributes will make our school a better place.

SAFE SCHOOLS – STUDENT DISCIPLINE – POLICY 201

We will do our very best to work with all of our students and families to ensure a safe, caring learning environment. Our school complies with Ministry of Education expectations with respect to student discipline while affirming its commitment to proactive strategies, progressive discipline, and redemptive practice. The Board's procedures, an addendum to Policy 202: Safe Schools, contain information related to the above pillars and can be viewed on the website.

CELL PHONES



For security, and to discourage distractions, no cell phones are to be used by students while on school property. If parents feel the need to send a cell phone with their child, this phone must be turned off from the moment the student enters onto school property until they leave school property. In the event of a truly urgent situation, contact the school office directly. The school cannot be responsible for any lost or stolen cell phones.

ANAPHYLAXIS



In our school, there are students with potentially life-threatening forms of allergic reactions. Due to the severity of this condition parents are requested to ensure that lunches do not contain peanut or nut products. We continue to remind and inform our students NOT to share food in our school environment (including on the school grounds, buses, field trips, before/after school, and in any school-sanctioned events for students).

We also respectfully ask parents not to send food items to school for students to share (for example, during birthday celebrations) because of the risks associated with

these products for students with severe allergies. Students who bring a lunch from McDonald's will eat in the school office as this restaurant has claimed they are not a nut-safe facility and cross-contamination is a possibility. **Please remember, it is critical to read the product ingredient listing every time you purchase a product since ingredients can change without notice.** As outlined in the Board's policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies and are required to fill in S15 and S15a forms which are available in the office. Each form must include a passport-sized photo so that the student is easily identifiable to staff. Parents are asked to ensure that students for whom Epi-Pens are prescribed have two Epi-Pens at school. It is strongly advised and encouraged that one Epi-Pen is to be on the student's person at all times and the other stored in the office for emergency use. More information on our school's Allergy/Anaphylaxis Plan is posted on our website.



MEDICATION

Medication that is administered by school staff is anything required for life-threatening conditions.

Please contact the school secretary for paperwork that must be completed. We advise other medications such as antibiotics or over-the-counter drugs should, when possible, be administered before or after school. If this is not possible, paperwork must be completed (S16 and S16a). Complete the form

(including the physician's signature) and return it to school. Parents are certainly welcome to come to the office to administer medication. Students (K – Gr. 8) are not to carry medication on them (other than Epipens/certain puffers) as this is a safety concern for the student and for others.



ASTHMA PROTECTION

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that there are some students within the school system who have a diagnosis of asthma that could be life-threatening. The Board also recognizes that asthma management is a shared responsibility among students, parents, caregivers, and the school community. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to advise the school immediately upon registration and/or when in receipt of a diagnosis of asthma. It is also the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all medical information pertinent to their child's diagnosis of asthma is always current. If your child has a diagnosis of asthma, please contact the school office immediately so that the appropriate forms can be completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Board policy.

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)



The York Catholic District School Board recognizes and appreciates concerns related to pediculosis at the school, community, and regional level. The Board also recognizes that the Ministry of Health does not designate pediculosis as a communicable disease, and as such, it is not considered a health hazard to the community. Anyone can get head lice, regardless of cleanliness. Head lice are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent this from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head weekly for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, contact the office so that we can notify other parents in the class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. Readmission to school is contingent upon lice no longer being present and all the (nits) eggs have been removed. For more information or advice on the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice, please contact the Public Health Nurses at Health Connection, 1-800-361-5653.



BEFORE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Students are required to perform daily COVID-19 screening before arriving at school using the [YRPH Screening Tool](#). Students experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should follow the guidance provided in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19. If a student develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school they will be removed from class and parents/caregivers will be contacted immediately to pick up the student.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Only essential visitors will be permitted to enter the school.

Visitors to a school are required to:

- o perform a COVID-19 self-screening before arriving at school using the [YRPH Screening Tool](#) and must sign in upon arrival at the school
- o use hand sanitizer upon entry
- o sign in and out in the [Visitor Log](#) for contact tracing and safety precautions
- o report to the designated reception area
- o wear a medical mask at all times (if the visitor does not have a medical mask, the school will provide one)
- o maintain a two-metre physical distance

YCDSB LUNCH HOUR REQUIREMENTS

We can no longer offer the lunch table drop-off area for students.



- o All hot lunch programs are paused until further notice
- o All food and liquids consumed during the day must be brought from home by the student.
- o Students will eat lunch/snacks in a class at their assigned seat
- o Parents/guardians are responsible for **sending snacks, lunches, and drinks** from home with students.
- o Parents are **not to drop off lunches** for their children.
- o Students may not share food, utensils, or drinks.
- o Students are to wash or sanitize their hands before and after eating.
- o Although students are now allowed to go home for lunch, we continue to encourage students to remain at school during the lunch hour.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Due to enhanced safety measures, water fountains will not be used for drinking.

- o Students are asked to bring their own reusable water bottle.
- o [Signs](#) will be posted at drinking fountains to indicate that they are to only be used for refilling water bottles.



MASKS

Students in Grades 1 to 8 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school. Students are required to bring either a paper bag or a breathable cloth bag in which to store their masks during recess times. It is **strongly recommended** that students in Kindergarten wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors while at school, as well as on school vehicles (i.e. buses), as tolerated

INDOOR/OUTDOOR SHOES



Please ensure your child is wearing comfortable, safe, non-marking sole (some soles leave markings on floor tiles) shoes for both indoor and outdoor activities. Running shoes would be best so they can safely partake in physical education classes.

EMERGENCY FORMS & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Emergency and Freedom of Information (FOI) forms will be sent home with each child. Please ensure the information on the emergency form is correct and make any necessary changes on the form. The FOI form asks for explicit consent by way of having parents authorize a number of specific statements. Please sign, date, and return these forms to the school as soon as possible.



MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



School Mental Health Ontario is a provincial implementation support team with a tool kit for parents and educators ([School Mental Health Ontario](#)). We will adapt some of their ideas to promote positive well-being in our school. YCDSB Mental Health Twitter account [YCDSB Mental Health \(@YCDSB_MH\)](#) also has excellent resources as does the [YCDSB's website](#).



Mission Statement	Vision Statement	Core Values	Strategic Commitments
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.	Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.	<div>Excellence</div> <div>Equity</div> <div>Fiscal Responsibility</div> <div>Catholicity</div> <div>Inclusion</div> <div>Integrity</div> <div>Respect</div>	<div>Integration of Our Catholic Faith</div> <div>Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement</div> <div>Effective Use of Our Resources</div> <div>Engaging Our Communities</div>



York Catholic District School Board

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September 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! It feels like this school year is a mix of both familiar routines and practices, and new approaches to learning. This is encompassed in the recent appointment of our new Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia, who has returned to York Catholic to help guide our Board. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I look forward to working with him to help steer our York Catholic ship.



I would like to extend a special welcome to new families who joined our Board for the first time. I also would like to welcome our existing families back for another school year. Thank you for choosing our Board to deliver publicly-funded Catholic education to your children.

Our Board and school staff continue to work tirelessly with the Ministry of Education and York Region Public Health to follow all health and safety directives, so that students can return to class and focus on learning in a safe and healthy school environment.

We begin the new school year in the midst of the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Board recognizes the uncertainty this brings as parents, staff and families continue to navigate the rocky waters of this pandemic. The vast majority of students have returned to in-person learning this year, however, we will continue to provide families with a remote learning option, as we understand different families have different needs.

Whether your child is learning in person, or remotely, we encourage you to stay connected with your school community, attend school events in person or virtually, and follow our Board on Twitter [@ycdsb](https://twitter.com/ycdsb) for the latest updates. Our YCDSB Mental Health Team is an excellent resource for students or families who may be anxious about returning to school. Follow our Mental Health Team on Twitter [@YCDSB_MH](https://twitter.com/YCDSB_MH) or visit <https://www.ycdsb.ca/mental-health/> for more information.

Our school re-entry plan is posted on the Board website at: <https://www.ycdsb.ca/reopening/>. This plan will be updated as we continue to steer our way through the pandemic. If you have any COVID-19-education related questions, this resource is a great place to start.

Thinking about this pandemic as a series of waves, I thought it appropriate to pray to St. Brendan the Navigator, the patron saint of sailors, to bless us as we journey into the new school year.

Prayer of St. Brendan the Navigator

*"Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.
Christ of the mysteries, I trust You to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know that my times, even now, are in Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven, and somehow, make my obedience count for You. Amen."*

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Rose Cantisano
Trustee, Vaughan Area 1

Rose Cantisano, Trustee – Vaughan Area 1: Ward 1 (Maple/Kleinburg)
rose.cantisano@ycdsb.ca • Cell: 416-949-7673

St. Andre Bessette Parish - Dinner Gala @ Home and Lottery

ST. ANDRE BESSETTE PARISH GALA @ HOME

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

Dinner for 5:

Cheese & Spinach Mini Quiches

Antipasto Misto

Lasagna

Chicken Parmigiana or Salmon

Veggie Bundle, Rolls & Butter

6 La Rocca Red Velvet Cupcakes

& a White tabletop Poinsettia

\$200

Place your order by Oct. 27th

Gala@standrebessette.ca

#LETSBUILDOURCHURCH

ST. ANDRE BESSETTE PARISH

LOTTERY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 @ 9 PM

\$20 / TICKET

GRAND PRIZE: PELOTON BIKE & 1 YR MEMBERSHIP
PLUS 13 MORE PRIZES!!!

4 WAYS TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS:

1. AFTER ANY MASS
2. FROM A COMMITTEE MEMBER
3. AT THE PARISH OFFICE
4. WWW.STANDREBESSETTE.CA

ONLY 1,500 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR SALE.
FOR COMPLETE LOTTERY RULES & REGULATIONS
OR TO VIEW OUR PRIZE BOARD VISIT:

WWW.STANDREBESSETTE.CA

Email questions/comments: lottery@standrebessette.ca

LOTTERY LICENSE: M279029

#LETSBUILDOURCHURCH

Student Safe Arrival

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This is a message from the York Catholic District School Board with important information for our elementary parents and/or guardians about attendance reporting for the upcoming school year 2021-2022.

Parents and/or guardians are required to **report student absences**, late arrivals, or early leaves using **one** of these three methods:

- **Toll-Free SchoolMessenger Phone Number 1 855 856 7862**
- The **SchoolMessenger website**: go.schoolmessenger.ca
- The **SchoolMessenger App** from the *Apple App Store* or the *Google Play Store*.

Parents and/or guardians are requested to report absences for students attending in-person face-to-face and distance/remote learning. Instructions for the use of the new SchoolMessenger website and app have been **attached** to this email, as well as a letter detailing the Safe Arrival Absence Reporting Procedures.

This message is being sent to the email addresses we have on file for your household. If any of your contact information changes, please contact your child's school office immediately with the updated details.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter for the upcoming school year.

Thank you.

[YCDSB Elementary School Parent and Guardian SchoolMessenger Instructions.pdf](#)

[YCDSB Elementary SafeArrival Parent Guardian Letter.pdf](#)