

# Kindergarten Information For Families

2023



# WELCOME





## Prayer: A Child's Hands



Blessings from the hand of a child:

Blessings of innocence,

Blessings of hope;

Blessings of trust:

Blessings of joy.

May these graces help heal our fractured souls;

create in us wider circles of compassion;

lead us to deeper loving.

Gracious God may your touch be felt through these tiny hands,

bless them and guide them,

may they be instruments of your healing and peace,







## YCDSB LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Todd Jamieson YCDSB Knowledge Keeper We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.

We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.

We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.



# Staying Safe at School

The York Catholic District School Board continues to work closely with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and York Region Public Health (YRPH) to revise their School Re-entry Plan plan as needed based on the directives given by the MOE, and recommendations from the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The plan was developed with a focus on meeting students' academic, mental health and well-being needs while ensuring a safe re-entry in September and throughout the school year.







"The Kindergarten program is a child-centred, developmentally appropriate, integrated, extended-day program of learning for four and five-year-old children. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children." ~Ministry of Education: The Kindergarten







# Catholic Education in Kindergarten



"Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:14







# The Kindergarten Program

Large blocks of time dedicated to play-based and inquiry-based learning within the flow of the day

Explicit instruction in literacy, mathematics, and religion occurs during focused learning time and during play-based learning blocks



## Purposeful Play:

- will occur both inside and outside as part of the Kindergarten program
- may be structured or unstructured
- provides opportunities for students to actively engage in conversation, ask and answer questions, use key vocabulary, and connect to their own experiences
- fosters opportunities to experiment, explore, construct, solve problems, communicate, role play and make decisions





## **School Times**

Our school day begins at 8:30am and ends at 3:00pm. There are 2 recess breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, as well as one hour lunch break.





## **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

If your child takes a bus to school, they will be walked by a staff member to the Kindergarten yard. If you are bringing your child to school, please walk your child to the Kindergarten yard.







## Safe Arrival Procedures

#### SAFE ARRIVAL

**Student Absence Reporting** 

Phone: 1-855-856-7862

Website: go.schoolmessenger.ca





## **Student Transportation**

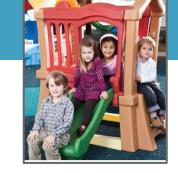
For information on eligibility bus routes, stop locations, late arrival, cancellations, and general information, please contact York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information at 1-877-330-3001 or the <a href="STSYR website">STSYR website</a> <a href="https://www.schoolbuscity.com/">www.schoolbuscity.com/</a>







# Before and After Care Programs



Before and after School Programs are offered at the school

Further information, please go to the <u>school website</u>





## **Nutrition Breaks: Snacks and Lunches**

- peanut and nut safe environments
- lunchtime supervisor will supervise the children while they eat their lunch
- children play outside everyday during the lunch recess (with some weather exceptions)









# **Dress Code/ Uniform Policy**



- The approved Standardized Dress Code colours at St. Joseph are black bottoms, and solid red, black, or white tops. Please ensure that no logos are visible.
- Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as they will be provided opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play
- Please label all clothing items with your child's name
- All students must have a pair of indoor running shoes that can be kept at school
- Velcro shoes are a great option as this will allow your child to independently put on his/her footwear
- Please send a complete set of extra clothes in a large Ziploc bag labelled with your child's name



## Considerations for September...

When choosing a school bag please consider the following:

- Ensure that the bag is large enough to easily place large items in like a lunch box, library book etc.
- Top loading backpacks with zippers are usually the easiest way for young children to independently pack and unpack their bags
- Avoid clips and buckles if possible
- Have your child start to practice opening and closing the backpack before you purchase it
- Label your child's backpack



### Self-Regulations Activities

- opening and closing school bag and lunch/snack containers
- independently washing hands with soap
- independent toileting routines
- dressing and undressing
- putting on their shoes







## Activities to Prepare for September:

- Take a walk near the school and show your child where they will be playing and learning in September
- Go for walks and look for familiar signs within the community (e.g., STOP signs, street signs, names of places, etc.)
- Use play equipment such as blocks, cars, sand, water, musical toys, etc.
- Read with your child and ask questions about the story
- Play with playdough, magnet letters, and numbers
- Provide opportunities for your child to use pencils, crayons, and scissors





### Additional Resources:





[This brochure is available on the Ministry of Education website in many different languages if you scroll to the bottom of the page]

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/





# SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

School Office Telephone Number: 905-884-5077

School Principal: Mr. Gigliozzi

School Secretary: Mrs. Oliveri



