



St. Stephen C.S.

NOVEMBER 2017

451 NAPA VALLEY AVE.
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- INTEGRATION OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH
- CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
 - EFFECTIVE USE OF OUR RESOURCES
 - ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

Trustee

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Superintendent of Schools

Ms. M. Fedrigoni

Principal

Ms. A. Barone

Vice Principal

Mr. A. Modica

Administrative Assistants

Ms. S. Persi

Ms. M. Cerullo

CSC Co-Chairs

Ms. T. Ceko-Drinovac

Ms. M. Misterowicz

A Call To Peace

Lord, help us to lead our world in the ways of justice and peace.

Help us to be at peace with ourselves, our families, friends and neighbours.

May peace not conflict arise from our hearts wherever we go.

Help us to be active peacemakers to bring peace into the world by whatever means we are able. Help us to never stand back, and watch people suffer, but to look for solutions in the smallest and the largest situations. May our peace be a sign of strength and not of weakness, that others may follow peace with peace.



Amen

Dear Parents and Guardians,

November proves to be another busy month with athletics, clubs, Remembrance Day, and Parent-Teacher interviews. Students will also be provided special learning opportunities for anti-bullying week. With the goal of preventing bullying, promoting forgiveness and building relationships in mind, the B.R.A.V.E and V.I.P. programs, Crimestoppers and a special magic show will be encouraging students to communicate their feelings and perspectives while looking to resolve situations in positive ways.

A critical component of our mission at St. Stephen is the Catholic Faith Development of students and staff. In addition to participation in daily religious and family life education classes, classroom and school prayer, regular liturgical services, the celebration of the Eucharist and preparation of the sacraments in liaison with the parish, we also promote our Catholic virtues by putting our faith into action. We would like to thank the St. Stephen community for your generous contribution to our One For Haiti Food Drive which was a great example of our faith put into action during the Thanksgiving season. Our Luke 4:18 and our Liturgical Committee will continue, with the leadership of teachers to look for future opportunities to support and fundraise for local charities in an effort to assist those in need closer to home.

We would like to thank our community and Catholic School Council Volunteers for supporting our Halloween Dance-a-Thon on Tuesday October 31st in the gym. The students enjoyed a Spook-tacular day filled with fun activities, learning and a Video Dance hosted by Much Music! Furthermore, the virtue for this month is Justice; our prayers and discussions will focus on treating all people with fairness and in an equitable manner. During the month of November we will recognize the efforts of students who have contributed to building our community by demonstrating justice in the classroom and school yard to heal broken relationships.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Ms. A. Barone
Principal

Mr. A. Modica
Vice Principal



Looking Ahead

Nov. 4-5	First Communion Enrollment at the Parish
Nov. 6:	CSC Meeting 6:30 pm
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Liturgy
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Nov. 11—12	Confirmation Enrollment at the Parish
Nov. 14	Grade 8 Grad Trip Parent Info Night
Nov. 15:	Mustache Walk to School
Nov. 15:	Intermediate Boys Volleyball Tournament at Padre Pio
Nov. 16:	Intermediate Girls Volleyball Tournament at St. Stephen
Nov. 17	V.I.P. and B.R.A.V.E
Nov. 20 – 24	Bullying Awareness Week
Nov. 20	B.R.A.V.E and Anti-Bullying Magic Show
Nov. 20	First Reconciliation/First Communion Parent Meeting at the Parish 7:30 pm
Nov. 21	Progress Reports
Nov. 22	Crimestoppers Presentation
Nov. 23—24	Parent Teacher Interviews
Nov. 24	PA Day

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



INTEGRATION OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

On November 10th at 10:30 am we will hold our Remembrance Day liturgy. During this special liturgy, parents are welcome to attend.

ALL SOULS and ALL SAINTS DAY

On November 1st, our Catholic Church celebrates all the people, named and unnamed, who are saints. These are holy people in whose lives we find models of discipleship.



What makes a saint? It has something to do with loving God and trying to do the work of God no matter what your situation in life. According to St. Theresa, the Little Flower, one becomes a saint by "*doing ordinary things extraordinarily well*." Every one of us is capable of that. Not every one who is saintly or holy gets to be officially named a saint by the church. Why not use the following questions for some dinner table discussions on All Saints Day?

What do you think "holiness" means?

Who is the "holiest" person you know?

Who is the person who has inspired you the most in your life?

He or she could be famous, unknown, alive, or dead. How about finishing off your bedtime prayers by praying to the patron of our school:

St. Stephen, Pray for us.

(adapted in part: *All Saints Day*, Christine Way Skinner)

All Souls Day is a Church feast day celebrated on November 2nd. The church's reason for this feast is to remember all those who have died. May we remember our departed loved ones on this very special day.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
and perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

CATHOLIC VIRTUE

In November we celebrate the virtue of **Justice**:

I will play by the rules and take turns and share.

I will be respectful of others.

I will seek peaceful solutions to problems.



Sacraments:

Grade 2 First Holy Communion Enrollment Ceremony

November 4th & 5th, All Masses

First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting

Monday, November 20th, 2017 at 7:30 pm in St. Padre Pio Church

Grade 7 Confirmation Enrollment Ceremony

November 11th/12th, All Masses

ST. STEPHEN ADVENT SEASON P.J. DRIVE

This advent season, the Charity Committee along with the Luke 4:18 Committee encourage each family to donate a new pair of pajamas. Our P.J. Drive will run from Monday, November 27- Friday, December 8, 2017. We thank you in advance for your generous pledge to donate a new pair of pajamas for a child in need. The pjs will be donated to our local Vaughan Food Bank and will be included in the Christmas Baskets they prepare.



Thanks in advance for your generous gift of a new pj!
Charity and Luke 4:18 Committees

EFFECTIVE USE OF OUR RESOURCES



BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK—November 20th -24th

Bullying Awareness Week is an opportunity for people at the *grassroots level in communities* around the world to get involved in this issue, not by waiting for "*Someone else*" to do something, but rather for *us to work together* to prevent bullying in our communities through education and awareness. Here at St. Stephen we strive to be good friends and classmates to each other by *respecting everyone*. During this week we will continue to bring awareness to bullying through the following presentations: "**Remembrance Day Liturgy**", "**Brave**" an interactive bullying awareness program for **grades 6 to 8**, **A Bullying Awareness Magic Show that uses magic in combination with real-life experience of bullying and perseverance, as well as V.I.P and Crimestoppers presentations.**

At St. Stephen, we continue to promote and create a safe and caring school environment that is welcoming and respectful, inclusive and safe. As part of our Bully Awareness week students will engage in various activities to do with education, self-esteem, choice and consequence. You may also wish to consult our Board Website for more information about Safe Schools and the "Report it" feature.

Each day in the month of November we will recite our Bully Prevention Oath:

I will not bully others.

I will not stand by while others are bullied.

*I will report bullying whenever I see it because
I have the Power of One and choose to Be Kind Always
because the way I treat people Matters.*

ALLERGY NEWS

St. Stephen is a healthy, safe and caring school. Peanuts, nuts, and nut bi-products are considered "unsafe" for school snacks and lunches. We ask that you please read food labels before sending food items to school. The success of our Allergy Safe School Plan is entirely dependent upon the collaborative efforts of all our community members. Thank you to all parents, students and staff for your continued support in helping keep our allergic students and staff safe.

STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE

Our students continue to do a good job of adhering to our Standardized Dress Code. A reminder that jeans/jeggings are not part of our dress code. Students need to be in dress code clothes (blue and/or white, collared shirt, pants, shorts, dress, skirt or spirit wear) every day except for Civvies Days.

EFFECTIVE USE OF OUR RESOURCES

KISS 'N RIDE

To ensure the safety of our students we require all parents using the program to follow the procedures outlined below:

- Use the Kiss and Ride lane to drop off or pick up your child.
- Do not use the drive-thru lane for dropping off or picking up children
- Move up the Kiss and Ride lane as far as possible to maximize the number of cars using the program
- Do not get out of your vehicle
- Do not idle your vehicle
- Do not back up your vehicle
- Do not use cell phones nor smoke in the Kiss & Ride
- Students must exit the car using the passenger side doors only

The parking lot is for staff parking only between 8 am to 8.30 am and 2.30 pm to 3:15 pm so please park in the neighbourhood. Please follow staff directions when you are asked to move up, drive away, etc...

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE STUDENT SAFETY

SAFE ARRIVAL

For the safety of your children, when they are absent from school, please ensure that you call to report student absences. You are required to access our Safe Arrival program which allows parents to report their child's absence in advance, or before the bell for the current day. This can be done by calling the toll free number **1-855-856-7862** or by going to the following website:

<http://yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com>

Thank you for your support! Students who are late must have their agendas ready upon arriving in the office for it to be stamped before going to class. ***Please be on time for school!***

VISITING THE SCHOOL



At St. Stephen, our primary concern is the safety of all the children. School staff must know the identity of all visitors and the purpose of their visit. For this reason, all visitors, including parents and grandparents are requested to use the buzzer system upon entering the school. Please remember that you are a stranger to other staff and students. Please use the main doors and report to the office upon entering the school. We also ask that when entering, you do not let others in behind you. All visitors must be buzzed in. All parents and visitors are asked to sign in and out of the office when entering the school. Whether you are meeting a teacher, picking up your child or volunteering, you must enter through the front doors of the school and check in at the office.

If you would like to meet with a teacher, you must first report to the office. After checking in at the office, if it is necessary to go to an area of the school other than the office and/or foyer, you will be given a sash or sticker to wear. This will indicate to students and staff that you are a "safe" visitor in the school. Adults walking in the hallway without a sash or sticker will be redirected to the office. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with these important safety procedures.

Rain Days: Students are to wait in the main foyer for teachers on duty, which begins at 8:15 a.m. Parents are encouraged to use the front entrance and not the side doors for safety reasons.

EFFECTIVE USE OF OUR RESOURCES

SCHOOL ACCESS SYSTEM

Upon arrival at the school, you are expected to use the buzzer access system to enter into the building. This remains part of our *Safe Welcome program*. With this system, office staff will be able to see and speak with the visitor and will remotely unlock the front doors once the visitor has been identified. All visitors upon entry are asked to report directly to the office for further assistance. Lunch is a particularly busy time, as well as morning and afternoon recesses for our front office staff. We expect that there may be a brief delay in responding to the door buzzer during those times. Sending lunch to school with your child(ren) in the morning, as opposed to dropping it off during the lunch hour, will help reduce traffic in and out of the school while promoting independence. If children are dropped off at school after the regular school day has begun, you must continue to accompany your child(ren) to the front office of the school to ensure they arrive safely inside and sign in. Your continued cooperation, support and patience is greatly appreciated.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday, October 19, the St. Stephen cross-country finalists laced up their shoes, put on their jerseys and ran distances from 1-3 kilometers to race against the best long-distance runners of the York Catholic District School Board. With strength and determination the following students represented St. Stephen's:

Joshua D., Lucas O., Marco C., Xavier V., Maximo O., and Miguel A. A special mention goes to Lucas O. who placed top five for grade 7 boys, 2.5km run. Congratulations to all the runners! See you next year!



BOARD POLICIES - UPDATES / REVIEWS

Please continue to check board website for details and other policy updates / reviews.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Progress reports for students in Grades 1 to 8 will be sent home on November 21st. Parent-Teacher conferences for all students from JK to Grade 8 will take place on November 23rd (evening) and 24th (morning). Friday, Nov. 24 is designated P.A. day (professional Activity day), therefore, students will not have school. A letter for scheduling interviews will be sent home shortly for you to complete and return to the classroom teacher by Friday, November 10th. Confirmation of your interview time will be sent home with the progress report. The progress report focuses on general progress in Learning Skills and Work Habits.

EQAO

Please note that results of the provincial EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) test written last spring were made public last month. Since then, teachers have participated in Professional Development which included a review and analysis of the detailed EQAO results and other school assessment data, in order to build on our strengths and address areas requiring improvement. For additional information about this and other province-wide assessments, please visit www.eqao.com.

ST. STEPHEN LIBRARY NEWS - LET'S GET READING!

The key to successful learning lies in reading. This is the message students receive when they visit the library. Picture books, primary readers and novels have been carefully organized so that each division can easily find the right text to reflect their interests and abilities. Students are being taught how to find the best books to help develop their creativity and reading comprehension. Here's a checklist your child(ren) can use to help guide them towards achieving their reading goals:

Did you choose a book carefully, so that you will want to read it often once you leave the library? Is the book about something different than the one you took out the last time you visited? Reading books about various topics helps you to learn and write better! Will you remember not to eat or drink while reading your library book, so that it is less likely to be stained or damaged? Will you remember to use a bookmark to hold your place, instead of folding over the page corner? All students are encouraged to set aside some time every evening to immerse themselves in their stories or novels and connect with the setting, plot and characters. A parent resource section has also been set up for use, including topics such as dealing with emotions, bullying prevention and learning strategies. Feel free to drop in and take a look!

Ask your child(ren) about the special authors, computer skills and resource databases they are learning about right now, during their library visits. We will be building on these skills as the year progresses!

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The CSC continues to work together with the staff at St. Stephen to continue building a vibrant school community. All meetings are open to the school community and parents are encouraged to attend. Agenda and Minutes will be posted after each meeting. Our next meeting is Monday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Please forward any comments and/or suggestions you may have to st.stephencsc@gmail.com.

PIZZA LUNCH / HOT LUNCH

Pizza lunches for this year are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please Note: Pizza Lunch will NOT be rescheduled for holidays or PA Days. Kids Kitchen will provide Hot Lunches on Monday and Fridays. On-line orders are available for this.



HIGH SCHOOL VISITS

Over the next month staff representatives from the local area High Schools will be visiting our school to meet with the grade 8 students. The high schools will also host parent information evenings. On November 1st, our students will visit St. Jean de Brebeuf. The Grade 8 Information Night for those interested in attending St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS will take place on Wednesday, November 1st. On Thursday, November 2nd, Father Bressani CHS has its information night. The Grade 8 Information Night for those interested in attending Holy Cross is set for Wednesday, November 22nd at 7 pm. Topics covered will include, introduction to programs, registration for students, a tour of the school, and a question & answer session.

HALLOWEEN MUCH VIDEO DANCE-A-THON

Once again, our Halloween dance-a-thon was a Spook-tacular success and much fun was had by all!



Thank you to the St. Stephen community for their support and generosity.

ONE FOR HAITI FOOD DRIVE

The Charity and Luke 4:18 Committees would like to sincerely thank the entire St Stephen Community for all of their generous donations. The One for Haiti food drive was a great success. A special thank you to each of our Luke 4:18 members for the beautiful banner, posters and the time spent sorting donations. Also to our teachers, who helped to make the delivery. With the support of Father Brian and the Franciscan Sisters, all donations will soon be on their way to Haiti.



Join us on TWITTER

St. Stephen's is Tweeting! The site is up and running and parents are encouraged to follow along for reminders and/or school announcements. The Twitter Account is @StStephenCES. **Please look for our monthly calendar posted/updated regularly on our school website.**