



ST. STEPHEN C.E.S.

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2018

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**CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
QUALITY LEARNING BY ALL
SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS**

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Pastor

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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. L. Aiello

CSC Co-Chairs

Ms. T. Ceko-Drinovac
Ms. M. Misterowicz

Looking Ahead

Jan. 27th~ Civics Day
Jan. 29th~ Jr. Boys Volley-
ball at St. Padre Pio
Jan. 30th~ Jr. Girls Volley-
ball at Pope Francis
Jan. 30th~ SK Celebration
Pictures and Gr. 8
Graduation Pictures
Feb. 1st~ Eco-Sweater Day
Feb. 2nd~ PA Day
Feb. 5th~ Carnival Week
Feb. 5th~ CSC Meeting
6:30pm
Feb. 13th~ Shrove Tuesday
Feb. 13th~ Report Cards Go
Home
Feb. 14th~ Lenten Mass 1pm/
Ash Wednesday/
Valentine's Day
Feb. 19th~ Family Day PA Day
Feb. 26th~ First Reconciliation at
Padre Pio Parish
Feb. 28th~ Pink Shirt Day

Happy New Year! Welcome Back!

On behalf of all the staff, we would like to extend best wishes to all our families for good health, happiness and success in 2018. We take this opportunity to welcome all of our families back and welcome new families to our community.

Ms. A. Barone
Principal

Mr. A. Modica
Vice Principal



A Prayer for the New Year

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,
thank you for the gift of a new year.
May it be a time of grace for us, a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew our commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.
May it be a year of blessing for us, a time to cherish our family
and friends, a time to renew our efforts at work and at play,
a time to embrace our faith more fully.
Walk with us, please, as we continue to give witness to your Truth.
Give us knowledge and strength to do your will, with a proper balance of eternal
values and our present needs.
May the light of Christ shine through us in every day and every hour of this New
Year. Above all, may we remember that we are pilgrims on
the sacred path towards You.
Amen

(Adapted from *St. Gertrude's Guardian Angel Prayer*)

OUR SHARED VISION

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

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

In the month of January we celebrate the virtue of **Unity**.
I will make everyone feel welcomed and appreciated. I will take some
time to learn about the similarities and difference in my community.
I will empower people with my words and not put them down by calling
them names.

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

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

is celebrated on January 6th.

Did you know that Epiphany means **"TO SHINE UPON"**? The Epiphany of Our Lord is an ancient Christian feast observed on January 6. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphaino, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and Christ's baptism is celebrated the following Sunday.

(Adapted from: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint.php?n=672>)



LUKE 4:18 INITIATIVES

During Advent, we collected over 500 pyjamas! The Luke 4:18 and Charity Committee thank you for participating in our Pyjama Drive. Please see the attached Thank You from our committees.

CATHOLIC VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: UNITY and WISDOM

The students and staff at St. Stephen continue with our character building initiatives.

This month we celebrate **UNITY** which is one of the virtues that Jesus demonstrated through his words and actions. All people are special and children of God. We work together to resolve conflict in a peaceful and respectful manner because the way we treat people **MATTERS**.

In February, we celebrate **WISDOM**. I will use my gift of Wisdom in everything I do. I will do things without having to be asked.

SACRAMENT NEWS

Dates for the sacraments at the church:



- ♦ First Reconciliation: Monday, February 26th, 2018 at 7:30 pm
- ♦ First Communion: Sunday, May 6th, 2018 at 2:30 pm
- ♦ Confirmation: Tuesday, May 22nd, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



ROYAL RECOGNITION SPIRIT ASSEMBLY/ CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG ON DECEMBER 22nd!

On Friday, December 22nd we held a Spirit Assembly for all of our school teams, clubs, and student ambassadors whose participation and school spirit make St. Stephen a wonderful place to be! Our recognition ceremony concluded with an **AMAZING** Christmas Sing-a-Long! A special thank you to Ms. Rupa and Ms. Racco, who along with our Active Living Council, organized and led our students through an exciting and fun-filled afternoon of recognition, song and community!!!

REPORTING TO PARENTS

First Term Report cards will be sent home on February 13th 2018. Interviews will be held upon request. Kindly take this opportunity to discuss the report card with your children. Celebrate the successes and discuss next steps or goals for areas that need improvement. Learning is a journey.



JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

The Junior Girls' and Junior Boys' Volleyball Teams are off to a great start! They are working very hard and getting ready for their upcoming tournaments. The boys tournament will take place on Monday, January 29th, 2018 at St. Padre Pio. While the girls tournament will take place on Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 at Pope Francis CES. We thank our coaches and invite parents to attend. We wish them the best of luck. Go Sharks Go!

INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL

Intermediate Basketball season is here! Both the Girls and Boys teams will be practicing in the upcoming weeks to prepare for their Divisional Tournaments. More information will follow as the season progresses.



CIVIES DAYS

Please note that students can come to school wearing regular but school appropriate clothes on Civies Days. Our next two Civies Days are scheduled for January 26th and February 23rd.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR. PERFORMANCE

Auditions for our St. Stephen's performance of "High School Musical" have begun. Lots of talent to choose from! The students are going to be working hard to put on an unforgettable performance. More updates to follow.

SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT

Our Scrabble Tournament will take place here at St. Stephen's on Wednesday, January 31st. Good luck to all of the participants.

TRIBES LEARNING COMMUNITIES ~ TRIBES – INCLUSION

Aside from our basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter, all of us have a basic need and desire to belong. Whether it is in our families, our schools, or our places of work, we experience the need to know that we matter and that we have value to offer to the group in question.



When we don't feel that we belong we tend to drop out. Students will generally drop out by gradually moving to "flight or fight". Apathy, boredom, lack of participation, shyness, absenteeism, inability to complete tasks are some of the ways of taking flight. Those that fight, or initiate behaviors (such as hurtful teasing, hitting, stealing, using foul language, etc.), are delivering the same message: "I don't feel included.....nobody cares about me."

The first stage of the Tribes journey to developing a strengthened sense of community is to foster a sense of inclusion for all those involved. Throughout this part of the process, students are offered opportunities so the following can take place. Introduce themselves and offer a short description of feelings, interests, resources, talents or special qualities. Express hopes or expectations for what will happen during the group's time together. Be acknowledged by the group as having been heard, appreciated, and welcomed. Each person entering the group is unique in his/her life experiences. In the words of St. Paul, "we have been given a variety of gifts" (1 Cor. 12:4). It is in the recognition and celebration of those gifts that we welcome each other and help each other to feel a deeper sense of belonging and being part of the group. By doing so, we invite each other to a further stage of the Tribes journey, Influence, which we will be the focus of next month's newsletter.

ECO TEAM

FEBRUARY 1st IS SWEATER DAY!

National Sweater Day is Friday, February 2nd, 2018. As this falls on a PA Day, we will be having our Sweater Day on Thursday February, 1st, 2018. All students are encouraged to come to school dressed in dress code however they can wear any warm civies sweater of their choice. The heat will be turned down as a means to conserve energy for one day.

INDOOR SHOES

All students need indoor shoes at school. This keeps classroom floors dry and safe, and ensures that in the event of an emergency, students will be prepared and wearing shoes.

EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES

WINTER CLOTHING AND RECESS

Our Canadian winter weather continues! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. All children should have hats, neck warmers, gloves, warm coats and boots. Long scarves should be avoided as they pose a safety risk. Younger students who tend to be a little more interactive with the snow, should bring snow pants and extra clothing and socks to school in case a change of clothing is necessary.



COLD WINTER WEATHER

We obtain weather information throughout the day from the Environment Canada Weather Info. Line, and on extremely cold days (-15 to -18 below), we either keep the students indoors and/or limit the amount of time that students spend outside. In colder weather, we receive many requests to allow children to remain indoors when they have a cold, flu, etc. If your child is not well, it would be best for your child to remain at home. Thank you for your support in keeping others healthy.

KISS 'N RIDE ~ PARKING LOT SAFETY

A reminder to please continue to follow the procedures outlined below to ensure the safety of ALL our children:

- 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, rather encourage your child to make their way on their own to their yard or class by having packing on or near.
- Do NOT back up. Students must exit the car using the **passenger side** doors only.
- Do NOT **park/stop** in the front of the school (including the north east side of that area). It is designated as a fire/tow away zone and for bus/taxi access only.
- Please do NOT park your vehicle by the driveway entrance gate, as this blocks the sidewalk and impedes a flow of traffic in and out of our drop-off/ pick-up loop.

THANK YOU for your continued cooperation!

YCDSB INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

School transportation service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open when transportation services are cancelled.



The safety and well-being of our students is taken into consideration when making decisions concerning transportation service cancellation. Information regarding the cancellation of school transportation or school closures will be made available by 6:15 a.m. Please see attached flyer for more information.

SCHOOL ACCESS SYSTEM

As a reminder, in the interest of safety for all students and staff, we require all parents and guests to the school to access the building through the use of the front doors of the school. All visitors are required to buzz in through the front office and report to the office. Despite the best intentions of many to courteously open the door for those outside waiting to enter, we ask that those who have gained access to the building do not open the door for anyone unless unlocked by the Buzzer Access System. It is an important part of the entry process to allow the office staff to identify the visitors before allowing them access to the building.

As well, we ask that any parent/guardian who is dropping off a lunch, please do so in the bins provided in the foyer vestibule and that they do not linger in the foyer during the lunch hour. Should you wish to see your child or pick up for lunch please proceed to the office and sign in/out. You may want to consider sending a lunch with your child(ren) as these are important life skills for children to learn responsibility and organization in helping to prepare/pack their own lunch. Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

CLASSROOM DOORS

Classroom doors are locked at the end of the day for safety reasons. Custodians will NOT be responsible for unlocking doors to retrieve forgotten items. Please help us encourage students taking responsibility for their learning by bringing all needed items including agendas, home at the end of the day and bringing what is needed for learning to school each day.

COLD AND FLU SEASON

With the cold and flu season well under way please review the notice sent out by York Region Public Health. Please encourage students to wash their hands and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing. Students who are ill should stay home as advised by their physician. Please see the attached poster for more details.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration begins January 8th, 2018

Please bring the following original documents:

- Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (child or parent)
- Proof of age
- Proof of legal status in Canada
- Proof of residency
- Proof of Separate School Support (i.e. MPAC Assessment Notice), or you can complete a school support form that is included in the registration package.

Notes:

- JK children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2018
- SK children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2018

The Admissions office, located at the Catholic Education Centre, will hold registrations Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact the Admissions office for information on early facilitation for exceptional children.



 Community Support for Early Learning*

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Thank you for reaching out to a child in need this Christmas!

Dear St. Stephen Community:

The Luke 4:18 Committee and our Charity Committee thank you for participating in our 2017 Pyjama Drive. **Thanks to your support and generosity, we collected 500 pyjamas!!** Many needy children and adults were warm and cozy this past Christmas. Wishing you and your families, hope, faith, joy, good health and the peace of Christ in 2018 and always!

God's Blessings,

The Luke 4:18 and Charity Committees

Flu Season is on its way – are you ready?



Flu season is nearly here. Be prepared by getting the flu shot as early as possible.

The first and best step to preventing influenza (the flu), is to get the flu shot every year. Influenza spreads quickly and easily from an infected person to others.

Everyone six months of age and older can get the flu shot.

Flu shots are available at:

- Health care provider's offices for people six months of age and older
- Participating pharmacies, for people five years of age and older

Visit ontario.ca/flu to find where you can get the flu shot.

How can the flu be avoided?

- Get the flu shot!
- [Wash your hands](#) well and often with soap and warm water. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based [hand sanitizer](#)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue out immediately. Wash your hands afterward. Cough into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid large crowds and stay home when you are sick
- Keep common surfaces and items clean and disinfected

To learn more about flu and the flu vaccine visit york.ca/flu





Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year begins January 8, 2018

To register, please bring the following original documents:

- Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (child or parent)
- Proof of age
- Proof of legal status in Canada
- Proof of residency
- Proof of Separate School Support (i.e. MPAC Assessment Notice), or you can complete a school support form that is included in the registration package.

JK: Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2018 (born in 2014)

SK: Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2018 (born in 2013)

If your child is already attending a YCDSB school for JK registration is not required.

For information, contact the Admissions Department:



www.ycdsb.ca/admissions



@ycdsb



905-713-2711 or 416-221-5050



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

Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

Effective Use of Our Resources

Engaging Our Communities



YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Kindergarten to Grade 8 Registration for Elementary Schools

School year 2018/2019

Important Registration Information

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To register your child(ren) for September 2018, you must provide the following **original** documents/forms for each child:

- **Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate** (child or parent)
- **Proof of Age** (i.e. child's birth certificate)
- **Proof of Legal Status in Canada** (if required)
- **Proof of Residency** (2 documents required: 1 of Property Tax Bill, Proof of Purchase, Lease/Rental Agreement **and** 1 of Driver's License, utility bill, etc.)
- **Proof of English Separate School Support** (i.e. property tax bill that shows school support designation, MPAC Assessment Notice, confirmation of school support designation or, completed and signed school support form(s), which are included in the registration package). We wish to remind families that every time they move to a new residence, School Support form(s) must be completed.

Please note that the Elementary Student Registration Package, as well as the School Support forms are also available on the Board's website at:

<http://www.ycdsb.ca/admissions>

We thank you in advance for complying with the Board's Admissions requirements.

If you have any questions or require assistance, we ask that you please contact the Admissions Office at www.ycdsb.ca/admissions or via telephone at (905) 713-1211 or (416) 221-5051, extension 12434.

Thank you.

Rev.Dec/17

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

School transportation service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open when transportation services are cancelled.

The safety and well-being of our students is taken into consideration when making decisions concerning transportation service cancellation. Information regarding the cancellation of school transportation or school closures will be made available by 6:15 a.m.

Please exercise discretion in deciding whether to send your child to school when school transportation has been cancelled.

Please note the following:

- A decision to cancel school transportation service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make alternate arrangements to transport their children to and from school if school bus service is cancelled.
- If transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will not operate in the afternoon.
- In the event school transportation is cancelled, exams, tests, quizzes, excursions, charter trips, school programs, co-curricular activities, evening presentations, workshops, as well as, parent meetings (i.e. Identification, Placement, and Review Committee Meetings, IPRCs) will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Secondary School Cafeteria Services will be cancelled
- All evening permits will be cancelled
- All Continuing Education evening classes will be cancelled

Further Information regarding the Board's Inclement Weather Guidelines are included on the YCDSB Website at:
<http://www.ycdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Inclement-Weather-Notice.pdf>

Inclement Weather Notifications will be posted to:

- School Website & Board Website (www.ycdsb.ca)
- Student Transportation Services of York Region Website (www.schoolbuscity.com)
- Twitter ([www.twitter.com/ycdsb](https://twitter.com/ycdsb))
- Designated Radio and Television Stations:

RADIO				TELEVISION
AM 640	640AM	CKDX	88.5FM	CITY TV
CBC	99.1FM	CKFM	99.9FM	CTV BARRIE
CFNY	102.1FM	KISS	92.5FM	CTV TORONTO
CFRB	1010AM	NEWS	680AM	CP24
CHAY	93.1FM	Q107	107.1FM	GLOBAL NEWS
CHFI	98.1FM	CJCL	590AM	
CHIN	1540AM & 100.7FM	CJEZ	97.3FM	
CHRW	94.9FM	CIQB	101.1FM	
CHUM	1050AM & 104.5 FM	CJBC	860AM	
CJKX	95.9FM & 89.9 FM			
CKDO	1580AM			

Information about school transportation cancellation is also available at www.schoolbuscity.com