



St. Margaret Mary CES

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905-851-3935 smm.ycdsb.ca @SMM_YCDSB

September 3, 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to what promises to be another faith-filled and Christ-centered year of growth and learning! We hope the warm summer months provided you with quality time with your children and families, rejuvenating everyone for the school year ahead.

Our staff has been working diligently to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. Over the summer, we upgraded our Junior Division classrooms with new flooring, sinks, and cabinetry. Thanks to the generosity of the Catholic School Council, the rooms were also painted, giving them a fresh and bright look. Although teachers only gained access to the building yesterday, they have been working tirelessly to create vibrant and engaging learning environments for your children. Our yard was repaved over the summer. Unfortunately, to ensure the pavement sets properly, we won't be able to paint lines or set up activities until next summer. However, I'm confident the children will still enjoy playing in the newly paved yard.

Once again, I am committed to keeping you informed through our weekly SMM Friday Flash. Important reminders and updates will be shared in this format. While I aim to keep these updates brief, please note that at the beginning of the year there will be more detailed information to ensure you stay well-informed.

Our continued partnership is vital for building on the many strengths of our dynamic Catholic learning community. I look forward to working together to make this year a great success.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Snyder

Prayer

Loving creator,

Map your goals for us in our hearts. Make our classrooms oases in the busy world.

Make them places of warmth and trust. May our affirmation of our students enable them to stretch themselves as they seek holistic growth in a safe, nurturing, Catholic environment.

Amen

Week at a Glance- September 2-6, 2024

Monday	Sept. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Labour Day- No School
Tuesday	Sept. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome Back!!!! We've missed you!
Wednesday	Sept. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A great day for learning at SMM!
Thursday	Sept. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A great day for learning at SMM!

Friday	Sept.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great day for learning at SMM!
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STAFF WELCOMES: We welcome the following new staff members to our SMM Family:

- Ms. Velardi, Grade 5/6
- Mr. Culmone, Music
- Ms. DiBenedetto, FSL
- Ms. Giuliani, ESL
- Ms. Cribari, Education Worker
- Ms. Pagliaroli, Education Worker

2024/2025 SCHOOL STAFF LIST:

FDK DECE	Ms. Butrico, Ms. Magni Ms. Stranges, Ms. Bianchi
Grade 1	Ms. Ceresoli, Ms. Monastero
Grade 1/2	Ms. Iacoucci
Grade 2	Ms. Fuda
Grade 3	Ms. DiBiase
Grade 3/4	Ms. Marini
Grade 4/5	Ms. Loconte
Grade 5/6	Ms. Velardi
Grade 6	Ms. Masucci
Grade 7	Ms. Febbraro
Grade 7/8	Ms. Vono
Grade 8	Ms. Fiorucci
FSL	Ms. DiChiara, Ms. DiBenedetto
Physical Education	Ms. Rupa
Music	Mr. Culmone
Heritage Language	Ms. Surdo
ESL	Ms. Giuliani
Special Education	Ms. D'Urzo, Ms. Scarcello
Library	Ms. Gallace
Education Workers	Ms. Rittaca, Ms. Ferreira, Ms. Cribari, Ms. Pagliaroli
Lunchtime Supervisors	Ms. Iaboni, Ms. Naterelli, Ms. Infusino, Ms. Viola
Custodians	Mr. Crispo, Ms. Kajin, Mr. Hoc
Office	Ms. Recchia, TBA

SCHOOL AND PARISH PARTNERSHIP: We value the partnership St. Margaret Mary CES has with our Parish from which our school is named. Fr. Rony continues to provide our community with loving pastoral care. Together with the Church we support parents in the faith formation of their children. We will share important information about Reconciliation and First Communion (Grade 2) and Confirmation (Grade 7) so please stay tuned for details.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: Each month a different Catholic attribute is emphasized at SMM. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their words and actions. By doing this we show that we always strive to respond to Jesus' call as a community. During the month of 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 SMM who best demonstrate courage via our announcements.

NUT SAFE SCHOOL: We will continue to take a proactive approach to make our school a safe environment for our school community members with life-threatening allergies to food as well as to fragrances and scents. Because Anaphylaxis can be life-threatening, our entire school is allergy aware. Students will not be permitted to share or distribute snacks. In accordance with our School Allergy Awareness Plan, please do not send any snacks to be shared. In accordance with our Allergy Awareness Plan, any edible treats that are brought to school will not be distributed, but rather returned home with the student at the end of the day. If a teacher chooses to share a nut-free snack with their class, they will provide you with notice beforehand.

Please help us to keep St. Margaret Mary Allergy Aware and Nut-Safe by providing snacks and lunches for your child that do not contain any traces of nuts or nut products and that are made in a nut free facility. Details of any allergies specific to your child's classroom will be sent home soon.

Thank you for your continued collaboration as we strive to keep all children safe. For a more detailed explanation of the School Board Policy, please visit the Board's web site (www.ycdsb.ca) and refer to Policy 206 and PROCEDURE: 206A SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS: ANAPHYLAXIS

SCENT SAFE SCHOOL: Please avoid wearing fragrances or scented products to SMM school. We have staff members and students who have life threatening allergies to scents. Exposure to fragrances or scented products can trigger serious health and allergic reactions for individuals who suffer with asthma, allergies and migraines or who have chemical sensitivities. All employees, students and all visitors to our school should avoid the use of strongly scented products while at our school. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter and for keeping all our St. Margaret Mary community safe.

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 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 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 are completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Board policy. Thank you for your immediate attention to this request, and ongoing support in the shared responsibility for asthma management in our school.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL: Whenever possible, we ask that medications be administered at home. However, should your child require medications to be administered at school please pick up the required S16 and S16a forms from the office. Complete the form (including physician's signature) and return it to school. Students are not to keep medication (aside from inhalers and EpiPens) in their knapsack or in the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE): As per Policy 210, Pediculosis (Head Lice), the York Catholic District School Board recognizes concerns related to pediculosis (head lice) at the school and community level. Pediculosis (head lice) are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents in your child's class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. A student's readmission to school is contingent upon the Parent/Guardian submitting a completed and signed "Pediculosis Treatment Form" communicating to the Principal that treatment for pediculosis (head lice) has been administered. When a student is suspected/identified as having pediculosis (head lice) every family in the school will be notified, via email, information on how to be proactive and check for head lice. The specific classroom in which the student is in will not be disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the family. More information on the identification, treatment and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) from the Canadian Pediatric Society https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/head_lice and Toronto Public Health (toronto.ca/health) is available on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.

SMM DRESS CODE: St. Margaret Mary implements a school Standardized Dress Code (SDC). It is the expectation of staff and administration that all students will follow the SDC with the support of their parents/guardians. A standardized dress code is an important part of our school's identity and safety and positive school climate. Our school staff will also support students in upholding the SDC requirements. For students who are not in compliance with the SDC, a progressive discipline approach will be taken which may include but is not limited to verbal reminders of expectations, calling home for appropriate dress, communication with parents/guardians and/or written communication with parents/guardians. The approved Standardized Dress Code for St. Margaret Mary is on our website and includes the following:

- Colours of NAVY BLUE and WHITE
- Jeans will not form part of the standardized dress code
- NO language, or pictures of any kind on tops are permitted (max size of a toonie if there is a logo/brand)
- NO accessories not keeping with the spirit of the Dress Code

SMM will continue its tradition of supporting various charitable causes and organizations through our monthly civvies days. Civvie's days will be on the last Friday of the month. Please remember that students need to exercise appropriate dress on those days. We hope that you will consider donating to ShareLife via SchoolDay

INDOOR SHOES: In order to keep our school clean as well as assist in maintaining a healthy environment, we are asking that all students have a pair of shoes, with non marking soles that are to be kept at school.

VISITING SMM: All visitors to SMM must buzz the office from the front doors. Our office staff will ask you to identify yourself and state the reason for your visit. Please assist us with our safety procedures by being patient and answering the office staff's questions. Please do not ask students to open the front doors for you. If you are picking up your child from school, we will call them down to the main entrance for you. If you are dropping off lunch, please leave it at the office. Anyone who is required to enter the building must sign in to the main office and obtain a visitor's badge. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

TRANSPORTATION: For students riding the bus to school, please ensure that you have checked [School Bus City](#) for your pick up and drop off times and location. Students riding the bus will adhere to bus safety routines and procedures. A reminder that the YCDSB Code of Conduct should be adhered to on the bus.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES: Kindly report all absences or late arrivals/early departures by using the automated SafeArrival Absence Reporting phone number **1-855-856-7862** or the website: go.schoolmessenger.ca. If you have trouble with the system, kindly call or email the office

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: We would like to stress the importance of school punctuality and regular attendance. Regular attendance is vitally important and can lead to improved classroom learning, better test results, important relationships and friendships, good reference for future education and healthy habits.

Regular attendance is directly linked to success at school. Poor attendance patterns increase risk of failure and dropping out of school. Early intervention by home and school increases the likelihood of a student remaining in school.

The following points are proven factors in ensuring that a child will be successful in maintaining regular and punctual attendance:

- ❖ Have regular morning routines (wake up on time, eat breakfast, leave home to get to school on time).
- ❖ Following consistent night time routines (homework time, prep for next day, bedtime).
- ❖ Set an alarm clock the night before.
- ❖ Get enough sleep and eat properly.

Remember your child is considered late to school if they are not in line with their class at **8:20 A.M.**

NEW PROCEDURES THIS YEAR FOR LATES/EARLY DEPARTURES: Students are required to come to the office when they are late for school. The office will be stamping “Late” in the child’s agenda as an “admit” indication for the teacher. Without a late stamp from the office, the student will not be admitted to class. This will ensure that there is no miscommunication and will help to prevent the automatic system calling parents.

If a child is being picked up early, parents must come into the office to sign them out. Children will wait in the office for their parents/guardians to arrive to complete the sign out form. Please ensure that you give yourself affordable time to do this. Thank you for your cooperation.

FIRST WEEK FORMS: The first weeks of school are a busy time and many notices are sent home. We strive to send all school wide information via email, however at the beginning of the school year, we are still sending/collecting some forms via hard copy. All forms requiring information and/or signatures are due back to school by September 13th, 2024.

- Emergency Information Form
- Freedom Of Information
- Acceptable Use of Technology
- Walking Excursion

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION NOTICE TO PARENTS: During the 2024-2025 school year, your child(ren) will be involved in a variety of school related activities and events consistent with the purpose of educating students in accordance with the Education Act. Upon registering your child with the York Catholic District School Board you completed a Freedom of Information Consent. Please note that an Annual Parental Consent re:Freedom of Information must be completed for each child on a yearly basis. Personal information is collected pursuant to the Education Act and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act.

We bring to your attention the following areas that you and/or your child’s personal information may be disclosed without notification to you, such as:

- Catholic School Council Activities and Catholic School Council communications.
- Class lists, emergency phone networks, local Parish, Catholic Community Services, etc.
- The release of photographs, artwork, writing or other schoolwork to the media (print/electronic) and/or YCDSB website.
- The use of names, photographs, etc. used for display in the school, newsletters, and yearbooks. If you have any objections to the use and disclosure of your child’s personal information, please indicate your wishes on the Freedom of Information Annual Parental Consent (FOI A.21) form which will be sent home by your child’s teacher.

Our school is obliged to protect our students and families personal information. Images of students are considered personal information. Parents sign the Freedom of Information consent form upon registering their child with our Board. This consent allows pictures to be posted on the School Board’s or school’s websites. We caution parents and staff that when taking pictures of students in school or on field trips that those pictures are NOT to be posted on any social networking sites.

AGENDAS: A heartfelt thank you to our Catholic School Council for generously purchasing agendas for students in grades 1 through 6. Your support is greatly appreciated! Students in these grades will begin using their agendas this week.

UPCOMING: (all important dates can be found on the SMM website)

- September 18- Open House/Meet the Teacher (6:30 pm to 7:30 pm)
- September 20- CIVVIES Day- please consider donating to ShareLife via School Day
- September 25- Terry Fox Run/Walk (Rain date is the 26th)
- September 27- PA Day for Students; Faith Day for Staff
- September 30- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. **Please wear Orange.**
- September 30- Liturgy at 9:45 am in the Large Gym (parents welcome)
- October 1- Picture Day
- October 2- Cross Country Meet

