



St. Margaret Mary CES

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

September 6, 2024

Dear Families,

As we wrap up our first week of school, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your support and collaboration. It's been a joy to see our students settling into their routines, and I'm excited about the opportunities this year holds.

As part of York Region's Character Community, the YCDSB celebrates a virtue or character attribute every month. This month we celebrate the virtue of courage. Courage as a virtue means being strong in times of difficulty. In the Catholic Church, courage is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the courage students may need to trust themselves to step out of their comfort zone to learn academic tasks in new ways in a new school year. We celebrate the courage students may need to "do the right thing" even when doing so may risk unpopularity.

This Sunday, September 8th is the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we celebrate the birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary brought Jesus into the world even though she was very young. She had to leave her country until it was safe to return to her home in Nazareth. Mary is a model of courage. As we reflect on her courage and faith, let us draw inspiration from Mary's example in our own lives and challenges.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Snyder

Prayer

As we begin this new school year, we ask for Your presence to guide us in all we do. Bless our students, families, and staff as we work together to grow in knowledge, faith, and love. Help us to seek Your wisdom in our decisions and to show kindness and respect to one another.

May this school year be filled with opportunities to learn, serve, and grow closer to You. Grant us the strength to face challenges, the courage to embrace new opportunities, and the grace to lead with humility and compassion.

We entrust this school community to Your care, knowing that with You by our side, we can accomplish great things.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Week at a Glance- September 9-13, 2024

Monday	Sept, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great day for learning at SMM!
Tuesday	Sept. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great day for learning at SMM!
Wednesday	Sept. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great day for learning at SMM!
Thursday	Sept. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great day for learning at SMM!
Friday	Sept. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great day for learning at SMM!

SCHOOL YARD SAFETY: Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work to keep all children safe. As you know student safety is our first priority. Ensuring that we are providing a safe environment for all students both within, outside, and coming to and leaving from school is our shared responsibility.

Parents who normally walk their children to school are asked to say their goodbyes before the children enter the school yard which is just past our boulevard sign. We will place safety pylons just past the kindergarten entry gate so there is a clear visual marker to help with the transition, especially for our younger primary students.. In addition to fostering a sense of independence, leaving your child in this manner affirms the school's safety protocol that the only people on the school yard are the supervising staff wearing the bright orange vests. Supervision is provided in the school yard each morning for students beginning at 8:05 am.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS: SMM is currently looking to add to our supply list for LunchTime Supervisors (11:15 am to 12:15 pm or 11:15 am to 12:45 pm). This is a paid position. If you or someone you know would be interested in this position, please contact the school for further information (905) 851-3935..

SCHOOL ALLERGY AWARENESS PLAN 2024/2025

At St. Margaret Mary CES, we have student and staff members who have life threatening allergies to (but are not limited to) insect bites, food (i.e. peanuts, tree nuts) and scents. Please take some time to read through our [2024/2025 Allergy Plan](#).

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ONTARIO:

Parent/Caregiver resources have been updated and are now live on their site. This includes:

- [How to Support a Mentally Healthy Back to School for Your Child](#)
- [Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology - School Mental Health Ontario](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Guide for Parents and Caregivers - School Mental Health Ontario](#)
- [Noticing Mental Health Concerns for Your Child](#)

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 26- CSC Meeting (More details to follow)
- 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

