



St. Marguerite d'Youville Newsletter

October 2018

A Message From the Principal

We have had an amazing start to the school year! There are a tonne of extra-curricular activities happening that the students are benefitting from including Student Parliament, Choir, FIAT, Volleyball and Cross Country just to name a few! I truly appreciate the numerous extra hours our staff put in, on a voluntary basis, to offer these programs to enhance the student experience. These professionals run excellent programs and should be commended for their dedication. We had our first Catholic School Council Meeting of the year and elected the executive. I would like to congratulate and thank the following for their commitment to the SMD community; Chair: Jacquie Attard, Treasurer: Steph Huber, Parish Rep: Lisa Wright, Secretary: Kim McGladdery and Staff Rep: Mrs. Fair. I look forward to working with you and all the members of Catholic School Council. Thank you to the parent volunteers for helping to organize and set up for 'Meet The Teacher'. It was nice to see so many people out that evening as well. It was remarkable to see just how many new families we have in our ever growing community. The kiss and ride and safe departures has been going pretty well so far this year. I included reminders about the rules once again in the newsletter. I think this is partly due to the fact that less families are using it. If you are able to park and come to the school or walk it helps to create much less volume, congestion and in turn more safe for our community. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in the kiss and ride area. Also, do not park or wait with your vehicle in the parking lot area as we need to keep it clear at the end of the day.

Lastly, due to our large numbers and limited available space, we are not going to be able to invite parents and families inside the gym to liturgies and masses at the school. Alternatively, we are going to set up chairs in the atrium for those members of the community who are able to attend. We will evaluate to see if this works afterwards. It won't allow for perfect site lines, but will allow for those to be a part of the service who would like to come. When we add fixed seating and the additional people it makes us vulnerable in cases of emergency. With staff and students there are around 575 people in the gym for these occasions. When we go to Holy Family Parish for mass, parents are welcome to attend with us.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. G. Moore, Principal

"One Person Can Make a Difference....Be The Difference For Someone Today!"

Things You Need to Know



School Visitors: Please note that all school visitors must report to the main office and sign in. Parents and relatives are not permitted in the school hallways or playground without approval of the Principal. Volunteers and visitors must sign in and wear a visitor pass ID tag. Please do not just stop in to visit your child's teacher without making prior arrangements.

Allergy Aware School



Nut allergies: Please be advised that there are students in our school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts will lead to an anaphylactic reaction which can be life threatening and requires immediate medical attention. We require your assistance in reducing the risk to these students by choosing nut-free snacks and lunches. We encourage parents to read the labels closely to avoid sending treats, snacks and lunches with nut products in them. Thank you for help in keeping our school safe!

School Access: SMD is a secure access facility that has a buzzer and camera system implemented to enhance safety and security. This means that our doors are locked during and outside of school hours. We want to be sure parents/guardians are aware that when you arrive at the school, you will be required to press the button located at the front door. Our school Secretary, Principal, Vice Principal or an adult will "buzz" you in and then you must sign in at the main office. During recess and lunch time there will not always be access to the school as there will not always be an adult monitoring the entrance. For those parents who require a pick up or need to deliver something to your child at lunch, we ask you do so by 11:30 am. Parents can also make arrangements with the school to have their child waiting inside the front door for a prearranged pick up. There may be times that you will have to wait for a few minutes prior to being let in the building. We do recognize that at times, emergencies come up and you may need to access the school during times when it is not monitored. In these cases, please call the school to make arrangements for access. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to focus on the on-going safety needs of our community, which include supervision outside during breaks. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Moore or Mrs. Lopes.



October 31st will be **Black and Orange Day** for Halloween. Please no costumes or masks this day. Only Kindergarten students will wear costumes.

"Fantastic, Terrific, Learning and Faith-filled All Day Long!"



Magazine Subscription and Cookie Dough Sales: We are continuing with our School Fundraiser until October 12. Please be sure to return all forms and have online orders in by October 12. Cheques are to be made out to St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School. Our Online ID Code is **3709672**.

Rules of the Kiss & Ride

- Supervised drop-off time: 8:45 a.m. - 8:55 a.m
- Supervised pick-up time begins shortly after 3:30 p.m., after dismissal bell. Please note that arriving early for pick up will only cause a backup of cars and congestion on Hawthorne Rd.
- Watch for children crossing on sidewalk and at crosswalk
- Enter: Please alternate vehicles entering (to be treated as a 3-way stop)
- Buses: While waiting to turn right into the Kiss 'n' Ride please ensure that your car does not block the buses from exiting the bus bay please give the bus the right of way
- Please follow adult supervisors' directions, they will help your child in or out of the vehicle
- Drop-off : Children should only leave the vehicle once an adult supervisor is there to assist, and when possible, children should exit passenger side of vehicle
- Children should have backpacks on their laps to enable them to exit the car more quickly
- Do NOT leave your car parked or unattended in the Kiss 'n' Ride area, or park or wait in the parking lot area if there isn't a designated spot available
- Patience: Please wait for the car in front of you to move forward
- Safety: Pick-up/drop-off must occur within Kiss 'n' Ride area for safety
- Exit: Please exit by turning right onto Hawthorne Rd. to help with traffic flow



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Safe Arrivals and Dismissals Program: The safety of our students is of paramount importance to us. To assist in ensuring that our students arrive safely at school, and leave the school safely, each day we require your support and cooperation. **Arrival at School:** Our staff begin supervision at 8:45am. We have supervisors for the playground, bussing area, as well as our Kiss and Ride area. **Please do not leave your child unattended before 8:45am.** Our staff will be able to supervise from 8:45 onwards. **Safe Schools Policies and Attendance** – If your child will be absent for any reason, please contact the school. Messages can be left after hours to report this absence. All unaccounted absenteeism will be followed up with a call to parents/guardian. **Dismissal after School:** School is dismissed at 3:30pm. Students are guided to the front of the school, bus or Kiss and Ride areas. **Bus Students:** We have three school busses that service our school. Students living 1.6 km or further from the school will be eligible for bussing. To find out if you are eligible for bussing, you can find out at www.mybigyellowbus.ca. This website provides information about policies and rules for riding the bus. They also offer a bus tag system to help ensure students are on the correct bus. **Walkers:** A crossing guard, employed by the City of London, is on duty at the corner of Aldersbrook and Hawthorne Road before and after school. It is important that students and parents follow the direction of the guard at this busy intersection. **Kiss and Ride:** We operate a staff supervised Kiss and Ride area from 8:45am to 8:55 am each morning and from 3:30 to 3:40pm each day. **Please see specific Kiss and Ride Rules above.** This area, located directly in front of the school, is intended for parents wishing to drop off their students. Kindergarten students will be guided to the Kindergarten yard when they arrive. Parents using the Kiss and Ride are asked to remain in their vehicles. **Park and Walk** - As an alternative, parents are also welcome to park in the neighbourhood and walk their children the remainder of the way. Please be mindful of neighbour's driveways and "No Parking" zones. **Adult Access to School Yard Before or After School Not Permitted.** The primary school grounds are used by the YMCA Before and After School Program. Only adults dropping off or picking up from this program should be in this area. For the safety of all, everyone not a student or staff member needs to remain outside of the fenced area. If you require access to the playground during school hours, please report to the office and speak to the Principal or Vice Principal. You will also notice the **Pedestrian Crossover** in front of the school. Only cross the road directly at the crossover. Thank you for your commitment to making our arrivals and departures safe.

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Please Support The United Way

Each year the London District Catholic School Board runs a fundraising campaign for **The United Way** during the month of October. The United Way supports community services right here in our own London community. It funds agencies that help the elderly, the hungry, the homeless and the needy children and youth in our community. These agencies include Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Guiding, Scouts Canada, Meals on Wheels, Learning Disabilities Association, CNIB, Hospice, The Northwest London Resource Centre and many more.



We will be having 2 school events to support The United Way.

1. Pajama day for United Way....Friday October 12th (\$1 or \$2 donation)
2. Gently Used Book Sale....October 24th and 25th. (See below)

Recycle a Book and Support The United Way

WANTED: Gently used children's books.

If you have some children's books taking up space and would like to donate them to a good cause, please consider our book sale. Books can be dropped off at the office or in Mrs. Watson's classroom anytime from now to October 23rd.

We will have the sale for two days –October 24th and 25th. Books will be sold for \$1 each and all proceeds will support our United Way campaign.

Books that are not sold will be donated to Goodwill for their bookstore.



A reminder that School Cash Online is available to pay for field trips and other school events or items (Not Hot Lunch). Please see the LDCSB website to register.. We are hearing many positive comments from families about this new service. This is the new preferred method for payment.

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SchoolMessenger: To enhance our existing absence-checking procedures, we are implementing a new system called SchoolMessenger. SchoolMessenger makes it easier than ever to report your child’s absence in advance. Instead of calling the school, you can report an absence through an app on your mobile device, through a website, or by calling a toll-free number. **Please note that if you are having issues with the service, it may be that your email address is incorrect in our system.** We can update that information if need be. Some teachers are now using SchoolMessenger as a form of communication. Also, we will send out our newsletter through SchoolMessenger and through eBlast. Shortly, we will only send it out through SchoolMessenger.

How to Report an Absence Using SchoolMessenger

- **App:** download and install the SchoolMessenger app (BLUE icon above) from the Apple App Store, Google Play Store. You will need to sign up for an account using your contact information the school already has on file. Once you are logged in, select Attendance then Report an Absence
- **Website:** Go to <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/account/signup> Once you are logged in, select Attendance then Report an Absence
- **Phone:** Call 1-833-275-6702 to report an absence using the automated phone system

We are really excited to be running the play “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!” this year in December under the guidance of Mrs. Thibert. It will be a full school effort and we thank in advance all the staff taking on key leadership role. We have auditioned for and cast our school show and we are really looking forward to beginning our practices. We will be looking for parents who will be able to help with building and painting sets, sewing costumes, running our concession stand during the run of the show...etc. Shortly, a note will come home asking parents to volunteer for specific jobs and then we will pass the names along to the staff who are in charge of the specific areas to get in contact with those who respond.

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School Improvement: I included this last year, but thought it important to revisit. A study from Stanford University noted the importance of Visual Mathematics for learners. The whole report can be found at

<https://bhi61nm2cr3mkgk1dtaov18-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Visual-Math-Paper-vF.pdf>. They made these 3 recommendations for teaching and parenting:

1. Encourage and celebrate students' visual approaches and replace the idea that strong mathematics learners are those who memorize and calculate well. Recent PISA evidence, from millions of students, tells us that the students who approach mathematics with a memorization approach are the lowest achieving students in the world (OECD, 2016). We also need to end the myth that good mathematics performance is about calculating fast; a number of mathematicians are working to change this idea, explaining how they think slowly and deeply about mathematics, (see, for example, Laurent Schwartz; Keith Devlin). Fast calculation is not what is needed in high-level mathematics work. Strong mathematics learners are those who think deeply, make connections and visualize. When I introduce math problems to my Stanford students I say – "I don't care about speed, in fact I am unimpressed by those who finish quickly, that shows you are not thinking deeply. Instead I would like to see interesting and creative representations of ideas". After a few lessons the students broaden their views of mathematics, and they start to blow me away with their creative thinking and insightful representations, and the new understandings they develop.

2. Focus on finger discrimination and encourage finger use. Successful mathematics users have well developed finger representations in their brains that they use into adulthood. Finger discrimination even predicts mathematics success. When we stop students using fingers we stop an important part of their mathematical development. Teachers who have stopped students using fingers are doing what they thought was best for children, as the idea that finger use is babyish, and needs to be discouraged, is widespread. But we now have the knowledge that should change this and encourage teachers to focus on finger discrimination and use in classrooms to a much greater extent.

3. Importantly, mathematics teaching and learning needs to become more visual - there is not a single idea or concept that cannot be illustrated or thought about visually. Elementary school, ironically more than higher-grade levels, is often obsessively numerical. Students are made to memorize math facts, and plough through worksheets of numbers, with few visual or creative representations of mathematics or invitations to work visually, often because of policy directives and faulty curriculum guides. By the time most students leave elementary school they have developed the idea that visuals and manipulatives are babyish, fingers should never be used, and mathematical success is about memorizing numerical methods. As students move up through the grades they continue on overly numerical and symbolic pathways. Algebra classes are often composed entirely of symbol manipulation and the idea that visuals or manipulatives are a mere prelude to abstract mathematics becomes instantiated. What would mathematics look like if it were visual, instead of merely numerical?

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EQAO Results:

Our results from the Provincial Assessments of EQAO have been released. Our results are below. Thank you to students, staff and parents in their support of school improvement. We are very pleased with the results, but know there is more work to be done. There is always other data to consider including demographic data. Individual student reports will go home shortly. The numbers shown are the percentage of students at or above Provincial standard.

Grade 3:

	Reading	Writing	Math
St. Marguerite	65	62	58
LDCSB	69	67	55
Province	75	72	61

Grade 6:

	Reading	Writing	Math
St. Marguerite	79	74	51
LDCSB	79	77	41
Province	82	80	49
St. Marguerite 2014-2015 (when grade 6 cohort were in grade 3)	70	70	54

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Key Dates For October

- 1: Orange Shirt Day
- 2: Cross Country Meet at RMC
- 3: Hot Lunch (Great Canadian Bagel)
- 5: World Teachers Day; Turkey Bingo
- 8: Thanksgiving Monday (No School)
- 10: Liturgy at 1:15pm (Hilton and Millers Classes); Hot Lunch (Byron Pizza)
- 12: Pajama Day (donation to United Way)
- 16: Grade 7 Vaccinations
- 17: Hot Lunch (Boston Pizza)
- 18: School Photo Day (Ferriera/Buren, Trakinskis, Elgie, Lasenby, Thibert, Jones, Readings, Kirk, O'Donnell, Miller, Rossi, Grandy); Fundraising and Social Committee Meeting 6:00 pm in the library
- 19: School Photo Day (Watson, Markle, Flynn, Hilton, Noordhof, Iezzi, Heffernan, Santandrea, Willoughby/Kopichanski, Bouchard)
- 23: Catholic School Council Budget Meeting 6 pm
- 24: Hot Lunch (Swiss Chalet); United Way Used Book Sale
- 25: Council's Halloween Dance 6- 9pm; United Way Used Book Sale
- 26: PD Day
- 31: Wear Black and Orange Day (except Kindergarten students can wear costumes); Hot Lunch (Byron Pizza)

Catholic School Council News

We had our first Catholic School Council Meeting on September 25th. Thank you for all who attended as we had a great turnout! Thank you to the following people who will serve as the Catholic School Council executive; Chair: Jacquie Attard, Treasurer: Steph Huber, Secretary: Kim McGladdery, Parish Rep: Lisa Wright, Community Rep: Stephanie Simpson and Staff Rep: Mrs. Fair. For those who want to be involved in the Council, but do not want to attend the formal meetings 6 times a year, there are many other ways to be involved! A subcommittee of Council is called the Fundraising and Social Committee (FSC, formerly Parent Network). This group brings ideas to Council for ideas around social activities, fundraising and a lot of really neat things that help to make the school a community. The first FSC meeting is Thursday October 18th at 6 pm at the school. Our next Catholic School Council Meeting is a budget meeting and is October 23rd at 6 pm at the school.

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