

ST. ROBERT SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Visit us @ our website- <http://www.ldcsb.ca/school/ROB>
Join us on Twitter (Principal@RobLDCSB)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff at St Robert, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each of you back and a special welcome to our new families. I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing summer filled with memories of time spent with family and friends.

We are excited to begin a new school year with many exceptional opportunities coming your way.

We welcome back our returning parent council; we thank both Ms. Pierson (Chair) and Ms. Raposo (Co-Chair) along with the rest of our parent council for their continued work for our community. If you are interested in running for council please contact the office as soon as possible. We meet five or six times a year for approximately one hour. Parents are encouraged to come out to our first Council meeting on **Wednesday, September 20 at 6:00pm**. Please see the Volunteer Police Check requirements within the newsletter. All parents are always welcome to attend!

Please join us at our Meet the Teacher BBQ on **Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 5:00pm** (South Playground). We are looking for raffle items; please contact the school if you know of a business that would like to donate. More information to follow; please consider assisting the parent council in this event. Please contact the office if you are free to help.

We welcome our new staff...

Ms. Chantler (EA)	Ms. Watt (Grade 1)
Mrs. Cornelis (Grade 1/2)	Ms. Woods (SPST)
Ms. DaSilva (Grade 4)	Mr. Roes (EA)
Ms. Smith (Grade 5/6)	Ms. Estruch (SPST)
Mr. Hoffarth (EA)	

We continue to thank our Mary Immaculate Parish team for their support and partnership in Catholic Education. We welcome Father Augustine and Father Charles to the St. Robert's community and we welcome back Deacon John. Please plan on attending the Parish Picnic at Mary Immaculate on **September 30 from 11:00am-2:00pm**.



School Staff

Kindergarten

Mrs. Troup- FDK
Mrs. Howard ECE
Mrs. Sommers- FDK

Primary

Ms. Watt- Grade 1
Mrs. Cornelis - Grade 1/2
Ms. St. Pierre - Grade 2/3
Mrs. McNorgan - Grade 3

Junior

Ms. DaSilva- Grade 4
Ms. Smith - Grade 5/6
Mr. Lierman - Grade 6/7

Intermediate

Mr. Hewey - Grade 7/8
Mrs. Meijerink - Grade 8

French

Mme. Pirocchi-Bell
Mme. Walker

Music

Mrs. Walker

School Program Support Teacher

Ms. Woods
Ms. Estruch

Librarian

Mrs. Vanden Elzen
Ms. Mason

Support Staff

Mrs. Diver - E.A.
Ms. Hall - E.A.
Mrs. Smith - E.A.
Mrs. Torok - E.A.
Mr. Roes - E.A.
Mr. Hoffarth- E.A.
Ms. Chantler- E.A.

Office Staff

Ms. Abraham - Secretary
Mrs. McHardy- Principal

Custodian

Mr. Miller - Charge
Mrs. Miller - Evening

Noon Hour Assistants

Mrs. R. Rodriguez, (ESSS)
Mrs. Ford
Mrs. Miller

SCHOOL ACCESS

The London District Catholic School Board has equipped all their schools with cameras and equipment aimed at enhanced safety and security for students and staff.

For our school, this means doors will continue to be locked during and outside of school hours. We want to be sure parents/guardians are aware when you arrive at the school, you will be required to press the buzzer located at the front door. Our school Secretary, Principal or an adult will greet you, using the intercom, and invite you to sign in at the main office as per the school and Board procedures. At recess times and during lunch, there will be limited to no access to the school. Please make arrangements prior to these times. For those parents who require a pick up or need to deliver something for your child at lunch, we ask you do so by 11:30 a.m. Parents/guardians who need to pick up their children at lunch, should arrive at the school before 11:50 a.m. or after 12:50 p.m. to sign their children out of school. We do recognize that at times, emergencies come up and you may need to access the school during times when there are no adults to monitor the front door. In these cases, please call the school in the morning and make arrangements so that we can provide access to you. In order to access our Before and After School Program, please familiarize yourself with their drop-off/pick-up procedures. Parents with students have access to the program by the front gym doors.

Similar systems and policies are implemented all over Ontario. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to focus on the ongoing safety needs of our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Principal.

SCHOOL MASS

We will celebrate our first school Mass for the Feast Day of St. Robert at Mary Immaculate Church. Mass is on **September 19th @ 9:15am**. All families are welcome to join us for this school Mass!

ST. ROBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS A NUT AWARE SITE.

This means that PEANUTS AND ALL FORMS OF NUTS are not to be brought into the school in lunches or in snacks. The issue is a very important one as we have several students who are highly allergic to various nut products. In some cases this is life threatening. Please help us by ensuring your children DO NOT bring nut products to school. Please check labels carefully. There are now a number of "Nut Free" products from which to choose. We all need to do our part to keep our children safe!



EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

If your child has significant allergies or other health concerns, an Emergency Protocol must be established. Please contact the school directly to provide us with the necessary information regarding symptoms, required protocols and doctor information. This is very important and should be completed as quickly as possible. If your child requires an epipen or puffers for asthma, we need to have one located in the staffroom

(in addition to those located in the classroom) in case of emergency. Ryan's law (asthma) came into effect September 2015. For more information on Sabrina's Law (anaphylaxis), please visit:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/anaphylaxis.html>

AGENDAS

Agendas were ordered for this school year for all students in FDK-Grade 6-- thank you to our Parent Council for subsidizing the purchase of these. This is an important means of developing organizational skills and for teacher/home communication. Please read the student Code of Conduct at the front of the agenda.

PARKING LOT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Again this year, please be advised parent parking is provided at the church parking lot. Care must be taken, however, to leave the bus zone clear and look out for our students. Our parking spaces in front of the school are assigned for staff only. If you must drop your children off at the front of the school, please park on Crystal Crescent.

BIKING TO SCHOOL

Physical activity is certainly encouraged and we welcome students taking their bikes to school. However, the caution must be made that we have had bikes stolen from the front of the school in the past. Please be certain to provide adequate locking for them. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen bikes. Also, remind your child to walk their bikes through the playground when students are present.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

From time to time, teachers may allow students to bring in their own personal device for academic purposes. As parents, it is your choice to allow your child to bring these devices to school. Please be aware that the school is in no way responsible for these electronics. Your child should not share their devices, as unfortunately accidents do occur whereby damages/theft can cause duress to the owner. We make every attempt to lock these devices that are brought into the school however even these safety measures do cause losses which we are not responsible for. Thank you for understanding. We are truly blessed to have 30 Apple iPads, 10 Windows Surface, 4 HP Probooks and 14 Chromebooks for student use in the classroom!

SCHOOL BUSING

Only those students who have LDCSB permission to ride on the bus may do so. There is no opportunity to ride the bus if a student has not been previously approved. A note from parents will not be accepted; parents must contact "My Bus" link on the LDCSB webpage to make prior arrangements. Thank you.

VULNERABLE SECTOR SCREENING

Volunteer Police Check

Just a friendly reminder that all volunteers who help in the school, classroom, or class field trips will need a "Vulnerable Sector Screening". This is different from a standard

“Police Check”. The “Vulnerable Sector Screening” includes information from the RCMP database whereas the standard “Police Check” does not.

Once an original “Vulnerable Sector Screening Check” is on file volunteers will need an “Annual Declaration” in the years to follow which can be completed at the main office.

If you wish to volunteer in the school or help out on a field trip in the future and you do not have a “Vulnerable Sector Screening” check please ask the office for a personal letter to take with you to the local police department stating you wish to volunteer at St. Robert Catholic School. The office will provide you with such a letter that the police department requires if you are requesting “Vulnerable Sector Screening”. The process may take several weeks so if you wish to volunteer in September and you do not have a “Vulnerable Sector Screening” check you may wish to get this taken care of as soon as possible.

The requirement that all volunteers have an original “Vulnerable Sector Screening” check on file helps us to ensure all children are safe when in the care of a volunteer.

RULES AND REMINDERS AT ST. ROBERT

Hats are permitted however hats must be removed when entering the building. Gum is not allowed except for special occasions when approved by staff. A student dress code is in effect, please read the code of conduct (in agenda) or ask your classroom teacher!

CROSS COUNTRY

Students will begin preparing for the London District Catholic School Board’s Annual Cross Country Meet. It will take place on **Thursday, October 5th** at Regina Mundi College.

OUTDOOR RECESS

Recess time is an opportunity for students to gather with friends and take part in self-initiated play and encourage healthy opportunity for physical exercise. Recess periods are monitored by staff to ensure safe and courteous behaviour.

Unless exceptional circumstances prevail, all students are expected to go outside during recess periods as no supervision is provided indoors. Students who are too ill to go outside should remain at home until they are feeling better.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

On behalf of the St. Robert Catholic School Council, welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. Council’s main objective is to facilitate programs and activities that benefit and enhance the experience of our children throughout the school year. We hope that you have the opportunity to take part and enjoy the many social events and activities that Parent Council facilitates.

If you are interested in being part of Parent Council, please contact the office as soon as possible. Nomination forms can be picked up at the school office, please submit your intent by **Tuesday, September 12, 2017**.

INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

Every moment is a teachable, learning moment at St. Robert so we have protected this valuable time. The day will begin at 8:50 sharp; parents please note this time and ensure that your child is at school and ready to learn EVERY DAY. Every five or ten minutes lost to your child being late takes away valuable time to their learning. Thank you!

We will do our part to ensure that we are ready to receive students when yard supervision begins at 8:35 a.m. Staff will be at school prior to this time busily doing prep work, engaged in divisional planning meetings and getting their classrooms ready for the day. We value this dedication to their vocation and the extra effort they give to make St. Robert the best it can be. We also support your need to have open communication with the school. Please feel free to use your child's agenda to correspond with your classroom teacher/support staff or call the school if you would like to discuss an issue or to set up a meeting.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Again this year, student verification forms will be sent home starting this week. Please take a moment to review the information that the school has on file and update any information on the form. Each student will receive a form and we ask the signed forms be returned to the school by **Tuesday, September 26**. Thank you for your co-operation.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

We will be starting the Healthy School Snack Program on **Monday, October 2**. The program will run three days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the snacks will be distributed for the morning break. If there are any parents who are able to volunteer (please have your Vulnerable Volunteer Sector forms completed) for a few hours on a snack day, starting in October, please speak with Mrs. McHardy to set up a schedule. Thank you for your participation. Without our volunteers we are not able to provide this valuable service. Mrs. McHardy will have a Volunteer Parents Snack meeting/social with treats on **Tuesday, September 26th @ 9:00am** in our school library. NEW PARENTS are welcome! Thank you for joining a fun TEAM!

FUNDRAISING IN SEPTEMBER:

Our fundraising efforts start off with a bang on Tuesday, September 5. The catalogue 2017 JOY and order forms are being sent home with students. This campaign will run until **September 19**. Our magazine campaign will start in October. Thank you to everyone for your support of our efforts. The money raised goes towards purchasing additional items needed for our students.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

We will again be using Colledge Studios for our photos this year. Information pamphlets will be sent home. Photo day is **Tuesday, September 12.**

PARENT COUNCIL BINGOS

We sincerely thank Mr. Tony Villanueva who is our Bingo Chair of the Parent Council Bingos. We most definitely need parent volunteers for one or two Bingos per year. PLEASE consider helping us out! We are in need of 2-3 volunteers per BINGO- please contact the office if you can help out. All of the money raised from our BINGOs support our students!

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO THREATENING BEHAVIOUR: FAIR NOTICE and PROCESS

The LDCSB is committed to fostering safe, caring, inclusive, Christ centred learning environments where student, staff, parents and visitors feel safe. Please review the Fair Notice and Process on our school website under the Parents & Community link: <http://www.ldcsb.ca/Programs/safeschools/Pages>.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Although it is our hope that our students remain in the classes they are currently in, we do review our enrolment numbers and will keep you informed if the need arises to rearrange classrooms. Thank you for your understanding.

MEETINGS FOR SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

If your child is celebrating a sacrament this year please plan on attending one of the following meetings at Mary Immaculate:

Confirmation Meeting- September 17 at 12:30pm OR September 19 at 7:00pm.

Reconciliation/First Communion Meeting- September 24 at 12:30pm OR September 26 at 7:00pm.

