

Our Lady of the Annunciation CES

30 Bayswater Avenue
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4E 2L3

Please visit our website at www.ola.ycdsb.ca or follow us on Twitter @OLAnnunciation

September 2017 Newsletter

A Blessing for the Beginning of the School Year



Dear Lord,
as we begin this new school year,
we gather once again as your community of believers.
We thank you for the energy and the spirit that you renewed
in us through the summer months.
We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and
friends and to reflect on what is important in our lives.
Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that
with the inspiration of your Spirit,
we may continue to grow in our faith.
Amen



Welcome Back to all the families of **Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Elementary School** and a special welcome to all the new students and their families who are joining us this year. I am very pleased to welcome back the staff of OLA and welcome new teachers: **Mr. Mercuriano (Grade 8 LTO for Mrs. Thompson), Mr. Testani (Grade 7/8 LTO for Mrs. Alongi-Peluso), Mr. DelRosso (Gr. 6 LTO for Mrs. D'Agostini), Ms. Piccotti (Gr. 4/5 LTO for Mrs. Gabriel), Ms. Galloro (Core Resource), Mrs. Germinario (Phys. Ed.), Mr. Clayton (Music), and Mrs. Liang (Office Support)** to our talented team.

Together our parents, Fr. Peter our parish priest, and our OLA teachers and staff are enthusiastically looking forward to making this an exciting year for learning, nurturing relationships, and continued faith-building for children. We extend a special thank you to our **Trustees, Ann Stong and Dominic Mazzotta** and our **Superintendent, Mary Battista**, for their continued support and for representing us so well at the Board level.

Preparing a school for the beginning of a new school year takes the hard work and commitment of many people. I would like to thank our caretakers, **Mr. Turco and Mr. Lambert** for their hard work throughout the summer to ensure our school is in great condition to begin a new school year. **Mrs. Romano**, our secretary was extremely busy preparing for the upcoming school year. We thank her for her wonderful organizational skills.

At OLA, we will continue to encourage Catholic values to help our students grow as loving and faithful followers of Jesus Christ where respect is consistently demonstrated toward people of all ages, background, race, gender and beliefs. In partnership with Our Lady of Annunciation Church, we will foster the children's spiritual growth especially through the sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.

It is our vision to meet the needs of each individual child in our care. We have a very committed and hard working group of teachers who will be providing meaningful and productive opportunities for our students to learn the curriculum and beyond. This is so that your children, our students, may become responsible, successful citizens who are life-long learners that meet the challenges of the twenty-first century with know-how, persistence, and determination to meet their goals and desires. On behalf of the staff, we thank you for entrusting your children to our care. Communication between all partners in education is a priority at OLA. If at any time you have a question, concern or comment, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. She/he will be pleased to address issues that serve the best interests of your child. Also, please know that I am available should you have any questions or require assistance in any way.

At OLA, we have a very active, dynamic and hard-working **Catholic School Council** that works endlessly on behalf of our staff, students and parents. We appreciate all that Council does for us and we encourage all interested parents to get involved.

Please take some time during the first few weeks to establish homework routines with your child. In addition, we encourage you to read your child's agenda daily and ask your child about his/her learning each day. **Please familiarize yourself with our school website. We will update the calendar and news events regularly.** Finally, we will continue to use email to share information with families so please ensure that you provide us with your correct email address. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. L. D'Andrea
Principal

Richmond Hill Catholic School Trustees:

Ann Stong
Dominic Mazzotta
Superintendent of
Education - Area 4:
Mary Battista

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

97 King Road
Richmond Hill 905-773-5223
~ Father Peter Lackmanec~



Catholic Virtue: COURAGE
Catholic Graduate Expectation:
A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner.

- * *I will stand up for what I know is right and just.*
- * *I will face challenges, fears, and difficulty with fortitude.*
- * *I will take responsibility for reaching my potential.*

To report student absences/lates, please dial 1-855-856-7862 or visit <http://yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com>



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Mission Statement	Vision Statement	Core Values	Strategic Commitments												
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.	Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Excellence</td> <td>Equity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respect</td> <td>Integrity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Responsibility</td> <td>Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Empathy</td> <td>Respect</td> </tr> </table>	Excellence	Equity	Respect	Integrity	Responsibility	Trust	Empathy	Respect	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Improve Our School</td> <td>Enhance Leadership & Instruction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engage Our Parents</td> <td>Support Our Community</td> </tr> </table>	Improve Our School	Enhance Leadership & Instruction	Engage Our Parents	Support Our Community
Excellence	Equity														
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Engage Our Parents	Support Our Community														

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

Our Parish, School Masses and Sacramental Preparation

At OLA, we incorporate the Gospel values throughout the curriculum and in all that we do. We value the strong partnership the school has with Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, and our pastor, Father Peter. Together with the Church, we support parents in the faith formation of their children. With guidance from the Church, the school assists in the initial preparation of the students for the Sacraments. Parent meeting dates and the sacraments are established by the Church. For more information regarding Sacramental preparation, please contact **Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, 905 773-5223**.

At OLA, our children learn about the Mass, how to participate with the responses and songs that are part of the Liturgy, how they should behave during the Mass and the meaning of the parts of the Mass. We will gather as a school faith community to celebrate masses 4 times throughout the school year. We will also have special prayer celebrations throughout the year. Parents are welcome to join us for our Masses and Prayer Celebrations. **We will be celebrating our first Mass for this school year later this month. Mass dates will be communicated to you once established by Fr. Peter.**

Building a Character Community

YCDSB is a Character Community. Good character means the application of positive Catholic Virtues in our lifestyle, family life, work and play. The virtues that are featured on a monthly basis for emphasis are: courage, compassion, justice, hope, unity, wisdom, perseverance, reverence, responsibility, and honesty. Each month one virtue will be emphasized with the students through classroom activities, announcements, literature, and discussions. Ask your child which virtue they are learning about each month. We look forward to continuing to recognize students who exemplify the virtue of the month.

Student Voice

Throughout the year, the staff at OLA will provide a variety of opportunities for students to get involved in extra-curricular activities. Please encourage your child to choose an activity that will help build character and foster positive self-esteem. Some of the opportunities being offered this fall include:

- Cross Country Running OLA All Stars Team
- Terry Fox walk
- Intermediate Girls' and Boys' Volleyball
- ECO Club
- Student Government
- Tech Team
- Play Leaders
- Choir
- Luke 4:18

PARENT HANDBOOKS

Please visit the Board website at www.ycdsb.ca to review the 2017-2018 Parent Handbook. It contains information about the curriculum offered at each grade level and the Board policy information.



This year's picture day is Tuesday, September 26th. Bring along your smiles!!

Election Nominations for our 2017-2018 Catholic School Council

Our Catholic School Council is passionate about contributing to the important health and well-being of the entire OLA community. A hard working group of parents representing our school comes together to support learning in many different ways. By way of example, members of our Council and the volunteers who support their committees, organize weekly hot lunches for our students, fundraise, host sacramental celebrations, support our many social justice projects and above all, provide constant feedback to us to help support the academic, social and spiritual aspects of our school. **We invite all parents to consider becoming a member of the OLA Catholic School Council.**

Your active participation can only serve to enhance all the wonderful things that happen in our school. The nomination form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill it in and let your name stand for election on the Our Lady of the Annunciation CSC for the 2017/18 school year. Nominations must be submitted to the office by **Friday, September 15th**. We look forward to your involvement! **Please join us for our CSC Meeting on Tuesday, September 19th at 7 p.m.**

Our OLA Learning Community

Introducing the 2017-2018 Staff at Our Lady of the Annunciation

Junior/Senior Kindergarten	Mrs. T. Pianezza
Junior/Senior Kindergarten	Mrs. P. Sansalone
Grade 1	Mrs. G. Avolio
Grade 1/2	Mrs. T. Mastrogiacommo
Grade 2	Mrs. J. Tesolin
Grade 3	Mrs. L. Babic
Grade 4	Ms. M. McGarvey
Grade 4/5	Ms. J. Gabriel (LTO Ms. E. Piccotti)
Grade 5/6	Mrs. D'Agostini (LTO Mr. Del Rosso)
Grade 6	Mrs. Carinci
Grade 7	Ms. U. Kazemi
Grade 7/8	Mrs. Alongi-Peluso (LTO—Mr. J. Testani)
Grade 8	Mrs. P. Thompson (LTO Mr. Mercuriano)
Intermediate Support	Mrs. Thompson
ISA	Mrs. J. Farrell
Teacher Librarian	Mrs. L. DeFina
Physical Education	Ms. P. Heinrich
Physical Education	Mrs. A. Germinario
French	Mme. P. Guillemain
French	Mme S. Turchiaro

R.E.C.E.	Ms. M. Dey
ESL	Ms. L. De Acetis
Core Resource	Mrs. M. Cipriani
Core Resource	Ms. A. Galloro
Music	Mr. Clayton
Music	Ms. E. Vivas
Educational Assistant	Mrs. E. Beko
Educational Assistant	Mr. W. Shea-Carter
Educational Assistant	Mrs. V. vanHoogmoed
Educational Assistant	Ms. T. Heffernan
Head Custodian	Mr. U. Turco
Custodian	Mr. Lambert
Lunch Time Supervisor	Mrs. Plavins
Lunch Time Supervisor	Mrs. Servidone
Lunch Time Supervisor	Mrs. Porcelli
Lunch Time Supervisor	Ms. Jasmine
Senior Secretary	Mrs. S. Romano
Lunch Time Support	Mrs. N. Liang
Principal	Mrs. L. D'Andrea



OLA is a standardized dress school and that means all students must come to school dressed in a white, navy or light blue top and navy or khaki pants. No jeans are permitted.

Spirit Wear will be available for purchase this fall. Stay tuned for more information!

Please note that Spirit Wear may be worn every day of the week. Spirit wear includes hoodies, sweat shirts, long and short sleeve tees, track pants, shorts, hats and a gym bag.

Re-juvenation of the OLA Butterfly Garden

You may recall that last year our ECO team was awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from TD Friends for the Environment to re-juvenate our butterfly garden. The work was completed this summer and students will begin to enjoy the outdoor space. New logs surround a beautiful garden with native plants that attract butterflies. The beautiful service berry tree will provide shade during the hot, summer months. The smaller benches will be used to play Tic-Tac-Toe. Teachers will bring classes outdoor for specific lessons related to the environment and to support positive mental health and well-being. A very special thank you to Mrs. Jennifer Deitrich for submitting the application form on behalf of the Healthy Schools Committee and to Madame Turchiaro for her assistance and motivation. Please come for a visit to see our beautiful garden.



Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

Curriculum Night

Thursday, September 14th, 2017 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Come out, tour our school and visit your child's classroom. This is a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher and become informed about the expectations and curriculum for the upcoming year. It is an excellent way to begin this year of learning as an informed partner with your child's teacher. Please remember that this evening is not for Parent-Teacher interviews. Specific concerns or questions regarding your child's progress should be addressed through a call or a meeting. Simply contact the teacher to make an appointment.



School Times

School begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Students and parents are reminded that each student has a responsibility to be on time. Arriving late disturbs the other students, interferes with the program and centers attention on a latecomer. **Please help us teach the value of "being on time"**. If lateness continues, the Attendance Counselor will be contacted.

9:00 a.m.	Entry
10:25-10:40 a.m.	Recess
12:00-12:20 p.m.	Lunch
12:20-1:00 p.m.	Lunch Recess
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon begins
2:25-2:40 p.m.	Recess
3:30 p.m.	Dismissal



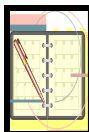
School Yard Supervision

Our Lady of the Annunciation staff have been assigned school yard and driveway supervision duties. Please help the staff in ensuring a safe and protected environment for all children. **Please allow your child (ren) to proceed to the back of the school yard alone.** This provides the student with confidence and independence. In addition, this allows staff on yard duty to more readily spot any strangers. Morning supervision begins at 8:45 a.m. so please do not have students arrive at school before this time. Please note that all staff and supply staff on duty will be wearing **orange sashes** so that students can easily identify the supervisor on duty. Also this will assist us in quickly spotting any strangers on our playground. These steps are all taken for the **safety** of the OLA students.



OLA Student Agenda

The students from Grades 1 to Grade 8 will continue to use the agenda books designed specifically for YCDSB students. This planner will assist students to develop organizational skills, track homework and provide another method of ongoing communication between the home and school. Many students require explicit instruction and on-going support in order to make the use of the agenda a successful routine. The consistent use of the Student Agenda Book provides an excellent planning and learning tool for success. The cost of this year's agenda is **\$6.00 per student**. All other learning materials will be provided to cover the overall expectations of the curriculum. Individual classroom/subject teachers may send home a note informing you of voluntary enhancements available for students to purchase.



OSR (Ontario Student Record)

The OSR is the ongoing confidential record of a student's educational progress through schools in Ontario. The collection of this information is authorized by the Education Act. An OSR is established for each student in an elementary or secondary school that is operated by a public or separate school board in Ontario. A student's OSR is filed in the office of the student's school. If a student transfers to another school in Ontario, his or her OSR folder and all its contents are transferred to the new school. Should a parent/guardian wish to review their child's OSR they can make an appointment with the principal.

Please be advised that Monday, September 25, 2017 is a PA Day. There will be no school for students as staff will participate in faith related activities.

Standardized Dress Code

OLA has implemented a SDC. This is not a school uniform but it is a standardized dress code decided upon in May 2013 by the OLA SDC committee. **Please refer to the school website for a description of the standardized dress code.** All students are expected to dress in clean, neat and practical clothing. Parents/guardians capable judgment is relied upon in complying with the SDC and sending students to school dressed accordingly. Spirit wear may be worn every day of the week.

Indoor Shoes:

Students in all grades require indoor and outdoor shoes. Indoor shoes should have non-marking soles. Students change to outdoor shoes for every recess. This reduces dirt, mud and snow inside and helps keep our school and air clean.

Engaging Our Communities

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) impact how schools, staff and school councils communicate electronically to parents. CASL prohibits the sending of any type of electronic message that is commercial in nature (e.g., registration fees, pizza days, field trips, fundraising, etc.) unless the recipient has provided specific and informed consent. CASL does not apply to electronic information messages or to hard copy formats. To subscribe or unsubscribe to commercial electronic messages, parents should visit the school website, and using the link provided, submit a valid email address.

Visitors to the School

Parent/guardian volunteers and visitors are welcome to our school. In the interests of safety and to prevent interruptions to classes, all visitors, including parents/guardians, must report to the office first when entering the school. To ensure the safety of all occupants in the building, it is important that the students and staff know that you are an approved visitor. **If you are dropping something off for your child or a teacher, you are asked to leave it at the office.** Delivered lunches are to be dropped off at the table provided outside the office for students to pick up at 12:00. **Students ARE NOT permitted to come out to the driveway to pick up their lunch.** These procedures contribute to the security of the school and are conducive to a safe and academic atmosphere. (Policy 611)

Student Independence

If you walk or drive your children to school, please direct them to the proper play area where a teacher will be on supervision. **No adults, except supervisors (identified by sashes), are allowed in the playground behind the school or in the kindergarten yard.** This helps to develop independence and also supports our policy regarding visitors to the school. Parents picking up children at the end of the day are asked to meet them at an agreed upon meeting spot. This will help facilitate an orderly and safe dismissal.

The Protection of Anaphylactic Students

The York Catholic District School Board has a comprehensive policy to help protect students with life threatening allergies. Protecting anaphylactic students from exposure to life threatening substances creates a major challenge to all elementary schools.

As outlined in the policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies immediately and are required to fill in **S15** and **S15a** forms which are available in the office. Each form must have a passport size picture attached so that the student is easily identifiable to staff. Parents are also asked to ensure that students for whom Epi-Pens are prescribed, have two Epi-Pens at school. Twin-jet Epi-Pens are ***not acceptable*** for school use. One Epi-Pen **must be worn by the student in a fanny pack at all times, which includes on the bus, on excursions, and on all other school related activities/sports.** The other Epi-Pen must be stored in the school office for emergency use only. This Epi-Pen will also be taken on trips.

The following are avoidance strategies we will be implementing at Our Lady of the Annunciation to help keep all our students safe.



- ◆ We will continue with our "nut safe" school environment via food restrictions. Students will be informed of and reminded that they are not to share food. The school environment includes entire school grounds, buses and other modes of transportation, school trips, before/after school/weekend programs, and school sanctioned events involving pupils.
- ◆ We will prohibit food outdoors to minimize exposure to insects (i.e. wasps, etc.).
- ◆ We will continue to communicate regularly to the entire school community that we are a "nut safe" school via newsletters, and posting of "nut safe" signs throughout the school.
- ◆ We will take special precautions around holidays and special celebrations, by planning activities that ensure the health and safety of our students. No cakes, cupcakes, muffins, donuts, and the like, will be allowed in the school for birthday recognition purposes. If parents are wishing to send in a "treat", non-edible treats (stickers, pencils, etc.) are encouraged.
- ◆ We will continue to ensure that all products sold through the school for fundraising or other wise are nut safe, as well as being in keeping with the Food and Beverage Policy.

We will continue to ensure that permit holders, visitors and all school staff are aware of these precautions.

Engaging Our Communities



Administration of Medication

If your child requires prescription drugs, please check with your doctor about the possibility of prescribing medication that could be taken before school and/or after your child returns home. If your child is required, in the opinion of the child's physician, to take medication at school, it is the Board's policy that parents/guardians submit a completed Administration of Medication form (S-16) to the school with the medication. Do not send medication to school with your child without notifying the school and completing the form. Medication must be kept locked in the office, in its original container with your child's name clearly marked on it. (Policy 207)

Lunch Routine

A lunch routine form is to be completed for the school by parent/guardian, one form for each child. Students remaining for lunch eat in their classrooms and prepare for recess for the first twenty minutes of the lunch period (12:00-12:20). During the lunch hour, (12:00-1:00 p.m.) these students are to remain on school property. For safety reasons we ask that students **NOT** bring in parent notes requesting us to let students visit local stores or restaurants at lunch time. If your child's lunch time routine changes, a note signed by parent/guardian will be required at that time and for EACH such occasion and sent to your child's teacher. Students will not be permitted to use the phone to change lunch arrangements, please plan ahead at home.

Students are expected to arrive at school with their lunch and snacks in the morning. However, at times you may need to deliver a lunch to school. Please keep this to a minimum, for emergency or special occasions. **Parents dropping lunches off are asked to please inform your child ahead of time to pick up their lunch from the lunch table outside the office.** Please label lunches with your child's name and teacher's name.



Bussed Students

The front driveway is reserved for buses until approximately 3:40 p.m. Bused students are dismissed through their grade doors of the school at 3:30 p.m. to safely board the busses. Staff supervise students until all busses leave the school.

Locked Door Policy

The school doors are kept locked at all times. Visitors must use the "buzzer" and identify themselves. Child Care parents are to use the child care entrance. This is for the safety of all.

Walkers and Students Who are Driven

Walkers and students picked up by car are dismissed through their grade **doors** at 3:30 p.m. Please establish a meeting place with your children.

Parents /Caregivers Who Pick Up By Car

A very important reminder- the parking lot will be open for the Kiss and Ride program every morning from 8:45a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

You can help make the Kiss and Ride program even more successful by following these simple steps:

- Never leave your car parked or unattended
- Your child(ren) should have their backpack on their lap to enable them to exit the vehicle quickly
- Have your children exit on the sidewalk side of your car



Transportation-Busing

Transportation is provided for students who reside within the transportation zone established by the Board. Busing is a service provided by the Board. As with any service, there are expectations upon which its use is conditional. Students must adhere to proper bus conduct and follow guidelines established by the driver and school to ensure the safety of all. Riding the bus is a privilege. Students must take the bus they are assigned to each day, switching buses is **NOT** permitted for safety reasons. Non bus students are **NOT** permitted to ride the bus, make any necessary arrangements at home, ahead of time for after school activities. Please be aware that any changes to transportation schedules cannot be made through the school. Requests or questions are to be directed to Student Transportation Services at 905-713-2535, not YCDSB, or accessing the following internet address, **www.schoolbuscity.com**



Engaging Our Communities

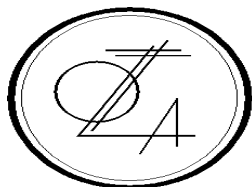
Electronic Devices

Cell phones/IPODS etc., no electronic devices are permitted to be used at school during school time, that is from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. unless they are being used under the supervision of students for the purpose of curriculum. If students choose to bring these devices to school and they are stolen or lost, the school is not responsible. Cameras should never be brought to school, except for special events, with the teacher's knowledge and permission. If these devices are used during school time and are visible, the items will be kept at the office until a parent is notified.



Safe and Responsible Use of Technology

The YCDSB strives to provide its students and staff members with current technology to access curriculum resources, enhance communication and gather information. At OLA, we are fortunate to have computers and internet access in our classrooms and in the library. Use of the Internet provides staff and students the tool to access information globally. Students need to understand how technology can be a wonderful tool, when used safely, so that they gain the knowledge and technological skills that they will need in the future. **All parents/guardians must sign an "Information Technology Student Acceptable Use Agreement" form prior to allowing students access to the Internet.** Please discuss the attached form with your child, sign it to indicate your support for student use of technology at OLA, and return it to your child's teacher. (Policy 220)



OLA School Website and Twitter Feed

The Our Lady of the Annunciation website is updated regularly. The website design is easy to navigate and features the school's prominent information such as our contact information, SAFE ARRIVAL—Student Absence Reporting, bullying reporting feature, calendar, transportation, and school forms on the home page. The **Our School** section has also been updated to include our timetable, boundary map, child care information, dress code, and a link to our EQAO results. In addition, our Twitter feed is featured on the home page of the website. Please visit our school website at <http://ola.ycdsb.ca> often to learn more about the wonderful activities and initiatives taking place at OLA!

Phone Calls

We would like to remind parents that students will be allowed to use the phone in emergency situations only. Please make arrangements at home for after school activities, pick up times and forgotten projects or homework assignments.



Communication with Teachers

When a parent wishes to speak with or arrange a meeting with a teacher, please contact the school to leave a message for the teacher. The teacher will contact you as soon as possible to make an appointment and/or address your concern.



Emergency Procedures Forms

Your child's emergency form will be sent home later this week for you to verify that the information is correct and accurate. Please make any changes if needed and/or sign and return it to your child's teacher.

Lost Items and Valuables

No matter how vigilant we are, clothing and possessions do go missing. Check the Lost & Found area! To avoid confusion, please take a moment to label your child's clothing. Valuables, which include costly toys, jewelry and all electronic devices **must not** be brought to school due to the potential for loss, damage, or theft.

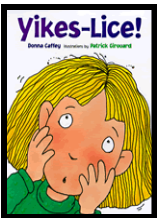


Engaging Our Communities

Volunteers



Vulnerable Sector Screening: It is our Board's practice that all volunteers hold a valid Vulnerable Sector Screening (Police Check). The purpose of this is, of course, to ensure the safety of students, staff and community members. There are some exceptions to this requirement that may be considered: the volunteer is always in the presence of school staff, the volunteer is never alone with students and is not in a position of trust or responsibility. The volunteer is directed not to use student washrooms or change rooms. Situations in which we will require volunteers to get a VSS are: Volunteers driving students on trips, to sport events, etc, volunteers on school trips that require them to be alone with a small group of children, or situations that require the volunteer to be completely alone with a student. We truly value the assistance of all of our volunteers and we hope that you will continue to work with us and support our efforts to ensure the safety of all our children. Ensuring a strong home school partnership are the keys to success for our children. If you are interested in volunteering in a classroom or supporting pizza lunches and milk program, please speak to your child's teacher. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



HELP PREVENT HEAD LICE!

Each year, cases of pediculosis (head lice) are found throughout our schools. In an effort to reduce the numbers of cases found and decrease the inconvenience to parents/guardians and students, we request your assistance. As your child is now returning to school after a long holiday, please inspect his/her hair and scalp for pediculosis. Periodic inspections during the year will help prevent the spread of head lice. Head lice are tiny (1/8" or 3mm long) wingless insects with flattened bodies. They cling to the hair by means of six legs. They live mostly behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. The female lays tiny, yellowish-white eggs called nits. They resemble dandruff but are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are very difficult to remove. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first. If head lice are found, do not return your child to school until treated. This will prevent the spread of pediculosis. Children are only allowed to re-enter the class when all the nits are removed from the hair. For more information, please call the Public Health Nurses at York Region Health Services Health Connection line, 1-800-363-5653, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30pm

Environmental Committee News

The environmental committee is excited about launching yet another year of environmental initiatives. We are so proud to announce that we were awarded **PLATINUM ECO-SCHOOL RE-CERTIFICATION** in June! Congratulations to our ECO Squad for all of their hard work in helping us gain Platinum Status for the first time. This year we are looking forward to maintaining the strong environmental awareness that OLA students have and we will strive to become even more "green". Our environment is very precious and it needs our help to protect it and make sure it is available for us all to enjoy. To start the school year all the staff, students and parents are asked to work together to demonstrate this respect by:

- bringing boomerang snacks and lunches (using reusable lunch containers or bringing home all left over food and garbage)
- participating in a full recycling program within the school
- turning "lights and screens off" for electronics when not in use (energy conservation)
- avoiding extended idling during pick up and drop off of the children

As well, we will appoint two eco-monitors from each classroom along with an eco-executive to act as environmental ambassadors throughout the school. We are also looking for a parent volunteer to join our committee. This individual will be a valuable asset especially with our school greening project. All interested parents are asked to contact Mrs. D'Andrea for further information.



Engaging Our Communities

Safe Arrival Absence Reporting Procedure

At Our Lady of the Annunciation, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day.

Please be informed that parents must report student absences prior to bell time for the current day, as well as future absences via the internet or telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information including the telephone number and website for “Safe Arrival” can be found on the Home Page of OLA’s website: ola.ycdsb.ca. In order to report your child(ren)’s absence, you are required to access our Safe Arrival program. The *Safe Arrival* program allows parents and guardians to report their child’s absence in advance, or before bell time for the current day in one of three ways:

Toll Free Number: 1-855-856-7862

Website: <http://yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com>

SafeArrival APP on a mobile device

Note: Parents and guardians with email addresses on file will be emailed information on the use of the Safe Arrival system.

All methods will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Therefore future absences may be reported ahead of time, i.e.; appointment, etc. This Safe Arrival reporting procedure is in place for York Catholic Elementary schools. If you have children at a York Catholic Secondary school, please follow that school's absence reporting procedures.

As part of this program, we also use an automated notification system that will contact parents and guardians who have not reported their child absent. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after the required amount of time, office staff will follow up. By reporting your child absent in advance or before bell time using the Safe Arrival 1-855 number or Safe Arrival Parent Portal website, you will not receive a call.

If any of your contact information changes, please contact our school office immediately with the updated details.

Should you have any questions in regards to the Safe Arrival program, please do not hesitate to contact the office.



Engaging Our Communities

Drop Off and Pick Up

Our first and foremost commitment is to provide a safe environment for almost 600 students and we ask that all drivers —whether dropping students off or simply commuting to work—drive with particular care in and around the school.

Given the traffic congestion challenges associated with having hundreds of students dropped in our Kiss and Ride each day, we would once again encourage you to walk your child to and from school whenever possible. Parents and guardians who drive your children to school, we would ask you to please abide by the following:

- approach the school patiently, with consideration for pedestrian traffic, other drivers, and the staff on duty
- our Kiss and Ride loop is in front of the school; drive cautiously all the way to the end of the driveway close to the field area, drop your child off and proceed around the loop back onto Bayswater Avenue.
- when dropping off a child (or children), drivers are asked to pull into the furthest available curbside spot and take care when merging back into the inner driving lane; no student should be dropped off from the inner driving lane and subsequently walk between vehicles
- at no time should a vehicle be left unattended or otherwise parked in the Kiss and Ride
- If you wish to walk your child to the gate, please park in a parking spot. Do not block the bus loading zone.
- kindergarten students should be dropped off at the gate by the kindergarten enclosure
- For students who take the bus to school, please ensure that your child is at the bus stop in advance of the time given to you on the school bus website. Be patient, as the buses are sometimes delayed by traffic. More information about bus routes and times can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com. Parents and guardians, it is important to remember your child's bus number and pick-up and drop-off time

Terra Cotta Cookies and Ice Dawg Sales

Our Lady of the Annunciation is glad to provide our students with Peanut and Nut Free cookies or Ice Dawgs each week. They were a big hit last year! The cookies will be offered at lunch on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**. Students from grades JK – 8 will be offered the opportunity to purchase cookies from Terra Cotta Cookie Sales at **\$1.00 each or an Ice Dawg for \$2.00**. The cookies are large and individually wrapped and the flavours include Chocolate Chip Delite, Casey Delite and Fudge Chip Delite. The Ice Dawgs are two chocolate chip cookies with vanilla icecream in between. Terra Cotta Cookies have reformulated their DeLite cookies to comply with the Ministry of Education Food & Beverage Policy 150. A copy of the Nutrition Facts form is available on our website for your information. Monies collected will be directed towards purchasing new sports jerseys as well as Grade 8 graduation.





September 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>Labour Day</i>	5 <i>Welcome Back to School</i> 	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 <i>Curriculum Night 7 pm—8 pm</i> 	15 <i>Civics Day Permission Forms and CSC Nomination Forms Due</i>	16
17	18	19 <i>Catholic School Council Meeting 7 pm All are welcome</i>	20	21	22 <i>Emergency Forms and FOI Forms Due</i>	23
24	25 <i>PA Day</i>	26 <i>Picture Day</i> 	27	28 <i>Terry Fox Run "Toonie for Terries"</i>	29 <i>Civics Day</i>	30