



# Home of the Cardinals!

September 2018 Newsletter

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Welcome back!

Let me begin by expressing how blessed I feel to be the principal of Pope Francis Elementary School! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome those families who are new to our school and those families who have children previously enrolled at our school. I hope that you will take a look at our school site regularly, and sign up for our email service in which you will receive monthly newsletters and other important information as needed. Pope Francis Elementary School is fortunate to inherit a rich history from Sacred Heart and St. Paul and we look forward to celebrating our 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary during the 2018-19 school year.

The entire staff considers it a privilege to educate your children in our Catholic School system. As such, we know that your support as parents is essential to your child's success. For the benefit of your child we need to work collaboratively together.

We are very fortunate to work with the staff of Sacred Heart Parish. This relationship allows our students to connect directly with the church and our faith. We are looking forward to working under the guidance and direction of Father John Lemire, as our school priest. Our students at Pope Francis Elementary School will have many opportunities to realize their full potential to transform God's world. Our spiritual theme for this year is "By Our Works, We Show Our Faith," (James 2: 16 - 18).

Our goal at Pope Francis is to ensure the highest levels of achievement for all of our students (academically, spiritually, socially and physically) by working and learning together. We look forward to an exciting year at Pope Francis Elementary School enriching our partnership with the church, the home and the community. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Yours in faith and education,

Mr. D. Berthier,  
Principal

# Pope Francis Elementary School Staff for 2018 – 2019

*Success for each and a place for all!*

**Principal** - Mr. Berthier

## **Teaching and Classroom Staff**

English Program

FDK 1 – Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Kirkland

FDK 2 – Mrs. Bernard

Grade 1 – Mrs. Byberg

Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Kernick

Grade 2 – Mrs. Doyle

Grade 3 – Mrs. Bonhomme

Grade 4 – Mrs. Penna

Resource Teacher – Miss Young

Itinerant teachers – Mr. Garon, Mr. Hudon and Miss Kos

French Immersion Program

FDK 1 – Mme Guevremont and Mme Tambeau

FDK 2 – Mme Vetter and Mme Paquette

Grade 1 – Mme Vallier

Grade 2 – Mme Baker

Grade 3 – Mme Demarell

Grade 4 – Mme Saudino

Resource Teacher – Mme Savard

## **Support Staff**

### **Educational Assistants**

Mrs. Maille

Mrs. Toner

Miss Murray

Mme Quesnel

Mrs. Last

Mrs. Leroux

### **Child and Youth Worker**

Mrs. Brazeau

### **Secretaries**

Mrs. Cheff

Mrs. Belisle (12:30 to 3:30)

### **Custodians**

Mr. Bernard

Mr. Bedard

## **OUR SCHOOL DAY**

8:50 - Entry & Opening Exercises

10:00-10:15 - Morning Recess

11:35-12:05 - Lunch Recess

12:55-12:35 - Lunch Inside

1:55-2:10 - Afternoon Recess

3:20 – Dismissal

As a safety issue, we would like to remind you that the supervision of the school yard does not begin until 8:30 a.m. It would be best if students who walk or are dropped off at school do not arrive to school before then.

## Monthly Virtue: Gratitude

**The Importance of Gratitude:** The choice to be grateful is not always without effort. Gratitude is the virtue that makes us aware and appreciate the gifts we receive each day. One quote for this virtue “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad” (Psalm 118:24) will be the foundation of our work. To express thankfulness is a simple way to share our faith as it fills our hearts with a readiness to cherish all that we have.



In this age of consumerism and the “me-centered” focus of today’s culture, we must refrain from feelings of self-entitlement. Materialism and consumerism prevent us from enjoying and being appreciative of all that we have. We cannot think that we have a right to demand without giving anything in return and without giving thanks for all we are.

## Student Information Forms

Please review the form, make any necessary changes directly on the form and return it to school with your child by **September 21<sup>st</sup>**. It is VERY important that we have updated contact information as well as the completed section labelled “Consent Information”. If you have not received this form by the end of the second week of September, inform the office and we will send a form home with your child.

## Medical Concerns

Should your child have a severe allergy, a serious medical condition or require medication to be administered at school (even if occasionally), the appropriate information and Dispensation of Medication forms must be completed according to NCDSB policy. Please contact the school office at your earliest convenience to complete the necessary forms.

## Catholic School Parent Council

The time has come to choose the parent/guardian representatives for the Catholic School Council at Pope Francis Elementary School. The Catholic School Council provides parents with the opportunity to become more involved in the life of the school. It allows you to give feedback to the school, present your views or ideas to improve the students’ experience at school and involves you in the discussion of educational issues. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact the school by the end of the school day on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Student Attendance

The Education Act states that students must attend school regularly and be punctual. It is imperative for the safety of students that parents please call the school if your child is absent.

If a child has not arrived at school and a phone call or a note has not been received, the secretary will attempt to alert parents by telephone at home or at your place of employment, if necessary.

When a pupil returns to school, he/she should find out what work was missed and complete it within a reasonable amount of time, as decided by the teacher. Extended periods of absence for reasons other than health, require permission of the principal.

## Punctuality

All students are expected to be punctual and to adhere to the school hours. They should quickly be seated and ready for morning activities. Attendance is taken daily. Students who are late for a valid reason must bring a note. They are to report to the office where their time of arrival and reason for being late will be recorded at the office. They will be issued a late slip, which will be necessary for admission to class.

Persistent tardiness and absences may result in a discussion, consultation or other consequence perhaps involving parents/guardians, school board attendance counsellor, etc.

### **Visitors to the school:**

One of our greatest concerns throughout the school year is the safety and security of your children while at school. School staff should always know who is on school premises.

All visitors to the school (parents included) are asked to report to the office upon entering the school and **not proceed** to your child's classroom. When picking up your child during school hours, please report to the office to sign your child out. Please wait in the front foyer after signing your child out and do not go to your child's classroom.

### **Picture Day:**

Picture Day is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>. The picture package information will be sent home as soon as the school gets it.

### **Weekly Communication Folders**

We will once again be using the weekly communication folder system so that critical information and newsletters make it home. Each Wednesday, your child's teacher will send home information from the office, permission forms, newsletters, community flyers, tests to sign, completed work, etc. Simply complete your part of the tracker, sign items which need to be returned to school, remove all other items and send the communication folder back to school on Thursday morning. As the year progresses, we hope to decrease the amount of paper sent home; we are planning to have information available on our school website. It can be accessed by going to [www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca) – click on “our Catholic Schools”, then “Pope Francis Elementary School”. You can also find us on facebook. Be sure to check your child's bag each Wednesday. We are also in the process of having a school twitter account. Stay tuned for more details.

### **Closing Message:**

**"Everything is God's to give and to take away, so share what you've been given, and that includes yourself."** Mother Teresa

### **Upcoming Events**

September 21<sup>st</sup> - All forms and agenda money are due back to the school.

September 25<sup>th</sup> - Commissioning Ceremony

September 26<sup>th</sup> - Parent Council Expression of Interest

September 28<sup>th</sup> - Terry Fox Walk “Anything is possible if you try” - \$1.00 Donation per student

### **Contact Information**

Principal: Mr. Berthier (705) 264-5869

Superintendent: Mrs. Brumwell (705) 268-7443

Board website: [www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca)