



## ***Student Agenda 2018-2019***

**485 Thorndale Dr.  
Waterloo, Ontario  
N2T 1W5**

**Phone: (519) 747-9005  
Fax: (519) 747-3955**

**Bell Times 8:20am – 2:50pm**

<https://holyrosary.wcdsb.ca/>

**School Parish - Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Phone: (519) 886-0342**

***Learning, growing and transforming the world together as faithful  
Disciples of the Risen Lord.***

**This Agenda belongs to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understood the contents of the Holy Rosary School Handbook. I will live up to the expectations outlined for me.**

**Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**

**We have read and understood the contents of the Holy Rosary School Handbook.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Holy Rosary Staff  
2018-2019**

**Principal – Lori Tait**

**Early Years Teachers & ECEs**

Doreen Msuya & Christie Braendle  
April Taves & Danielle Fedy  
Teresa Pereira

**Primary Division Teachers**

Lyndsay O'Halloran  
MaryLou Micheli  
Marianne Lidster  
Shayna Fried/Tawnya Dosman  
Sonya Tojeira

**Junior Division Teachers**

Tracey Schnarr  
Lisa Bourque  
Caroline Sottile  
Colleen Lavigne

**Intermediate Division Teachers**

Les Robelek  
Butch Weiler  
Michael Huemiller  
John Nahrgang

**French Teachers**

Alec Campbell, Heidi Vanstone

**Special Education Teacher**

Andrew Gordon

**Planning Time Teachers**

Donna McLellan, Bridgette Webster

**Itinerant Planning teachers**

Dan Kelley, Natalie Kroetsch

**Educational Assistants / Child and Youth Worker**

Racquel Marchand (CYCW), Sharon Szymkowski,  
Nella Gibson, Jennifer Putnam, Deb Sampson,  
Gwen Startek; Kim Prpic

**Library Technician**

Anne Woodrow

**Lunch Hour Supervisors**

Lisa Mueller & Maria Carvajal-Grajales

**Secretary**

Charlotte Hopkins/Berta Santarossa

**Custodians**

Wally Werner, Kim Lovell, Keaton Jones

**Critical Dates for 2018 – 2019**

Sept. 3	Labour Day
Sept. 4	First Day of School
Sept. 13	Open House
Sept. 21	P.A. Day
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving Monday
Oct. 26	P.A. Day
Nov. 16	P.A. Day
Dec. 7	P.A. Day
Dec. 24- Jan. 7	Christmas Break
Jan. 25	P.A. Day
Feb. 18	Family Day
Mar. 11– 15	March Break
April 12	P.A. Day
April 19	Good Friday
April 22	Easter Monday
May 20	Victoria Day
May 31	P.A. Day
June 28	Last day of School

**School Hours**

School starts at 8:20. It is important that the students arrive on time for school. Teachers supervise the playground starting at 8:05 every morning. It is imperative that students DO NOT arrive at school earlier than this because they would be unsupervised. Lunch hour occurs from 11:05-12:05. We have recess from 9:30-9:45 and 1:25-1:40 every day. Dismissal is at 2:50 p.m. All students will be expected to go outside for all recesses so that they can get some exercise and fresh air. If a student needs to remain inside the school at recess, a doctor's note stating the reason must be submitted to the school. On occasion, teachers may choose to have a student stay inside to complete work.

**School Motto**

**“I am My Choices”**

This is a philosophy, a decision-making tool and a guiding principle for a successful life. Quite simply it means that you become your choices or at least a reflection of the choices that you make. If you do good things, then good things will happen to you and for you. If you work hard in school and are a respectful, friendly, caring and positive person you will certainly find academic and lifelong success, you will have great friends and your community will have a great image of you in their minds. If you make poor choices there are negative consequences; you may not achieve the grades that you or your parents' desire, you might experience social difficulties and you may find yourself in trouble at school, at home or in the community.

## ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

Learning in Catholic schools...is not merely an intellectual quest, but a spiritual one as well. In Catholic education, all of life is viewed as an affair not only of the mind, but also, of the spirit. The expectations of graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of skills and content, but in terms of values and attitudes as well. (*Educating the Soul*)

**Catholic Curriculum in all program areas and at all grade levels must directly contribute to our Catholic students' achievement of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Educators in Catholic schools will use these expectations to make curriculum decisions concerning program planning, instructional strategies and authentic assessment and evaluation.**

1. **A discerning believer** formed in the Catholic faith community who celebrates the signs and mystery of God's presence through liturgy, sacrament, prayer, reflection and moral living.
2. **An effective communicator** who communicates honestly and sensitively and responds critically in light of gospel values as reflected in church teachings.
3. **A reflective, creative and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience.
4. **A self-directed responsible lifelong learner**, who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential, influences change in a discerning manner for the service of the whole community, the church and society.
5. **A collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work, which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
6. **A caring family member** who ministers to family, school, parish, and community.
7. **A responsible citizen** who witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

## Code of Conduct

### Community Expectations & Responsibilities for Young Learners

#### Rationale:

We will create an environment of caring by providing a Christ-based centre of respect that will further enhance the spiritual, liturgical and sacramental life of each student.

"Deep down, we are all learners. Not only is it our nature to learn, but we love to learn. Learning flourishes in a caring environment. Most of us, at one time or another have been part of a great 'team', a group of people who functioned together in an extraordinary way-who trusted one another, who complimented each others' strengths and compensated for each others' limitations, who had common goals that were larger than individual goals and who produced extraordinary results. "

Peter Senge  
The Fifth Discipline

A caring environment requires structures to guide, support and protect it. Together, the parents, students and staff at Holy Rosary Catholic School have developed these guidelines to form the basis of our Community Expectations and Responsibilities for Young Learners.

As a Catholic Community, we view the school as a 'Christ-Centered' learning environment. Our school must facilitate the social, moral, and spiritual growth of our students as well as their intellectual, physical and emotional growth.

### Statement of Philosophy

As Catholics, we believe that Creation is ongoing and that each of us, like our model Christ, is a steward in our Father's kingdom. As stewards, we have a responsibility to care for what God has made. We must care for our community our environment and ourselves.

As stewards, we have a mission, based upon responsibility, respect and love.

The faith environment of our school provides a necessary foundation for the development of Gospel-based values in all of us, especially our young people who attend Catholic schools for formation.

Schools are part of our youths' preparation for life. As Catholic educators, we have a responsibility to help our students become loving Christians and good Canadian citizens. Parents are the primary

educators of their children and it is the duty of the school community to carry out this responsibility during the time in which students are in their care. It is necessary, then, that parents, students and the school community work together in the best interest of each student and for the good of our community.

### **Community Expectations and Responsibilities for Young Learners**

Students are expected to follow these Community Expectations and Responsibilities for Young Learners whenever they are in school or on any school-sponsored activity, trip or sporting event.

#### **Respect For Self and Others:**

##### **Students demonstrate this by:**

- Respecting the dignity of oneself and all people
- Being courteous, considerate and compassionate to everyone
- Never harassing (verbally or physically) one another
- Never intimidating anyone, or being involved in malicious ridicule of an individual
- Never demonstrating any form of prejudice, discrimination or stereotyping

##### **Reason:**

As Christians we believe we are all made in the image and likeness of God and as such we are summoned to care for human life with ultimate respect. Before students can respect other people or other people's authority or property, they must have respect for themselves. The way to build community is to exhibit esteem for others through cooperation and respect, so that each person can flourish in a safe and caring environment.

#### **Respect for Rules:**

##### **Students demonstrate this by:**

- Being involved in setting classroom rules
- Knowing the school and classroom rules
- Obeying the school and classroom rules

##### **Reason:**

Community living requires rules and procedures as a means of developing respect and self-discipline so that all members can live their lives to the fullest potential. The school staff is expected to apply the rules in a fair, consistent and respectful manner in order to ensure the safety and well being of the students and the staff.

#### **Respect for the Environment:**

##### **Students can demonstrate this by:**

- Treating the school grounds, buildings, school belongings (furniture, books, learning materials) and their personal belongings responsibly

##### **Reason:**

The school and its surrounding environment are gifts of God. It is our responsibility to protect and care for this

learning environment. Buildings, grounds, and materials belong to everyone in the community and are to be used to benefit the community.

#### **Respect For Academic Achievement:**

##### **Students demonstrate this by:**

- Recognizing their own uniqueness
- Carrying out their academic responsibilities with perseverance and pride
- Completing all work to the best of their ability

##### **Reason:**

Students and adult learners have a responsibility to God, themselves, their parents and their community to develop their abilities and to do well in school. Hopefully by using their talents in school, they will be able to bring the best of themselves to their community and society at large.

### **The Consequences of Misbehaviour**

Consequences for misbehaviour must exist to protect the rights and freedoms of all people in a school community. The consequences for misbehaviour should be appropriate, natural, logical, and applied consistently. Any misbehaviour should be dealt with promptly and directly in a spirit of impartiality and fairness. Students who demonstrate inappropriate behaviour, such as failure to meet student expectations outlined above as well as being in violation of the Safe School Act, will be assisted by one or more of the following supportive interventions:

- Immediate conflict resolution supported by the staff involved
- Corrective dialogue between the staff and student
- Written and verbal apologies
- Restitution of materials
- Counselling by school staff members, such as youth care worker, or through outside agencies
- Parental involvement
- Implementation of homework/behavioural contract
- Loss of privileges
- Detentions
- Community service work
- Involvement of student services staff and/or outside support agencies
- Discretionary suspensions by the principal
- Expulsion
- Possible involvement of the police

The following behaviours will not be tolerated by the Waterloo Catholic District School Board either on school property or at school sponsored or school-related activities:

- The use, possession, distribution or sale of alcohol or illicit drugs
- Possession or use of weapons
- Any physical assault or threat of assault

- Any gang or youth group displaying a pattern of delinquent or disruptive behaviour (including the display of gang colours or the wearing of bandanas)
- Any sexual, religious, ethno-cultural and or racial abuse, discrimination or harassment

In serious or emergency situations, the principal, vice-principal or principal designate will take immediate and appropriate action deemed necessary to maintain the safety and welfare of others in the school. This may include involvement of the police. All forms of discrimination and harassment are subject to the consequences outlined in the Waterloo Catholic District School Board Equity Policy.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board upholds the position that no form of violent behaviour is acceptable on school property or in school-sponsored or related activities. This position supports the Safe Schools Act 2000 and is aligned with Board policies APC 018 dealing with Code of Conduct, APC012 dealing with suspension and APC019 dealing with expulsions.

### Conflict Resolution

The staff members have been trained in conflict resolution and the students are well aware of the “I Care Rules” at Holy Rosary School. We will use our motto “I am my Choices” in solving conflicts, it is always our hope and intention to resolve conflicts in the best way possible while maintaining the dignity and relationships of the persons involved. Each class has access to Conflict Resolution Materials to assist in planning lessons for students. All grade four to eight students have been made aware of the Safe Schools Act.

### Personal Property

The following items are not allowed at school without permission of the principal: hockey sticks, hard balls, cell phones, baseball bats and electronic/digital devices. Students are not to bring these items to school because of the safety and security issues that may result from accidental or intentional misuse. These items should remain at home.

Appropriate and safe equipment will be issued to each class for outside use.

At times, under teacher/principal direction and permission, students may bring personal belongings to the school (electronics, toys, footballs, hats, ball gloves, knapsacks, special clothing). **They are responsible for these possessions.** Their names should be clearly labelled on these articles. Please note: **that the school is not responsible for the loss of personal items.** If a child has lost or misplaced an article of clothing, please have them check the Lost and Found area. We also ask that the children **DO NOT** bring anything to school that has monetary or sentimental value.

Gum is not permitted in the school unless allowed in certain special circumstances.

### Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards

We encourage walking and riding of bicycles/scooters/skateboards to school. Students are responsible for their own equipment.

**Bicycles/scooters/skateboards cannot be ridden on or through school property** because it is a safety risk to other students. All bikes must be properly locked in the bike racks at the front of the school. Scooters and skateboards must be stored in designated areas. The school is not responsible for loss or damages incurred. All students are reminded that the Province of Ontario has adopted a helmet law for all children under the age of eighteen. All children **MUST** wear a helmet while bicycling.

### Dogs

For sanitary reasons and for the emotional and physical safety of all – dogs are not allowed on school property during school hours. Please do not take your dogs past the front walkway or off of the pathways along the sides of our property at the rear of the school. Under special circumstances, permission may be given to bring a pet to school.

### Dress Code

Attention to outward appearance is an important part of a student’s social development. Students and staff are expected to dress appropriately; in a way that is appropriate for a Catholic Education setting.

The dress code is in effect at all times at school, including excursions, unless instructed explicitly by the classroom teacher. Parents are expected to be vigilant regarding changing weather conditions and to dress children accordingly.

### Guidelines for choosing clothes that promote a positive educational environment:

*When deciding if an article of clothing is appropriate for school we encourage students to ask themselves if they would feel that it was appropriate to wear it to church or to Grandma’s house.*

- All clothing will be free of derogatory or inappropriate print or graphics
- Hats and caps are to be removed when inside the school
- Only hemmed shorts and walking shorts are permitted; shorts must be of appropriate length (meeting or exceeding extended fingertips)
- All tops will cover the shoulders and will cover the top of pants
- All clothing will be free of association with youth or street gangs (including bandanas)
- All clothing will be modest in appearance (loose fitting rather than form fitting)

- Outdoor wear (boots, hats and jackets) will be removed prior to entering the classroom
- An indoor pair of shoes must be at school at all times

**The consequences for students who are inappropriately dressed will be as follows:**

- Students will be reminded of the school dress code initially
- Students will be asked to modify their appearance
- Students may be given alternative clothing to remedy the situation
- Students will be asked to go home to change if the situation repeats itself
- Students may be suspended if the situation becomes a chronic disregard for the school dress code

**The Schools' Dress Code has been developed in compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code.**

**SUN SCREEN - \*\*Parents are also reminded to apply the appropriate level of sunscreen protection to suit the weather conditions; recognizing that students will be out of doors for one hour and 10 minutes during the day for lunch and recess periods\*\***

**Safe Arrival Process**

The Education Act states that students must attend school regularly and be punctual. It is imperative for the safety of the students that parents/guardians call the school, **519-747-9005**, each day their child is absent. Students are not allowed to contact the school regarding their absence.

The purpose of this program is to provide a service for parents to check that their children have arrived at school safely. The program recognises that the **ultimate responsibility** for children rests with the parents.

If a child has not arrived at school and a phone call or note has not been received, the secretary will attempt to alert parents by telephone at home or at your place of employment if necessary. If parents cannot be contacted, we will contact the emergency number provided by the parents. Failing to reach parents or emergency contacts, the police will be notified and sent to the home.

Extended periods of absence, for reasons other than health, require permission of the principal. More than 3 days of absence requires a special form to be completed, entitled "Intent to Be Absent". Parents who remove their child from school are responsible for their child's education.

In cases of chronic truancy, the principal will involve the school board's social worker or attendance counsellor to assist the student. Persistent truancy is a serious matter and could result in court appearances and charges being laid.

**Punctuality**

Students are expected to be on time for classes. All students entering class late must present a late slip obtained from the office. Lates are noted in the daily attendance register and on report cards by teachers.

Chronic lateness will result in parents being contacted to help the student learn the habit of punctuality. Loss of school privileges may be the result for chronic lateness, and the school board social worker or attendance counsellor may be contacted. **Chronic lates and absences greatly affect academic performance and disrupts classrooms.**

**General Rules for School Playground Behaviour – Remember "I am My Choices"**

- 1) Be courteous and show respect for the rights of others. A "hands off" policy is in effect.
- 2) Play in designated areas of the school property. Students must remain on the blacktop or soccer field.
- 3) Rough games are prohibited.
- 4) Equipment judged by the school to be dangerous or hazardous to student safety is not permitted.
- 5) Report any injuries or incidents of harassment to the staff member on supervision.
- 6) The throwing of snow, ice, stones or other objects is not allowed.
- 7) Use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- 8) Safety is a prime concern on the climbing equipment. Students must use the slides, monkey bars, and other equipment only in the appropriate manner. This includes no sitting, standing on or jumping from the top levels of the equipment and no hanging upside down. There should be no running or playing of other games while on the creative playground. There is no pushing or shoving at any time, but this is especially true while on the creative playground as very serious injuries could occur.

## Communication Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

Parents, students and staff have a right to receive affirmation for what they are doing and the right to know when concerns arise. Communication must recognize the dignity of the individual. All people deserve respect, dignity, fair treatment and inclusion. As part of respecting dignity of the individual, the individual has a right to know firsthand of a concern from the individual who has the concern, not second-hand from someone else who has not been involved in the issue. Please note the process to follow:

### STEP 1

- Speak to the individual;
- Issue resolved.

### STEP 2

- Speak to the principal;
- If you have not spoken to the individual, the principal will ask you to do so;
- The principal will involve the individual in the discussions;
- The principal may request, at any time in the process, that you put your concerns in writing;
- The principal may involve, at any time in the process, others who may be helpful in resolving the concern; support staff from the school board, employee group representatives, the local parish or community agencies.

The role of the Trustee or Superintendent:

- You may contact them at any time. They will direct you to follow the process outlined above. They will help if the steps above have been followed and no resolution has been found.

## Visitors

Unless you are a registered student or board employee, you are considered to be a visitor to the school.

When visiting the school, please report to the office before proceeding to any classes or other areas of the building. For your children's safety, we need to know who is in the building at all times. All visitors must sign in at the office and pick up a visitor or volunteer badge from the secretary.

## Pickups and Sign outs for Students

Every effort should be made to schedule appointments outside of school hours. Parents/guardians must notify the school in writing if a student is required to leave during the school day. If parents/guardians pick up their child for an appointment during school hours, they must sign out the student at the office. In the event of illness or injury, the school will contact parents/guardians before permission is given for a student to leave school.

It is extremely important that parents provide us with accurate phone numbers on health information forms and notify us of any changes to enable us to contact them in emergency cases.

Due to congestion and safety concerns, we ask that all parents and guardians pick up their children outside the office, not outside the classroom doors. Parents and caregivers must pick up and drop off their junior kindergarten and/or kindergarten child outside the fence.

Where specific custodial arrangements exist, court orders are required by the school principal to ensure only custodial parents have access to their children. We cannot deny access to children without **legal documentation**.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

If you request a conference or meeting with a teacher, please contact the school to **collaborate** on an appropriate time for the meeting. Please do not appear at the school or classroom door and expect an immediate meeting; this would compromise the teacher's ability to supervise the class properly.

## Library and Textbooks

Throughout the past few years a large percentage of our budget has been spent on library materials and classroom textbooks. Given the rising cost of books and our expectations that the children be responsible for them, we will continue to require the students to pay for any lost or destroyed items. Parents are responsible for paying for materials lost or damaged by their child. Our library has an automated circulation system. This will help us to track the circulation and usage of materials and target our resources to the areas of most value to our students and staff. The catalogue of materials in the Holy Rosary library will be accessible from home on the Internet. The Holy Rosary Catholic School address is <http://library.wcdsb.ca/>. Click on School Catalogues, and then click on Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary. The address of the central database is <http://watrc.library.net/>. Also of interest to our students and parents is a site for which the Board has purchased a licence: Career Cruising, at <http://www.careercruising.com/home/index.html>. The user name is "Waterloocath" and the password is "47950." This site leads the user through a personalised survey of likes, dislikes, interests, skills and talents. Using this information, a list of possible careers is assembled. The requisite education choices, experience and skills needed for each position are outlined. We are sure our students will find this site a useful tool in their search for possible future careers.

## Healthy Active Living (Physical Education)

All students are expected to participate in Healthy Active Living classes, except in the case of illness or injury in which case a note to the teacher from the parent is required. A positive attitude about Healthy Active Living will benefit your child since Physical Education affects fitness and has a marked influence on health, attitudes and habits. All students are expected to wear proper gym clothes and footwear. All students in grades 4 – 8 are expected to change for Healthy Active Living class. This is done for hygienic reasons, as well as permitting greater freedom of movement.

## Co-Curricular Activities

Many extra-curricular activities in athletics and the arts are scheduled throughout the year. Naturally, we want every student to become involved in many of these activities. These activities help to build self-confidence in students, as well as help students to build relationships with adults outside of the classroom. Students who get involved tend to enjoy school more than students who do not. Students will get the opportunity to make their school life more enjoyable. Academic success is still our prime concern. Participation on school teams is a **privilege**. *Participating on school teams and clubs is restricted to those students who are exhibiting proper learning skills in the classroom and proper respect and behaviour on the playground.* Activities may be offered before school starts in the morning, at recess and lunch, and after school. It is important that once a team is selected that the student makes a commitment to attend all practices and functions of that team or club for the remainder of the year. Students who remove themselves from a school team during the season will not be allowed to participate in an athletic activity during the next season.

## Volunteers

Throughout the school year, we need volunteers to assist in the classrooms, on trips and with our Strong Start Reading Program. Many of these activities do not require much of a time commitment and would not be possible without parental assistance. A handbook for volunteers has been assembled and will be made available to all volunteers. Please try your best to get involved in your child's education; it's worth the effort. In order to ensure the safety of our students, the WCDSB has asked that anyone volunteering with our children needs to have an Offence Declaration form completed before they can begin their school placement. In addition, we ask that all volunteers complete an Acknowledgement of Confidentiality form prior to their school placement. **Please notify the office of your arrival by signing in and wearing a volunteer badge.** Many of the programs, clubs and teams that we offer to the students of Holy Rosary are only possible with the

assistance of parent volunteers. These individuals are an important part of our effort to provide a quality Catholic education for our students. Education involves a unique partnership between students, parents, school, church and the community. If you are able to reinforce this partnership by volunteering at the school, please contact your child's teacher to offer your services.

## Volunteer Drivers

Parents and caregivers who transport students for school related activities, such as athletic events and excursions, **must** complete the Volunteer Driver Form each year. Please be aware of restrictions involving children sitting in passenger seats equipped with an air bag and all children 40-80 lbs must be in a booster seat.

## Lunch Room Expectations

Students will eat in their classrooms or a neighbouring classroom from 11:05 – 11:25. They will then go outside from 11:25 – 12:05. If the student is given **written permission** to eat at school, the following rules apply:

- Students will eat at school with a signed parental form. This form must be returned to your teacher.
- Students are expected to act in a polite, friendly and co-operative manner while using the lunchroom.
- Students must remain in their seats while eating their lunch.
- Students are responsible for the cleanliness of their own eating area.
- Students are asked to take home food that has not been eaten.
- We request that students do **not** bring bottled drinks for safety reasons. Instead, it is recommended that students drink juice or milk in boxes or plastic containers or from a thermos.
- We do not have the facilities at Holy Rosary to "warm up" students' lunches or provide cutlery.
- We have some students who are allergic to peanuts and nut products. In this interest of safety:  
**Holy Rosary School is a Nut-Free School Environment.** We ask that students and staff do not bring any nuts or related nut products, including nut oils, and nut substitutes to school. We ask for your understanding and cooperation with this potentially life and death matter.
- Students must remain on school property during the noon hour. **In order to leave the campus during the noon hour, students must have signed permission from their parents; any deviation from their normal daily plan must be cleared with their teacher or the principal.**

## Anaphylaxis

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy environment for all students and staff. In particular, this includes all those who may be susceptible to **Anaphylaxis** – the term used to describe acute, severe life-threatening allergic reactions to a substance. Epinephrine (EPIPEN) is the only drug that should be used in the emergency management of a child having a life threatening allergic reaction.

We ask that parents or guardians notify the school (principal and classroom teacher) of the condition. Then, complete the appropriate medical forms listed on the next page (available from the school secretary) and present them to the principal.

- **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION**
- **EPIPEN INJECTION FORM**
- **MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM**

You then must provide the school with the medication and renew the medication before the expiry date. An epipen will be stored in a safe place in the school for each child identified anaphylactic.

\*Please ensure your child wears their **Medic-Alert** bracelet, which identifies specific allergens.

\*Please remind your child to eat only the food that is prepared at home and **not** to trade or share food.

## Allergies

Your child's teacher will inform you of any precautions that must be taken within the school setting (baking, treat days, birthdays). **It is imperative that you notify the school if your child has an allergy.** We ask that parents support us in keeping the school "**nut free**" as we have students with a severe peanut allergy.

## Medication

For safety reasons, no child should bring any form of medication to school without prior approval from the office. If oral medication is necessary, there is a form that must be obtained from the school office and completed before oral medication will be given out at school. The medication must be in the original container and clearly labelled with names (child, parent/guardian, and doctor), phone numbers, and directions. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.

## Student Illness

We do not have facilities at school to accommodate children who are ill. Whenever a child becomes ill, we will telephone home to request that a caregiver pick him/her up. To prevent the spread of germs we ask that you provide your child with tissue and also encourage the frequent washing of hands.

## Supervision

Students will be supervised on school property from 8:05 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We will supervise each student in our care during these hours. It is imperative that once students arrive on the schoolyard they do not leave (to go to the store, meet friends, etc.) unless they have your **written permission, permission of a potential host family** and the permission of the principal. Students, who go home for lunch on inclement weather days, are encouraged to stay at home until just before the bell time.

In the case of a crisis or an emergency in the yard, students **must** report to one of the adults on supervision. **All students must receive permission and a pass from the staff member on supervision before entering the school.** This is important to ensure the safety and security of all students. Staff members on supervision may be identified by the orange vest they wear.

**Students must enter and exit from the rear/side doors of the school.** The front door is reserved for visitors or students accompanied by a parent. When students are dismissed from the school, they must not re-enter the school unless it is an emergency.

## Inclement Weather and Emergency Dismissal

In case of inclement weather, please check the Waterloo Catholic District School Board website @ [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca) or listen to the radio for information concerning the **Waterloo Catholic District School Board** school closings. It is important to make an emergency plan with your children in case the school must close prior to regular dismissal (i.e., leave a house key with a neighbour; child goes to neighbours and calls you from where they are; older brother or sister could be given the responsibility).

For those students who eat lunch regularly at school, the appropriate form must be completed instructing the school where to send your child in case of an emergency closure. Students who do not remain for lunch will be dismissed at 11:05 a.m. If the school is closed for that day, announcements will be made on the radio and on the board website... If your child is transported to school by taxi, transportation will be cancelled on days when school buses are cancelled.

The safety of the children is always our priority. When the weather is bitterly cold (wind chill -20 or below) or pouring rain, we will keep the children inside during recess.

## Block Parents

Please reinforce with your children the importance and significance of the Community Block Parent Program. They should be aware of the window sign and familiar with the homes in your neighbourhood who display it.

## Excursions

We are very fortunate to live in an area which has an interesting history and varied places of interest in our immediate surroundings. Due to budget constraints in the past years, students have been required to pay for all excursions. We ask for your co-operation and support in returning required funds and permission forms for excursions promptly.

## Crossing Guards

Please note that a crossing guard is on duty to assist students. The Crossing Guard is located at the intersection of Thorndale and Old Orchard Place. For safety reasons, students **must** cross at that intersection.

## Parking Lot Safety

We are constantly striving to improve safety conditions for all at Holy Rosary. The parking lot is only to be used if you are volunteering in the school or will be in the school for a significant period of time. Parents are **not permitted to use the parking lot as a drop off and pick up zone for children. If you must drive your children to school, please drop them off on surrounding streets.** This issue becomes increasingly important during winter months when road surfaces are icy. Your support in this issue is greatly appreciated. Parents are asked to refrain from entering the lower end of the parking lot and parking or stopping for students. This creates a very unsafe situation and parents are reminded to respect the parking expectations of the school including the proper flow of traffic.

**Drive at an extremely slow rate through the parking zone.** Some of the children happy to see their parents or their friends may not be as vigilant as they should be when walking through the lot.

**Park in designated parking spots only.** We know that you may only be there for a minute and your car may not be blocking anyone; but it may be in an area where it alters the sight lines for a child walking through the lot and/or causes another vehicle to have to manoeuvre around your car.

**Please do not leave your car idling. If you are not in the driver's seat, please do not leave the engine running.** If a child is jumping into the car, across the driver's seat, it is possible for the car to be put into gear.

**The driveway directly in front of the school is for buses and emergency vehicles only, please respect the posted signs and gates.**

Please respect all of the traffic signs on school property and on the street. Stopping or parking illegally may cause a situation that causes a child to be injured.

Please do not park or stop on Thorndale Drive in front of the school. This is a NO PARKING zone and the bylaw officers will ticket anyone who is seen parking or stopping in this area.

Some of these expectations may cause you minor inconvenience. However, we're sure that you understand that the safety of the students at Holy Rosary is the responsibility of all of us. If you have arrangements with grandparents or other caregivers to drive your children to school, we would ask that you make them aware of these expectations. Please drive with caution at all times, especially near the school.

## Parents on the School Yard

Over the past couple of years, we have implemented new expectations regarding parents and other adults on our school yard during times when the children are outside. We ask that parents do not stay, gather or wait on the blacktop or field area of our school yard at any time between 8:05am and 3:05pm. Please consider the following to be the boundaries that we would like you to honour: if you are coming from the back of the school on the public paths that run down the sides of the yard we ask you to stay on the public paths. If you are coming to the Primary/Kindergarten side of the building, we would ask that you do not go down the hill to the yard. There is a green line painted on the driveway at the bottom of the hill; please do not enter the yard beyond this point. Further to this, JK and SK parents are not to enter the Kindergarten yard or their classroom area during drop-offs and pick-ups. Please meet your child's teacher or ECE at the gate.

## School Newsletter

Our newsletter is published in the first week of each month of the school year; it contains many valuable pieces of information. Look to the newsletter to read about upcoming events, healthy tidbits, ways to get involved, ongoing initiatives and accomplishments of our school and individual students etc. The newsletter is posted on our website, it can also be conveniently delivered to you by email; simply go to the school website: <http://holyrosary.wcdsb.ca/> look to the bottom left hand side of the page, enter your email address and click on subscribe.

## **Holy Rosary Catholic School Council**

### **Who are we?**

We are a group of volunteers who donate our time to enhance student learning in our school by acting as an advisory body to the principal. We are parents, teachers and staff who are working towards a common goal. We are not a "Parent Council" or a "PTA", nor are we a political body. Our goal is to help our school become the best it can be.

### **What is our purpose?**

The objective of this group is to enhance the school's learning environment by:

- Assisting in the building of a visible Catholic community and working together in the interest of Catholic education.
- Encouraging and facilitating the involvement of parents in their children's education by respecting the values and priorities of the entire school community.
- Enhancing the lines of communication between parents, teachers and students in our school community.
- Providing a forum for discussion about issues that affect our school.
- Having meaningful input into decisions that will have an impact on our children and school.

### **How can I get involved?**

Come to our meetings and/or join one of our sub-committees.

## **Spiritual Activities**

There are various spiritual activities throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to participate. Dates and times will be noted in school newsletters and calendars. Special Lenten and Advent celebrations and devotions are planned for the students. Students in grades 3-8 participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during these seasons. Masses and prayer services are celebrated throughout the school year. Special celebrations include:

- Grade 2 \* First Reconciliation and First Communion
- Grade 4 \* Bible Celebration
- Grade 7 \* Confirmation and Retreat program
- Grade 8 \* Mount Mary Retreat program

New families to the parish are advised to contact Our Lady of Lourdes Church 519-886-0342.

## **Student Council/We Team**

We have an active Student Council consisting of representatives in grade 4-8 and involves all grades. We encourage any students in these grades to apply for a position on Student Council.

Student Council plans various activities throughout the year that help to provide a wonderful "spirit" at Holy Rosary. Activities include talent shows, dances and theme days. Student Council is also involved in community outreach projects such as food drives.

## **Lost And Found**

Throughout the year students misplace a variety of items including clothing, shoes, umbrellas, backpacks and hats. We have a lost and found box located outside the office. Please feel free to look through the items if your child has lost something. Every few months these items, if not claimed, will be donated to a worthy charity. Of course, it would be ideal if all the children's clothing boots, hats, etc. were labelled clearly with their name. If this was the case, lost materials could quickly be returned to each child.

## **Report Cards**

Report cards will be arriving home in:

- Progress Report - **November**
- First Term Report - **February**
- Second Term Report - **June**

Research very clearly shows that students perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. The report card includes a response form that parents are asked to complete, sign and return to the school. The response form is intended as an opportunity for students and parents to reflect on student performance. Please spend time with each of your children discussing and completing the response form.

## **Learning Skills**

Completion of homework assignments and careful preparation for tests will greatly increase chances for success.

Students are expected to work to the best of their ability and to display a sense of pride in their efforts and accomplishments. This includes such areas as presenting neat work, completing daily and longterm assignments, and preparing for tests. Teachers will maintain close communication with parents/guardians regarding progress. This agenda will be used for this type of communication.

Students are expected to fulfill the requirements set by the teacher for each particular subject. Students should have their learning materials ready and available. Any assigned homework is expected at the beginning of class on the due date required. Students are expected to prepare appropriately for any tests by studying and reviewing outside of class.

## Holy Rosary Homework Policy

We believe that homework is an essential part of a student's education.

### We believe homework should:

- Be a shared commitment among teachers, students and parents
- Provide parents with insight into what their child is learning
- Provide parents with an opportunity to be actively involved in supporting their child's education
- Teach students responsibility and self-discipline
- Instill the kind of work habits and organizational skills which students need to be successful in school and later in the work place
- Encourage lifelong learning and extend learning beyond the school
- Extend and support in-school experiences through related out-of-school activities
- Homework is **NOT** additional work given to be done only at home, nor work to be completed by parents.

### Responsibilities:

Students will be responsible for their learning by:

- Writing down homework in agenda book
- Asking for assistance as necessary
- Completing the assigned work
- Meeting timelines for homework completion
- Developing a homework routine and study habits
- Locating appropriate resources and materials
- Organizing, ensuring they have the right books at home to do the homework
- Returning the completed assignments on time

### Parents will assist students by:

- Asking each day about homework and signing agenda as requested by the classroom teacher
- Ensuring students read every night
- Having the necessary materials and resources available
- Providing support and supervising if necessary
- Encouraging effort, achievement and a positive attitude
- Helping students organize homework routines; a time and a quiet place to do the work
- Discussing the homework assignments with their child

### Teachers will support students and parents by:

- Establishing a place in the classroom where homework is written
- Providing time for students to copy homework into their agendas
- Checking the completion of homework
- Signing agendas as arranged by the teacher
- Following up with students and contacting parents when necessary
- Providing a consequence when homework is incomplete
- Co-ordinating a variety of homework
- Monitoring the amount of homework

## Grade Level Homework Expectations

### Kindergarten

Activities:

- Reading a story to your child
- Discussions about school activities
- Activity Bags
- Practice self care skills
- Review concepts on calendar

### Grades One and Two

Activities:

- Nightly reading to, with and by your children
- Review and practice of concepts taught (i.e. printing practice, mathematics concepts)
- Completing unfinished class work
- Discussing the 'Today I Learned' section in the agenda
- Researching class topics, collecting pictures, books, newspaper clippings and objects
- Discussing TV and newspaper stories
- Additional practice of word wall words (WWW) and number facts

### Grades Three and Four

Activities:

- Completing unfinished class work and review completed work
- Review and practice of concepts taught (i.e., word study, math skills)
- Reading for content and pleasure (nightly reading to, with and by your child)
- Reviewing language concepts – grammar and punctuation
- Practising word wall words (WWW)
- Studying for tests and quizzes
- Completing assignments and research projects related to topics of study
- Journal entries

### Grades Five and Six

Activities:

- Completing unfinished class work
- Review and practice of concepts taught (i.e., word wall words, math skills)
- Reading for content and pleasure
- Journal writing
- Research projects
- Studying for tests

### Grades Seven and Eight

Activities:

- Unfinished classroom work
- Reading assignments
- Re-reading assigned text work
- Review and practice of concepts taught and in areas of need
- Completing assignments and research projects
- Studying for tests and quizzes
- Journal writing
- Continued emphasis on independent study as a means of preparing students for high school

## How can I help my child learn to read?

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning.

### Tip 1 – Talk to Your Child

Oral language is the foundation for reading. Listening and speaking are a child's first introduction to language. Talking and singing teach your child the sounds of language, making it easier for him or her to learn how to read.

Here are some things you can do to help your child build an appreciation for words and language:

- Tell family stories about yourself, your child's grandparents and other relatives.
- Talk to your child as much as possible about things you are doing and thinking.
- Encourage your child to tell you what he or she thinks or feels.

### Tip 2 – Make Reading Fun

Reading aloud can be a lot of fun, not just for parents but also for all family members. Here are some ways to get the most out of reading to your young child:

- Read with drama and excitement! Use different voices for different characters in the story. Use your child's name instead of a character's name. Make puppets and use them to act out a story.
- Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them, and choose books and authors that your child enjoys.
- Point to words as you read them. This will help your child make a connection between the words he or she hears you say and the words on the page.

### Tip 3 – Read Every Day

Children love routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show him or her that reading is important and fun to do.

- Try to read with your child as often as possible. It's the best thing you can do to help him or her learn at school! It also allows you to spend time together in an enjoyable way and to build a strong and healthy relationship.
- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Vary the length of reading time according to your child's age and interests. For young children, several short sessions (of 10 minutes each) may be better than one long session (of 30 minutes).
- When you and your child are away from home, take along books, magazines and books-on-tape for your child to read and listen to.
- Keep reading to your child even after he or she has learned to read. By reading stories that will interest your child, but that are above his or her reading level, you can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of shared reading.

### Tip 4 – Set an Example

As a parent, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or

information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.

You can also share many daily reading activities with your child. Here are some ideas:

- Read recipes, food labels, schedules, maps, instructions, and brochures.
- Read traffic signs and signs in stores and restaurants.
- Look up information in cookbooks, manuals, phone books, atlases, and dictionaries.

### Tip 5 – Talk About Books

Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps your child understand it and connect it to his or her own experience of life.

Here are some ways to help your child acquire skills in comprehension, reasoning and critical thinking:

- Ask your child about the kinds of books he or she would like to read.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and to comment on the story and pictures in a book – before, during and after reading it.
- Look at the cover and the title of a book with your child, and ask your child what he or she thinks might happen in the story.
- Think out loud about the story as you read, and encourage your child to do the same. For example, ask, "Does this make sense? Why or why not?"

### Tip 6 – Listen to your child read

As your child learns to read, listen to him or her read aloud. Reading to you gives your child a chance to practice and to improve his or her reading skills.

- As you listen to your child, remember that your reactions are important. Above all, listen without interrupting. Be enthusiastic and praise your child as often as you can. If possible, be specific with your praise so that your child knows what he or she is doing well.
- Give your child time to figure out tricky words and show your child how he or she can learn from mistakes.
- Try to have your child read aloud to you at times when there will be no interruptions.
- Make sure that your child selects books that aren't too difficult. Don't worry if the books your child chooses are a little easier than the ones he or she reads at school.

## What tips can I use to help my child?

### Be positive about MATH!

- Let your child know that **everyone** can learn math.
- Let your child know that **you** think math is important and fun.
- Point out to your child the many ways in which math is used in everyday activities.
- Include your child in everyday activities that involve math such as making purchases, measuring ingredients, counting out plates and utensils for dinner.
- Play games and do puzzles with your child that involve math.

### What Math activities can I do with my child?

#### 1. Understanding Numbers

Numbers are used to describe quantities, to count, and to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Understanding numbers and knowing how to combine them to solve problems helps us in all areas of math.

- ◆ **Count everything!** Count toys, kitchen utensils, and items of clothing as they come out of the dryer.
- ◆ **Sing counting songs and read counting books.**
- ◆ **Discover the many ways in which numbers are used inside and outside your home.** Take your child on a "number hunt" in your home or neighbourhood.
- ◆ **Ask your child to help you solve everyday number problems.** "We need six tomatoes to make our sauce for dinner, and we have only two. How many more do we need to buy?"
- ◆ **Practice "skip counting".** Together, count by 2's and 5's.
- ◆ **Make up games using dice and playing cards.**

#### 2. Understanding Measurements

We use measurements to determine the height, length, and width of objects, as well as the area they cover, the volume they hold, and other characteristics. We measure time and money.

- ◆ **Measure items found around the house.** Have your child find objects that are longer or shorter than a shoe or a string or a ruler.
- ◆ **Estimate everything!** Estimate the number of steps from your front door to the edge of your yard.
- ◆ **Compare and organize household items.** Take cereal boxes or cans of vegetables from the cupboard and have your child line them up from tallest to shortest.
- ◆ **Talk about time.** Ask your child to check the time on the clock when he or she goes to school, eats meals, and goes to bed.
- ◆ **Keep a record of the daily temperature outside.**
- ◆ **Include your child in activities that involve measurements.** Have your child measure the ingredients in a recipe or the length of a bookshelf you plan to build.

#### 3. Understanding Geometry

The ability to identify and describe shapes, sizes, positions, directions, and movement is important in many work situations, such as construction and design, as well as, in creating and understanding art.

- ◆ **Identify shapes and sizes.** "Take the largest cereal box out of the cupboard."
- ◆ **Build structures using blocks or old boxes.** Discuss the need to build a strong base. Ask your child which shapes stack easily, and why.
- ◆ **Hide a toy and use directional language to help your child find it.** Give clues using words and phrases such as *up, down, over, under, between, through, and on top of*.
- ◆ **Ask your child to draw a picture of your street, neighbourhood or town.** Talk about where your home is in relation to a neighbour's home.
- ◆ **Go on a "shape hunt".** Have your child look for as many circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles as he or she can find in the home or outside.

#### 4. Understanding Patterns

We find patterns in nature, art, music, and literature. We also find them in numbers. Patterns are at the very heart of math. Understanding patterns helps prepare children for the study of algebra in later grades.

- ◆ **Look for patterns in storybooks and songs.** Many children's books and songs repeat lines or passages in predictable ways, allowing children to recognize and predict the patterns.
- ◆ **Create patterns using your body.** Clap and stomp your foot in a particular sequence (clap, clap, stomp), have your child repeat the same sequence.
- ◆ **Hunt for patterns around your house and your neighbourhood.** Your child will find patterns in clothing, in wallpaper, in tiles, on toys, and among trees and flowers in the park.
- ◆ **Use household items to create and extend patterns.** Lay down a row of spoons pointing in different directions in a particular pattern (up, up, down, up, up, down) and ask your child to extend the pattern.

#### 5. Understanding and Managing Data

Every day we are presented with a vast amount of information, much of it involving numbers. Learning to collect, organize, and interpret data at an early age will help children develop the ability to manage information and make sound decisions in the future.

- ◆ **Sort household items.** As your child tidies up toys or clothing, discuss which items should go together and why.
- ◆ **Make a weather graph.** Have your child draw pictures on a calendar to record each day's weather. Make a picture graph showing how many sunny days, cloudy days and rainy days there were in that month.
- ◆ **Make a food chart.** Create a chart to record the number of apples, oranges, bananas, and other fruit your family eats each day.

