



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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September 6, 2018

Number 1

WELCOME

Welcome to a new school year, a new beginning and renewed journey with Jesus Christ in Catholic Education. I am very excited to welcome you to our school.

Our staff are looking forward to providing a positive, safe and caring environment, where all are welcome and respected. The staff is very excited for the coming school year that promises new opportunities for learning and growing in our Faith. We have a beautiful facility waiting for your child to enter; a Faith filled community that we are very proud of!

I wish to welcome our new staff, parents and students to our community. I wish to welcome back parents and students who have been a part of the journey in education and Faith at St. Michael's School.

Our staff recognize the blessing we have to teach your children and we thank you for trusting in us to ensure your child is engaged in quality learning opportunities throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We know that working in partnership between home and school is the best way to support our students to ensure they are experiencing success. We encourage parents to visit the school webpage at www.stmichaelschool.ca as well as follow us on Twitter @StMichaelsBby. Currently at 76 followers!

As parents, you are your child's first and most influential teacher. Communication between home and school is critical to your child's academic success.

It is an honour and privilege to be able to serve the community of St. Michael's School and I look forward to a great 2018-2019 school year.

Our Virtue focus for September – FAITH

To begin the new school year, we focus our attention on the first of our virtues - **Faith**. Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A faithful person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God.

A faithful person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A Faithful person...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honors people's God-given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others

Let us pray for the grace and strength to be people of faith, people who can truly believe that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe at school.

THIS YEAR'S THEME

Every year our school has a theme that helps us to focus on an area of our Christian faith. The theme for this school year is "What do you want of me, Lord?" Pope Francis is inviting all the young people to hear God's voice in their hearts through the help of the Holy Spirit. "Jesus is looking at each and every one of you and is inviting you to go with Him on a journey to discover God's plan for you." We want the students to recognize the many gifts and talents that they have and help them to share these gifts with others. How can our students go out and make the classroom, the school, the world, a better place? God wants us to be saints...and embrace the unique plan that God wills for each of us from eternity...to be holy.

MEET THE TEACHER AND PEC NIGHT

Parents are invited to attend our Meet the Teacher/PEC night on **Thursday, September 13th at 7:00 pm**. **New families are encouraged to attend a Participation Information meeting which will take place at 6:00 pm the same evening**. Returning families may also attend the participation meeting if they are interested. Parents are to gather in the school gym for prayer, an address by the principal and members of the school's Parish Education Committee, and an introduction of our staff members. Following the meeting in the gym, teachers will give two 20-minute sessions in the classroom. You need only attend one of the sessions. The evening is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and listen to the plans and expectations for the year. Specialist teachers will also be available if you should have any questions about the Computer, Library, French or Learning Resource programs. Students **are not** to attend this evening with their parents. This evening is not the time to discuss your individual child's progress. If you wish to meet with a teacher individually, please call him or her at the school and arrange a time to meet.



ALL CATEGORY MANAGERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE AT THE PARTICIPATION INFORMATION MEETING AT 6:00PM.

FAMILIES WILL BE GIVEN TWO PARTICIPATION HOURS FOR ATTENDING THIS MEETING (Please be sure to sign in when you enter the school gym).

****CHEQUES TO BE CASHED IN SEPTEMBER****

Just a reminder from the office!

The following cheques will be cashed in September –
FULL YEAR TUITION FEE Chqs

All **ACTIVITY/BOOK FEES** - \$155 FOR ONE CHILD
\$215.00 FOR TWO, \$280.00 FOR THREE.

All **SCHOOL SUPPLY CHQS** - \$60.00 PER STUDENT
Gr. 5. **FIRST AID FEE** \$20.00

Emergency Kit Fee for new students - \$10.00

CONGRATULATIONS!

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Gabriele (Mrs. Gabriele taught Grade 2 last year) and her husband, Michael, on the birth of their son, Liam Michael. He was born on July 7th and weighed 6 lbs 6 oz.

Please keep the Gabriele family in your prayers.

WELCOME

Please join me in welcoming our Grade 2 teachers, Mrs. Dumas and Mrs. Shein. Both Mrs. Dumas and Mrs. Shein will be in the Grade 2 classroom serving as both teachers and education assistants.

SUPERVISORS NEEDED!!!

We are in need for more parents to volunteer for yard supervision, especially for lunch and after school shifts. If you work 2 shifts/wk for the entire school year, you will earn the full 70hrs of participation required. If you work 1 shift/wk for the entire school year, you will earn 35hrs. Many spots are still available. If interested, please contact Deborah Carion at dcarion@hotmail.com.

YARD SUPERVISION MEETING

There will be a meeting for **all supervisors and crossing guards** (returning and new or anyone who is interested in joining the team) on **Tuesday, September 25th at 6:30 pm** in the school library. This is a very important meeting to review roles and responsibilities and we request that you make every effort to attend. If you are interested in supervision, but have not yet been contacted, please join us as we are still in need of supervisors and crossing guards.

CALENDAR

Please find the September calendar and a **tentative** calendar for the year on the school's website. Dates on the yearly calendar *are always subject to change*. Please check the weekly newsletter for updates and reminders.

CHOCOLATE SALES

Our Chocolate Sale Fundraiser will begin next week. Chocolates will be delivered on September 10th and each child will be given a box to take home to sell. A kick-off assembly will take place on September 11th at 11:30 am. All chocolate money is to be handed in to the office and any student who wishes to pick up a new box of chocolates can pick one up from the office. We also will have nut free options available.

COMMISSIONING SUNDAY & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Sunday, September 9th the staff from the school and the Parish Religious Education Program will be commissioned at the 10:00 am Mass. Following this Mass, the Knights of Columbus will be serving a delicious pancake breakfast. This is a wonderful opportunity for the parish community to reconnect after the summer holidays. ALL families are welcome.



THANK YOU

A number of maintenance projects were completed over the summer. I want to thank Mr. Blasiak, our PEC Maintenance coordinator and Mr. Don Patzer, our maintenance employee, for all their hard work.

A special thank you to the parents who helped with our summer projects: painting our swing set, dismantling our computer lab, tending our outdoor garden and washing desks and putting away orders!

ALLERGY ALERT

The safety of all our children is our number one priority at St. Michael's. We have many students and teachers who suffer from severe allergies to nuts and nut products. Even if someone in the class doesn't have the allergy, there are many students who visit different classrooms and left over residue can cause them to have a **life threatening reaction**.

Please consider sending lunches, snacks and classroom treats that do not contain: peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil or other nuts (i.e. Nutella).

Please **do not** send in food for the whole class (i.e. birthdays, etc....). **If you wish, we suggest bringing pencils or erasers, or some other non-edible treat for the students instead of food. Food items brought to school to share with other students will be returned to you.**

To help make some peanut free choices please consider the following suggestions and **always remember to check the label** for recipe changes and peanut warnings.

Possible Nut Free Snacks:

- Fruits and veggies
- Hummus & crackers
- Fruit cups or applesauce
- Yogurt (cups or tubes)
- Kellogg's NutriGrain Cereal Bars
- Christie Fig Newtons, Barnum's Animal Crackers or Teddy Grahams
- Peek Frean's Family Digestives and Fruit Cremes
- Rice Krispies Squares
- Nestle Smarties, Kit Kat, Aero and Coffee Crisp chocolate bars
- Almost any Dare product (look for the peanut free symbol)

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember that the upper parking lot is for **staff vehicles only**. It is *not* to be used to drop off or pick up students at any time of day. Parents, guardians, daycare workers, etc. are not to use this parking lot at all during school hours. **No exceptions**. Please pass this information along to anyone who may be picking up or dropping off your child. In the lower parking lot, you may park in clearly marked spaces **ONLY**. If all spots are occupied, you **ARE NOT** permitted to park "off to the side" or "close to the pylons".

Parking lot rules are in place for the safety of all the students and staff. We thank you for your cooperation. **Parking lot rules will be strictly enforced!!**

HELP KEEP US INFORMED

If your child has any health problems, allergies, etc., of which the office is not aware, please notify us as soon as possible. School staff are not permitted to administer medication, including Tylenol

or antibiotics, without a "Request and Consent for the Administration of Medication" form completed by a parent/guardian and a physician. A properly labeled container is required with instructions and conditions that are to be followed for the administration of such medication.

Parents of **returning** children with **life-threatening** medical concerns/allergies will need to let the office know if there has been any change to their child's "Emergency Action Plan" that we currently have on file. **Every year, medical forms for puffers, epi-pens, or other medication have to be completed by the doctor for renewal. All medication(s) plus new forms were sent home with students on the last day of school in June. If there are changes, new forms must be returned to the office before medication can be administered.**

New students with a medical concern, or returning students who have developed a medical concern, will be receiving a letter with regards to creating an emergency action plan.

If you have changed your address, telephone number, babysitter or place of employment, please contact the office to update your files. Accurate and up to date information is the key to your child's safety.

HOT LUNCH ORDERS

Hot Lunch order forms were sent home today with each student.

This program is completely optional. If you choose to order for your child, please return the form and payment no later than September 13th. If you do not hand in your form by this date, your child will not receive his/her hot lunch on September 27th.



A GREAT FAMILY EVENT - FEAST DAY DINNER AND DANCE

St. Michael's Parish and School will be celebrating its feast day with a dinner/dance on Saturday, September 29th. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 pm and dinner will follow at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 for children, \$12.00 for adults, and \$35.00 for families of five or more (children must be under 12 years old). Tickets may be purchased after the Sunday Masses or you may contact the rectory at 604-521-3406.



CHECK-IN

For safety and security reasons, we will require **ALL** people (other than students and staff) to check in at the office when coming into the school building to do any kind of participation work or when making deliveries (i.e. lunch, homework, etc.)



INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

Students will have their individual photos taken on **Monday, September 10th**. Students are to be in **full uniform**. We will also be taking the panorama picture on Tuesday (weather permitting). School sweaters or vests must be worn.

DELIVERIES TO THE OFFICE

Please be aware if you leave items at the office for another parent, the item will be sent home with the parent's child. If you are concerned that the item will be lost, you will need to deliver the item to the parent yourself. Staff is not responsible for lost or misplaced items that are left at the office for delivery. You are kindly asked, when possible, to deliver items to other parents directly.

MAINTENANCE ISSUES OF ANY TYPE

Please note that **ALL** maintenance jobs or issues must be forwarded to Mrs. Kennedy or Mr. Blasiak (PEC maintenance coordinator). Parents are NOT to approach Mr. Patzer with a maintenance/job item. All work must first be approved by either the principal or the PEC maintenance coordinator. As well, it is Mr. Blasiak's responsibility to approve participation hours in the area of maintenance and **not** Mr. Patzer. Mr. Patzer is here in the mornings only and has limited time to complete the number of tasks on his agenda each day.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PED)

Without expressed permission from the principal or designate, **personal electronic devices are strictly prohibited** on school premises. Failure to comply with this may result in the confiscation of the device and/or disciplinary action. The school assumes no responsibility for the theft, loss, recovery, repair or replacement of any personal electronic device brought onto school property, whether the item is lost, stolen or confiscated.

A parent or guardian will be required to retrieve any confiscated PED from the principal.

Electronics included are: handheld gaming systems (PSP, Nintendo, etc.), iPods, iPads, MP3



players, eReaders, tablets, and video & digital cameras. Parents who require their child to carry a cell phone must understand and agree that the cell phone be turned off and out of sight during the school day (this includes before and after school, at lunch and at recess). If a student is caught using his or her cell phone during the school day then similar consequences as those described for PEDs will apply.

USE OF THE SCHOOL TELEPHONE

The school telephone is a business phone. Students are permitted to use the phone for educational purposes only. In the event of a medical emergency, a staff member is required to call home on behalf of the child. Students are NOT permitted to use the phone to carry out anything that should have been discussed previously at home, e.g. visiting a friend, staying for games, play dates, etc. Students must obtain written permission from their teacher (telephone pass) to use the phone. **Cell phones are NOT permitted for use at school. Students who must carry a cell phone for safety reasons are to keep these phones turned off and tucked away in their back packs.** We ask for your cooperation in helping to minimize the number of personal request calls to deliver messages to students. We do realize that this cannot always be avoided, but when possible; please inform your child/ren of special instructions before they leave for school.



VOLLEYBALL AND SOCCER SEASON

Students who showed an interest in participating in volleyball and/or soccer were given consent forms. If your child is interested in playing girls' volleyball (Grades 4 to 7) or boys' soccer (Grades 4 to 7), please return the signed consent forms by the due date.



NEWSLETTER – IMPORTANT!

Our weekly newsletter will be emailed to you every Thursday and is also available on the school's website. This week's newsletter will be the **ONLY** hardcopy you will receive this year.



STUDENT ABSENCES

Student absences should be reported to the office **no later than** 9:00 am each weekday morning. If you leave a message on our voicemail, please indicate the reason your child is absent. If we do not receive your call, we will call your home, your workplace or an emergency contact number.

Please let us know if any of your contact telephone numbers change. Timely reporting of your child's absence helps us to save valuable time and ensures the safety of each and every student at St. Michael's School. **Any extended absence, i.e. family vacation, requires parents to complete a "Leave of Absence" form. These forms are available from the office and are also on our website under 'downloads'.**

Students are expected to be on time for school and should arrive no later than 8:45 am each morning. If students are not in their classrooms by 8:50 am, they will be considered late. Late students **MUST** report to the office for a **late pass** before going to class.

We are required to keep very accurate records of student attendance as a condition of our funding. As such, it is vital that notes are sent to explain any absenteeism. On your child's return to school, an absentee note stating the nature of the absence, dates of the absence, full name and grade of the student and parent signature is required. It is very time consuming for office staff to have to send home reminders to submit absentee notes and then follow-up when notes are not received.

We thank you for your cooperation in submitting notes promptly!

FAMILY VACATION DURING SCHOOL TIME

The School Act and school regulations require children to be in attendance at school during normal instructional periods. Removing children for vacation trips other than at school breaks brings real hardship on them. The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained. Such absences are, therefore, strongly discouraged. Where such absences are necessary, make-up work is the responsibility of the parent and the student, not the classroom teacher. Parents must complete a Leave of Absence form, available from the office, before they temporarily withdraw a student from school for reasons other than illness. Tuition will not be refunded if you choose to remove your child for an extended period of time.

The Government school grant is only allocated to students who attend 600 hours of instruction per year prior to May 15 (unless absences are the result of sickness and explained in a note). **As a condition of registration, parents undertake to reimburse St. Michael's School for any loss of government grant**

resulting from their child's insufficient attendance at school.

UNIFORM

Used-uniforms are sold on the first Friday of every month from 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm in the school library. Alternatively, you may order new items from our uniform supplier, NEAT Uniforms <https://www.neatuniforms.ca/>

**Please note the following:

- The winter uniform may be worn all year.
- Please ensure that your child is wearing all black runners or all black dress shoes. Students will be told this week if their foot wear meets guidelines. There should be absolutely NO coloured markings on the shoes. If you are having trouble finding all black runners then purchase all black dress shoes. You can find shoes at The Shoe Company, The Shoe Warehouse or Panda Shoes.
- Summer uniform is to be worn with white socks which must be above the ankle (i.e. mid-calf or higher)

Students must be in the approved uniform unless special concessions are made. The uniform must be kept clean, neat and presentable, shirts must be tucked in and shoes fastened. If, for any reason, a student cannot wear the complete uniform, the parent must send an explanatory note to the teacher. Uniform items marked with an asterisk* must be purchased from our school store. (i.e. *approved pants are pants purchased ONLY from our store.*)

WINTER UNIFORM - Worn from **November 1 to April 30** (or all year)

GIRLS

- White school golf shirt*
- Tunic* (K – Gr. 3)
- Tunic* OR skirt* (Gr. 4 – 7)
- Navy blue school cardigan/vest*
- Navy blue knee-high socks OR leotards
- **All-black** shoes (either **all** black runners or **all** black dress shoes)

BOYS

- White school golf shirt*
- Navy blue dress pants*
- Navy blue school sweater/vest*
- Navy blue socks
- **All-black** shoes (either **all** black runners or **all** black dress shoes)

SUMMER UNIFORM - Worn from **May 1 to October 31** (dates subject to change at principal's discretion)

GIRLS

- White school golf shirt*
- Navy skort*
- School cardigan/vest*
- White socks - no logos and above the ankle
- **ALL BLACK** shoes (either **all** black runners or **all** black dress shoes)

BOYS

- White school golf shirt*
- Navy walking shorts*
- School sweater/vest*
- White socks – no logos and above the ankle
- **ALL BLACK** shoes (either **all** black runners or **all** black dress shoes)

Students **MUST** have their cardigan, sweater or vest at school at all times even if it is not being worn. Unless otherwise stated, students must wear their cardigan, sweater or vest at assemblies, school Mass and for Picture Day.

GYM UNIFORM

Boys and girls have the same gym uniform. Students must bring their gym uniform to school in a gym bag on Mondays and take it home on Fridays to be washed. Gym uniforms are required for grades 1 – 7.

- St. Michael's red shorts*
- St. Michael's red T-shirt*
- Runners and socks (runners for gym class do not need to be all black)

Hair Policy as per Parent Handbook: "Hair must be clean and neat and, for boys above the collar in length. No dyed, streaked or bleached hair is permitted. Hair accessories must be red, black, navy blue, white, or school plaid and must be minimal in size."

Please note that this also includes no "fad" haircuts. The principal will determine whether a haircut is a "fad" or not.



LOST AND FOUND

To help avoid loss and confusion, clothing should be **clearly labelled** with your child's first and last name. Each year, an unbelievable number of items are found and not claimed by their owners.

Because the children wear similar items of clothing, confusion can easily be avoided if items are clearly marked with a name. Our Lost and Found box is located in the main entrance of the school. Small articles other than clothing (i.e. jewellery, watches, keys, etc.) are turned in to the office. At the end of each term, each class will have the opportunity to view the unclaimed articles. Anything not claimed will be donated to a local charitable organization or the used uniform store.



VOLUNTEERS AND CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

As per CISVA policy "Volunteers #425" which was adopted by the Board of Directors we require all volunteers who work with students, without the direct supervision of a staff member, to have a criminal record check done through the RCMP.

Please remember that all visitors entering the school must report to the office to check-in. This needs to be done EVERY time you enter the school. Prior to leaving, please let Mrs. Bird know that you are exiting the school. Anyone wandering through the school without appropriate identification will be asked to report to the office. Please help us to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for your children.

Also, **all parents must report to the school office when entering the school** during instructional time. You should drop off deliveries (lunch, homework, etc.) at the office and we will ensure that the item is brought to your child's classroom. If you need to speak to your child, we will call him/her to the office. Parents are not permitted to go to a child's classroom without first checking in at the office. You may wish to wait until the recess or lunch bell rings to make your own deliveries. We desire to minimize classroom disruptions as much as possible. We will schedule training sessions for our supervision and library volunteers. If you are earning your participation hours in either of these areas, you must make a point of attending a training session.



COMPOSTING BINS

St. Michael's will continue to compost food waste in each of the classrooms. Each classroom has a compost bucket so that food waste – banana peels, apple cores, etc. – may be composted. The contents of the compost buckets will then be emptied into large "green-waste" bins located at the

school. Once per week these bins will be emptied by an organic waste company. Thank you for helping us to be good stewards of God's earth!

WASTE-FREE WEDNESDAY

Every **Wednesday** is a "Waste-Free Day". Students are asked to bring snacks and lunches that include as many items as possible that can be eaten, reused, or recycled and as few items as possible that must be thrown away. You can help your child pack his or her waste-free snack and lunch by including only what your child can eat, using reusable containers or bags, or buying non-perishable foods in bulk. In planning your child's waste-free snack and lunch, remember: if you pack any items that need refrigeration make sure you include a reusable ice pack to keep the items fresh.

Waste-Free Lunch Tips

Include:

- Sandwiches in reusable containers
- Whole fruits without packaging
- Drinks in containers that can be reused, such as a thermos, or recycled, such as a can
- Snacks purchased in bulk and brought in reusable containers
- Reusable ice packs
- Reusable cutlery

Don't Include:

- Individually wrapped snacks
- Plastic baggies that are not reusable
- Disposable forks and spoons
- Straws



- Get children to help pack their lunches with healthy foods.
- Only pack as much food as your child will eat.
- Use a reusable lunch bag/box for carrying a lunch.
- Label all containers so they have a better chance of coming home.
- Use a refillable bottle for drinks – it's cheaper and kids can save drinks for later... Avoid drinks in packaging that cannot be re-sealed. After a few sips, drinks are often discarded.
- Use a thermos for cold drinks or hot soups.
- Put sandwiches, muffins, etc. in 'Tupperware'-style containers, instead of plastic bags or plastic wrap.
- Re-use plastic margarine tubs or yogurt containers for veggies & trail mix.
- Avoid pre-packaged, single-serving portions of snacks or drinks.
- Cut up big items so your kids have food for after-school snacking or recess.
- Put re-usable cutlery and napkins in your child's lunch box.
- Prepare extra food at dinnertime and use the leftovers for lunches.
- Minimize the morning rush (when you'll reach for the convenient, over-packaged items) by packing lunches the night before and refrigerate overnight.
- Include fresh fruit and vegetables for a healthy lunch!

Don't stop at just one day a week of packing waste-free! Pack your child a waste-free snack and lunch every day and pack your own waste-free snack and lunch for work.

Thank you for your support, and please help St. Michael's School make our "Waste-free Wednesdays" a success! For more information on waste-free snacks and lunches please visit

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>

PARKING

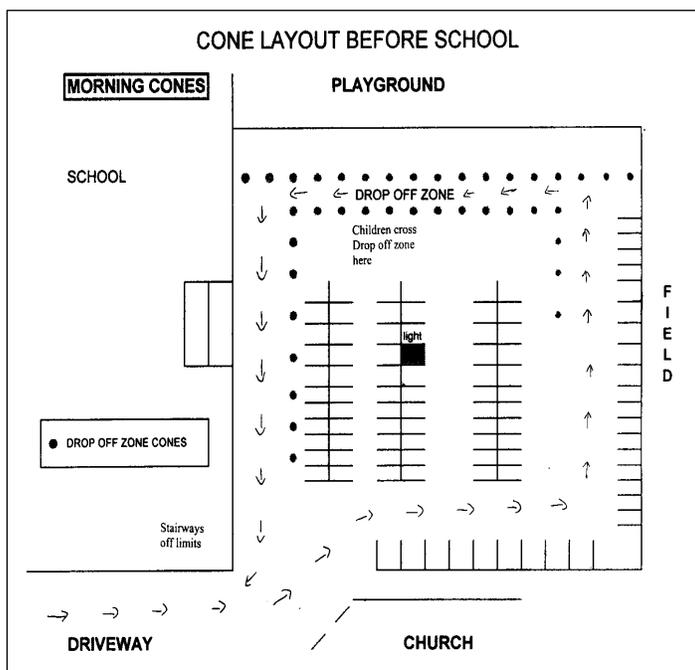
Please be advised that parking in the visibly designated **FIRE LANE** is strictly prohibited for any length of time! This rule applies to **EVERYONE**. No exceptions.

Also, the parking spot clearly marked "**Reserved**" is reserved for the family who purchased it through their winning bid at last year's auction. It is reserved for that family only - 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday and as well, includes special school functions in the evening. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

MORNING DROP-OFF

Please be advised that supervision begins at 8:20 am each day. Students should not arrive at the school prior to 8:20 am. If you choose to drop-off your child early, he/she will not be admitted into the school until

the supervisors begin their shifts. This rule will be strictly enforced even if it is raining, snowing or just plain cold.



Thought(s) of the week...

“Be saints and do not settle for a bland and mediocre existence.... Leave a mark in this world.”

~Pope Francis