

# September Newsletter 2022

## St. AGNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL



254 Neilson Ave., Waterloo, Ontario  
N2K 2M3

**Phone:** 519-885-3180

<http://stagnes.wcdsb.ca>

**Twitter:** @StAgnesCES

Welcome back to all!

On behalf of the staff of St. Agnes, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your children as we begin a new school year! To our new students and families, in particular our new Full Day Kindergarten students, we would like to especially welcome you to our school. We hope that you will find it to be a caring and supportive Catholic community.

It is our belief that a child's Catholic education is a shared responsibility between home and school, thus it is important for everyone to communicate to ensure your child's(ren) success! This is accomplished by communicating with your child's teacher, attending school functions and assisting your child in understanding the importance of education and cooperation. As parents, you are a vital and valuable component of your child's education, therefore, to keep you informed of events at the school, you will be receiving monthly updates in the form of a Newsletter via Newswire, or you may visit our website. St. Agnes School fosters the spiritual, academic, physical, social, and emotional growth and development of all students. We anticipate a year of exciting learning opportunities for all children and look forward to collaboratively working with you as we journey through 2022-2023 in Faith.

God of our past, our present and our future,  
God of our dreams, our designs and our decisions,  
Be love in us as we journey through this new school year.  
Be our inner vision, that we may see life through your eyes,  
Be our inner hearing, that we may listen well for your call,  
Be our inner judgment, so we may discern clearly that which gives life,  
Promotes growth, and nurtures love. As we move into this school year,  
fill us with hope and abiding trust that you dwell in us,  
So that, in both joy and sorrow, we radiate hope. Amen

G. Johnstone    M. Routhier  
Principal        Vice-Principal

**Principal**  
G. Johnstone

**Vice-Principal**  
M. Routhier

**Administrative Assistant**  
H. Jabr  
K. Smith

**Superintendent**  
J. Ritsma

**Parish**  
St. Agnes Parish  
75 Bluevale St. N.  
Waterloo, ON  
N2K 3R7

519-885-4480



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## Together In Faith

### Catholic Graduate Expectations

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind, and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.

The Graduate is expected to be:

- A discerning believer
- An effective communicator
- A reflective, creative and holistic thinker
- A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner
- A collaborative
- A caring family member
- A responsible citizen

Taken from *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations...*

### Sacramental Preparation

The celebration of our faith is done in partnership with our school parish, St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church. Sacraments are Parish events, although initial preparation is done by the schools through the religion program. The sacramental preparation will be conducted through the Parish. For all students interested in the sacrament of **First Communion & First Reconciliation** as well as the sacrament of **Confirmation**, the following are important dates:



|                                |              |     |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| First Communion Mass & Meeting | September 25 | 9am |
| Confirmation Mass & Meeting    | September 25 | 7pm |



### Special Welcome to...

A very special welcome is extended to the following new members of our school staff:

- **Mr. Davis** (Gr. 7/8)
- **Ms. Rosa** (Gr. 7/8)
- **Ms. Bouctsis** (Gr. 6)
- **Ms. Beesley** (Gr. 5/6)
- **Ms. Thiel** (Gr. 4/5)
- **Ms.** (Gr. 4/5, LTO for Ms. McLeod)
- **Ms. Bartlett** (Gr. 4)
- **Ms. Rogalski** (Gr. 1/2)
- **Ms. Cowan** (Planning Time)
- **Ms. Brown** (Planning Time)
- **Ms. Wadel** (Planning Time)
- **Ms. Bravo-Eby** (Planning Time)
- **Mr. Koechl** (Planning Time)
- **Ms. Vitorino** (FSL)
- **Mr. McDonald** (Special Education)



### School Hours

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8:45 a.m.         | <b>Supervision Begins</b>         |
| 9:20 a.m.         | <b>Start Bell – School begins</b> |
| 10:30 a.m.        | <b>Morning Recess</b>             |
| 12:05-1:05 p.m.   | <b>Lunch</b>                      |
| <b>FDK- Gr. 3</b> | <b>Eat Lunch 12:05-12:25pm</b>    |
| <b>Gr. 4-8</b>    | <b>Eat Lunch 12:45pm-1:05pm</b>   |
| 2:25 p.m.         | <b>Afternoon Recess</b>           |
| 3:50 p.m.         | <b>Dismissal</b>                  |

## Safe School Initiatives

### Early Pick-Up

If you need to pick up your child prior to the end of the school day, 3:50 p.m., please send a note with your child in the agenda, advising the teacher when to send him/her to the office. Please buzz the office, and we will sign your child out and send them out to meet you.

### Students Leaving School Property

Please make sure to inform your child's teacher of regular lunch arrangements for your child. If there is a change to the regular arrangements a note signed and dated must be given to the classroom teacher. No students from grade 1- 7 will be allowed to leave the school property without first being signed out by a parent/guardian. Students in grade 8 will be able to leave school property, for lunch, if a note has been provided by the parent. **NO** permission will be granted over the phone. Permission must be done in writing, **every** time the child leaves the school.

## Student Safety



### Peanut and Other Life Threatening Allergies, Sabrina's Law Anaphylaxis Reaction

As we begin the new school year, we would like to inform you that St. Agnes School is an allergen aware school. There are pupils in attendance at our school who suffer from severe and life-threatening allergies to certain foods. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe and life-threatening reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe and life-threatening allergic reaction. We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by **NOT** sending any lunches or snacks that contain peanuts/nut products. We want St. Agnes Catholic School to be a safe environment for all students. Thank you for your assistance with this initiative.

**If your child has been diagnosed with an allergy and you have not notified the school, please do so immediately. There are forms that must be completed.**

A written communication will be sent to the parents/caregivers of children notifying them of the nature of a life-threatening allergy when it is specific to their child's classroom. Your continued cooperation in support of our efforts to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all is greatly appreciated!

## Reporting Absences:



All students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually. In the event that your child will be late or absent, please call the school and follow the prompts to leave a message. This can be done 24 hours a day. For students who are absent and for whom a call is not received, we will attempt to contact you.

**PLEASE CALL: 519-885-3180**

### Please leave the following information:

- Date of the absence
- Student's full name
- Grade level and teacher
- Reason for absence

**All students who arrive after 9:20 a.m. or 1:05 p.m. must obtain a Late Slip.**

**\*Students are considered late if they do not enter their classroom with their classmates!**



### **Respect for Self, Respect for Others**

As a staff, we continue to work together to provide examples and consistency in modeling Jesus' message to our students. We will assist and remind students of the importance of being respectful and working together to create a safe, caring, and inclusive community.

## Student Safety continued...



**Please do not send birthday snacks / cakes / treats into the school. There are many alternatives such as stickers and pencils.**

We appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community. We want St. Agnes Catholic School to be a safe environment for all students.

### Medical Concerns

If your child has any medical concerns, please ensure that you inform the school. Information may be shared directly with the classroom teacher /office. If medication is required, forms will be sent for completion by parents and the family doctor. All information is held in confidence.

#### Medication



School staff cannot administer medication, including aspirins and Tylenol without a *"Request and Consent for Administration of Medication"* form, completed and signed by a doctor. A properly labeled container is required, including the instructions and conditions that are to be followed for the administration of the medication for the safety of the child.

Parents of children with life threatening medical concerns/allergies are asked to notify Ms. Jabr in the school office and fully complete an Emergency Medication Protocol form each September and return it to the school as soon as possible. All medication is stored in the office area. The only exception to this requirement has to do with any child who, because of life threatening allergies, must carry medication.

### Student Supervision



School yard supervision does not begin until 8:45 a.m. every morning. Please, for the students' safety, do not drop students off at the school prior to 8:45 a.m. unsupervised.



### Visitors to the School

We would like to thank all our parents and other visitors to the school for respecting the designated waiting areas outside your child's exit door. In the event you have an appointment or are volunteering, please be reminded that all visitors to the school are to report to the office. This helps to ensure the safety and security of all students.



### Emergency Information/ Parent Consent Form

A printout and attendance card for each of your children containing the most current emergency contact information we have in our database will be sent home for verification. Please review the information and return it to school no later than **Monday, September 19, 2022** to your child(ren)'s teacher indicating any changes. It is critical that we have current and accurate contact information on file in the event your child becomes ill or in the rare case of an emergency. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

## Student Safety Continued...

For student safety, we would like to remind all parents and visitors to please use designated waiting areas outside the school yard from 8:45 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. These measures will help to protect the security of all students as well as help to reduce the congestions at busy drop off and dismissal times. **Remember you are a stranger to most students!**

### Parking Procedures

No one would disagree that student safety is the single most important priority for all of our students here at St. Agnes C.E.S. Please review parking procedures, and I ask that you please inform anyone (grandparents, friends, neighbours, etc.) who drop off your child before school or picks them up after school.

The only vehicles that will be allowed to enter the parking lot at St. Agnes C.E.S. will be: **St. Agnes staff, and WCDSB personnel.** The area in and around St. Agnes school may be monitored by City of Waterloo By-Law officers. Please be respectful of this policy here at St. Agnes C.E.S. and understand that our yard duty teachers, who patrol the area before and after school, have your child's safety and best interest at heart. It is our moral imperative to provide a safe place for our students each and every day they come to school. Thank You for all that you do to keep our kids safe.



### Volunteers- Criminal Reference Check

We are pleased to welcome back our volunteers to support learning in our school. We appreciate your commitment and support and look forward to a great year.

In accordance with the Safe Schools Act, **all volunteers, including those going on one day school trips, must have a Criminal Reference Check.** Here is the link to apply online for your CRC <https://www.wrps.on.ca/en/services-reporting/police-criminal-record-check.aspx>.

### Dress Code

Students at St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School are expected to dress appropriately to promote a positive learning environment which reflects our Catholic beliefs and values. Clothing with inappropriate logos/symbols are **not** to be worn to school. These items are contrary to both the philosophy of our Catholic schools and the standards that we set as educators.



## Student Safety Continued

### Lunch Routines



It is best if your child comes to school with their lunch and snacks every day, however, if you are delivering your child's lunch to school, please do so between 11:45 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. When lunches are delivered late, it reduces the amount of time that students have to eat. Please also write your child's name on his/her lunch bag and deliver it to the main office. Thank you for your support.

For safety reasons, if a student is going home for lunch, a **written request signed and dated in your child's agenda or a separate note from you** is required for each occurrence. Unless you have indicated that your child goes home every day.

### P.E.D.s (Personal Electronic Devices)/ Cell Phones

It is the policy of St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School and the WCDSB that Personal Electronic Devices such as mobile phones etc., are only be used as per teachers' instructions for educational use. If not in use in class, they should be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used on school premises or during school-sanctioned events. Students who are using these devices in school or on school property may face consequences.



### Community Corner

JOIN US!



You are invited to attend our Open House with your child(ren) on **Thursday, September 22, 2022.**

- Meet the teacher in the classrooms 6:00-7:30pm.



### Transportation

Information pertaining to Transportation can be accessed online at [www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca). You can also go to the board website [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca) and use the link for student transportation.

Please ensure that for those children who are transported via school bus, they know which bus and which stop is theirs. If you wish to change the bus stop, please make your request in writing. **Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that kindergarten and grade one students are met at the bus.** If the bus driver does not see a parent or sitter at the scheduled stop, the child will be returned to the school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the office.

## Clubs, Teams and Sports News

Information on the many clubs, teams and sports available at St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School will be sent home within the next few weeks. We are looking forward to being able to provide these this school year. Please support your child in coming out and trying out for the numerous teams and being a part of the many clubs.

There are many opportunities for students to get involved in our school!



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 6  | First Day of School                                     |
| September 22 | Open House 6:00-7:30pm                                  |
| September 25 | First Communion Meeting 9am<br>Confirmation Meeting 7pm |
| September 28 | Treetop Trekking Gr. 7/8                                |
| September 29 | Father Aleks visit                                      |
| September 30 | Orange Shirt Day  |
| October 1    | First Communion Enrolment<br>All Masses                 |
| October 6    | St. Agnes Opening Mass<br>At 9:45 am                    |

## In the Community

### Terry Fox Run



On Friday, **September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**, St. Agnes will be participating in a school initiative to help collect donations for the Terry Fox Foundation to support Cancer Research. Nominated as one of Canada's greatest Canadians, Terry Fox has been able to fulfill his ultimate dream of raising funds for cancer research toward finding a cure for cancer.

St. Agnes students and staff will have an opportunity to help carry out his Marathon of Hope.

Students are asked to wear red and white to represent our Canadian heritage. If you would like to volunteer to walk with the classes, please let the classroom teacher know.

Raindate is September 26<sup>th</sup>.