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# November Newsletter 2023

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St. AGNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL



254 Neilson Ave., Waterloo, Ontario

N2K 2M3

Phone: 519-885-3180

<http://stagnes.wcdsb.ca>

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## *Remembrance Day Prayer*

God our Father, your Son Jesus surrendered His life to free us from the power of sin and death. He showed us that the greatest love is in giving up one's life for others.

This month, we remember those who fought and died for our freedom. We ask you to bless and console them together with their families. Help us to understand the sacrifices they made in leaving their loved ones to face the horrors of war. May we never forget their generosity.

May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to resist evil in all its forms and show us how to be peacemakers through prayer and action, lest we forget those who fought, suffered, and died that we might have the freedom and peace we enjoy today. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

G. Johnstone    P. Baillie  
Principal        Vice-Principal

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### **Principal**

G. Johnstone

### **Vice-Principal**

P. Baillie

### **Administrative Assistant**

H. Jabr

K. Smith

### **Superintendent**

J. Ritsma

### **Parish**

St. Agnes Parish

75 Bluevale St. N.

Waterloo, ON

N2K 3R7

519-885-4480



## Together In Faith

### Deep Learning/ OCSGE- Effective Communicator

An Effective Communicator is someone who speaks and writes honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.



### Remembrance Day Celebration

Our Remembrance Day Celebration will take place on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank our Planning Time teachers and their classes for leading us on this special day.



### Advent: Begins December 3, 2023

As a school community we will be celebrating the advent season weekly within our classrooms and as a Catholic community.



### Progress Report

The Progress Report Card will be sent home on November 20, 2023. This report shows a student's development of the learning skills and work habits, and general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum. Two Elementary Provincial Report Cards will be issued later in the school year, one between January and February for Term One, and another towards the end of June for Term Two.



### Parent/Teacher Interviews

These will take place on Thursday, November 23rd. These interviews will be done in person, please reach out to your classroom teacher if you are having issues booking your appointments.

## 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!**

## 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.



### 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, inclusive community.

## 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. Please note that there is **NO STOPPING** on Bluevale St.



### 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.





## Lock Down, Fire Drills & Hold and Secure

During the month of September and October we rehearsed with students a number of emergency response situations including fire drills and Lock Down drills. All schools are required by Board policy to practice these procedures throughout the year. We have these 'rehearsals' for precautionary purposes only so that in the event of an actual emergency, students will be prepared to respond in a safe and responsible manner. Thank you for your understanding.

### Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 20-24, 2023– Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent, and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

## Catholic School Advisory Council

The Catholic School Advisory Council would like to thank everyone involved in this year's very successful Dance-a-thon. It was held in the gym and everyone had a great time! The Dance-a-thon would not have been nearly as exciting if we didn't have our parents act as our DJ and pumping out the tunes and keeping the energy up all day. Parents, friends and family, we greatly appreciate your generous donations to help our school reach our fundraising goal. We are excited to announce that we raised over \$7 000.00!!

We would also like to remind everyone that we are having a winter clothing drive right now. If you have new and gently used winter clothing you may drop them off at the school until Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> to 4:00pm. On Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4-8pm, you and your family can come to the school to pick up items.

Please remember that CSAC meetings are open to everyone, and you can always volunteer to be part of a committee. Next scheduled meeting is on February 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm.



## 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.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

November 10	Remembrance Day Celebration
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 13	PA Day- no school
November 13-17	Bullying Prevention Week
November 14	Vision Screening for SK students
November 20	Progress Reports Come Home
	Photo Re-take Day
November 22	St. David's Open House 6pm
November 23	Parent/ Teacher Interview Night
	Library Fair
December 4	First Week of Advent
December 7	Advent Reconciliation
December 8	Angel Day