

**ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL** – 68 Coles Avenue, Ajax, Ontario, L1T 3H5

Ms. N. Wheeler, Principal

Mrs. P. Delaney, Vice-Principal

Mrs. P. Chin, Secretary



**Prayer to St. Jude**

Let us pray for the gift of God's Spirit, as our community grows stronger. We all belong to the family of St. Jude Catholic School. We ask God's continued blessings to help us grow in love for ourselves, for our friends, for our family and for our staff. St. Jude pray for us, Amen.

**STUDENT HANDBOOK 2016 - 2017**

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This agenda belongs to:

FIRST NAME (ONLY PLEASE): \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our Mission**

We are called to celebrate and nurture the God-given talents of each student as we serve with excellence in the light of Christ.



**School Hours:**

**8:45** – Supervision begins

**9:00** – Class begins

**10:25-10:40** – Morning Recess

**11:45-12:45** – Lunch

**2:10 – 2:25** – Afternoon Recess

**3:30** - Dismissal

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**Welcome to St. Jude Catholic School!** At our school we truly value the relationship between parish, home and school. We are committed to providing a supportive environment that fosters development of the Catholic Graduate Expectations, Virtues, Catholic Social Teachings and the improvement of student learning.

We all work together to make our school a safe learning place for children to grow spiritually, academically and emotionally. We recognize the uniqueness of all members of our school community and support each other in our learning.

We encourage all students to participate in school activities and to share their talents and gifts with others. It is important for us to spend time and effort in finding ways to help those less fortunate.

The agenda is intended to provide you with important information about our school. It is also an excellent tool for meaningful communication between home and school. Please review the agenda **with your child**. A mutual understanding of our school routines and a clear definition of our expectations will form the basis of a positive relationship between home and school. **Please sign in the spots indicated in the agenda (periodic draws for prizes for students that have their agenda signed!)** Thanks for your support as we strive to continue to provide meaningful learning experiences for all students at St. Jude Catholic School.

Ms. N. Wheeler  
Principal

## HISTORY OF ST. JUDE

St. Jude, also known as St. Jude Thaddeus, brother of James the Less, was one of the 12 Apostles. The legend states that St. Jude was born into a Jewish family in a town in Galilee and that his father was murdered because of his outspoken devotion to Christ. His mother was a cousin to the Virgin Mary and his father a cousin of St. Joseph.

Ancient writers tell us that after Jesus' ascension into heaven, St. Jude preached the Gospel in many countries. Everywhere he taught people to be humble and meek and love God. A 14<sup>th</sup> century writer said that St. Jude was the bridegroom at the wedding at Cana. St. Jude was the one who asked

Jesus at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the world after His resurrection. Very little else is known of his life.

St. Jude is often shown with a flame above his head. This represents his presence at Pentecost, when he received the Holy Spirit with the other apostles. St. Jude is traditionally depicted carrying the image of Jesus in his hand or close to his chest. Occasionally, he is represented holding an axe or club, as he was brought to death by one of these weapons. In some instances, he may be shown with a scroll or a book (The Epistle of St. Jude) or holding a carpenter's rule.

Saint Jude suffered martyrdom about 65 AD in Galilee with the apostle Simon, with whom he is usually connected. Sometime after his death, Saint Jude's body was brought to Rome and placed in a crypt in St. Peter's Basilica. St. Jude Thaddeus is invoked in desperate situations. His New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them. Therefore, he is the patron saint of the sick and of desperate and lost causes.

**Saint Jude and Simon are venerated together on their shared feast day, October 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## SCHOOL HOURS

8:45	Yard supervision begins
9:00	Classes begin
10:25 – 10:40	Morning Recess
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45	Afternoon classes begin
2:10 – 2:25	Afternoon Recess
3:30	Dismissal

## SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS



### **ALLERGY ALERT SCHOOL**

The St. Jude Catholic School community supports the philosophy of inclusion and will endeavor to create a safe school environment for all staff and students. Precautions will be taken to ensure that the setting in which anaphylactic students spend the majority of their time be as safe and allergen free as possible.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide the school with information relating to their child's allergy and to provide the school with up to date Epi pens and specific information from a physician. Please contact your child's teacher.

An anaphylactic reaction is a severe, sudden, possibly life-threatening allergy to such items as peanuts, nuts, bee stings, shellfish, etc. When a student is diagnosed with anaphylaxis, it is important for the school to take extra precautions to ensure the student's well being. We have many students at St. Jude Catholic School with severe allergies.

In order to create a safe environment for these students, nut **products** are not permitted in any areas of our school. We thank you for your co-operation. under "Safe Schools" or ask your principal for more information.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF ORAL MEDICATION**

The Durham Catholic District School Board *Administration of Oral Medication Policy* recognizes that it will occasionally be necessary to administer oral medication to students at the school. Under these special circumstances, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be asked to sign a consent form giving permission for school personnel to administer the medication. It is understood that this consent form needs to be re-signed each school year. **These forms can be picked up at the office or from Mrs. Frederick, our Program Support Teacher.**

### **SAFE ARRIVAL POLICY**

The Durham Catholic District School Board *Safe Arrival Policy* ensures the safe arrival of each student and our attendance is monitored each morning and afternoon. Each teacher is required to submit a list of students who have not arrived for either morning or afternoon classes. The office staff then makes contact with the home of any student whose absence has not been explained.

### **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS BEFORE AND AFTERSCHOOL**

As was the case in 2015-2016, parents and guardians are reminded of the following:

**Daily supervision starts at 8:45 a.m.** There are no staff members prior to 8:45 to supervise students, and all exterior doors to the school are locked. If your child is at school prior to 8:45, you are placing him/her in an unsupervised situation. **There should be no expectation of students being buzzed into the school prior to 8:45 a.m.** The Office will be contacting parents/guardians who do not adhere to this policy, one that is in effect in all publicly funded elementary schools in Ontario.

### **PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE**

The Education Act (Section 21 and 30) states that children must attend school regularly until the age of 18. Punctuality and attendance at school are directly linked to student success and achievement. **Student absenteeism and lates are monitored by the classroom teacher who will contact parents and the Principal and Attendance Counsellor if there continues to be a concern.** Research shows that regular and punctual attendance at school has a direct impact on mental health and overall success and well-being for our students. If at any time we can assist you to improve your child's attendance and punctuality, please do not hesitate to call the office.

### **LUNCH HOUR**

It is expected that children who are within walking distance and are able to, go home for lunch. This provides a change of pace in their day and serves as a refresher for their afternoon program. We realize however, that in some cases, it is necessary for students to remain at school. **As an Eco school, we encourage boomerang lunches (bins available). Please use reusable water bottles, not plastic water bottles.**

Students who have to stay for lunch are expected to follow routines and procedures established and clearly explained to them by their teacher.

Children eat their lunch in designated classrooms from 11:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Students are expected to remain in the playground area (weather permitting) from 12:10 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. **NO CHILD** staying for lunch is allowed to leave the school yard. If a child who stays at school for lunch wished to leave school property at lunch, the following needs to be in place:

**The parent/guardian needs to come to the Office to sign out his/her child. The school does NOT accept notes to go out for lunch or to go to a friend's house or any other location.**

### **DRESS CODE**

The following guidelines are in place for students regarding appropriate dress and appearance:

- Be attentive to personal grooming, cleanliness and safe footwear;
- Indoor (non-marking soles) and Outdoor shoes are required;
- No flip-flops to ensure safety and to avoid injury;
- Arrive at school in clean, seasonal clothes for both indoors and outdoors
- Wear age appropriate clothing the demonstrates modesty and respect for self and others; no undergarments should be showing;
- Shirts, skirts, and shorts of reasonable length (i.e., non-revealing modest and respectful)
- Shirts and tops must have midribs covered; sleeveless tops have 3-finger width straps
- Jeans are intact; no ripped jeans;
- Clothing with objectionable logos or messages displaying violence, racism, discrimination, profanity, or promoting inappropriate behavior will not be allowed.

**STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ABIDE BY THE DRESS CODE WILL BE ASKED TO COVER UP OR CHANGE.**

### **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS**

Catholic schools, religious education and faith formation programs are vitally important for sharing the substance and values of the Catholic social justice heritage.

Just as the social teaching of the Church is integral to Catholic faith, the social justice dimensions of teaching are integral to Catholic education and catechesis. They are an essential part of Catholic identity and formation. (*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions* U.S. Bishops, 1998).

The Catholic Social Teachings are:

- Human Dignity
- Community and the Common Good
- Human Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Stewardship of Creation
- Solidarity
- Promotion of Peace

### **PARISH COMMUNITIES**

Families in the St. Jude Catholic School community belong to two parishes. St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church and St. Bernadette Catholic Church. Geographically, we are in St. Francis de Sales parish. St. Jude Catholic School and Father Peter Jae Choi at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church work closely together to nurture and develop the faith life of our community.

Daily prayer, religious and family life instruction, liturgical celebrations and social justice projects provide the core of our school life. Father Peter Jae Choi shares in and assists with instruction at our school and at the church and celebrates the Eucharist with us. Parents and Guardians and other family members are always welcomed and encouraged to attend Mass.

Sacramental preparation is the responsibility of the family in conjunction with the parish. Families are requested to attend parish meetings for Sacramental years (Grade 2 – First Reconciliation and First Eucharist and Grade 8 – Confirmation). All information about sacramental preparation should be obtained through the parish. Our classroom teachers assist by providing ongoing instruction and opportunities to practice the Gospel message.



### St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

Pastor: Father Joseph Grima  
Address: 1001 Ravenscroft Rd.  
Phone: 905.683.1403  
Mass Times: Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM  
12:00 noon

### St. Bernadette Catholic Church

Pastor: Father Keith Wallace  
Address: 21 Bayly St. E.  
Phone: 905.683.1533  
Mass Times: Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM  
12:00 noon, 7:00 PM

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The purpose of the Catholic School Council is to assist the Principal on the matters set out by the Ministry of Education and the Durham Catholic District School Board in an advisory capacity. All parents are invited to attend our monthly meetings; please check our newsletter each month for the dates. Our first meeting and elections will take place in early October.

### PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent Volunteers are always welcome and needed at St. Jude Catholic School. They provide assistance in classrooms, act as supervisors on school trips, assist with pizza and sub days, and help with fundraising and other special events in the school. We are very appreciative of any support we receive from our parent community. **All parent volunteers are required to submit a current police check to the main office before volunteering with our students.**

### ONTARIO CURRICULUM

Information about the Ontario Curriculum can be found on the Ministry website:  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/>

### CHANGING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HOMEWORK

In recent years, changes in the way teachers think about their assessment practices have caused us to re-examine our beliefs about the importance and

nature of homework. The Ministry of Education policy document, *Growing Success*, states that the focus of assessment is “**for, as, and of** learning.” Research tells us that assessment no longer should be seen as just an end product, but a journey of learning along the way where the teacher examines and assesses what a student is learning and understanding at different points. Consequently, if a teacher is assessing a student for and as learning, the teacher must be present during the task. Homework or projects completed entirely at home remove the teacher from the learning journey. There is no empirical data that supports the notion that homework gives students an academic advantage.

The following are guidelines for homework:

- Nightly homework routine should include reading, whether it has been assigned or not; Ongoing review of classwork and concepts covered is also appropriate and recommended
- Homework will only be work that should have otherwise been completed in class, and in the end-stages of assignments or projects
- Students may be assigned incomplete work due to planned absences
- Children need time to be children and to have play time and family time at home
- Homework will not be typically be assigned during holidays (Christmas, Easter, March break, Victoria Day, Family Day weekend)

### STUDENT SERVICES

The Durham Catholic District School Board supports the belief that each student is unique, with individual strengths and needs. Our philosophy and policy of Inclusion provides for each student's needs. For students experiencing difficulty or requiring support, services are available at the school level, and are accessed through the School Team Meeting process. If further intervention is needed, system level supports are available through Student Services at DCDSB, including Social Work, Child /Youth Counselling, Psychological Services and Speech and Language Pathologist. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to meet.

## **Confirmation of Review of Code of Conduct**

As part of the Ontario Code of Conduct, the school Code of Conduct is to be communicated to students and parents through the student agenda. Parents and students are asked to review the Code of Conduct together (see following pages) and sign a Confirmation of Review to indicate that they have read the Code of Conduct.

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

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Academic Honesty
- ✓ Code of Conduct
- ✓ Information Technology

Reviewed by Teacher for signatures: \_\_\_\_\_