

September 2008

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to the new families joining our school community.

Many thanks to our custodial and teaching staff who have done an excellent job getting the school ready for what promises to be another exciting and successful year at Immaculate Conception. Together, in partnership with you the parents, we will continue to build a school community which is centered on our Catholic values and on excellence in education.

This year, our school will continue to have the same 3 overall priorities as our focus:

- Quality Learning for All
- Catholic Communities of Faith
- Safe and Caring School Communities

The mission of our Board is to meet the needs of each individual child. Our staff will continue to participate in professional development activities throughout the year that will assist them in meeting the specific needs of the students in our school and to maintain a safe and caring learning environment for all. Our school is blessed to have a very dedicated and hard working staff who will continue to provide meaningful and productive programs for all of our students.

Communication is the key to maintaining our strong partnership between the home, school and church. We value your input and support and we will continue to work together toward the mutual goal of having our students meet their potential in all aspects of their growth. As parents, we thank you for ensuring that the message between the home and school is consistent in terms of attendance, promptness, completing all school assignments, and respecting others.

As the principal, I welcome all comments and suggestions for improvement. With staff, we will do our best to let you know of plans and events at the school. Please continue to look for our school newsletter at the beginning of each month. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact me. A reminder that the monthly newsletter will be available online.

We look forward to working with you on school endeavours.

BLESSING AT THE START OF A SCHOOL YEAR!

Loving God,
Extend Your blessing over our families
This new school year.
May our schools be filled with love, joy and hope.
Let trespasses be forgiven,
Let wounds be healed,
Let conflict melt into harmony.

May our children grow in knowledge,
Understanding and wisdom;
May they be strong in mind, body and Spirit;
May they have the courage to follow Your ways.

Finally dear God,

May home, parish and school work together to create a
world where our children
Can help build a civilization of love.

Amen

SAFE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Again this year, as part of our safe arrival program, we will call the parents/guardians of any child who is absent from school to ensure that they are "safe" and absent with your knowledge. This calling will be done immediately after the daily absences are reported to the office by our classroom teachers.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated and we thank you for reporting absences to the office by leaving a message on our answering machine at **905-851-9566** or by sending a note to the classroom teacher. Please remember that calls to the answering machine can be made at any time that the school office is not opened so you do not need to wait until morning to call if you know late at night that your child(ren) are not well and will not be attending school. We are providing a fridge magnet with this number for your easy reference and access.

STAFF ORGANIZATION FOR 2008/09 SCHOOL

YEAR

Head Custodian:	Mr. Marcello
Secretary:	Mrs. Messina
JK (afternoon):	Mrs. Capuano
SK (morning):	Mrs. Capuano
JK/SK (alternate A days):	Mrs. Giacomino
Gr. 1	Mrs. Brady
Gr. 2	Mrs. D’Andrea
Gr. 3	Mrs. Savo
Gr. 3/4	Mrs. LoBianco
Gr. 4/5	Mrs. Casbarro
Gr. 5/6	Mrs. MacAskill
Gr. 6	Mrs. Giovannetti
Gr. 7	Mr. Molony
Gr. 7/8	Mrs. Van Eyk
Gr. 8	Mrs. Vitullo
French:	Mme Giuliano and Mme Malisani
Core Resource:	Mr. Feltrin
Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Guerrero
Ed. Intervenor	Mrs. Smith
Librarian:	Mr. Vilardo
Heritage Language:	Signora Montesano
Lunch time supervisor	Mrs. Berardis
Custodians:	Mr. Marcello, Mrs. Rizzo and Mr. Solimine
Principal:	Mrs. Turco

If you would like to speak to your child’s teacher, we ask that you please contact the office. The teacher will get back to you as soon as it becomes possible. Thank you for not approaching staff with questions in the halls or out in the school yard., since their priority at that time would be the students in their care and they would not be able to give your question their focused attention.

DAILY SCHEDULE GR. 1-8

The structure of our school day has not changed. It remains as follows:

8:35am	Yard supervision begins
8:50am	School begins
8:50-10:20am	Classes
10:20-10:35am	AM recess
10:35-12:00pm	Classes
12:00-12:20pm	Lunch
12:20-1:00pm	Lunch recess
1:00-2:20pm	Classes
2:20-2:35pm	PM recess
2:35-3:40pm	Classes
3:40pm	Dismissal

We are requesting your continued cooperation and support to help your child(ren) be on time! If you are transporting your child to school, please drop them off between 8:35am and 8:45am. Please do not wait until 8:50am since if your child does not enter the school with his/her class under the teacher’s direction, then your child is late and will not be admitted to class without a late slip.

If you are picking up your child(ren) after school, please park on Aberdeen. You may then wait for child(ren) outside their designated exit doors. We request that you not enter the school.

We must know who is visiting our school. All parents and other visitors **must** report to the office when entering the school building. Any messages, books, etc. will be passed on to your children via office personnel.

If your child(ren) know that you will be dropping off a lunch for them, please place it on the round table in the front foyer for your child(ren) to pick up.

This year again, badges will be available in the office, for visitors, volunteers, and supply teachers.

STUDENT AGENDAS FOR GRADES 2-8

Our Grade 2-8 students will once again be utilizing “agendas” or planners in order to promote time management and organizational skills. These agendas will be used primarily by the students to record:

- homework assignments
- upcoming events
- gym days, etc.

However, it is also used to facilitate regular communication between parent/guardian and teacher regarding important information. Please ask to see your child’s agenda nightly as a means of tracking his/her homework and keeping tabs on upcoming class events or activities. The school and the Catholic School Council are subsidizing the cost of these agendas, so the charge to our students in grades 2 - 8 is \$2.00. The money should be sent to their classroom teacher who will then provide them with an agenda.

ALLERGY SAFE SCHOOL

Our school needs to continue to be an allergy safe school environment to make it as safe as possible for children suffering from life-threatening allergies. Board Policy (Policy #209), **Protection of Anaphylactic Students**, directs us to ensure that everything is done to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions.

One key factor is the avoidance of the allergen. Therefore, please remember that as in the past, no **nut products** should be brought to school by anyone in any grade. A real concern is the cross contamination that could occur since all students share the facilities and equipment. If your child has a severe allergy to any food products, please inform the office immediately. Reminder that “Tim bits” are not guaranteed to be nut safe and should not be brought to school.

We will continue again this year, the **no food sharing rule and we will continue to prohibit food outdoors** to minimize exposure to insects. Thank you for not sending in any food as part of celebrations (birthdays).

We are reminded in our policy that the challenge posed by Anaphylaxis is a test of our Catholic identity and a call to serve our Lord. As a Catholic community, we are obligated to treat anaphylactic students as if they are our own, children, brothers and sisters.

I thank all of you, the members of our Immaculate Conception community, for your continued support in this important safety issue.

TEXTBOOKS

Specific texts, which are numbered, will be distributed to your child to use this year. Any texts or library books that are lost will need to be replaced by the student. Thank you for reviewing with your children how to care for textbooks and library books to ensure that we can use them for many years to come.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – Notice to Parents

During the 2008/09 school year, your child(ren) will be involved in a variety of school related activities and events consistent with the purpose of education students in accordance with the Education Act.

Upon registering your child with the York Catholic District School Board you completed a Freedom of Information Consent.

Personal information is collected pursuant to the Education Act and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. We bring to your attention the following areas that you and/or your child’s personal information may be disclosed without notification to you, such as:

- *Catholic School Council activities and Catholic School Council communications.
- *Class lists, emergency phone networks, local Parish, Catholic Community Services, etc.
- *In case of an accident or witness to an accident, the student’s name and home address will be released to the Board’s insurer.
- *The release of photographs, artwork, writing or other schoolwork to the media (print/electronic) and/or school/Board website.
- *The use of names, photographs, etc. used for display in the school, newsletters, and yearbooks.

If you have any objections to the use and disclosure of your child’s personal information, please contact the office in writing as soon as possible. Otherwise, the school will assume your approval.

Questions about the collection and the use of this personal information should be directed to the Freedom of Information Administrator, York Catholic District School Board, 320 Bloomington Rd. W., Aurora, Ontario L3G 3G8 or (905) 713-2711.

MEDICATION

We would like to remind our community that students are not to have medications in their desk, knapsack, etc. If your child has a condition that requires taking medication during the school day, please inform the office. It is Board policy that parents/guardians submit a completed “Administration of Medication” form if their children are required to take medicine at school.

LUNCH ROUTINE

Please complete and return the enclosed lunch form to your child’s teacher by Friday Sept 5th. Students who remain at school for lunch will be eating in their classroom and must remain on school property for the lunch recess. If your child’s lunch time routine changes, a note signed by the parent will be required at that time and for EACH such occasion. Thank you for ensuring that any change to the routine is made in advance.

EMERGENCY FORMS

A preprinted emergency form is being sent home with each child. If the information is complete, please sign the form and return it to your child’s teacher. If any information is incorrect, please note the changes on this form sign and return it to your child’s teacher. Any forms that have corrections will then have that information changed in our school records.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

If interested, please complete as per directions and mail directly to Reliable Life in the postage paid return envelope

SCHOOL CALENDAR

We are enclosing, for your reference, a copy of the calendar for this school year.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

A before and after school program is operated by "Kids Can Doodle" at Immaculate Conception. Parents can call 905-264-7868 for more information about the program.

PICTURE DAY

Please note that picture day is on **Friday, October 3rd**.

INDOOR SHOES

All students are required to have a second pair of shoes for indoor wear that can be kept at school. These shoes should be labeled with your child's name and have non-marking soles for physical education classes.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AGREEMENT

We have included in this package, for all Junior Kindergarten, Grade 4 and new students to our school, the appropriate "Information Technology Student Acceptable Use Agreement" form for your child(ren) to complete and return to their teacher. Thank you for taking the time to review this important agreement with your child(ren). With the support of our community and our Catholic School Council, Immaculate Conception is indeed fortunate to have so many excellent computers and programs to access. However, our students need to understand that the use of this equipment must respect certain conditions.

PARENT HANDBOOK

All new students to our school will shortly receive their parent handbook. This will offer you more information about general school procedures and policies. We hope that you will take some time to become familiar with its contents and ask you to share this information with your child(ren). Please keep this handbook as a handy reference during the years and throughout your child's elementary school years.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our school community will once again have the opportunity to renew their magazine subscriptions while at the same time, raising funds for the school. The students will be participating in an information assembly on Friday, September 5th in our school gym at 11:00a.m. Order forms and ordering information will be distributed to our students after the assembly. We thank, Mrs. Caloiero, for coordinating this activity.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Please note that Friday, September 26th is a professional activity day and there will not be classes for the students on this day. Staff will be involved in curriculum inservices.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the chair of the CSC, Mrs. Mrs. May Marchio, and all of her colleagues for their hard work over the past year. Our Catholic School Council will continue to serve a vital role in the successful operation of our school. We look forward to your continued input and involvement during this school year.

Positions on the Catholic School Council are held for a one year term. If you are interested in being a part of the CSC for the 2008-2009 school year, please complete the nomination form and return it to the office by **Monday, September 8th 2008**. (11 parent representatives will be elected).

A summary of the interested candidates, including a brief statement, will be sent home for the community to review by Friday, September 12th.

Council elections will take place on **Wednesday, September 17th, 2008**. The Council meeting will take place in our school library at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers are most welcomed and appreciated. Parent volunteers can help the school in many ways such as accompanying classes on trips, assisting with hot lunch, working with individual students or groups of children, etc. Please consider getting involved. Please take a moment and complete the volunteer form. The completed form should be returned to your child's teacher by September 17th. All volunteers will need to obtain a "vulnerable sector screening" through the York Regional Police. The form requesting this screening will be available through the office.

RECESS

It is our expectation that all students go out for recess at scheduled times. Fresh air and exercise are important for all children. Generally, any child who is not well enough to go out for recess is not well enough to be at school. If necessary, however, requests for students to remain inside due to special circumstances should be accompanied by a note of explanation from your doctor. Please be aware that there are no teachers on supervision duty inside the school during regular outdoor recess.

MEET THE TEACHER/CURRICULUM NIGHT

We look forward to meeting you at our annual curriculum night on **Thursday, September 25th**. A follow up notice outlining the format for this evening will be sent at a later date.

FALL 2008 COURSES FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS

The York Catholic Board offers evening and Saturday courses in various locations. The 2008 Fall Course Guide appeared in your local newspaper during the last week of August. Course options include English as a Second Language, TESL, Computer Courses, Keyboarding, Drivers Education, French, International Languages, "Reaching Up" Grade 9 credits for Grade 8 students, Yoga, Pilates. There are also many credit-courses offered at night school and summer 2009 credits courses in France or Italy. For more information or to register, please visit our website at www.ycdsb.ca/ace.html and click on "Fall 2008".

Mrs. Turco,
Principal

