

Dear St. Joseph Catholic School Families,

As you may have heard, I will be moving back to St. Agnes Catholic School beginning September 2018. We will be welcoming Mr. Adrien Gagnier and I know he will be so excited to be joining the family and will be immensely impressed by the St. Joseph students and families.

When I first arrived at St. Joseph, I told the students that if I had a say in choosing a school I would like to become a part of, it was St. Joseph. This was in my heart for some reason I had yet to discover... I understood that St. Joseph was a special place and I wanted to be here. It did not take me long to fall in love with the students and school family consisting of staff, parents and students. Everyone I have met through St. Joseph Catholic School has left an indelible mark on my heart. I am truly blessed to have experienced a place like St. Joseph that makes saying good bye, so hard.

There have been many wonderful memories created that have filled my heart. We can all say we learned, laughed, played and connected to each other in a way that changed us all for the better. Words fall short for me to express what St. Joseph means to me. I will always be a "Crusader" and St. Joseph will always have a special place in my heart. I pray that I can live up to the prayer that we say every day and be a "just and upright person after the example of St. Joseph."

My wish and prayer is that the students always remember that they can change the world and that they are the "game changers". I believe this knowing that, the people in life who are crazy enough to say; "I can change the world" are the ones who do. Each one of us has been created with the ability to change the world. Every choice you make...every action you take...matters. But remember, the opposite is also true. Every choice you do not make... every action you do not take... matters just as much. I wish for our children to be brave, strong and courageous so that they can continue to grow in Christ's light and love and make their mark to change the world. I wish for us



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the summer, staff at the Catholic Education Centre and in our schools will begin the work of organizing classrooms for September. As parents/guardians, it is important that you understand and support the role of the principal and Board staff as it relates to classroom organization in your school.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education regulates the number of students in classrooms. In elementary schools, class-size caps are set by provincial directive for individual grades; and for a system-wide average that must be maintained across the entire school board. Therefore, the number of classrooms, grades associated with each classroom and the number of students in each classroom in your school must always be viewed from a Board perspective, not just at the school level. It is also important to note that provincial funding is tied to compliance with this regulation. In other words, if we don't meet the Ministry requirements there is a financial penalty which will affect the support provided to our students.

The result of this directive is that combined grades are common in all schools across the province as a means of ensuring that boards are compliant with the provincial regulation. A common perception among parents is that combined grades are detrimental to learning; or, that they are a reflection of students' abilities – that is, in a Grade 2-3 split, the Grade 2s are above average learners and the Grade 3s are below average. The fact is all classrooms include students with a range of skills and abilities. Combined classes are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. They are simply one of the many ways schools meet students' academic and social development needs.

Further, a great deal of time and effort goes into decisions at all of our schools, as our staff strives to create a classroom environment that supports the needs of all of all students. These decisions are ultimately made by the principal, in consultation with Board administration and student support staff.

Changes in classroom organization that are created when students move in or out of the school boundary, or by changing student needs from June to the first weeks in September, can create a domino effect that could result in changes to classrooms, which can sometimes impact every grade in the school. Even changes at another school can affect the classroom organization at your school.

It is the Board's goal to make every effort to accommodate these changes with as little disruption as possible. Students changing classrooms are always given a warm welcome by their new teacher and their new classmates.

Thank you again, for understanding and supporting the efforts of your principal and the school staff, in this important matter. It is our commitment to you that, although we must always strive to meet this provincial regulation, we will do so at all times having regard for the best interests of our students and our staff.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Deb Crawford

2018 Fun Pass

Celebrate the summer with savings when you plan a trip to Ontario's attractions with the 2018 Fun Pass.

The 2018 Fun Pass coupons provide free admission for up to two elementary school-aged children at 18 popular attractions when accompanied by a paying adult or senior. Parents can also save \$5 on a daily parking permit at selected Ontario provincial parks. Simply bring a coupon to any participating attraction. Visit Ontario.ca/funpass for more information about the program and to download the coupons.

Warm weather is here and kids need to stay hydrated. Sending a refillable water

Focus on Faith

The Church calls this season of the year Ordinary Time and defines it in this way.

"Besides the times of year that have their own distinctive character, [i.e. Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons] there remain in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time."*

Ordinary Time does not focus on one beautiful mystery such as *Christ returning in Glory*, or *God coming to Earth as the Christ child*, or *Jesus loving us so much he was willing to suffer and die for us* or *Christ rising from the dead*. Instead Ordinary time invites us to honour **THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST ITSELF AND ALL ITS FULLNESS**. It invites us to consider the whole story of Christ becoming human, loving us, dying, rising from the dead, returning to God and eventually returning in glory. Looking at the whole mystery and seeing God's hand in the unfolding of Salvation, we gain new insights into our own life stories. Honouring the whole mystery of Salvation helps us to trust that God watches over the unfolding of our own personal lives and salvation.

During the final month of the school year, there is so many ordinary things to do. Students are finishing assignments and preparing for tests/exams that will help them to complete the year. Teachers are assessing students, marking assignments and preparing final report cards. Parents are helping their children stay focused on schoolwork and sorting out the details for summer childcare and plans. The end of year field trips, fun days, track meets, assemblies and graduations provide glorious ways to celebrate this school year. All of this happens as the summer weather starts making everyone dream of summer vacation and fun. These activities are the ordinary tasks that make family and school life so meaningful. These weeks are unfolding as Ordinary Time. If we are not careful, we might just live day to day and not even see the mystery of it. Our task is to pause long enough each day and week so we can actually sense God's activity in our ordinary lives. I invite you to choose a form of prayer that helps you to sense the sacred in

Marineland JUNE 5, 2018

7:15 a.m. Meet at St. Joseph Catholic School for attendance and bus assignments

7:30 a.m. Departure time from St. Joseph Catholic School (*Non-Stop*)

10:30 a.m. approximate arrival at Marineland

10:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. time to have lunch and snacks, explore and play!

3:00 p.m. Coach Buses depart for St. Joseph Catholic School (*Non-Stop*)


6:00 p.m. approximate return to St. Joseph Catholic School

WHAT TO BRING LIST...

- Hat**
- Comfortable Shoes - No Flip Flops please**
- Sunscreen**
- Water bottles and/or drinks for the day**
- Snacks**
- Change of clothes for emergencies (*FDK Gr 1/2*)**
- Lunch with snacks and drinks or money for lunch**

Change can be scary,
but you know what's scarier?
Allowing Fear to stop you
from Growing, Evolving
and Progressing.

- Mandy Hale -



*An arrow can only be
shot by pulling it
backward.*

*When life is
dragging you back
with difficulties, just
imagine that it's going to
launch you into something great :)*

**Ensure You Are Registered as a Separate School Supporter
For the October Municipal and School Board Elections**

Ontario's municipal and school board elections take place on October 22, 2018. If you are a resident, owner or tenant of property in Ontario, a Canadian citizen and 18 years of age you can vote in Ontario's municipal and school board elections.

It is the responsibility of every elector to make sure his or her information is up-to-date. By logging onto voterlookup.ca eligible electors can:

- Confirm or update your electoral information;
- Add an elector name to an address;
- Change school support.

You must be registered as an English Separate School Supporter in order to vote for trustees of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. Ensuring you are registered as an English Separate School Supporter also signals your support for Catholic education in Ontario.



Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes

June 2/3 - Grade 8 Graduates will be recognized at all Sunday Masses. Please contact m.mcpherson@dol.ca to let him know which Mass you are attending.

Registration and Parent Information Meetings for children entering Gr. 2 (First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) and Gr. 8 (Confirmation) in September, 2018. Each meeting is from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

June 4 St. Vincent; June 5 Monsignor Uyen; June 6 St. Agnes; June 7 St. Joseph; June 11 Georges P. Vanier; June 13 Our Lady of Fatima; June 14 St. Ursula.

If you cannot come on the date for your child's school, please come on one of the other dates. Registration forms were sent home with your child. Please complete it and bring it to the meeting. If you cannot find it, you can complete one at the meeting. Any questions, contact achinnick@dol.ca or call 519-352-9483.

If your child is not baptized (any grade) and you are interested in bringing them to the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact Colleen Keane, Pastoral Minister at ckeane@dol.ca or call 519-352-8530

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes Annual Family Picnic, Sunday, July 15th, 2018 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at Kingston Park. Games, entertainment, karaoke, free hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, French Fries. Bring the family and have some fun! All are welcome.

If you are interested in the CCLC summer camp, go to CCLCamp.ca. There is one camp week for grade 6 & 7 and then two camp weeks for grades 8-11. For any questions, contact mmcpherson@dol.ca

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes wishes all staff, students and their families a safe and restful summer vacation. We wish Mike McPherson, youth minister, great success as he goes to Teacher's College in September!