



# St. Agnes Catholic School



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Superintendent: Mrs. L. Callaghan

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Mr. M. Bernard, Acting Principal  
Mrs. V. Moynihan, Secretary

Board Chair: J. Van Heck

## The Gator Gazette

### Acting Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that June has arrived. The year has passed quickly. I am pleased to let you know that Mrs. Jeanne Girard will be returning as Principal here at St. Agnes Catholic School in September.

I am very proud of the accomplishments that our school family has made throughout the year. Our Grade 7 Leaders returned from the Muskoka Woods Leadership Camp with great enthusiasm and they are well prepared for their Grade 8 year. I know that they will follow in the footsteps of our outstanding Grade 8 Students who demonstrate amazing leadership as role models for their younger peers. They are always willing to lend a hand, both in the school and out in the community. Their hard work at the St. Agnes Catholic Church Soup Kitchen is a great contribution to our community. Congratulations to all of our Grade 8 Graduates, I know I will hear about the great things that are to come in your future!

The Grade 3 and 6 classes worked extremely hard on the Primary and Junior EQAO Assessment. As we make our way through the month of June we will have many great opportunities to build community through excursions, a Play Day, awards ceremonies, etc. We will also continue to work hard on the curriculum and celebrate the learning that has occurred. We sometimes think of June as a month of winding down and saying our good-byes, but I would like to challenge our school family to maintain the momentum with learning and end the year on a high note. The Staff and Students have a great deal to be proud of! St. Agnes Catholic School really is an outstanding community in which to learn, work and grow within our faith.

The New North Chatham School Transition Committee met in May and is beginning to make plans for a number of fun events as we prepare for the opening of the New North Chatham School in September 2019. It really is an exciting time for Catholic Education in the St. Clair Catholic District School Board.

It has been a pleasure to lead this school community! I have truly enjoyed every moment of working with such amazing students, parents and staff. I wish everyone all the best for a safe and happy summer! God Bless!

Sincerely,  
Mark Bernard

Facebook –St. Agnes  
Catholic School

Twitter - @StAgnesCS



### Fruits of the Holy Spirit



In May, our students worked on demonstrating MODESTY.

Taking pride in one's achievements and appearance using behaviour that is respectful and humble.

Lightning travels ahead of the thunder, and approval goes before one who is modest.

Sirach 32: 10 (NRSV)

#### "Congratulations To Our Award Winners"

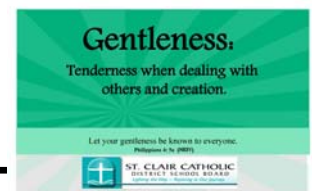
- FDK -Keira Lane  
-Anthony Villagrana
- Gr. 1/2 -Chase Grammond  
-Harper Hudson
- Gr. 3/4 -Detrick Wrobel  
-Jayden Villagrana
- Gr. 5/6 -Morgan Hudson  
-Roen Raes
- Gr. 7/8 -Sophia Butler  
-Parker Giroux

#### The Month of June

Tenderness in dealing with others and creation.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

Philippians 4:5a (NRSV)



### IMPORTANT DATES

- June 1**  
Grade 5 Frisbee Day at UCC  
9:30AM—1:30PM
- June 4**  
Grade 6 Lacrosse Day at Court-house Soccer Fields  
9:15AM—1:15PM
- June 6**  
Pizza Day  
  
Grade 8 Amazing Skills Challenge  
St. Clair College 9:35AM—1:00PM
- UCC Dance Show FDK/Grade 5/6/7  
10:30AM
- African Lion Safari Parent Meeting  
5:30PM
- Grade 1 and 7 Sacrament Parent Meeting 6:00PM
- June 7**  
SCCDSB Track Meet at UCC  
9:00AM — 4:00PM
- June 8**  
PA Day—No School
- June 11**  
SCCDSB Track Meet Rain Date
- June 13**  
Pizza Day
- June 14**  
African Lion Safari Meeting Alternate Date—5:30PM  
  
Parent Advisory Council 6:00PM
- June 18**  
Grade 5/6/7/8 Canada's Wonderland Excursion 6:30AM—10:00PM
- June 19**  
JK Orientation/Welcome 10:00AM
- June 20**  
Grade 8 Graduation 600PM St. Agnes Catholic Church
- June 23**  
BINGO at Riverview Bingo 4:00PM
- June 27**  
FDK—Grade 3/4 African Lion Safari Excursion 9:00AM—5:30PM  
  
Year End Mass 10:00AM
- June 28**  
Year End Assembly 9:15AM
- June 29**  
PA Day—Summer Holidays Begin

## **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](http://Ontario.ca/funpass) for more information about the program and to download the coupons.

[http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/agencies/fun\\_pass.shtml](http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/agencies/fun_pass.shtml)



### ***North Elementary School Transition Committee Holds First Meeting***

The new North Chatham Elementary School Transition Committee has held its first meeting. The members are representatives of the Our Lady of Fatima, St. Agnes and St. Vincent Catholic school communities, along with our parish partners. The purpose of the committee is to plan events and activities that will bring our three school communities together as one, in anticipation of the September 2019 opening of the new north Chatham Catholic elementary school.

For more information about the committee and its work, visit the Board website at:

<http://www.st-clair.net/north-elementary-school-transition-committee.aspx>

**All School Library Books are due back on Thursday, June 7, 2018**



## *June School Newsletter Insert – Classroom Organization*

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  
Director of Education

## ***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 the ordinary. Some things to share with your children are bedtime prayer, grace before meals, praying the rosary and attending mass together. One tradition that I find helpful is to pray one *Our Father* to remind us we are all God’s family, pray one *Hail Mary* to remind us the Saints are always waiting to pray for us and pray one *Glory Be* to remind us that God is with us through all time.

God blesses us all the time, these prayers help us to notice. Have a glorious June and an even better summer everyone.

\* <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=10842#Ord>

## ***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.

Visit <https://www.voterlookup.ca/home.aspx>





Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes-June School Newsletter

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

**Registration and Parent Information Meetings for children** [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

**n 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](mailto: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](mailto:ckeane@dol.ca) or call 519-352-8530

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes Annual Family Picnic, Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](mailto: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!