



## **The Leaves are Falling...but Hunger isn't! Please Consider Donating to our Student Nutrition Program This November**

Dear Parents,

Did you know that **St. Patrick's Catholic High School** is home to one of the most successful and vibrant Student Nutrition Programs in SW Ontario?

As we approach the end of October 2024, our Student Nutrition Program could really use YOUR help. While we are fortunate to receive some base funding from government grants and community donations (like Noelle's Gift), we are still expected to ask our community for help to bridge the rest of the gaps. We need your assistance MORE THAN EVER due to increased usage and consistently high grocery costs. For example, our weekly grocery costs have increased by close to 25%, while student usage is up by close to 50%, since 2019. The Breakfast Club makes fresh fruits and vegetables, bagels, cereal, milk, yogurt, and lots of other healthy options available before classes begin EVERY DAY. As well, we are self-funding an emergency snack/lunch program every day for students in need. As you can see we need your support!!

For the next two weeks (until November 15, 2024), anyone from the St. Patrick's School Community can help us out by making a monetary donation to the "Breakfast Club".

Donations can be made using School Cash Online. Every little bit helps and 100% of the funds go towards the purchase of healthy Breakfast and Lunch foods. Charitable Tax Receipts for donations \$20.00 and over will be issued.

Also, if any community members know of corporate donations that we might be able to access, please feel free to share this message, along with our contact information.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate in reaching out to us with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Chad Coene ([chad.coene@sccdsb.net](mailto:chad.coene@sccdsb.net))

Michele Williams ([michele.williams@sccdsb.net](mailto:michele.williams@sccdsb.net))

School Nutrition Program Coordinators

## All About Our Program!

Our student nutrition program, which we affectionately call, “The Breakfast Club”, began operating in March 2010. Through a network of volunteers and community connections, the *Breakfast Club* is available to all students five mornings a week, every day of the school year. In just over 8 weeks this year, more than 10,000 healthy starts will have already been provided to SPHS students. On any given morning, students have access to fresh fruit, vegetables, cereal, yogurt, cheese strings, bagels and many other healthy choices.

A key feature that has contributed to the great success of the program is its adherence to the concept of Universal Access. *ALL* students are welcome to take part in the program. Every morning, students are greeted by the smiling faces of our amazing staff volunteers.

We are also fortunate to have formed partnerships with our very own SPHS students from the Life Skills Program. Every week these dedicated students help to support our program through a variety of activities like sorting, stocking and cleaning.

We are so proud of our program, which has become a cornerstone of student success at SPHS by ensuring that no student needs to start their day hungry!

