



Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School

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Sunday, February 14th, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

February 14th is a day that we take an opportunity to show our love and friendship to those we hold close to our hearts. I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day as well as a relaxing and restful Family Day.

We are looking forward to safely reopening Holy Spirit on Tuesday, February 16th, 2021. If your child was previously a face to face learner, but you would like for them to remain as a remote learner please contact me directly at anthony.modica@ycdsb.ca. All switches in modality do require a 30-day commitment and are subject to the availability of space in the classroom as per the policies of the YCDSB. Please see [this infographic](#) for details. For students who were already remote, no further action is required.

Lastly, we kindly ask that parents or students do not congregate on or around the school especially at the beginning and end of the school day. Furthermore, we ask that parents continue to wear their mask while on school property to help support our public health safety measures. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please see the information below for the upcoming week of February 15th, 2021.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Parish Information

Our Grade 4 classes have organized a virtual Ash Wednesday liturgy. Due to health and safety guidelines we will not be distributing ashes at the school. For those interested in participating, we will attempt a livestream of the Google meet. You can use the following link to join the livestream: [Ash Wednesday Liturgy Livestream](#)

The parish will be celebrating mass on the evening of February 17th at 7 p.m., streamed from the parish. After, as they do on Sundays, households are invited to come to the south parking lot of the church to receive communion until 9 p.m. There will also be the sprinkling with ashes above their head for those who choose it. Children are welcome to attend with their parents.

Return of Borrowed Devices

We kindly ask that any students who have borrowed devices to return them to the school on Tuesday (Chromebook and charger) so that they can be disinfected before being reused.

Staff Parking Lot

When dropping off students in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon all parents are asked to use the Kiss and Ride. In the morning, the parking spots are limited and needed by all of our school staff. If you need to park, please use street parking that is available or the parking spots located at the front of the school. We thank you for your co-operation.

Mental Health & Well-Being Information

As we continue to navigate the pandemic it is important to support students with managing anxiety and stress. The YCDSB Mental Health Website and Twitter account have great resources and links to community partners to help support families during this time.

A great place to begin may be to use an app with your child/children that teach them about mental health strategies. Apps such as Calm, Headspace, Mind Shift CBT and SBT Breathe.

Please visit the YCDSB's mental health web page for much more information.

[YCDSB Mental Health Web Page](#)

Also, St. Joseph Aurora is hosting a virtual parent information night on March 3 titled, "Helping Your Child Tackle Stress & Anxiety". Lisa Wood from the Canadian Mental Health Association will be sharing strategies to help children deal with anxiety and promote health and wellness. There will be a Q and A following the presentation. You can find information on the flyer attached below and join the session by accessing this link:

[Canadian Mental Health Association Presentation](#)

Additional Health & Safety Measures

The YCDSB in consultation with York Region Public Health have added school safety measures to those already in place. This week we will put into place the following safety measures:

- Masks are now required for students in Grades 1-3, as well as those in Grades 4-12. Students in kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks
- Masks are now required outdoors during recess, as well as in all common areas, in addition to in the classroom
- As a result, students are required to bring four (4) masks to school each day so that a clean, dry mask can be reapplied after being outdoors for recess, etc.
- Students are strongly discouraged from congregating before and after school.
- York Region Public Health is recommending that students wear three-layer masks. Two-layer masks are permitted if they are clean and fit appropriately.

Our staff will be working with students to implement these changes upon our reopening. Please see Ms. Battista's letter dated February 12th for more details.

Transportation

A reminder that students must wear masks when riding the bus. Students must also wear masks when they await the bus at their designated pick up location.

Elementary Students Daily COVID-19 Self-Screening

On a daily basis before leaving home, parents/guardians are responsible for conducting the [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) with their child. If your child has any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or answers yes to any of the questions on the screening tool, do not send them to school, seek assessment and testing at a COVID-19 [Assessment Centre](#) and notify your school.

Twitter & School Website

For information, including the parent weekly updates, please visit our website at [Holy Spirit School Website](#)
You can also follow us on Twitter: @HST_YCDSB

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. A. Modica

Principal

anthony.modica@ycdsb.ca

Upcoming Events

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| Monday, February 15th, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Day: No School |
| Tuesday, February 16th, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Reopens |
| Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VIP Gr. 6 Classes• Ash Wednesday Liturgy Livestream |
| Thursday, February 18th, 2021 | |
| Friday, February 19th, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• K to 3: Virtual Author Visit- Emerita Emerencia• Grades 4 to 8- Virtual Presentation on African Canadian Inventors |



Canadian Mental
Health Association
York and South Simcoe
Mental health for all

*Facilitated by
Lisa Wood*

Helping Your Children Tackle Stress & Anxiety

MARCH 3RD FROM 7:00 PM - 8:00
PM

THIS FREE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FROM
THE CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION EXPLORES STRESS AND
ANXIETY AND PROVIDES PRACTICAL TIPS
ON HOW TO COPE.
<https://cmha-yr.on.ca>