



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

801 Murrell Blvd, East Gwillimbury, ON L9N 0P6
Telephone: 905-478-4242 Fax: 905-478-8642



G.R.O.W.I - WE GROW WITH RESPECT, OPENNESS, WISDOM, AND LOVE. WE ARE KODIAKS AND WE GROW!

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” JOSHUA 1:9

September Newsletter 2024

Principal’s Message

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! It is an honour and privilege to be appointed the new Principal of Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) Catholic School. The staff of OLGC warmly welcomes everyone back, especially our new families and our new staff members. As we welcome staff and students to a new school year, it seems fitting that we begin the year with a renewed focus on September’s virtue of Courage. Joshua 1:9 says, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” In our school community and in our homes, we can discuss the concept of courage, as Joshua was called to be strong and courageous, be it arriving as a new immigrant or the new student at our school. Each month at Our Lady of Good Counsel CES, we will focus on a different virtue.



As a Catholic school, we are extremely privileged to be part of the church, home, and school partnership, which provides a distinct Catholic experience for our students. This year we will celebrate Catholic Education with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” that was inspired by the joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025. With open hearts of love, we can continue to “fan the flame of hope” for a bright future.

As a member of the York Catholic District School Board, we continue to acknowledge that “We are diverse, we are One in Christ.” This motto was created to celebrate the peace and unity we find in Jesus Christ. The design serves as a reminder that we are all beloved children of God, everyone is loved by God and is welcomed and belongs in the YCDSB.

We continue to build relationships with our families to work together to support our children at school. Parents are encouraged to join our Catholic Parent Council (CPC) and attend our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 19, 2024. More information to come. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram for news, updates, reminders, and events happening at our school @olgcycdsb.

I look forward to serving this community with a heart of kindness and love.

Yours in Catholic Education,

K. Quan King Thompson

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School Staff

2024-2025

FDK	Ms. Parravano and Ms. Hunter
FDK	Ms. Poirier and Ms. De Jesus
FDK	Ms. Douris-Wagstaff and Ms. Gordon
FDK	Ms. Stuart and Ms. Fontana
Grade 1	Ms. Cozos, Ms. Carinci, Ms. Iannuzzi, Ms. Watters-Dias
Grade 2	Ms. Kovachis, Ms. Smith, Ms. Coutts
Grade 2/3	Ms. Tresch-Hamaoui
Grade 3	Ms. Spatafora, Ms. Gatti
Grade 3/4	Ms. Panetta
Grade 4	Ms. Cerzosimo
Grade 5	Ms. Ast, Ms. Conte, Ms. Roncone
Grade 6	Ms. Mavromatis, Ms. Violin
Grade 7	Ms. Lenart, Ms. Coronas
Grade 8	Ms. Thomson, Ms. Browning
Special Education	Ms. Artibello, Ms. Klobucar, Ms. Micallef, Ms. de la Batisde
ESL	Ms. Weldon
French	Ms. Gallo, Ms. Mariani, Ms. Carvalho
Health & Physical Ed.	Ms. Young, Ms. Beninato
Music	Mr. Constabile
Teacher Librarian/Technician	Ms. Gorman, Ms. Gurvich
Education Workers	Ms. Scott, Ms. Pecchia, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Walters, Ms. Bolton, Ms. Rigg, Ms. Muto, Ms. Hamilton
Lunchtime Supervisors	Ms. Ramo, Ms. Vettese, Ms. Dyalovski, Ms. Bongard, Ms. Iannuzzi, Ms. Klasen
Head Custodian	Mr. Guarrasi
Evening Custodians	Mr. Pensato, Ms. Lavadin
Secretary	Ms. Maira

Half Time Secretary Ms. Arruda
Vice Principal Ms. Halls
Principal Ms. Quan King Thompson

We welcome a number of new staff who are either new permanent hires or Long-Term Occasional Teachers to OLGC. We thank them for joining the Kodiak family! **Please note that we are still receiving registrations and demitting students who have left our school, therefore there may be changes to classes and/or teachers up until the end of October.**

Student Information Forms

It is imperative that the school has the most updated information for students on file. You will have received an orange package containing annual student information forms to be completed. The package will contain a Contacts/Emergency and Consent Form to be verified or updated, signed and dated to be returned. As well, please complete the Annual Student Information Release and Technology Consent Form and return the package no later than Friday, September 13, 2024. Thank you!



Nut and Fragrance Free School

At Our Lady of Good Counsel CES, there are members in our school community with severe life-threatening allergies, especially to nuts and fragrances. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and fragrances and can result in death within minutes. As this affects the entire school community, we are requesting that you not send any lunches or snacks with your child to school that contain the allergen, e.g., peanuts/nuts. This includes Nutella. Please also be aware of and do not use anything scented as it will cause a reaction. Please make sure that all of your children's caregivers are aware of the food and fragrance restrictions. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Safe Arrival/School Messenger



At Our Lady of Good Counsel CES, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1 (855) 856-7862** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time up to a maximum of 10 consecutive days. It is important to note that when setting up your account, you must register using the email address and phone number provided to the school during registration.

Bus Transportation Information



Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR) is a collaborative venture of the York Catholic and York Region District School boards and provides transportation to more than 53,000 students.

For information on bus routes, stop locations, times, late arrivals, cancellation, eligibility, registering a complaint, safety and general information, please contact the York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information Line at 1-877-330-3001, accessible 24 hours a day or [visit the STSYR website](#).

Catholic School Council (CSC)

The education of our children is a shared responsibility which involves schools, students, families and the church. The OLGC Catholic School Council is an advisory council that strives to promote the building of a school community that strengthens the home/school/parish partnership. The council works together as a community of believers committed to putting the values of our faith into practice in the education of our children. Elections to the council are held annually.

The OLGC CSC Elections for the 2024-2025 school year will take place on **Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 6:30 pm** in the school library. It will be an opportunity to elect a Chair or Co-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer and voting members that shall not exceed 18 members. Successful candidates will hold their elected position for one year and will be expected to attend monthly in person meetings. Membership will be terminated if any Council member misses three (3) consecutive meetings. All parents are welcome to nominate a parent or themselves, attend, and vote. Being a member of the council provides an opportunity to make recommendations to the school, school board and interact with other parents and staff. Nomination forms will be sent out via email shortly. Please fill out the nomination form and return it to the school by Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Communication of candidate's names will be shared by Monday, September 23, 2024. We will proceed with our first council meeting the same evening, unless Elections run late.

School Day Cashless Payment System



We are excited to announce that we will be launching School Day, an online portal that lets us make online payments for events, activities and products. With School Day, you will be able to pay for any school service, product or events i.e. agendas, hot lunch, trips, school spirit wear etc. School Day is easy to use and we appreciate your help in improving cashless payments and significantly reducing the amount of paper our school consumes. We look forward to using this new system, and we hope that you find the School Day portal very useful. An email from the board has been sent with the following information to register your child. Please check your email as a Secure Match Key will allow you to register. Agendas have been set up for Grade 1-3 students and can be paid for using School Day. Please sign up today!!!!

To participate in this exciting initiative, please take a moment to register by following the steps outlined below.

1. Please go to the school website home page and click on the School-Day button. Or, go to www.school-day.com (or school-day.app for mobile users). Click **Log In**, and then **Register**. Complete your information, making sure to include a valid email address (a personal email address if you are also an employee of YCDSB), as important information and reminders are forwarded from the school to the email you provide.
2. Once you make a School-Day account, you need to add a child:
 - a. Click **Add Student**
 - b. In the Secure-Match™ field, enter your Secure-Match™ Key and then click **Register**.
 - c. Confirm you are the legal parent or guardian of the child.

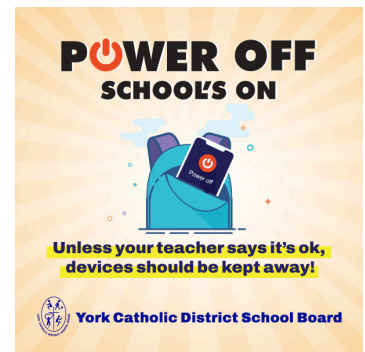
Please protect your Secure-Match™ Key as it ensures the security of your School-Day profile. Contact your school if this key is misplaced and a replacement key will be provided. Up to two parents/guardians can use the same Secure-Match Key to add a child to their account. If you require an additional key so that another parent/guardian can add a child to their account, please contact your school administrator to have another Secure-Match™ key issued.

1. If you have multiple children, click **Add Student** again, and follow the steps outlined above using the second Secure-Match™ key. You will be able to view all of your children from a single account.

If you require assistance, please contact the School-Day Support Team. You can submit a ticket from within the School-Day system or email support.ticket@school-day.com. You may also call 1.855.253.1731 to leave a voicemail and request a support ticket be opened on your behalf. If you have questions about how to use School-Day, please search the articles found in the School-Day Support Centre and Knowledgebase at <http://support.school-day.com/en/home>.

Cell Phone and Personal Items

At Our Lady of Good Counsel CES, we believe that children should be free of any distractions during the school day. Therefore, all personal items (i.e. **toys, trading cards, collections** etc.) and electronic devices such as cell phones, smart watches, portable gaming, etc. should **NOT** be at school. Under certain circumstances where a parent determines that their child must have a cell phone for safety before and after school, it must be powered off and stored out of view in a backpack. Additionally, if the teacher deems it necessary to have a device at any time, they will let you know. The consequences for using cell phones or other electronic devices during school hours will be confiscation of the device. ***Please remember that the school is not responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of any item.*** Please refer to the parent letter sent out regarding the Ministry of Education Policy PPM 128 on cell phones, vaping and social media.



Threats to Safety Practices

Our Lady of Good Counsel CES has a primary responsibility to ensure the safety of students and staff inside the school building and on school property. Shelter in Place, Hold and Secure and Lockdown represent the three different responses that may be initiated by a school principal in the event of a threat to school safety.

A **Shelter in Place** response is initiated when there is an environmental concern. There is no immediate threat. Students remain in the building and classes continue as usual.

A **Hold and Secure** response is initiated when the threat is proximate to, but not inside the building. The threat poses no immediate danger to students or staff while they remain in the building.

A **Lockdown** response is initiated when imminent danger is present on the school site and the safety of students and staff is threatened.

For all students and staff to become familiar with expectations during a threat to school safety, our school will be practising threat response procedures as well as Fire Drills throughout the school year. During these drills, signs may be posted on the entrance doors indicating that the school is in Shelter in Place, Hold and Secure or Lockdown. The doors may be locked, and no one will be allowed to enter or exit the school.

Cross Country

The cross country meet for grades 4-8 will take place this year on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area. Cross Country forms were distributed at school this past Friday. Please complete the waiver to ensure your child(ren) is able to participate in morning practices on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 8:30 am on Monday, September 9, 2024. Thank you to the Cross Country Coaching Team for their time and efforts to hold practices and train our athletes. Go Kodiaks!!

Terry Fox School Day Run

The OLG School Community is excited about participating again this year and celebrating the 43rd Anniversary of The Marathon of Hope. We are hoping to raise \$2500 for the Terry Fox Foundation this year.

During the month of September, we celebrate the virtue of **courage**. By participating in this run, we will all remember the courage that Terry Fox had to make his way across Canada to raise money for Cancer research. This year we are pleased to be joining thousands of schools across Canada who are participating in The Terry Fox School Run. **Our Lady of Good Counsel staff and students will proudly walk/run on Friday October 4, 2024** in the afternoon. We thank Ms. Wagstaff for leading and organising this worthy event. Please look for more information coming your way soon!



St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel CES continues our partnership with our local parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church and our school. We encourage all families to attend masses here.

Monday-Thursday

10:00 AM (English)

Saturday Vigil

4:30 PM (English)

Sunday

9:00 AM (English)

11:00 AM (English)

Last Sunday

5:00 PM (Polish)

(May be celebrated on a different Sunday for Christmas and Easter.)



Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 – 1:00pm

Phone: 905-853-5009

<https://stelizabethsetonne.archtoronto.org/>

Clergy

Rev. Pastor Roy Roberts
 Deacon Assistant Marian Pawliszko
 Deacon Assistant Stephen Pitre

Parish Staff

Ann Lynch - Parish Administrator
 Jennifer McAvoy - Sacraments Co-ordinator

Sacramental Preparation – If your child is in grades 2-8 who wish to receive their First Holy Communion, Confirmation, or both, please contact the parish. Communication of sacramental preparation will be posted in the parish bulletin. Information has also been sent home. Registration forms will be available starting the weekend of September 1st and the last date for registration is Sunday, September 29th after the 11:00 am mass.

Date	Upcoming Events
September 9	Cross Country Practices begin for Gr.4-8 students (forms sent home Sept 6, 2024)
September 13	Annual Student Information Packages due to the office
September 19	Curriculum Night 6:30-7:30pm
September 26	Catholic School Council (CSC) Elections and First Meeting
September 27	PA Day - No School
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - ORANGE SHIRT DAY
October 1	School Photo Day
October 4	Terry Fox School Day Run (Rain Date Oct 7)
October 8	Cross Country Meet at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area

You may also visit us at <https://olgc.ycdsb.ca/> for important dates and events listed on the right hand side under upcoming events.

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

**Patroness of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel: filled with the Holy Spirit, you were a faithful disciple of Jesus, your Son.

Intercede with your Son for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers.

May the spirit of the living God, who graced you with the gift of counsel, lead us in the way of truth and love.

With the help of your prayers, may we come to rejoice forever with you and the great company of saints in the kingdom of heaven.

Amen