



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.L - WE GROW WITH RESPECT, OPENNESS, WISDOM, AND LOVE. WE ARE KODIAKS AND WE GROW!

"FOR THE LORD LOVES JUSTICE AND WILL NOT ABANDON HIS FAITHFUL ONES." PSALM 27:28

NOVEMBER 2024

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

November has arrived and as a Catholic school community, we focus our Catholic Social Teaching on the Promotion of Peace and the Virtue of Justice. St. John Paul II once said, "Peace is not just the absence of war...Peace is the fruit of justice." November is a time set aside to remember those who fought for justice and peace, and those who continue to work to keep our world peaceful. This year, the YCDSB observes Treaties Recognition Week the week of November 3-8th with National Indigenous Veterans Day on November 8th.

November is also the month where we remember All Saints and All Souls. All Saints Day (also known as All Hallows' Day) is the day after All Hallows' Eve (Halloween). It is the feast day celebrated on November 1st by Roman Catholics. It is an opportunity for believers to remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history. All Soul's Day is marked on November 2nd, directly following All Saint's Day, and is an opportunity for Roman Catholics to remember and pray for the faithfully departed.

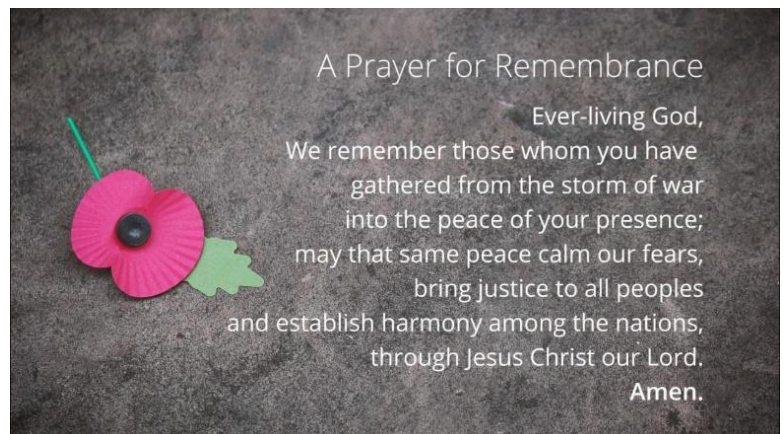
During the month of November, we observe Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week from November 18 -22, 2024. Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. Here at OLGC, we recognize World Kindness Day on November 13th and dedicate the week to spreading kindness.

Lastly, progress report cards will be available on the Parent Portal on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 after 4pm. Parent Teacher conferences will take place on Thursday, November 14th from 4:00-5:00pm and 6:00-8:00pm and Friday, November 15th from 9:30-11:00am. Thank you for your patience as we launch scheduling of conferences on School Day. We have all but two classes active as of last Wednesday. Hopefully we can have these two classes active by next week.

Looking forward to a peace filled month!

Yours in Catholic Education,

K. Quan King Thompson



We Remember

Our Lady of Good Counsel continues to make a concerted effort to remember those that have fought for our freedom. As we work towards truth and reconciliation, we strive to learn about the Truth of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. We recognize Treaties Recognition Week which takes place from November 3 to 8, 2024. Treaties Recognition Week was introduced in 2016 to honor the importance of treaties and to help students learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. We invite Indigenous Elder, Mim, to teach our Intermediate students about Treaties. National Indigenous Veterans Day will be observed this year on **Friday, November 8, 2024**. This day will recognize and honour the military contributions of Indigenous peoples who helped fight for peace in Canada.



Many people wear artificial poppies on their clothes in the weeks before Remembrance Day. Red poppies symbolize the memory of those who died and white poppies campaigns for non-military interventions in conflict situations. On November 11. These often include the playing of "The Last Post", a reading of the fourth verse of the 'Ode of Remembrance' and two minutes silence at 11:00 (or 11am).

Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the official end of the World War I hostilities on November 11, 1918. World War I was a massive conflict was played out over the whole globe, but particularly in Europe, where troops from Canada supported the Allied forces. World War I resulted in the loss of huge numbers of lives amongst both civilians and military personnel. Many more people were badly injured. The war left great emotional scars in the servicemen, who had experienced it, and in the communities, whose sons, brothers, fathers, uncles and even grandfathers had died. Remembrance Day commemorates those who died in armed conflicts, particularly in and since World War I. This Monday, November 11th OLGC will take time to observe Remembrance Day through liturgy, prayer and presentation.

Catholic School Council (CSC) News

Our Catholic School Council held their last meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2024. The council reviewed our draft School Improvement Plan, heard updates from committees and approved an estimated budget for the school year. The council continues to run our Hot Lunches everyday and are in the midst of planning a Holly Jolly Christmas Soiree coming up on Thursday, November 28th from 5:00-8:00pm. They are asking for gently used books and clean Bear Wear to donate for profit to the school. Please look for further information regarding our Holly Jolly Christmas Soiree. Our next CSC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6:30pm in the library. All parents are welcome!

School Improvement Plan

On October 21, 2024, OLGC staff worked together to review our school data and collaborated on six priorities to create this year's school goals. These priorities include: Catholic Faith, Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic skills, Preparation of Students for Future Success, Student Engagement and Well-being, Equity and Inclusion and Grade Specific Goals. This year, we are working as a school towards the following:

Catholic Faith: Teaching parts of the mass to improve students' religious literacy and achievement in Religious Education

Achievement of Learning Outcomes:

Reading – Promoting independent reading to improve students' literacy, learning and achievement.

Writing – Exposing students to real life opportunities to write to improve students' literacy, learning and achievement.

Math – Using high impact instructional practices in math and real-life applications to improve students' math learning and achievement.

Preparation for Future Success: Teaching Growth Mindset thus increasing confidence and preparedness for future success.

Student Engagement and Well-being: Encouraging consistent attendance and punctuality, utilizing restorative practices and progressive discipline and implementing mindfulness moments and guest speakers on mental health to improve student well-being.

Equity and Inclusion: Integrating culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy to improve upon, build and sustain an equitable, inclusive and accessible learning and working environments for students.

With your support, we are able to work together to improve student achievement and wellbeing for our children at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

EQAO



We are pleased to provide you with achievement highlights of our school's results on the provincial EQAO Test taken by our Grade 3 and 6 students last spring. We have been reviewing our detailed EQAO results along with other school assessment data to build on our strengths and address areas requiring improvement. Students who participated in the assessment received their individual results in October. For more information on this and other province-wide assessments, please visit www.eqao.com.

Please note that the Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO results reflect students who participated in person and met or exceeded the provincial expectations. It does not include students who provided no data due to absence, medical reasons, etc.

Since the 2021-2022 school year, EQAO assessments have been conducted online, establishing a new baseline for student achievement in Ontario. Due to the shift to an online format and updates to the Ontario curriculum for Mathematics and Language, these results are not meaningfully comparable to those from previous years when the assessments were completed on paper.

Percent of Grade 3 & 6 Students Achieving or Exceeding the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 & 4)						
2023-2024 Results	Grade 3 Reading (L3,4)	Grade 3 Writing (L3,4)	Grade 3 Math (L3,4)	Grade 6 Reading (L3,4)	Grade 6 Writing (L3,4)	Grade 6 Math (L3,4)
School	78%	73%	69%	89%	90%	60%
Board	78%	73%	69%	89%	90%	60%
Province	71%	64%	61%	82%	80%	50%

Parent Teacher Conferences

The connection between home and school is always vital. Parent-teacher conferences are an opportunity to engage in conversation about your child's learning. Parents/guardians and teachers are able to communicate openly about student learning, especially with respect to areas of strength and areas of growth. They help build and sustain respectful relationships that allow both parties to share information and develop strategies to support student success.

Before the parent-teacher conference, ask your child:

- How they are doing in school.
- Which subject they like best and why.
- If they find anything challenging and what they do when they are stuck.
- What they think could be improved.

Think about your expectations for your child and their grade level. If you have questions about grade level or subject expectations, write them down and take them to the conference.

Things to ask at the conference:

- How is my child doing socially? Do they get along well with others?
- Do they participate in classroom discussions?
- What are my child's strengths in school?
- What areas could be improved?
- Does my child ask for help when they need it?
- Does my child ask for help before they try on their own?
- How can I help or enhance my child's learning at home?



After the conference:

Share what you learned with your child. Make goals together for the rest of the year. For younger kids, this could include consistent tasks that form good habits such as reading every night and packing their own folders and backpacks for school. A chart to show their progress can help encourage them. For older students, the goals should be specific but not necessarily tied to a grade. This can include completing 100% of all homework assignments or increasing scores on tests by 15-20%. It can be more meaningful if your child comes up with the goals and you agree to them, as a sign that you support the tasks but they are your child's responsibility.

Monster Mash Danceathon Update

Thank you to everyone for their participation and donations to this year's schoolwide fundraiser. At this time, we have raised over \$5000.00. Thank you to our parent partners for your donations and support on this important fundraiser. The day of the Monster Mash was Spook-tacular! Our grade 8 students put on an excellent event in the gym with the support of Ms. Thomson and Ms. Browning. Thank you to our community for supporting our goals this year! Our winners were notified yesterday. Please look to further communication on specific information regarding winners and prizes.



Intermediate Volleyball Update

Our Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team placed third overall in their local tournament. The girls were very dedicated and were a very strong team. Thank you to our coaches, Ms. Thomson and Ms. Browning for stretching their athletic abilities and the time you dedicated to the team.

Our Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team placed first overall in a very competitive local tournament. They will be moving on to the Area Finals on November 21st at Sacred Heart! Thank you to Ms. Lenart and Ms. Browning for the time you have put forth to these Kodiaks!

East Gwillimbury Santa Claus Parade

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday November 17, 2024

The most wonderful time of the year is fast approaching where we can come together as a community to celebrate with family and friends during the Santa Claus Parade in Sharon. Our Lady of Good Counsel is looking for students and families to come together and be festive as part of the OLGC Parade walking group.

Parade Details

Start Time: 3:00 p.m.

Start Location: Civic Center (Leslie St. and Mt. Albert Rd.)

End Location: EG Sports Complex (Mt. Albert Rd. and Colonel Weyling Blvd.)

PLEASE NOTE: All students participating in the OLGC walking group at the parade must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and hand in a completed YCDSB Consent Form. More information is provided in the flyer.

Student Council and Luke 4:18



Thank you to the Student Council/Luke 4:18 team for helping to raise over \$600.00 with your donations for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. With your loonies/toonies, this will provide more equitable access and responsive service to students and families experiencing financial distress.

Starting December 1st, the Student Council will be selling Terra Cotta cookies for Christmas. Proceeds will go to an Indigenous Community Partner. Cookies can be pre-ordered online on School Day from December 1st until December 8th. Cookies will be delivered the last week before Christmas Holidays. More information can be found on the flyer and posted on Instagram, Twitter and on School Day (as of Dec 1).

We look forward to spreading some cheer to those less fortunate through our Christmas Toy Drive. Please see flyer and further communication for more details.



Parent Reminders

Attendance and Punctuality

One of our goals in schools is to work in partnership with parents to prepare their child(ren) to become good citizens. In order to meet our school goals, children need to learn responsibility and adapt to regular routines. When these routines are not consistently followed, it makes it more difficult for children to settle in to the school. Students are asked to arrive at school on time, at least five minutes before the bell rings in the morning.

When a student misses school it impacts their learning creating potential gaps in their learning. Also, when a student arrives late to school, it disrupts the program that is already in progress. We hope to work together to provide consistency, routines, and success for your children.

Kiss and Ride

Please continue to drop off your children quickly through the kiss and ride. If you need to walk your children to the yard, please temporarily park on the road so as not to park and block the kiss and ride. Thank you for not parking or blocking the staff parking lots or the wheelchair accessible parking.

Speaking with Teachers

Please remember when dropping off or picking up your child, that teachers are welcoming and safely dismissing students. This is not a time to speak to a teacher. Once students are dropped off or are dismissed at the end of the day, please quickly exit the yard. If you would like to speak to a teacher, please communicate through either email, google classroom, communication log or agenda. You may also request a meeting or a phone call through the teacher’s preferred method of communication.

Late Arrivals

We encourage all children to be on time for school. If you are arriving late, please sign in at the office and children can go directly to their classes. If you are dropping off a student in kindergarten late, please do not walk them to their classroom. Someone from the office can escort them if needed.

Date	November Events
November 1	All Saint’s Day
November 5	School Photo Retakes/Sibling Photos, Visit from Indigenous Elder Mim
November 11	Remembrance Day Liturgy 10:45am – Parents Welcome
November 12	Progress Reports available on Parent Portal after 4:00pm
November 13	World Kindness Day, Kindness and Spirit Week
November 14	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-5:00pm and 6:00-8:00pm
November 15	PA Day - No School, Parent Teacher Conferences 9:30-11:00am
November 21	Boys Volleyball Finals, Catholic School Council Meeting 6:30pm in the library
November 28	Holly Jolly Christmas Soiree 5:00-8:00pm, Christmas Toy Drive Begins

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

