



Our Lady of
Good Counsel
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

"SUBMIT TO ONE ANOHTER OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST" EPHESIANS 5:21

APRIL 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear OLGC Families,

We begin the month of April and continue our Lenten journey looking forward to rejoicing and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and beginning the Easter season. For the month of April, we focus on the virtue of **Reverence**. Lent provides an opportunity to reflect on our lives, our relationship with God, and our actions, fostering a deeper sense of reverence. During Lent, a period of spiritual reflection and renewal, *reverence*, defined as a feeling of deep respect and awe, can be cultivated through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, deepening our relationship with God.

This 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, marks the halfway point of Lent. On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent's Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. Marked by pink — or, more fittingly, rose — this change in color indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the somber days of Passiontide.

As we embrace the spring months, may we find renewal and rebirth in nature and in our own lives. May we continue to protect the environment and bring awareness especially during Earth Week and Earth Day (April 22). OLGC will be participating in various activities during Earth Week to observe and learn about the Earth and how to be stewards of the Earth.

The staff at Our Lady of Good Counsel CES wish you joy as we continue through Lent looking forward to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at Easter!

Yours in Catholic Education,

K. Quan King Thompson



Prayer for our Earth

during the Season of Creation

All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be
filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize
that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

Amen.

@AvocaParish.com

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

- Christians believe God created the world and made us its stewards or trustees.
- When we see the world as a gift from God, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely, instead of destroying it.

EARTH...



THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

sunshine.com

Active School Travel

USE ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL - DO YOU YOUR PART TO KEEP THE EARTH CLEAN

EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

We are all stewards of the Earth. It is our duty as people to be aware and ensure our day-to-day actions have positive impacts on the environment. One easy way to do this is by reducing the number of times your child or children are driven to and from school by using active travel, including the school bus. It takes a lot of energy (gas) to drive your vehicle, including short distances. This energy contributes to the burning of fossil fuels, which creates pollution and sends greenhouse gases into the air. These gases harm the earth's atmosphere and contribute to pollution, smog and climate change which are all harmful to both physical and mental health.

Earth Day is an annual worldwide event and is celebrated on April 22. Earth Day is a time to reflect on your habits and consider making small changes to your routine to do your part to keep the Earth clean including using Active School Travel! For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel 2 or 3 times a week can still provide benefits. You can also consider parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Do your part, choose active school travel and help keep our Earth clean!



Sincerely,

YCDSB Active School Travel Team

Catholic School Council (CSC) Updates

Thank you to our CSC members who continue to help improve student achievement and wellbeing at OLGC. Our next Catholic School Council will be held on **Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:30pm** in the library. The council will again review our budget, hear updates from the Principal, staff, students and committees. The council continues to run our Hot Lunches every day. Thank you to our parent volunteers for helping with lunches. Thank you to all families for their purchases of Purdy's Easter Chocolates to help raise money to support funding of school equipment and events. With your purchases, the Council was able to surpass their goal of \$1000.00 making a total of \$1211.79 for the school! We are ever so grateful for your purchases in support of OLGC!!!! Thank you and thank you to the CSC!

Earth Week at OLGC

OLGC will be honouring our beautiful Earth from April 22-25 with activities organized by our amazing Eco Club members and selected Student Council students. Please see to the right all activities planned.

All activities are simple, yet engaging where the JK to Grade 5 create their own earth pledge and the Grade 6 to 8 participate in our School Ground Clean up and School Wide Nature Walk.

On behalf of the Eco Club members and the Student Council, we want to thank everyone for your support! We are excited to get our school community engaged in these activities that celebrate our wonderful Earth and our Home. Thank you to Mme. Gallo for leading this initiative.

"Earth is not just a planet; it is our home. Let's treat it with care."

Happy Earth Week!



OLGC EARTH WEEK
Organized by our Eco Club and Student Council

THERE IS NO PLANET B.
SO LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE ONE WE ARE BLESSED TO CALL HOME!
This week, let's walk or bike to school if you can!

TUESDAY, APRIL 22
Wear Green and/or Blue to promote the colours of our beautiful Earth!
Green lunch/ snack initiative - bring your lunches and snacks in reusable containers today and let's **REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE!**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23
JK to Grade 5 students create their own Earth pledges to hang up on our front foyer tree!
Grade 6 to 8 students help clean up the school grounds! Together, we can maintain and take care of our Planet starting with what is around us!

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
School-wide Nature walk day for all students JK to Grade 8!
Let's appreciate all of the beautiful nature.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25
Energy Conservation - Lights out Friday. Turn off the lights to your classrooms!
Rain date for Nature walk and Grade 6-8 Clean up!

EQAO Webinar for Parents and Guardians of Elementary School Students

This year our Grade 3 and 6 students will complete the online EQAO assessment between May 20 – June 6, 2025. Register for a free live webinar where EQAO staff will discuss math questions that Ontario students encounter when they participate in Ontario's large-scale assessments. These assessments are taken by all Ontario students in Grades 3, 6 and 9. The next parent webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 12:00 pm.**

During the webinar, EQAO staff will show how these math questions help assess the skills students are learning in their math classes. Staff will also share valuable insights from the past three years of assessment results, which can help parents and guardians support their children's math learning. Register here:

https://eqao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5puRqI8uQJyplAHgBYoBMw#/registration

Please visit www.eqao.com for more information about EQAO.



September Enrolment

Thank you to those families who have already informed the school of their intention to move for September 2025. We are already starting to prepare for September; therefore, we ask for this information in order to determine enrolment numbers for the new school year. If you are certain that your child(ren) will NOT be returning to OLGC, please contact the school to let us know. We also continue to register children for Kindergarten in September. If your child will be 4 years old on or before December 31, 2025, they are eligible to attend Kindergarten this September. Please register online. Thank you!

School Mental Health Ontario

Starting in April, School Mental Health Ontario will host a five-part virtual webinar series for parents and caregivers, featuring subject matter experts on key topics related to addictions prevention and literacy. Each 45-60-minute session will include a brief presentation followed by expert responses to pre submitted questions from parents and caregivers. Webinar recordings will be available later on the [By Your Side learning hub](#). Parents/caregivers can sign up for any of the sessions they'd like to attend. Topics include:

- The intersection of addictions and mental health (April 22nd 7:00pm)
- Recognizing signs of substance use and behavioural addictions (May 7th 7:00pm)
- How to talk about substance use at home (May 7th at 12:00pm)
- Current trends in student substance use in Ontario (May 22nd 12:00pm)
- Technology overuse and problematic gaming (TBD)

Parents and caregivers can register on Eventbrite and submit questions they want addressed during the session. Dates and times are listed on the registration page. To register for any of these sessions click here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/supporting-your-childs-well-being-free-webinars-for-parentscaregivers-registration-1279970238439?aff=oddtcreator>



Supporting Your Child's Well-being

Free webinar series for parents and caregivers

FREE

Learn more about substance use, addictive behaviours and youth mental health.

5 webinars | Subject Matter Experts | Parent-Caregiver Facilitation | Q&A

Webinar 1: The intersection of addictions and mental health

Webinar 2: Recognizing signs of substance use and behavioural addictions

Webinar 3: How to talk about substance use at home

Webinar 4: Current trends in student substance use in Ontario – what parents/caregivers need to know

Webinar 5: Technology overuse and problematic gaming

Brought to you by:  **School Mental Health Ontario By Your Side** Parent/caregiver resources to support mental health learning and well-being for every family

Share Life Week



ShareLife Week is April 7-11th across the YCDSB. Thank you for choosing to live the Gospel every single day. All of us at Our Lady of Good Counsel CES are committed to living out our faith and one way we can demonstrate this as a community is by supporting ShareLife.

ShareLife helps many people right here in our community, including those suffering from mental illness, isolated seniors, young mothers and their children, newcomers to Canada, and people with special needs. To extend the hands of Christ to the least of our brothers and sisters, members of our Student Council Luke 4:18 committee will be raising awareness of ShareLife by informing our school community of about ShareLife through daily announcements. They will also encourage

everyone to wear **GREEN** on **Friday, April 11th**.

We also ask that if you are able to donate to the ShareLife School Campaign, you can do so on School Day during ShareLife Week. This is how we can all work together to help those who are less fortunate through ShareLife. Thank you for helping those in need.

Date	Upcoming Events
April 1	Dental Screening, April Fool's Day
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day, Junior Hockey Tournament
April 7-11	ShareLife Week
April 9	Intermediate Hockey Tournament
April 14	Holy Week Begins
April 17	Holy Thursday, Stations of the Cross
April 18	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
April 21	Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL
April 22	Earth Day
April 22-25	Earth Week

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

