



# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

## CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

"FOR WE ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN CONDUCT." GALATIANS 6:5

**MAY 2025**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As Catholics, we recognize and honour May as the month of Mary. Our virtue of the month is Responsibility. The Bible emphasizes the importance of responsibility, guiding believers on how to live in a way that honors God and serves the community. Mary, Jesus' mother, is an example for all mothers who want to excel in the responsibility of motherhood. As we celebrate Mother Mary, we would also like to celebrate all mothers in our community this Mother's Day, on Sunday May 11, 2025. Happy Mother's Day!

The York Catholic District School Board joins school boards across the province in celebration of **Catholic Education Week** and all those who contribute to the success of Catholic Education from May 5-9, 2025. We will highlight Catholic Education with our Traveling Stage Dance Performances. The theme for this year is "Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope," inspired by Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Hope and his call to "fan the flame of hope". We share our talents and strive to be Pilgrims of Hope at OLGC.

From May 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, we observe Mental Health Awareness Week. The theme for Mental Health Awareness Week is "Unmasking Mental Health". Living with a mental health or substance use challenge is hard enough; masking can make it even harder. Living with mental health challenges often forces people to hide behind a "mask" to protect themselves from judgment and discrimination. But the heavier the stigma, the heavier the mask becomes, and the more isolated we feel.

This **May 5-11**, we specifically recognize and focus on Children's Mental Health. Let's continue to practice ways to maintain our own mental health and help others, including our children, to unmask the challenges.

We look forward to celebrating all mothers, the Victoria Day long weekend and a good rest of the month of May.

Yours in Catholic Education,

K. Quan King Thompson



## Appropriate Dress Code

As the weather is getting warmer, we would like to remind everyone of the parameters of the appropriate dress code for our school. According to the York Catholic District School Board, Policy 219A Elementary Student Dress Code for Appropriate dress states that:

- i) All student attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect the value of modesty and the principle of the dignity of the human person.
- ii) Upper garments are to cover the midriff and shoulders.
- iii) Garments are to have solid fabric rather than mesh or netting.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and respectful Catholic school environment.

## Catholic School Council (CSC) Updates

Thank you to our CSC members who continue to support student achievement and wellbeing at OLCG. We had our last CSC meeting on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Our next Catholic School Council will be held on **Thursday, May 22, 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. We look forward to the CSC Fundraising of Krispy Kreme donuts. Please look to the flyer for more details!

## September Organization

We are beginning to plan the school organization for September 2025. It would be appreciated if you could **advise the office if your family is planning to move out of the Our Lady of Good Counsel boundaries or transfer schools.**

The process for formulating class lists for September will begin soon. After we determine the class organization, each student is individually discussed and placed according to a number of criteria. This is a process we take very seriously as it involves much thought and deliberation.

Given the parameters in which we have to work with determined by our registration numbers, ministry, and board directives, it is our goal to establish balanced classes, providing effective groups which will benefit all children. As a team, teachers who are sending students into the next grade meet to carefully consider learning styles, academic skills, social grouping, special education, ESL needs, as well as behavioural considerations. Creating the best and most effective groupings is a task that requires careful planning. At this time, we are uncertain as to which teachers will teach a specific grade since staffing decisions are subject to change and will not be finalized until late August.

Accepting parental requests for specific teachers are not permitted under Board guidelines, and would not be in the best interest of all children in the school as it could restrict school staff from informing what we consider to be the most ideal classroom groupings.

The teachers who have worked with the children this year know them and will make determinations based on each child's best interests. If you feel strongly that there are



extenuating circumstances **not listed above**, please submit your request in writing, including the rationale for your request, to the Principal by **Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

**Written requests will be shared with the team of teachers generating class lists; however, this does not guarantee that your request can be honoured.**

## 2025 OLGC Yearbook

The yearbook committee has been busy planning the 2024-2025 OLGC yearbook. We are excited to include fantastic memories, school events, celebrations, teams and class portraits. What a wonderful keepsake of this school year.

At this time, we have begun taking orders for the yearbook via School Day. Each yearbook is \$25.00 and must be ordered before **Friday May 23rd 2025**. This is the only time yearbook orders will be accepted. All orders and payment must be made on School Day. Additional yearbooks will not be ordered, there will be no extra yearbooks for purchase after this date. We thank the staff and students involved in creating the yearbook this year. We look forward to a great book of memories for 2024-2025!

## Active School Travel

### BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK – June 2-6, 2025

#### Let's get rolling!

Celebrate active modes of transportation like cycling and wheeling along with other students and staff across Ontario during Bike to School Week – **June 2-6**, 2025. Bike to School Week is a free and fun week-long celebration for kids of all ages and abilities.

When cycling, remember to:

- Wear a properly fitting helmet. Every cyclist under 18 must wear a bike helmet.
- **Air Brakes Chain** – Check your bike tires, brakes and chain before you start riding.
- Ensure your bike has a working bell, white light or reflector at the front, and a red light or reflector at the back. For information and to learn more visit the [Government of Ontario's bicycle safety information](#).
- Cross at crosswalks, if there is one. Walk beside your bike when crossing the road.
- Watch for cars backing out of driveways and turning at intersections.
- Lock your bike in bike racks.
- Be visible and dress for the weather.

For anyone who can't walk or cycle to school every day, we encourage you to try choosing an active mode of travel two or three times a week, or consider parking and walking a block to decrease the pollution around your school.

#### Benefits of Biking to School:

- Promotes physical and mental health
- Students arrive energized and ready to learn
- Improved safety in school zones
- Good for the environment
- Convenient, bicycling is often faster than sitting in traffic



- Good for the community, encourages social interaction
- Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future
- **Just plain old simple fun!**

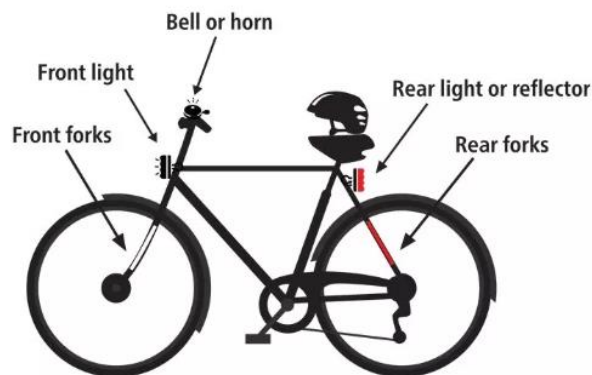
## CYCLING SAFETY FACTSHEET

### Be Seen — Be Heard — Be Safe

#### Did you know?

Ontario law requires that you equip your bike with:

- White reflective tape on the front forks and red reflective tape on the rear forks
- A white front light and a red rear light or reflector if you ride between 1/2 hour before sunset and 1/2 hour after sunrise
- A bell or horn that works



**Every cyclist under 18 years of age must wear an approved bicycle helmet**

### Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week (CMHW) 2025 takes place from May 5 to 11, with National Child and Youth Mental Health Day on May 7. This year, Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) is centering the theme: ***"Voices Unheard, Stories Told: Centering the Diversity of Ontario's Infants, Children & Youth."***

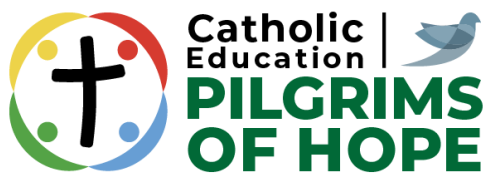


This theme recognizes that many children, youth, and families—particularly those who are Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, newcomer, Francophone, Northern, and low-income—continue to face disproportionate barriers when accessing mental health care. Their stories often go unheard, even as they navigate long wait times, service gaps, and systems not designed with their identities and experiences in mind.

### May is Asian Heritage Month

The York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) recognizes May as Asian Heritage Month. This year, the theme is "Unity in Diversity: The Impact of Asian Communities in Shaping Canadian Identity." YCDSB celebrates the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Asian communities in Canada. Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity for us to learn more about the diverse culture and history of Asian communities in Canada, as well as to acknowledge the many achievements and contributions of people of Asian origin who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the country we know and love. Let's take this month to learn about how Asian Canadian are helping to shape Canadian identity in the past, now and into the future.

## Catholic Education Week



**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK**

**MAY 4 – MAY 9, 2025**

As you know, each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the distinct identity and significant contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration is entitled, "**Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope**" and will take place during the week of May 4 – May 9, 2025. The theme for Catholic Education Week 2025 was inspired by the following considerations:

- In February of 2022, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the 2025 holy year would be "Pilgrims of Hope." "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. (from Vatican News, a short video on the history of the Jubilee/Holy Year: <https://x.com/VaticanNews/status/1783768498885275868>)
- The Holy Father asks us to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many refugees forced to leave their homes. He also summons us, as stewards of Creation, "to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home."
- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement toward a goal, often lived together with others – and that certainly describes Catholic education. Hope – one of the three theological virtues – is grounded in our Easter faith in Jesus' resurrection and renewal; this is what enables us to be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus' name. Pope Francis invites us to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people. Even in challenging times, our eyes are focused on the future.

As part of the Catholic Education Week celebration, this year's **Province-wide Mass** will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton. Mass will be live-streamed from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please click [HERE](#) to access the livestream on that day (Then click on "live"). All staff, students, families, and the broader Catholic community are invited to participate virtually in this celebration of the Eucharist

We look forward to celebrating Catholic Education Week showcased through our dance performances learned by the Traveling Stage. These will take place for Primary students on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm and for Junior/Intermediate students on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Parents are welcome to attend! Please sign in and out on the sign in/out sheets at the school. Thank you for your support and partnership in Catholic Education.

<https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/cet-2024-25-pilgrims-of-hope/>



## Student Council/Luke 4:18 Update

### "Let's Wipe Away our Worries" Drive

May 2-14, 2025

We are excited to announce that 4 of our Intermediate Student Council/ Luke 4:18 leaders are invited to be part of the Social Justice Committee Symposium at the YCDSB. We are helping the YCDSB and other participating schools put together Health Kits to be donated to the Canadian Food for Children and other local charities. Each participating school has been assigned ONE item of collection to make sorting during the Symposium run more smoothly. Our school was asked to collect **NEW, reusable cotton washcloths/ wipes**. As we organize our final drive for the school year, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our amazing school community for all of your generosity, support, compassion and to all of our young Student Council Luke 4:18 members for leading our school in our Catholic Faith this school year in helping those in need - 'we are all pilgrims of hope!'

Date	Upcoming Events
May 2	Intermediate Spring Dance
May 5	Catholic Education Week Begins, Traveling Stage Dance Performance Primary (Gr. 1-3) 1:00pm in the gym Junior Boys Basketball Tournament @SBD
May 6	Junior Girls Basketball Tournament @POP, Ms. Panetta's Class to the STREAM Centre
May 7	Traveling Stage Dance Performance Junior (Gr.4-8) 1:00pm in the gym, Catholic Education Week Province Wide Mass 11:00am (see link above)
May 8	Welcome to Kindergarten, Immunization Clinic (Gr.7/8), Jays Care All Star Series Trip
May 13	Virtue Assembly
May 14	Grade 6 Trip to The Toronto Zoo, Grade 7 Scientists in the School
May 15	Grade 1 Trip to Green Acres, Grade 8 Scientists in the School
May 16	Krispy Kreme Distribution 3:10-4:30pm outside the Kindergarten yard
May 20	EQAO Begins for Grade 3 Students
May 22	Intermediate Soccer Tournament, CSC Meeting 6:30pm
May 26	EQAO Begins for Grade 6 Students, Bike to School Week
May 28	Gr. 8's leave for Camp Onondaga
May 29	EG Firefighter Visit
May 30	Gr. 8's return from Camp Onondaga

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

