



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! The staff and I warmly welcome 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 virtue 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 welcome a returning Priest to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Fr. Roselle, who is ready to serve our school community again after many years.

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 Open House/Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 18, 2025. Follow us on Instagram for news, updates, reminders, and events happening at our school @OLGCYCDSB

I look forward to continuing to serve this community with a heart of kindness and compassion.

Yours in Catholic Education,

K. Quan King Thompson



**Our Lady of Good Counsel CES STAFF
2025-2026**



ELP	Ms. Paravano/Ms. Ducharme
ELP	Ms. Poirier/Ms. De Jesus
ELP	Ms. Douris-Wagstaff/Ms. Gordon
ELP	Ms. Stuart/Ms. Fontana
Grade SK/1	Ms. Watters-Dias
Grade 1	Ms. Cozos, Ms. Iannuzzi
Grade 1/2	Ms. Kovachis
Grade 2	Ms. Smith, Ms. Carinci
Grade 2/3	Ms. Coutts
Grade 3	Ms. Tresch-Hamaoui, Ms. Gatti, Ms. Spatafora
Grade 4	Ms. Cerzosimo, Ms. Beninato
Grade 5	Ms. Conte
Grade 5/6	Ms. de la Bastide
Grade 6	Ms. Fabbracini, Ms. Fabris
Grade 7	Ms. Albanese, Ms. Dabrowski
Grade 8	Ms. Thomson, Ms. Lenart
Special Education	Ms. Risi, Ms. Giardino, Ms. Principe, Ms. Greco
ESL	Ms. Cipriani
French	Ms. Gallo, Ms. Carvalho, Ms. Cariglia
Health & Physical Ed.	Ms. Young, Ms. Holinski
Music	Mr. Constabile
Library	Ms. Gorman, Ms. Gurvich
Educational Workers	Ms. Scott, Ms. Pecchia, Ms. Quirt, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Walters, Ms. Bolton, Ms. Headley, Ms. Schleich, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Hamilton
Lunchtime Supervisors	Ms. Spano, Ms. Vettese, Ms. Dyalovski, Ms. Iannuzzi, Ms. Klasen
Head Custodian	Mr. Guarrasi
Evening Custodians	Mr. Pensato, Ms. Lavadin
Head Secretary	Ms. Maira
Half Time Secretary	Ms. Ricupero
Vice Principal	Ms. Muscoiona
Principal	Ms. Quan King Thompson

We welcome our new Vice Principal and new staff members who are either new permanent hires or Long-Term Occasional Teachers to OLGC. We thank them for joining the Kodiak family!

WE GROW WITH RESPECT, OPENNESS, WISDOM AND LOVE

WE ARE KODIAKS AND WE GROW! ROAR!!!!



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Student Information Update Forms



Student Information Update Forms as well as Freedom of Information and Walking Permission Forms have been sent home. We ask parents to review, revise (*if changes are required on the student information update forms*), or fill out and sign and return the forms to the school. We ask that parents pay particular attention to email addresses, clearly advising that any family/friend contact with an email address in our system will receive all school and board communications and will have approval authority on electronic forms for their child(ren). Parents are advised to cross out email addresses for contacts who should not receive such communications.

Nut and Fragrance/Scent 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 **Safe Arrival**, 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 Safe Arrival 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 2025-2026 school year will take place on **Thursday, September 25, 2025, 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 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 voting member of council provides us with an opportunity to make recommendations to the school, school board and interact with other parents and staff. Please fill out the nomination form attached and email or return to the school no later than Friday, September 19, 2025. Communication of candidate's names will be shared by Monday, September 22, 2025. You may attend any council meeting if you are not a voting member.

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, portable gaming devices, 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 eventually 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.

Safety Week ~ Crisis Prevention 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 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 are threatened.

For all students and staff to become familiar with expectations during a threat to school safety, our school will be practicing crisis 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. **Safety Awareness Week has been scheduled for September 29 – October 3, 2025 to practice these drills.**

Terry Fox School Day Run/Walk



The OLGC School Community is excited about participating again this year and celebrating the 45th 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 will proudly walk/run on Friday September 25, 2025** (rain date of Sept 29). We thank Ms. Wagstaff for leading and organizing this worthy event. Click [here](#) to donate!

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes concerns related to pediculosis (head lice) at the school and community level. Pediculosis (head lice) are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents in your child's class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. A student's readmission to school is contingent upon the Parent/Guardian submitting a completed and signed "Pediculosis Treatment Form" communicating to the Principal that treatment for pediculosis (head lice) has been administered. More information on the identification, treatment and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) can be obtained from the Canadian Pediatric Society at https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/head_lice or York Public Health www.york.ca

Mental Health: Supporting your child with Back to School

We are excited to welcome you back to Our Lady of Good Counsel CES. During this time of transition, it's normal for you and your child to feel both excited and nervous. Here are two resources that provide strategies and tips to make the transition back to school easier for both you and your child. To learn more about what you can do to support your child with the return to school click [here](#). You can also learn more about how to support your child if they are experiencing school related anxiety [here](#).

[10 Tips for Successful Back to School Transition](#)

Everyone approaches back to school a bit differently. Hear directly from a student about some of their favourite tips to make the back-to-school transition a bit easier. There are many ways to prepare for back to school, and it's important that you find the strategies that work for you.

[Students share the best mental health advice they've received](#)

Back to school can bring up big feelings. In this blog post, students share their best advice for dealing with all of these and more.

[A Heartfelt Message to Newcomer Students, from Newcomer Students](#)

These resources are designed to support newcomer students as they settle into their school communities. Developed by newcomer students for newcomer students, these resources reflect some of the unique experiences and challenges experienced by newcomer students and provide guidance in transitioning to Canadian schools.

Active School Travel

Make A Commitment TO WALK, CYCLE OR RIDE THE BUS this School Year!

It's the start of the 2025/2026 school year! We want all of our students and families to take a positive step and encourage all families to incorporate active school travel in their children's daily routines.



There are many benefits to walking and cycling and riding the bus to and from school including:

- Improves student academic performance by making children more alert and better prepared to learn
- Contributes to the daily goal of 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity for children, improving their health and overall fitness
- Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones
- Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future

For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice or a few days a week or parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way can still provide benefits. Include active travel as part of your daily routine!

Sincerely,
YCDSB Active School Travel Team

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Parish News

As a YCDSB school, we encourage the home, school and parish connection. We partner with St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church to guide our faith formation. We encourage all families to attend masses at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish as our local church. Please see information regarding Sacramental Preparation below.

Tuesday-Friday

10:00 AM (English)

Saturday Vigil

4:30 PM (English)

Sunday

9:00 AM (English)

11:00 AM (English)

**Confession Times:**

Saturday 3:00-3:30pm (or by appointment)

Last Sunday 5:00pm (Polish – May be celebrated on a different Sunday for Christmas and Easter)

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 4:00pm Friday 9:00 – 1:00pm

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

[905.853.5009](tel:905.853.5009)

Clergy

Rev. Roselle Cyrille Azares

Deacon Assistant Marian Pawliszko

Deacon Assistant Stephen Pitre

Parish Staff

Katie Goulbourne - 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 is posted on Instagram and a parent letter has been sent home. Registration forms are only available at the Sunday masses which at present include Saturday afternoon at 4:30 pm and Sunday morning at 9:00 am & 11:00 am. They must be completed, handed in and accompanied by a copy of the child's baptism in the Catholic Church.

School Calendar – Please visit us at olgc.ycdsb.ca for important dates and events listed on the school calendar.

Introducing our NEW OLGC Land Acknowledgement!

We thank our school Indigenous Lead, Ms. Lenart, and the staff and students who helped create the OLGC Land Acknowledgement. The creation was in collaboration with our Elder Mim and Shannon Ulgiati, Indigenous Lead at the board.

