



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 KODIACKS AND WE GROWL!

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

NOVEMBER 2025

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 2-7th with National Indigenous Veterans Day on November 7th.

November is also the month where we remember All Saints and All Souls. All Saints Day (also known as All Hallow's Day) is the day after All Hallow's 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.

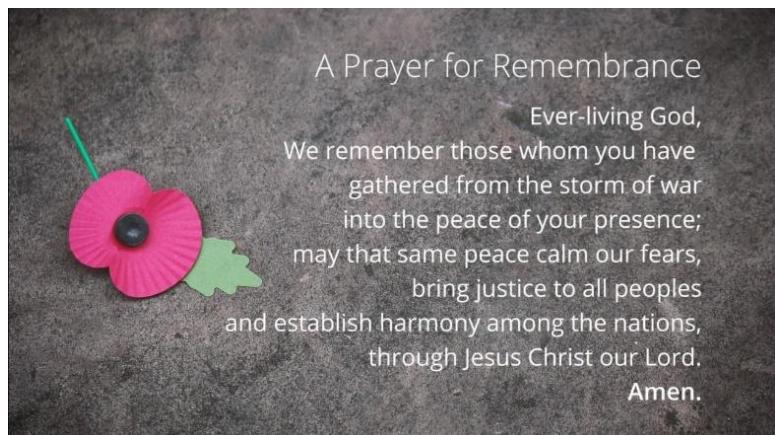
During the month of November, we observe Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week from November 17 -21, 2025. Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. Here at OLGC, we recognize World Kindness Day on November 13th as a lead up to bullying awareness.

Lastly, this year progress report cards will be distributed to students by paper copy to take home on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Parent Teacher interviews will take place on Thursday, November 20th from 4:00-5:00pm and 6:30-8:30pm and Friday, November 21st from 9:30-10:30am. You will be able to book appointments for interviews using School Day. This should be available as early as next week Monday.

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 2-7, 2025. 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 7, 2025**. 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 11th OLG will take time to observe Remembrance Day through liturgy, prayer and presentation. Students will be receiving stick on poppies to wear to our liturgy. If you would like to donate to the Royal Canadian Legion, please send in money to be collected and sent to the office.

Catholic School Council (CSC) News

Our Catholic School Council held their last meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2025. The council decided on an estimated budget for the year, they continue to plan fundraisers such as the Big Box of Cards and are in the midst of planning a Holly Jolly Christmas Market coming up on Thursday, November 27th from 5:00-8:00pm. Please look for further information regarding our Holly Jolly Christmas Market. Our next CSC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30pm in the library. All parents are welcome!

School Improvement Plan

On October 24, 2025, OLG staff worked together to review our school data and collaborated on priorities to create this year's school goals. This year, we are working as a school towards the following:

**OLGC'S CSC PRESENTS
THE BIG BOX OF CARDS FUNDRAISER!
NOVEMBER 1ST-14TH**

WE WILL BE OFFERING 4 GREAT BOXES
THE ALL OCCASIONS BOX
THE BIRTHDAY BOX
THE HOLIDAY BOX AND
THE BIG BOX OF CANDLES

CLICK BELOW TO ORDER THROUGH MUNCH A LUNCH
[HTTPS://MUNCHALUNCH.COM/LOGIN](https://munchalunch.com/login)

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 75 BOXES TO WIN A PIZZA PARTY FOR THE TOP SELLING CLASS
EVERY BOX SOLD SUPPORTS PROGRAMS RIGHT HERE AT OLG
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

ORDER PICKUP WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 4TH FROM 3:30-6:00 P.M. OUTSIDE THE KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S BAG FOR A SAMPLE CARD AND VISIT THE LINK BELOW FOR PRODUCT DETAILS:
[HTTPS://WWW.BIGBOXFUNDRAISING.COM/COLLECTIONS/FRONT PAGE](https://www.bigboxfundraising.com/collections/frontpage)
QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT OLGC.CSCFUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM

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 Knowledge Hook to improve students' math learning and achievement.

Student Engagement and Well-being: Encouraging consistent attendance and punctuality, utilizing restorative practices and progressive discipline.

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.

Parent Teacher Interviews

The connection between home and school is always vital. Parent-teacher interviews 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 interview, 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 interview.

Things to ask at the interview:

- 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 Interview:

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.

East Gwillimbury Santa Claus Parade

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday November 16, 2025

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 Wayling 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.

Why Is Strong Mental Health Important for Children?

Strong mental health allows children and youth to:

- think more clearly,
- develop socially and emotionally, and
- learn new skills more effectively.

It also helps to:

- build confidence,
- increase self-esteem, and
- provide a **positive** mental outlook on life overall.

All of these factors benefit children as they grow and enter different phases of life. A child with strong mental health is a child more likely to succeed in all aspects of life, including transitions into high school, college/university and work or starting their own family one day.

Active Transportation and Mental Health

Did you know that **Active Transportation** can strengthen child and youth mental health, which helps children and youth perform better academically, form social relationships, promote positive emotional feelings that increase self-confidence and overall make healthier lifestyle choices?

Children's Mental Health Ontario reports that as many as **1 in 5 children and youth** in Ontario will experience some form of mental health problem and that 70 per cent of mental health problems start during childhood or the teenage years.

Use Active School Travel To Stay Mentally Fit!

Active School Travel (AST) is an easy way for families to strengthen the mental health of children and youth and it's good for you too! Simply walking or wheeling to and from school leads to increased social connectedness, which can boost confidence and self-esteem and encourage positive behavior and skills. In adults, it also helps manage stress and promotes wellness.

Active School Travel is simple and can easily be added into your daily routine!

- Walk and/or wheel to school or to the bus stop.
- Park and walk a block to school.
- If Active School Travel every day is a challenge, choose one or two days a week to try and make a change.

Be proactive and help to strengthen your child's (and your own) mental health! 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.

Sincerely,
YCDSB Active School Travel Team

Queensville Boundary Review

Construction is underway on a new YCDSB elementary school in Queensville, currently scheduled to open for September 2027. As part of the process of opening this new school, a school boundary review process will be undertaken in our area. There will be public information session for this boundary review process. The session will occur on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd CES** (19112 2nd Concession, Holland Landing). Please see the flyer for more details.



OLGC Intermediate Volleyball

Our Boys and Girls Intermediate Volleyball Teams both came out on top at the Sacred Heart Invitational tournament. The Boys also brought home a pennant as Champions of our local division! We wish them luck as they compete for the North Area title on November 19th. Congratulations to both teams for a spectacular season of volleyball! Thank you to our coaches, Ms. Lenart, Ms. Thomson, Ms. Beninato and Ms. Fabbricino for practicing and motivating our athletes.



Student Council/Luke 4:18

Thank you to the Student Council/Luke 4:18 team for helping to raise over \$1000.00 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 November 28th, the Student Council will be collecting toys for the OLGC Christmas Toy Drive. The drive will take place from November 28th to December 12th.

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.

OLGC Scholastic Book Fair



Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school!

Our OLGC Book Fair will be happening **Monday, November 17th - Friday November 21st** during school hours for our students. The book fair will be open to parents on **Thursday November 20th, from 3:20pm - 8:00 pm** and **Friday November 21st from 8:50am - 10:00 am**.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with our book fair during the day on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you have a morning or an afternoon free and would like to help, please email Theresa Gorman at Theresa.gorman@ycdsb.ca. We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.



"Be Someone's Reason To Smile This Christmas"

Red Wednesday

The York Catholic Board of Trustees recently passed a motion to recognize **Red Wednesday** across all of our schools. This day falls on either the third or fourth Wednesday of November every year, and this year it lands on **November 19th**. **Red Wednesday** is a day of prayer, action and awareness in which we are invited to remember all those Christians around the world who have suffered and have been persecuted for their faith. Red Wednesday highlights the persecution of Christians and calls us to defend religious freedom.

In recognition of this special day, we aim to build awareness at OLGC about Red Wednesday and the challenges faced by persecuted Christians around the world. Schools can show support by wearing red and engaging in age-appropriate activities that promote religious freedom, human dignity, and solidarity.



Additionally, on November 19th, many churches and buildings will be illuminated in red. All are invited to attend Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, celebrated by Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Northern Region. We pray for all those who continue to suffer for their faith that they may be protected, find courage, stay hopeful and find comfort in God's love.

By promoting **Red Wednesday**, students can grow in their awareness of the global Church, learn about the importance of religious freedom, and develop a sense of responsibility to stand in solidarity with those who face persecution for their faith. It encourages empathy, action, and a deeper connection to their Catholic identity. Each action sends a powerful message of hope to those who cannot freely live their faith.

For more information, see: www.acn-canada.org/rw. Contact: el@ac-canada.org or (416) 785-0498. This is an ACN Canada initiative with Archdiocesan support.

Parent Reminders

Attendance and Punctuality

One of our goals at OLGC 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 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. 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.

Pick up before End of Day

We encourage all parents to avoid picking up their child from school just before the end of the day. It is quite onerous on Ms. Maira to have to call into classrooms for a number of students near the end of the day when students are preparing for their routine dismissal. Thank you for your cooperation!

Date	November Events
November 5	Take your Kid to Work Day – Gr.8 Orientation at Sacred Heart
November 6	Catholic School Council Meeting 6:30pm
November 10	School Photo Retakes, School Day Open for Interview booking
November 11	Remembrance Day Liturgy 10:45am – Parents Welcome
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 17-21	Scholastic Book Fair, Anti-Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
November 18	Progress Reports to be sent home via paper copy
November 19	Area North Boys Intermediate Volleyball Tournament
November 20	Parent Teacher Interviews 4:00-5:00pm and 6:30-8:30pm
November 21	PA Day - No School, Parent Teacher Interviews 9:30-10:30am
November 27	Holly Jolly Christmas Market 5:00-8:00pm
November 28	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.

