



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!

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER." PSALM 106:1

OCTOBER 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

October has arrived and we welcome the beautiful weather that God has bestowed upon us as we enjoy the beginning of the season of Fall/Autumn.

In October, we nurture our faith by focusing on the Virtue of Compassion. The definition of compassion is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is hurting, in pain, or has misfortune and is accompanied by a strong desire to help the suffering. Mother Mary is a perfect example of someone with true compassion. Not only did she have compassion for her son, she also showed the greatest compassion for those whose lives she touched.

We began the month of October with taking school photos, a great way to capture initial memories of this school year. We show our compassion for others by donating food and toiletry items to our Thanksgiving Drive and continue to donate to cancer research through our Terry Fox Fundraiser. We care for the safety and wellbeing of others by practicing our safety policies and procedures that began during Safety Week September 29, 2025.

During the month of October, we recognize and thank our custodians on National Custodial Workers Appreciation Day (Oct 2) Teachers on World Teachers Day (Oct 5), and ECE's on Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day (Oct 21) at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School for their continued commitment to supporting our children.

Thank you for your partnership and cooperation in working with us to provide a safe and nurturing experience for your child. We hope you have the opportunity to break bread this Thanksgiving with those who are near and dear to your heart.

Yours in Catholic Education,

K. Quan King Thompson

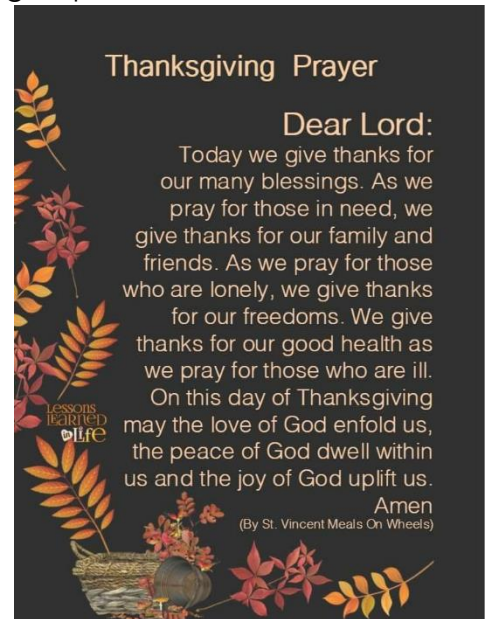
Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Lord:

Today we give thanks for our many blessings. As we pray for those in need, we give thanks for our family and friends. As we pray for those who are lonely, we give thanks for our freedoms. We give thanks for our good health as we pray for those who are ill. On this day of Thanksgiving may the love of God enfold us, the peace of God dwell within us and the joy of God uplift us.

Amen

(By St. Vincent Meals On Wheels)



National Custodian Appreciation Day~ October 2

On **October 2nd** we recognize National Custodian Appreciation Day. The York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) recognizes and shows appreciation to our caretakers and custodial staff who work tirelessly every day to ensure the smooth operation of our schools and office buildings.

The OLGC community extends a sincere thank you to our dedicated caretakers and custodial staff for their tremendous service and dedication. We at OLGC are blessed to have wonderful custodians, Mr. Guarrasi, Ms. Lavadan, Mr. Pensato and Mr. Lawless who are committed and dedicated to ensuring that our school is clean and safe each and every day.

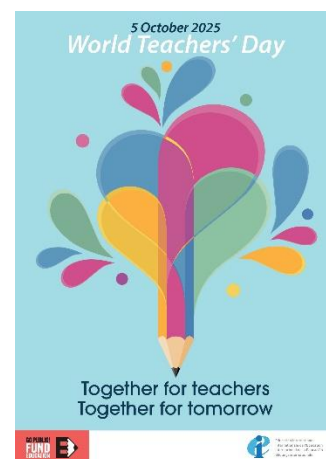


World Teachers' Day ~ October 5

October 5th is World Teachers' Day, a day to celebrate all teachers around the globe. World Teachers' Day represents a significant token of the awareness, understanding and appreciation displayed for the vital contribution that teachers make to education.

The theme this year is – Valuing Teacher Voices. It has been observed all over the world over since 1994 after the UNESCO Recommendation concerning Teachers.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School, we are blessed with so many wonderful teachers who care for our students as their own. Their commitment and dedication to the children are remarkable and we celebrate them on this day and every day for the tremendous work they do.



Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Appreciation Day – October 21



Tuesday, October 21, 2025 is the 25th Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day. This day recognizes the commitment, skills, and hard work of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and staff who work with young children. On October 21, Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Appreciation Day, we reflect on the significant role childcare workers play in our children's lives and extend our deep appreciation for their skill and dedication. Child care workers and ECEs shape children's emotional, intellectual and social skills. They support families and help children to become positive members of society. Their influence is long-lasting in a child's life. On this day we honour Ms. Ducharme, Ms. De Jesus, Ms. Gordon and Ms. Fontana for the work they do at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School. Thank you!

Secondary School Registration

Our York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) secondary schools are excited to welcome new Grade 9 students for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year! On Monday, October 20th, families of Grade 8 students will receive a digital registration form to register their child for high school. The deadline to submit the form is Wednesday, December 3. Please note the link to this form is only to be used for YCDSB students who are currently in Grade 8, as there is a different registration process to be followed by non-YCDSB students.

For families with students who are not currently attending a school in our Board but are interested in registering at a YCDSB school, visit www.ycdsb.ca/admissions and register online. For more information on the timeline, please visit https://www.ycdsb.ca/admissions/secondary-registration/#secondary_registration_timeline_01

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.

This year, the OLGC CSC Election for the 2025-2026 school year were held on **Thursday, September 25, 2025**. We are happy to announce our new council for 2025-2026.

Co-Chairs
Secretary
Co-Treasurers
Parish Representative
Teacher Representative
Non-teaching Representative
School Community Representative
Student Representative

Shannon Zabaneh and Trish Kotsalis
Joanna Vitale
Sabrina Vizzacchero and Erin Martinez
Angela Puma
Kelly Wagstaff
Ryan Walters
Brian Jones
Caleb Carter

Voting members

M. Follegati
S. Ryan Coe
J. Troiano
S. Beevis
S. Rossi
C. Vickers
M. Packowski
T. Mallouros
K. Jagula
C. Nicolaou
A. McKay
N. De Angelis

Catholic School
Council



We look forward to working in partnership with our parents to provide what is needed for our children at OLGC such as hot lunches, technology, equipment, events, spirit wear etc. Contact our CSC if you know if you would like to volunteer. Please look to our school website for information on meeting dates for the year.

Halloween

With the arrival of October, the thought of Hallowe'en comes to mind as we work or way through the month. Students are invited to dress up on Friday, October 31, 2025. Please keep in mind that costumes need to be appropriate for a Catholic elementary school and not be offensive to others. Costumes such as scary clowns are to be avoided as it may frighten some of our students. Students are reminded that weapons/ accessories that belong to their costume, need to be kept at home.

Should Catholics celebrate Halloween?

"Halloween" comes from **"All Hallows Eve"** that refers to the night before All Hallows Day, also known as All Saints Day.

"hallow" is a noun, an old English word for saint. It is a verb, to make holy or to honour as holy.

HISTORY
Halloween is actually a **Christian celebration** that's over 1,000 years old. All Hallows Eve and All Saints Day have been celebrated since the **early 8th century**, when they were first instituted by **Pope Gregory III** in Rome.

TRADITIONS
The "supernatural" aspects of Halloween (like ghosts and demons) have their roots in Catholic belief. It was a popular belief that at certain times of the year, the veil separating earth from purgatory, heaven, and even hell, becomes thin, and the souls in purgatory (ghosts) and demons can be more readily seen. Christians wore costumes to drive away evil spirits!

MAKING YOUR DECISION
If you choose to celebrate Halloween, remember its Christian origins. Tie the vigil to All Saints Day! A popular alternative to a Halloween celebration: **All Saints Party!** Also held on Halloween, but featuring costumes of saints.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defender against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all evil spirits, who prey upon the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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As Catholics, Halloween, and its back-to-back feast days, All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, mean more than talking about our favorite saints who lived in another time and another place. It's also an opportunity to talk about what's needed for holiness now. Please follow these guidelines when preparing to send your child to school on October 31st.

NO weapons, objects, or accessories which may be harmful to others

Students may wear costumes, Halloween colours or appropriate dress to school on Halloween

Parents, **please refrain from sending any treats (candy) to school that day.** Our staff has planned fun activities and items to share with students on this day. Hopefully students will get a share of treats if you plan to go out that evening. Thank you!

Student Council and Luke 4:18

We are excited to Introduce our Official Student Council Luke 4:18 Executive Intermediate Members! Our Chair is: Caleb C., our Vice Chair is: Federica O., our Treasurers are: Ivars K., Theodore C., David S., and our Executive Secretaries are: Ella H., Emma K. and Margo L. Congratulations to all Executive and Grade Representatives!

We have been busy, and October is looking very exciting at OLGC!



Our new OLGC Suggestions box is now just outside our office! Tell us what you would like to see more of this school year and let's continue to make OLGC an amazing, fun and inclusive place for everyone! Please take a moment to complete an idea ticket and place it in the box! 'Don't bottle it up, box it up!' Let's connect, because student voice matters!



Our Thanksgiving Drive runs from September 29 to October 9 and has been a great success. We are beyond grateful for the generosity and support of our school community. All donated items will be picked up on October 9 and will support our partners at the EG and Holland Landing Food Pantry.



On Friday, October 17, we are called into action by asking those who can to donate a loonie or a toonie in support of the International Eradication of Poverty day. That day, students will wear their comfy PJ's and bring in a loonie or a toonie in support of this amazing cause. All monies collected will be sent to the YCDSB to support the families in our York Catholic District community who may be in need. Our goal this year is to raise \$750! If we can make it happen, we will be having a PJ/ movie/ games/ tech day on October 23rd! So mark your calendars and let's make this happen Kodiaks!



We have read student suggestions from our OLGC box in the front foyer, and from October 27 to 31 - by popular demand, our Pumpkin Fest returns to OLGC! A huge thank you to Vince's and our CSC for supporting this fun event, without you, we could not have made it happen! Each class will receive one pumpkin to decorate and display in our front foyer that week. The winning class will receive a FREE homework pass! Let's continue to promote creativity at our school in the Halloween spirit!

Student Pick Up during School Day

We understand that situations arise where students need to be picked up during the school day. Please keep in mind that during recesses and at the end of the day, it may be more difficult to locate or pick up students. We thank you for writing a note to your child's teacher indicating the date and time that you will be picking them up so that the teacher can send them to the office in time for pick up. Recess hours are **10:10-10:25 am, 12:05-12:45pm and 2:05-2:20pm**. Students are outdoors and cannot be called in to be picked up. Please also be mindful that it is quite busy at the end of the day and so pick up after 3:00pm can be very disruptive. If you can schedule pick up other than these times, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention to this matter!



Date	Upcoming Events
October 9	Cross Country Meet (Gr.4-8) at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, Thanksgiving Food Drive Ends, Catholic School Council Meeting 6:30pm
October 13	Thanksgiving Day – No School
October 24	Sibbald Point Provincial Park Presentation – Gr. 2 students
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – PJ Day, FDK Round the Bend Farm Trip
October 21	ECE Appreciation Day
October 24	PA Day - No School
October 31	Halloween – Appropriate costumes, no candy please!

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

