ST. PATRICK CES

5607 Highway 7, Markham, ON
905-294-1571

September 2026

Principal's Message

Dear St. Patrick Community,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and share in our excitement for the start of a new school year! It is our pleasure to warmly welcome back all returning families and extend a heartfelt greeting to the new students and families joining the SPM community.

We look forward to sharing this year with our SPM students and families. Our entire school team has worked diligently to prepare the classrooms, hallways and playground for students and for a fresh start to the academic year. We are all excited to see our students continue to develop and share their God given gifts and talents. We pray that our students and school community will continue to strive to welcome new friendships, celebrate shared experiences and create joyful memories. As a staff, we are committed to working with you to continue to build and strengthen a school community centered on our Catholic values and on excellence in education. Together, we will continue to build a safe, caring, and faith-filled learning environment where all students can thrive.

Through the ongoing partnership of home, school and parish, we will continue to work and support one another to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our SPM community.

Yours in Partnership,
Mr. J. Bablanian
Principal

Superintendent of Student Achievement K-12
S. Wright

Pastor
Father Frank Portelli

Principal
J. Bablanian

Head Secretary
S. Fortino

Trustee
Frank S. D. Alexander

Bell Times

8:15 Supervision Begins
8:30 Entrance Bell
9:50 Morning Recess
11:25 Lunch
11:45 Lunch Recess
1:45 Afternoon Recess
3:00 Dismissal

All visitors must report to the office

IN THIS ISSUE

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Picture Day Sept 22

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PRAYER TO START THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Lord, our God,
Today we come together with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation as we begin a new school year, embracing the possibilities, challenges, opportunities and blessings it holds. Let us pause to acknowledge the gift of God's grace, that it shall illuminate our path for this upcoming year. The beginning of a new year gives us an opportunity to express our gratitude for the lessons we have learned, and to prepare our hearts for the path that lies ahead. Let us open our minds and hearts to receive the Lord's wisdom, guidance and love as we embark on another school year journey together. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

STAFF 2026-2027

Kindergarten

S. Fera & M. Kurian (ECE)



Primary Division

J. D'Ingillo - Grade 1

S. Montini - Grade 2

S. Vieira - Grade 3

Junior Division

S. Dionne - Grade 4

J. Frisina - Grade 5

D. Botelho - Grade 6

Intermediate

L. Berardi - Grade 7

M. Brennan - Grade 8

Core Resource/Itinerant Staff

C. Gomez-Fernandes Core Resource Teacher
R. Rizza - Core Resource Teacher
C. McGuire - ESL Teacher
D. Nazar - French Teacher
K. Cilic - Phys. Ed Teacher
L. Cho - Teacher Librarian

Educational Workers

C. Deluca - Education Worker
J. Cheung - Education Worker
Y. Onibudo - Education Worker
S. Dammar - Education Worker
D. Amos - Specialized Education Intervenor

Custodial Team

V. D'Agostino - Head Custodian
M. Barcenas - Afternoon Custodian

Office Staff

S. Fortino - Head Secretary
K. Tham - Lunchtime Support Secretary

Administration

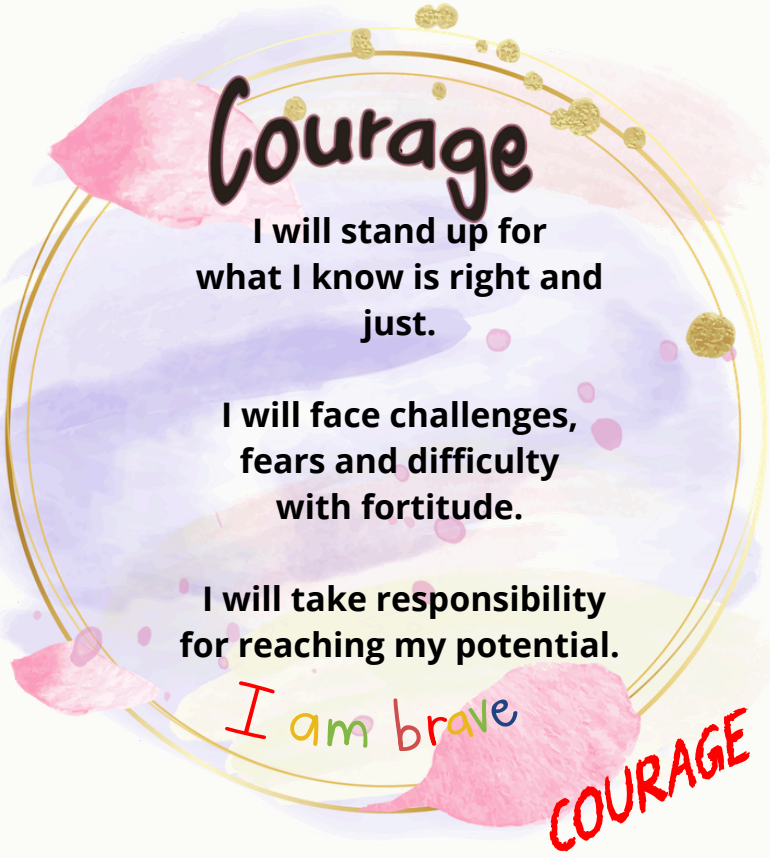
J. Bablanian - Principal

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Orange Shirt Day will be observed on Wednesday, September 30th. This day is dedicated to commemorating the Indigenous children who were sent to Canadian residential schools.

Students are invited to wear orange (e.g., a shirt or accessory) to show their support and recognition. Classes will participate in board-wide presentations and related classroom activities.

SEPTEMBER VIRTUE FOCUS



TERRY FOX



St. Patrick will be participating in the Terry Fox Run/Walk on Thursday, September 24, 2026.

Should it rain, the event will take place on Friday, September 25, 2026.

Please consider donating directly to the Terry Fox Foundation, on behalf of our school and directly to St. Patrick: https://schools.terryfox.ca/StPatricksCSMarkham

Kindly note that all donations are to be made online.

Let us keep Terry's dream to find a cure for cancer alive.



OPEN HOUSE/MEET THE TEACHER

September always proves to be an engaging month here at school!

To mark our introduction and acquaintance with the community, we invite all families to our Open House/Meet the Teacher Night and Catholic School Council BBQ on Thursday, September 17, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The BBQ will begin at 5:30 pm (prior to curriculum night). More information will be forthcoming. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for organizing the BBQ.

This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers and actively engage in your child's learning journey.

We look forward to seeing you all!

AGENDAS

St. Patrick will once again be using agendas as a communication and organizational tool for students, teachers and parents.



Students from FDK to Grade 7 have been provided with an agenda. To help with the offset the total cost, each agenda will cost $8.00.

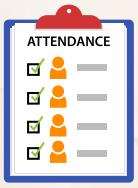
Please make your payment online via the School Day platform.

St. Patrick Catholic School

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

It is expected that all students attend school daily, unless they are ill or have a medical appointment. All students must be at school no later than 8:30 a.m.

Teachers are completing attendance and will be marking students late as of 8:45 a.m. which is the end of the morning announcements.



Persistent tardiness and/or absences will be reported by the school to the Attendance Counselor.

SIGNING OUT

Please try to avoid calling the school to have your child sent down before you arrive; students will be called only after your arrival to minimize missed instructional time. Written permission is required if your child leaves with another adult.

These procedures ensure your child's safety.



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Emergency and Freedom of Information forms will be sent home with each child. Please ensure the information on the emergency form is correct. If there are changes to be made, please make them directly on the form.
The FOI form asks for consent by way of having parents/guardians respond to a number of specific statements. Please sign, date and return the forms to the school as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS

Under the requirements of the Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025, amendments have been made to the Board **Policy 608 Volunteers in Schools**, to strengthen police record check requirements for all volunteers at YCDSB.
Policy 608 Volunteers in Schools
Going forward all volunteers in schools will be required to obtain a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) through the police department. This requirement applies to all volunteer activities, including supporting in classrooms and attending field trips.
When applying for a police record check, you must apply through the police service that serves your home address, for example, if you live in York Region, you will apply for a VSC through the York Regional Police. If you require a letter from the school to complete your application, one will be provided to you. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe.

SCHOOL-DAY PLATFORM

SPM uses School-Day which is an online cashless system.
For more information about registering for School-Day, please sign up at School Day and/or view the information video https://youtu.be/0ZTvvnyMdmY.

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of the YCDSB and St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School that students will:

- demonstrate honesty and integrity
- never negatively comment on or use someone's culture, race, gender, ability and orientation as a "joke"
- respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions
- treat one another with dignity and respect, especially when there is a disagreement
- respect and treat others fairly
- take appropriate measures to help those in need
- seek assistance from teachers to resolve conflicts peacefully
- demonstrate respect for people in positions of responsibility
- respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching
- be courteous and polite at all times

Thank you for reviewing these expectations for behaviour and overall conduct with your child.

ST. PATRICK DRESS CODE AND INDOOR SHOES

In keeping with the distinctiveness of our Catholic schools, the York Catholic District School Board believes that a student Dress Code fosters: a sense of belonging and pride; a safe and respectful environment for learning and teaching; and a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others.

At St. Patrick, an appropriate dress code continues to be in effect. As such, students are expected to dress for school in appropriate attire. Clothing items worn to school should reflect and demonstrate a sense of modesty that is conducive for learning.

For Physical Education, all students must be dressed in appropriate attire as per teacher directions, including running shoes. All students require a pair of indoor shoes, with non marking soles to be kept at school. Slippers, crocs and flip flops are not acceptable during Phys Ed classes for safety reasons. We thank you in advance for your continued and ongoing cooperation and support.



Please click to access Policy 219A Elementary School Dress Code.
See Parameters for Appropriate Dress Code.

CELL PHONE POLICY

In alignment with the Ministry of Education's updated Provincial Code of Conduct (PPM 128), we are reinforcing our school's cell phone policy to limit distractions and maximize learning time. At school:

Cell phones must be off and out of sight during instructional hours.
If a student is seen using a phone:

a. First time – Educator will ask the student to put it away.
b. Second time – Student sent to office; phone stored until end of day.
c. Repeated incidents – Parent will be contacted; phone stored in office and must be picked up by parent; progressive discipline will follow.

Devices may be used for:

1. For educational purposes as directed by a teacher.
2. For medical reasons (a parent note is acceptable).
3. To support special education needs.

If you need to reach your child during the day, please call the main office at 905-294-1571.
We ask that parents/guardians review this policy with their children and support staff in upholding it.

TECH

Use of Technology Forms will be sent home during the first week of school with more information. Student support: YCDSBvle

WALKING EXCURSION FORMS



Throughout the 2026–2027 school year, students may take part in local walking excursions to support various areas of the curriculum. These may include visits to nearby parks where teachers may incorporate playground equipment (e.g., swings, slides) into daily physical activity.

Letters with more details have been sent home during the first week of school.





SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

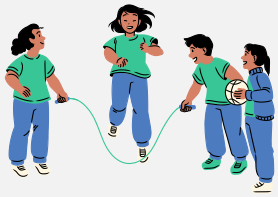
RECESS EXPECTATIONS

As a school, we prioritize safe and enjoyable play among our students, emphasizing the use of appropriate ball equipment. When the field is closed, no soccer balls are allowed on the pavement for safety reasons. Basketballs are allowed on the pavement. When the field is open, soccer balls are permitted on the field. This aims to prevent injuries, particularly head injuries, by encouraging the use of safe alternatives like tennis balls and softeeze balls, alongside soccer balls on the open field.

Additional safety guidelines include:



- Avoid physical contact; keep hands and feet to yourself.
- Refrain from engaging in contact sports.
- Use soft balls such as tennis balls and nerf balls.
- Stay within designated school boundaries.
- Seek assistance from the teacher on duty when needed.
- Resolve conflicts using appropriate language and restorative methods.
- Foster cooperative play among peers.
- Always demonstrate kindness in words and actions.



Remember, respect is not just a word but an active principle guiding our interactions with others. Let's treat each other as we would like to be treated, making respect a cornerstone of our school community.

WELLNESS RESOURCES

School Mental Health Ontario has created some resources to assist parents that you may find helpful. Please find the links below.



- How to Support a Mentally Healthy Back to School for Your Child
- How do you know if you should be concerned about your child/teen's mental health and well-being?

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

TRAFFIC FLOW

As we begin a new school year, we kindly remind all families of the importance of safe and respectful traffic flow around the school. We appreciate your continued diligence, cooperation, and mindfulness as you enter and exit the school grounds.

To ensure the safety of all students, we ask that parents, guardians, and caregivers exercise extreme caution when driving near the school.

Please remember:

- **Students always have the right of way.**
- **Follow all posted signs, including one-way and stop signs.**
- **Adhere to staff direction while on school property.**
- **Buses have the right of way when using the bus loop; please yield accordingly.**

The safety of all is our top priority at all times. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe!





CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The education of our children is a shared responsibility which involves the school, students and their families and the Church. The Catholic School Council operates as an advisory council who strive to provide an opportunity to build community, strengthen the home/school/parish partnership and work together as a community of believers committed to putting the values of our faith into practice in the education of our children.

If you would like to put your name forward and become a member of the Catholic School Council, please complete the declaration package and return it to your child's teacher by Friday September 18, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. The declaration package will be forthcoming.

Successful candidates will hold their elected position for a term of one year and will be expected to attend the meetings. Parents are partners and can make a difference in our children's education. A representation of parents who reflect the diversity of our school population is needed.

Deadline for submission of nomination forms: Friday, September 18, 2026 by 4:00 p.m.
Election and Meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. in the library

**the old school council will be dissolved at this meeting and the new council elected*

Communications of candidate's names will be presented to the school community. The first meeting will take place on: Thursday, September 24, 2026 following the elections.

THANK YOU CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Catholic School Council for their continued care and dedication.

Your support helps create a welcoming environment for all our students!

St. Patrick Catholic School

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS



SAFETY WEEK

Safety Awareness week takes place during the first week of October. The beginning of the school year is a strategic time to remind everyone of safety routines relating to the school environment. Parents, students, and staff are reminded of the importance of safety awareness and education.
St. Patrick will also include emergency preparedness and other environmental safety concerns. Safety drills such as fire drills, extreme weather drills, intruder drills and lock downs will be practiced by staff and students.



ANAPHYLAXIS

The York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) is committed to safeguarding students with life-threatening anaphylactic allergies through a collaborative effort involving families, healthcare providers, and the school community.



In accordance with Policy 206, parents must promptly inform the school of any allergies and complete required forms that have been sent home. Parents are encouraged to provide two up-to-date EpiPens—one for the child to carry and one for the office.

As St. Patrick is a peanut/nut-free school, students are not permitted to share food and outside treats (e.g., for birthdays or special events). Fast food is strongly discouraged due to cross-contamination risks. We thank families for their cooperation in keeping all students safe.

EPILEPSY



We ask that all seizure Health Management Plans be returned to the school on the first day of school for processing. Parents will be contacted if information is incomplete. Provide the Principal with an updated Epilepsy Health Management Plan in the event of changes to the diagnosis or action plan. All forms must be signed by the physician.
Procedure 206D Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions: Epilepsy





ASTHMA

The York Catholic District School Board acknowledges that asthma can be life-threatening and requires a team approach for effective management, involving students, parents/guardians, healthcare providers, and the school community.

Parents are asked to provide one up-to-date inhaler for their child, either to be carried by the student or kept by a responsible adult at school, depending on the student's age and readiness.

For further details, refer to Procedure 206B: Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions – Asthma.

PEDICULOSIS

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. See Policy 210 Pediculosis

FRAGRANCE/SCENT FREE

Please avoid wearing fragrances or scented products to school. Exposure to fragrances or scented products can trigger serious health and allergic reactions for individuals who suffer with asthma, allergies and migraines or who have chemical sensitivities. Therefore, we encourage all employees, students and all visitors to our school to avoid the use of these products while at this school.

