Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to our returning students and to our new families a “special” welcome to St. John XXIII Catholic School! September always brings a heightened sense of excitement. Students, staff and parents are eager to meet old and make new friends, share summer experiences and of course, get our new school year off to a great start!

We have a wonderful school here at St. John XXIII. There are many talented and dedicated people who work hard to make the best school experience possible for your children. Special thanks to the construction company, staff and Mr. Hill, our custodian, for doing such a wonderful job preparing the school for our return.

The staff is committed to working with you and our respective parishes of St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Braeside to educate all students in mind, body, heart and soul. As always we will strive for academic excellence. We are also committed to live out our school Vision Statement and to assist our students as they continue on their faith journey through life. The school, home and parish working together in the name of Jesus - who could ask for anything more?

Our School Day 2016-17

Please note, our recess bell times are designed to balance and maximize instructional time.

9:20 a.m. Morning bell rings
10:45 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Kindergarten recess
11:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m. Morning recess (Gr. 1-6)
12:25 p.m.—1:10 p.m. Lunch recess (Kinder outside/Gr. 1-6 eating first half, then switch)
3:20 p.m.—3:35 p.m. Afternoon recess
3:35 p.m. Afternoon dismissal
3:35 p.m.—3:50 p.m. Bus departure

Please note that afternoon recess will continue to take place just before the end of the school day. We ask that parents refrain from picking their children up until 3:35 p.m., which is the end of recess.
REGISTRATION @ St. John Chrysostom Church

For: SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2016/2017
First Confession/First Holy Communion (grade 2 and up)
Sacrament of Confirmation (grade 7 and up)

Who: For children of parishioners of St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church

When: At all Masses (Saturday 4:30 pm; Sunday 8:30am; 10:00 am)
*** September 10/11, 2016 ***

Why: So we as a parish community can immediately begin preparing your children for these important Sacraments of Christian Initiation while our Catholic Schools continue to provide integral Christian formation.

K4J

Heads Up! A flyer will be sent home very soon for our parish's K4J (Kids For Jesus) Club. This catholic club, which encourages children to develop the virtues needed to live out their faith on a daily basis, is for kids from JK-Grade 4. We meet every first Sunday starting in October from 11:00-12:00pm in the church hall. Registrations will be held Sunday September 11th after the 10:00am mass in the church basement or by returning the registration form to your child's teacher. Watch for the flyer and come and join us!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sacramental Preparation Information
For those children in Grades 2 and 7, including home-schooled children, preparing for 1st Penance/1st Communion or Confirmation and whose families who are currently living within parish boundaries or are already a registered family with Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, there will be a ‘sign-up’ opportunity after each of the SUNDAY Mass-ES during September or by contacting the parish office TUE or THU during office hours at 613-623-6819 (or perpetualhelp@bell.net).

Safe Arrival
Please call and leave a detailed message as to the reason your child is absent on the school answering machine (613-623-2828). This will assist us in maintaining accurate attendance records. A note in the agenda about up-coming appointments also saves valuable time and unnecessary worry about your child’s absence.

WELCOME
We want to welcome Mrs. Tammy Rebertz (Mrs. R), an early childhood educator, to the St. John XXIII team. Mrs. Rebertz will be a wonderful addition to our Kindergarten team and we look forward to learning more from her inquiry and play expertise.

Follow us on Twitter: @XXIIIJohn

Terry Fox Run - Sept. 29 @ 2PM. Bring a Toonie.
Open House / Meet the Teacher Wed. Sept. 21 @ 5-6pm
Each student in grades 1-6 will be given a Catholic agenda. It is an excellent resource for learning more about our Catholic faith as well as being an organizational and communication tool between home and school. It is divided into three main parts.

1. The front section contains valuable information about our Catholic school philosophy, policies, and regulations. Please review the front section for information pertaining to our school (e.g., bell times, dress and behaviour codes).

2. The personal planning section helps students to develop good study skills, set goals, and manage time efficiently.

3. The agenda also provides a record and plan of student assignments, tasks, and tests. Parents are asked to initial the agenda book daily and use it to inform the classroom teacher of upcoming student absences.

Kindergarten children will use a communication notebook and will also receive a Kindergarten Handbook containing the same school information.

We are asking for $5.00 for each grade 1-6 student for an agenda.

Only A Few Key Supplies Needed

Parents will be asked to send in the following supplies for students: backpack, lunch kit, indoor shoes and headphones. If a classroom requires something specific, the teacher will send home an additional note.

School Agenda (Gr. 1-6—$5 per student)

Child Name: ___________________________ Teacher: ___________________________ Grade: ____
Child Name: ___________________________ Teacher: ___________________________ Grade: ____
Child Name: ___________________________ Teacher: ___________________________ Grade: ____

Check: ________  Cash: ________  Paid Online: ________
What do we do?

- We meet monthly, for approximately two hours and work as a team to “enhance relationships among members of the home, school, parish and extended community”. **Can’t make it to a meeting? No problem, we send the minutes via email and have them posted on our school website.**
- Provide advice to the principal in a number of areas
- Raise funds to enhance the educational experience for our children
- Review and provide input to the school board, such as input to the school year calendar, feedback on changes that may impact our children
- Review and provide input in the School Improvement Planning process

What have we done? Well…..what haven’t we done?! We are a busy group!

- Raised thousands and thousands of dollars to enhance the educational experiences for our children by providing many “extra” materials for them.
- Over the years, we have purchased hundreds of library books, playground equipment, sports equipment, teacher materials, smartboards, computers and a variety of technological materials for the students.
- We have purchased a laminator to be used by teachers to preserve student work, a state of the art portable sound system for our gym and ipads.
- Helped defray the costs of educational excursions for students.

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. John XXIII School Advisory Council for 2016-2017, please read and fill in the form attached and return to the office by **Friday, Sept. 16th.** The first School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

We also provide babysitting services during the meeting! Please call the school (613-623-2828) to let us know if you will require this service.

**Opening School Mass**

Our first school mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, Sept. 15th at 10:00 a.m.** at St. John Chrysostom Church with Fr. John Burchat. Please come and join us!

You are most welcome to join us in celebration.
NUTRITIOUS SNACKS

Please make an effort to send in nutritious snacks to school for your children, especially for the first snack of the day. We realize that there can always be a debate about what qualifies as healthy, but a good rule of thumb is always Canada’s Food Guide. Please try to send in healthy fruits, vegetables, cheese and crackers instead of more sugary items.

Milk and Special Lunches Coming in October

St. John XXIII school offers a daily milk and a weekly lunch program starting in October. Like last year, cheese pizza will be available from Pizza Pizza. This will be for three weeks in a month. A 6” ham sub on a whole wheat bun with lettuce, cheese and tomato from Subway will be the remaining week in the month.

Order and Payment Changes

Milk and lunches will only be available on a pre-ordered/pre-paid basis using School Cash Online. There will be NO milk/food order forms going home as all the information will be online. The school will not be accepting cash or cheques for milk/food and there will be no acceptance of late orders as the online ordering will end on midnight of the due date. If you miss the due date, your child will have to wait until the following month for milk/food.

This change was mentioned in several newsletters last spring.

In addition, if your child is absent on a food day, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to pick up the food if you so wish. Monetary reimbursements will not occur. Please note that no exceptions will be allowed.

Be on the lookout for more information late in September.

Volunteers are needed to assist with these programs. Please consider sharing your time!

Dress Down Fridays

St. John XXIII staff has the option of dressing down on Fridays as a fundraiser for our Antonci project. If you see staff dressed more casually on the last school day of the week, you will know that is the reason why.

School Photos—Friday, September 23rd
Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can be fatal.

St. John XXIII has a number of anaphylactic students in the school. For them, exposure to even a minute amount of the substance to which they are allergic can trigger an anaphylactic reaction. Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, we also have children who are allergic to shrimp, eggs, mango, milk, sesame seeds, tree nuts, and wasps. Symptoms may include any of the following: itchy eyes, nose, face; flushing of face and body; swelling of eyes, face, lips, tongue and throat; hives; vomiting; diarrhea; wheezing; a feeling of foreboding, fear, and apprehension; weakness and dizziness; inability to breathe; loss of consciousness; and coma. The recommended emergency treatment for a student suffering an anaphylactic reaction is the administration of epinephrine (adrenaline) by an auto-injector (i.e., EpiPen, Autoject). Then the person affected must be rushed to hospital to receive further medical attention, even if the symptoms decrease with the administration of the epinephrine.

What Can You Do to Help??????

Each person entering the school is therefore asked to bring snacks and lunches free of any peanuts or nuts. Though it sounds simple, it means no peanut butter sandwiches or peanut butter cookies. It means you should read the labels of other foods like muffins, granola bars and cereals before you send them to school. Even foods that say, “may contain traces of nuts” should be avoided.

Some of our classrooms may have additional restrictions on food (e.g., shrimp, mango, egg). Classroom teachers will send home key information if your child needs to avoid additional food items in his/her lunch.

With over 20 people per day eating lunches and snacks, we can never guarantee to anyone that our school would be entirely safe. Cross contamination from utensils used in cooking also pose a real threat to those with anaphylaxis. Therefore parents bringing food into the school to share with a class are asked to bring in only fruit or vegetables and/or items that have boxes clearly labelled. If we all cooperate and work together, we can try to minimize the risk of a severe allergic reaction for any person in our school.

Sabrina’s law was enacted in May of 2005 due to the tragic death of a student in one of our schools. It is our hope and prayer that we never have to live through an incident like that at St. John XXIII. Our children and staff are precious—please do your part to keep them safe!!

All of our anaphylactic students MUST carry an Epi-pen/Autoject on them at all times.
A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND PUPILS FROM THE BOARD’S TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REGARDING THE COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY SCHOOL BUS ROUTE CANCELLATIONS / BREAKDOWN / DELAYS, DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR.

Dear Parents/Pupils:

1. **CHECK THE INTERNET**
   
   School bus notifications will be posted at www.onthebus.ca where you will see any bus cancellations and/or delays.

2. **LISTEN TO AREA RADIO STATIONS**
   
   All information regarding Emergency School Bus Cancellations will be broadcast on radio stations providing local news for all Renfrew County. School Bus Route Cancellation Broadcasts will start at 6:10 a.m. and be repeated every 10 or 15 minutes, with the final one around 8:10 a.m.

3. **SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATIONS ARE FOR THE DAY**
   
   When school bus cancellations are announced prior to school in the morning, they are for the whole day. If you choose to bring your child/children to school, you will be responsible for his/her return after school.

4. **PARENTS HAVE THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY**
   
   As parents, you have the first responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe and reasonable to send your child out to a school bus stop, or to school, on days of extreme conditions. Listen to the Radio and check the weather conditions outside. Make the safe choice for your child.

5. **KNOW YOUR CHILD’S BUS COMPANY, BUS ROUTE NUMBER**
   
   You need to know your child/children’s Bus Company and Bus Number in order to properly identify your child’s/children’s school bus in an emergency, or when you hear it on the radio. This information is available from the School and/or the Board’s Transportation Services.

6. **DO NOT CALL THE RADIO STATION, SCHOOL BUS COMPANY, SCHOOLS OR BOARDS**
   
   Do not make unnecessary phone calls and tie up the phone lines during emergencies. All the information you will need to know to make a safe decision will be on your area Radio Stations and www.onthebus.ca. Do not call the radio station for your child’s school bus route information.
A Message from the Ontario Ministry of Health Regarding Pupil Immunization

To keep our children healthy and our school’s disease-free Stick to Ontario’s Immunization Schedule. As a parent, keeping your kids safe and healthy is your number one priority. All children attending school between ages 4 to 17 need to be immunized according to Ontario’s Immunization Schedule. Immunization protects children from many serious diseases that are easily spread in schools.

Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act, children need to have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal disease, whooping cough, and — for children born in 2010 or later – chickenpox to attend school. Children who are not fully immunized may not be allowed to attend school.

Check with your health care provider or local public health unit to make sure your child has all the vaccines needed to attend school. If your child has followed the immunization schedule, no further vaccines will be needed. Did you know that it’s your responsibility to report your child’s updated immunization records to your local public health unit? Your health care provider does not report these records for you. For more information visit Renfrew County and District Health Unit’s website www.rcdhu.com, and http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/immunization/docs/immuniz_school_chklist_en.pdf

The Renfrew County District Health Unit will again be contacting families this school year whose immunizations are not up to date. Be sure to keep your mailing address up to date with your child’s school, and forward a record of any new immunizations your child receives to Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

Make sure your children are ready to learn. For JK kids, Eye See…Eye Learn program offers a complimentary pair of glasses with their OHIP eye exam. Learn more: www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca #BackToSchool #Eye See…Eye Learn

After School Art Club

Paint a Masterpiece: Picasso

September 21 - November 24

Wednesdays: Ages 6 - 9  Thursdays: Ages 9 - 13

3:40 - 5:10  St. John XXIII School

Cost: $150 (supplies included)

The After School Art Club is back! During this ten-week course students will learn about the extraordinary artist Picasso and create artwork inspired by his different styles. They will paint with acrylic on canvas, sculpt with clay, and more! Non-toxic and high-quality art supplies will be used.

For more information and to register visit: www.blossomartstudio.ca or call: 613.559.0394
For Our Records

Each fall it is necessary to update our school office records so that we may reach you in case of an emergency. Please complete the forms and return to the school as soon as possible even if the information remains the same as last year. Newsletter attachments and forms to be returned as soon as possible include:

1. Student Information Form
2. School Activities Permission Form
3. St. JOHN XXIII School Advisory Council Form
4. School Agenda Form (Part of newsletter)

Please note that these forms are for office use only. You may also be asked by your child’s classroom teacher to fill out similar information.

The School Board and our school monthly calendars are for your reference throughout the year.

Student Accident Insurance Forms

Student Accident Insurance forms have been sent home with each student. Please read the information carefully. If you do not have private coverage for your child you may wish to take advantage of this offer. Please return the application form to the insurance company, not the school.

End of Day Dismissal

Students will be dismissed from school to the same destination each day unless written permission is received from parents in advance. The office is a very busy place so please do not wait until the end of the day and then expect all of the information to be relayed to your child(ren) and teachers. Under the busing policy, bus passes are only to be issued by the principal for emergency situations. Going to a friend’s house for a birthday party, sleepover or to complete homework is not an emergency and it is the parents’ responsibility to arrange transportation outside of the school venue.

Visitors to the School

If you are coming to the school for any reason, you are asked to come through the front doors of the school and present yourself at the office. If you are staying at the school for any length of time, you will be asked to sign in and wear an identification badge during your stay at the school. If you are dropping off or picking up a student, we ask that you stay in the lobby and/or the office. Staff will buzz the classroom and have your child come to the office. Parents should refrain from traveling in the halls during school hours as well as refrain from being on the school yard during recess times.

Idle-Free Zone  In an effort to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse emissions, slow down the effects of climate change, and preserve the environment for our children, we are asking everyone to respect the idle-free zone around the school and turn off your vehicle engines. An added bonus is that you’ll also be saving money on gas at the same time!
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<td>PA Day—no school for students</td>
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<td>5 Labour Day—no school</td>
<td>6 First day for Gr. 1-6 JK early ID interviews, No SKs</td>
<td>7 JK early ID interviews, No SKs</td>
<td>8 First day for Senior Kindergarten students, some JK students</td>
<td>9 Some JK students in today</td>
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<td>11 Grandparents Day</td>
<td>12 Regular attendance starts for all JK students</td>
<td>13 Feast of St. John Chrysostom</td>
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<td>21 Open House/Meet the Teacher 5-6pm School Council Meeting—6-8, library—new members welcome</td>
<td>22 Opening School Mass 10 AM St. John Chrysostom Spirit Day—wear school colours</td>
<td>23 Picture day for whole school</td>
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Special Activities Permission Slip    2016-2017

Student Name: ___________________________________________________
Student Name: ___________________________________________________
Student Name: ___________________________________________________
Student Name: ___________________________________________________
Student Name: ___________________________________________________

I hereby give my child(ren) permission to participate in educational excursions throughout the school year 2016 - 2017. Parents will be notified, in advance, of all excursions requiring transportation.

Signature (Parent/Guardian):___________________________________ Date___________________

Occasionally, the school will be involved in:

1)  the photographing and videotaping of children while they are engaged in educational activities.

2)  the submission of articles (including photographs and student work) for publication in the local newspapers or placed on public display.

3)  publishing to the World Wide Web (internet). Any reference to students on the internet will not include last names or addresses.

I hereby give permission for my child to be involved in the activities outlined above.

Signature (Parent/Guardian): _________________________________________

At times throughout the school year, the executive of the School Council may wish to contact the families directly. If you DO NOT want your phone number given to the executive, please inform the school office in writing, and attach it to this form.
TO: Parents of JK – Grade Six Students
FROM: Heidi Fraser, Principal
DATE: September 1, 2016
RE: School Council

At the beginning of each school year, school council is always looking for new parents to join the discussions and fundraising initiatives. In the past we have usually met once a month in the school library and meetings could be an hour and a half to two hours in length. Discussions would range from school academics to fundraising. This year, school council has agreed to keep the meeting format we used last year in the hopes that more members might be recruited.

School Council will still hold one meeting per month, however the first 45 minutes will be solely for discussions on student learning, school wide initiatives related to learning etc. We will then have a 15 minute break for snacks. The second portion of the meeting will be for fundraising discussions and will last 45 minutes as well. School Council is willing to have new members participate in either one session of their choice or both. So for example: A new member might want to just discuss school academics, policies etc. and not be ready for the fundraising portion and therefore could leave at the break. It should also be noted that babysitting services can be provided at the school if a member requires this service in order to attend a meeting. Advance notice to the chair is required to access this service.

The first School Council meeting will follow the format outlined and will be held September 21st at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the school library. During the first portion of the meeting, school council elections will be held for various positions (e.g., chair, vice chair, secretary etc.). People who do not wish to be elected to a formal position can just remain as a member of the council as we need as many voices as possible to offer input in discussions. Please note, that all persons who accept positions on the Catholic School Councils are expected to respect the distinctive Catholic mission of the school.

This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in education, to influence decision making and to enhance school effectiveness. I hope that many of you will consider joining school council this year. Please return the form to the school before September 16, 2016 in order for us to determine who will be on the council. If you have any questions or need more information, please call the school.
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP FORM

I understand the expectations of becoming a member of the school council at St. John XXIII Catholic School.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL AT ST. JOHN XXIII.

NAME: ____________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER: ___________________________________________

EMAIL: _____________________________________________________

SIGNATURE: _______________________________ DATE: _____________________________

I would be willing to put forward my name for a specific position (e.g., chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, parish liaison) on the school council:

Please circle: YES or NO
If yes, list the position you are interested in: ________________________________

PLEASE RETURN BEFORE: Sept. 16th, 2016.