



## Community Update for the week of September 8th to September 12th

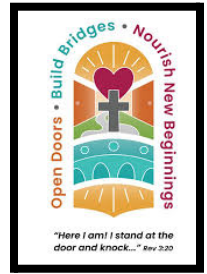
### A Student's Prayer for the start of the School Year

Lord Jesus,

I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year. Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me. Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen



### Principal's Message

Welcome Back to another school year at Holy Spirit! The mix of excitement and nerves was certainly on the yard the first morning as students found their class and met their new teachers! We had a group of very happy students as they ran out for their first recess to play with old and new friends!

We are into year two of our Board spiritual theme. The spiritual theme from Revelations "Open Doors, Build Bridges and Nourish New Beginnings" will guide our learning in the 2025-26 school year. Our focus is on "building bridges" towards each other and to Jesus this year, and we look forward to joyfully celebrating the 2025-2026 school year with our school community,

The teachings and values of Jesus Christ will continue to be integrated in all aspects of Holy Spirit School. Our Holy Spirit staff is looking forward to building community and working with your children in the upcoming school year.

We look forward to a thriving learning community with our students and community throughout the school year. We are looking forward to meeting you at our Meet the Educator event on Thursday September 18th.

And finally, please take a few moments to view the [Back to School Book Checklist](#), if you haven't already. This Checklist was sent last week and has important information and links.

Thank you for your continued support.

Greg Rusch

(Principal)

## 1. Please visit the Parent Portal to complete some very important forms!

- A. Disclosure of information - Required for children to be photographed or recorded as part of learning to support student achievement and assessment.
- B. Responsible Use of Technology - required for students to use technology in the school for teaching purposes (updated this year!)
- C. Student Verification Form - There is a check box to confirm whether or not there is information to be updated. If necessary, there are areas to fill out required updates.
- D. Off Site Permission Form - required for short walking excursions to the skating rink, church, seniors residences, and parks.

## 2. Meet the Educator Event

Our Meet the Educator event will be held on Thursday September 18th @ 4:30 to 5:30. This will be an event where parents can come into the school, visit the classroom and ask their child's educators any questions they may have about the school environment.

## 3. Holy Spirit Parish News

**First Communion Preparation**  
At Holy Spirit Parish

If your child beginning Grade 2 or older and you're hoping they will celebrate First Reconciliation and First Communion this coming year, let us know!

**Parent Meetings at Holy Spirit Parish**  
Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7pm  
Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm

**To Learn More or Sign Up for Updates Contact:**  
Alex Ducharme  
Youth and Sacramental Prep Coordinator  
Holy Spirit Parish  
Email: youth@holyspiritparish.ca  
Phone: 613-836-8881 x300

## 4. Arrival Procedures and Dismissal Procedures

### Student Safety is Paramount!

A huge thank-you for your support with drop-off and pick-up to ensure the safe arrival and departure of students. The first week went amazingly well!

Having an "all hands on deck" approach from the community is really appreciated.

**Reminder to follow all posted signs!**

**Our Bus lane in front of the school will be closed at 9:00 AM to 9:20 am in the morning and 3:30 PM until buses leave in the afternoon**

**Walking:**

- ★ We are encouraging students to walk to and from school if they can.
- ★ Students being dropped off or walking **should not arrive** on the yard before **9:00 am**.
- ★ No students will be allowed to cross through the bus lane

**Arrival:** ALL Students who live and arrive on the South side of the school (by childcare), will go through the South gate and proceed to their designated yard. Students arriving at the south side entrance will lock up their bikes on the South side bike racks.

ALL Students who arrive on the North side of the school (by school parking lot) will only be allowed to utilize the crosswalk in the bus loop on the North side. Students will proceed to the North side gate and proceed to their designated yard. Students who arrive by the north side will lock up their bikes on the North side entrance.

There will be educators on duty at both the North Side and South Side entrances.

- **Dismissal:** Primary students will exit the Childcare entrance and walk to their dismissal points (bus, walk) Junior students will exit their recess entrance doors and proceed to the appropriate departure side (bus, south side or north side)

**Bussers:** All students who take the bus will use the South entrance at arrival and dismissal.

<b>Important dates coming up:</b>	
<b>Thursday September 18 (4:30 - 5:30pm)</b>	<b>Meet the Educator event!</b>
<b>Friday September 5 @9:30</b>	<b>Welcome Back to School Liturgy! All Welcome!</b>
<b>Wednesday September 24</b>	<b>School Picture Day!</b>
<b>Date in September to be determined</b>	<b>Grade 6 NET retreat at Holy Spirit Church</b>
<b>Thursday September 25th</b>	<b>First Parent Council Meeting! 7pm, Learning Commons, all are welcome! More information to come.</b>
<b>Friday September 26</b>	<b>Terry Fox run, walk &amp; roll!</b>
<b>Tuesday September 30</b>	<b>Orange Shirt Day</b>



