



# -St. Daniel School News- DECEMBER 2023



**CELEBRATING OVER 50 YEARS OF  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

**At St. Daniel School We....“Strive for Excellence and Manners Matter”**

## **Upcoming dates to note.....**

Food Drive begins	December 4
Candy Gram sales begin	December 4
First Reconciliation Liturgy	December 6
First Reconciliation Liturgy	December 7
Choir performs at Sunnyside	December 13
Spirit week begins...	December 18
Student Turkey Lunch	December 20
Advent Mass at the church @ 9:45	December 21
Last day before Christmas holiday	December 22
Christmas Holiday (No School)	December 25– January 5
First day back after Christmas holiday	January 8
P.A. Day	January 19
Ash Wednesday	February 14
Term 1 Reports go home	February 15
Family Day (No School)	February 19
March Break (No School)	March 8-15
Good Friday (No School)	March 29
Easter Monday (No School)	April 1
P.A. Day	April 19
Catholic Education Week	May 5-10
Victoria Day (No School)	May 20
P.A. Day	May 31
Term 2 Reports go home	June 25
Last day of School	June 27 (Thursday)

**It's very important to let the office know of any changes to your address, home phone or work phone. We need these updates for mailing and emergency contact purposes. Email, phone calls or written notes are fine.**

**Thank you**





## At St. Daniel School We.....“Strive for Excellence and Manners Matter”

### The Real Santa....

The real Santa lived a long time ago in a place called Asia Minor. It is now the country of Turkey. His name was Nicholas.

Nicholas' parents died when he was just a teenager. His parents left him a lot of money which made him a rich young man. He went to live with his uncle who was a priest.

Nicholas heard about a man who had lost all his money. He had three daughters who were old enough to get married. But in those days young women had to have money in order to get married. This money was a "dowry" and it was used to help the new family get started. If you didn't have dowry money, you didn't get married.

This family was so poor they had nothing left to eat. The daughters were going to be sold as slaves because they couldn't live at home any longer. They were very sad. They wouldn't be able to have families of their own. And they would have to be slaves—no longer able to decide where they would live or what they would do.

The night before the oldest daughter was to be sold, she washed her stockings and put them in front of the fire to dry. Then all of them went to sleep—the father and the three daughters.

In the morning the daughter saw a lump in her stocking. Reaching in, she found a small, heavy bag. It had gold inside! Enough to provide food for the family and money for her dowry. Oh, how happy they were!

The next morning, another bag with gold was found. Imagine! Two of the daughters would now be saved. Such joy!

And the next night, the father planned to stay awake to find out who was helping his daughters. He dozed off, but heard a small "clink" as another bag landed in the room. Quickly he jumped up and ran out the door. Who did he catch ducking around the corner?

Nicholas, the young man who lived with his uncle. "Nicholas, it is you! Thank you for helping us—I hardly know what to say!" Nicholas said, "Please, do not thank me—thank God that your prayers have been answered. Do not tell others about me."

Nicholas continued helping people. He always tried to help secretly. He didn't want any attention or thanks. Years passed and he was chosen to be a bishop. Bishops look after their people as shepherds look after their sheep. And that is what Nicholas did. When there wasn't any food, he found wheat; so no one went hungry. He always helped people in trouble. All his life Nicholas showed people how to love God and care for each other.

Everyone loved Nicholas. After he died, they told stories of the good and kind things Nicholas had done. Sailors took these stories about Nicholas everywhere they went. Some of the stories were about his special care for children—helping and protecting them when danger threatened. And so more and more people learned about good, kind Nicholas. They wanted to be like him. He is an example of how we should live. And that is why he became a saint.

This is the story of the real Santa Claus, St. Nicholas. To this day people say that St. Nicholas, or Santa, is the special friend of children.

—Carol Myers (<http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/real-santa/>)





## At St. Daniel School We.....“Strive for Excellence and Manners Matter”

# Absences, late arrivals, early pick-ups.....

We have observed an increase in the number of school absences, late arrivals and early pick-ups.

As you are aware, consistency of learning is a vital part of a child’s continuous learning progress. It will be difficult for a child to progress to the best of their ability if they are constantly trying to catch up on missed schoolwork.

If picking your child up early, ***please do not call ahead***. Our office is busy, and our teachers are working through lessons. When you arrive at the school you may come in to sign your child out and we will call them down to the foyer for you. Please note that only legal guardians or those identified by a legal guardian may pick up, and the children must be signed out at the main office in person.

## WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

There are 194 school days in a given year. Missing a “few” might not seem like a big deal, but “a day here and a day there” can add up to a substantial amount of opportunity lost.

If your Child Misses...	That Equals...	Which Is...	Over 13 School Years that’s...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years of school
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of school
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Almost 8 years of school

How about just being late? Surely that won’t affect my child’s learning?

But only missing...	That Equals...	Which Is....	Over 13 School Years that’s...
10 Minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Almost 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ of a year
20 Minutes per day	1hr and 40 Min per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly one year
30 Minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Almost 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

Source: Ontario Special Needs, Tweeted August 2019

Everyday matters, routine matters. Having a healthy routine that includes regular attendance is important to child’s success.

If you have a concern, please talk to us at school.





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## Support the Christmas...

Hello Families,

As the holiday season approaches, there may be families in our community who will need additional support with food and toys. Planning must begin in early November.

St. Daniel School will be running our annual Angel Tree program, with all donations going to support local families. More information will come in the following weeks.

Starting Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9 a.m., families needing support should register online or they can call to receive help with registering at: 519-742-5860

To register online, visit: <https://christmassupport.ca/>

This BEGINS Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9 a.m. When the 5100-family limit has been reached, registration will close.

Families that have missed registration, can come to the pantry at St. Anthony Daniel Church Monday nights from 6 pm to 7pm to register with the parish for a Christmas food hamper.

To register for toys, families can call the Knights of Columbus at 519 884 2060.

If help is still needed with any problems or questions, families can call Mary at St. Vincent De Paul: 510 580 6020

Our thoughts and prayers go out to one and all over the holiday season.

Thank you.

St. Daniel School Staff



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# MANNERS MATTER ASSEMBLY.....







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# November Fun.....







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November fun.....

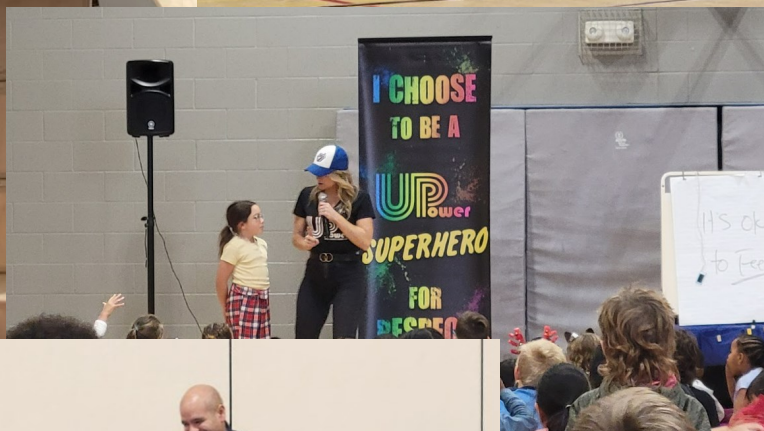






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## November fun.....







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## New athletic uniforms and Spirit Wear coming Soon.....





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**Active travel to school.....**

Busses are operating with the typical schedule. Questions about busses can be directed to Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR).



If you are not a bus student, that means you are a walker.

Exercise, fresh air and being outside have shown to be safe and beneficial during the pandemic. We hope that you will consider walking, biking,

scouting or skating to school this year.

Our parking lot and surrounding streets cannot accommodate additional vehicles for families choosing not to use the busses and for students who are walkers, but who are still driven to school.



To help keep our parking lot safe and everyone appropriately distanced, we are asking you to consider dropping your kids off a block or two from the school where they can safely travel the remainder of the way. Take some time over the next week to plan your route. Get out and practice the new routine with your kids.

With increased screen time, we must find ways to get active and stay safe. Walking, biking, scouting and skating to school are healthy and active options. In all kinds of weather, walking is an active and safe way to get to and from school.



There are environmental benefits with less cars out....  
There are social benefits when walking safely in groups with family and friends....  
There are safety benefits with less traffic in our busy parking lot and local streets....  
Exercise has mental health benefits above and beyond the physical benefits.....

The health benefits, they are simply undeniable.....



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## Parking lot reminders.....

The following procedures apply to everyone and it is our expectation they will be followed.

- There is **no parking** in our lot for student drop off or pick up. *Arriving early and idling your car in the lot, using up spaces for staff and guests is taking advantage of our procedures. If need be we will call the city to have tickets issued.*
- If you park on the street, you do so at your own risk. The city has been out to issue tickets from time to time.
- Parking **is available** for parents at all other times or if you have a scheduled appointment at the school throughout the day
- There is no parking in our bus zone at any time. You may be ticketed.
- **Speed must be reduced** when pulling into and out of our lot
- There is **no parking** in our designated handicapped spots as per city bylaw unless you have a pass posted in your vehicle. It is shocking that these spaces would be used by those who do not need the support.

### “Kiss n Drop”

- There is **no parking** in our “Kiss n Drop” at the front of the school at any time!
- Vehicles must pull all the way to the far end of the “Kiss n Drop” for consistent and safe traffic flow
- If you have a young one, you may get out to open the door for your child, but please do so quickly so as not to hold up others waiting behind you. Don’t store backpacks in the trunk as it takes extra time to get them out. Have the kids hold them on their lap.
- You may not park in the “Kiss n Drop” and then walk your child to the yard or door
- Students can safely walk onto the school yard once they exit your vehicle
- Vehicles should not pull around other vehicles dropping off at the “Kiss n Drop” but wait until that car pulls out





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## Communication Policy....

Parents, students and staff all have a right to receive affirmation for what they are doing and the right to know when concerns arise. Communication must recognize the dignity of all those involved. At our school, all people deserve respect, dignity, fair treatment and inclusion.

As part of respecting the dignity of the individual, the individual has a right to know firsthand of a concern from the individual who has the concern, not second-hand from someone else who has not been involved in the issue. The W.C.D.S.B. has put the following procedures in place:

### **STEP 1:**

- Speak to the individual (classroom teacher first)
- Issue resolved (if unresolved go to step 2)

### **STEP 2:**

- Speak to the Principal (**If you have not spoken to the classroom teacher, the Principal will ask you to do so**)
- The Principal will involve the individual in the discussions
- The Principal may request, at any time in the process, that you put your concerns in writing
- The Principal may involve, at any time in the process, others who may be helpful in resolving the concern; support staff from the school board, employee group representatives, the local parish, community agencies

### **Step 3:**

- You may contact the school board at any time. The school board will direct you to follow the process outlined above

At our school we teach our children that “Manners Matter” and we solve problems with words, and we use kind words. The same applies to grown ups.

We also ask that when you need to talk with school staff you call or e-mail to set up an appointment in advance. Our days are busy with supporting kids and other pre-booked meetings. It may not be possible to meet with school staff if you show up without an appointment.



## At St. Daniel School We.....“Strive for Excellence and Manners Matter”

# SchoolCashOnline.....

Hello Families,

As per board policy, we will be using SchoolCash for most transactions and signing of forms. To access information and make payment for many school events and activities, you will need to access our SchoolCashOnline program. All the details are below. Set up your account today so you are ready to go.....

Waterloo Catholic District School Board is proud to introduce School Cash Online!

For safety and efficiency reasons, Waterloo Catholic District School Board would like to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

**NOTE:** If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

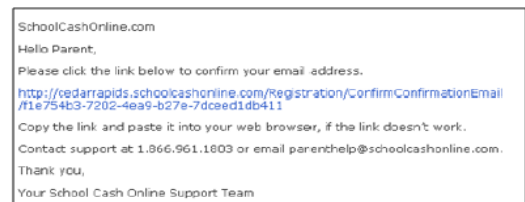
### Step 1: Register

- a) If you have not registered, please go to the *School Cash Online* home page <https://wcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the **“Get Started Today”** option.
- b) Complete each of the three Registration Steps  
\*For Security Reasons your password, requires **8 characters**, **one uppercase** letter, **one lowercase** letter and a **number**.



### Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



### Step 3: Find Student

**Note: Student Number is Not Required**

*This step will connect your children to your account.*

- a) Enter the School Board Name
- b) Enter the School Name
- c) Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- d) Select **Continue**
- e) On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**
- f) Your child has been added to your account

### Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select **“Add Another Student”** option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select **“View Items For Students”** option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

### Find Student

#### School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575  
Looking for a student in a different school board?

School Name: Eagle High School

#### Student Information

Do you have the student number?

Student Number

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date:   
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))



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## Operational notes....

### **Attendance and Safe Arrival:**

Students are expected to attend school regularly and be punctual. Parents are required to phone the school in the event a student will be absent or late. Messages may be left on the school answering machine between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. daily. When the school has not been notified regarding a student absence, an effort will be made to check on the safe whereabouts of the student.

If your child is going to be absent, please:

- Send a note to your child’s teacher in advance if possible;
- Contact the school and speak with the secretary;
- Phone the school and leave a message on the answering machine which operates at any time during the day or night;
- Leave your child’s name, the teacher’s name, and the reason for the absence. Unless you notify us otherwise, we will assume your child will be back the following day. At no time is the student to report themselves absent for the school day or is the student to have someone less than 18 years of age report them absent.

When a child returns to school, he/she must find out what work was missed and complete it within a reasonable amount of time, as decided by the teacher. Extended periods of absence for reasons other than health; requires the permission of the Principal.

### **Student Illness at School:**

We do not have the facilities to accommodate children who are ill. Whenever a child is ill, we will request that someone come to pick the child up. We require an emergency contact number for every student.

### **Late For School:**

School begins at 9:00 a.m. and 12:55 p.m. Please make every effort to instill in your children the life skill of punctuality. A child is late when the bell has rung and they are not entering the school with their class. When your child arrives late, he/she is to report to the office so that we are made aware of the child’s safe arrival.

### **Leaving Early in the Day:**

If you wish to withdraw your child during the course of a day, please come to the office to make your request or send a note to the classroom teacher. Before your child can leave, you are asked to come to the main office and sign the “Parent Sign out Book”. Your son/daughter will then be called from class to meet you at the office.





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## Operational notes continued....

The weather is unpredictable so we like to take a moment to remind you of our inclement weather procedures. Please give us a call if you have any questions at all.

### SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

**Note: Schools may remain open even if busses are cancelled. Watch news reports carefully to make certain schools are closed.**

There are days when school buses will not be able to operate because of fog, freezing rain or other adverse road conditions. This may be confined to certain areas or could necessitate a complete system shut-down for that day. If conditions are severe enough, school may also be closed.

Bus operators will consult with their drivers and other monitors to determine road conditions. If conditions appear unsafe, they will contact the Transportation Official for approval to cancel buses. If there is a decision to cancel, the Transportation Official will contact the radio stations. Bus cancellation and school closure notices affecting our schools will be given out between 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to:

CHYM FM (FM 96.7)	KOOL FM (FM 105.3)
570 News (AM 570)	KIX (FM 106.7)
C JOY (AM 1460)	DAVE FM (FM 107.5)
MAGIC FM (FM 106.1)	KOOL FM (FM 105.3)
OLDIES 1090 (AM 1090)	CTV SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO - (Channel 12)
FAITH FM (FM 94.3)	THE RECORD ( <a href="http://www.therecord.com">www.therecord.com</a> )

**Cancellation information is also posted on the Board’s website at [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca).**

When morning bus routes have been cancelled, ***buses are cancelled for the day.*** If buses are cancelled and parents bring their children and/or other children to school, it is the parents’ responsibility to pick them up at the end of the school day.

Unless a system closure has been announced, all schools will be open during regular hours.



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## **Operational notes continued....**

### **Student Safety**

This is a friendly reminder that only students and staff members are permitted to be on the school yard (field and blacktop). If you walk or drive your child to school, we ask that you bring your child(ren) to the school yard boundary and then allow them to proceed to our supervised yard on their own. The exception is our Kindergarten students. Once you have walked them to gate door – “kiss n go”. You are reminded however, that there is no parking in our lot for drop off or pick up. We ask for your support and understanding for the following reasons:

- The front of the school, bus area, blacktop, and yard are supervised by staff every school day
- By only allowing staff members and students on the yard, our staff supervisors can ensure only authorized adults are on the yard for safety and monitoring
- We can ensure that student behaviour is managed by our qualified staff members in a manner that is consistent with our school policy

At the end of the school day parents and guardians are permitted to wait on the surrounding sidewalk to pick their children up but again, there is no parking available in our lot at this time.

We thank you in advance for your support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the school.

## **We are a Peanut Free School.....**

There are many new products on the market including “WOW BUTTER”. According to this specific product’s promotional materials, the product “looks, smells, and tastes just like peanut butter”. While the good intentions behind the development of such products certainly cannot be argued, allowing students to bring the product into a school where we have students with known allergies to peanuts and peanut butter is problematic and could have potentially devastating consequences.

Right now, all staff know immediately what to do if a student arrives at school with a peanut butter sandwich. Precautions to protect our allergic students are immediately taken. Our policy on anaphylaxis is clear. However, should a food product that looks, smells and tastes like real peanut butter (but isn’t peanut butter) be permitted, it places all staff and volunteers in a position of having to decide definitively if the product is - or isn’t - real peanut butter. We are not qualified food experts and are in no position to make such decisions - particularly where exposure to real peanut butter can literally cause a child’s death.

**Therefore, all peanut butter substitutes will be treated the same as real peanut butter and are NOT allowed at school.**

Our school remains a peanut free school. We thank you for your support and understanding.



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## Parents are teachers too.....



### Growth Mindset

#### Be Honest With Your Children

It can be hard for our children to come in second place, lose a big game or fail to meet their own expectations on a test. However, protecting your child from disappointments by being dishonest, while making them feel better in the short term, doesn't help them learn how to be honest with themselves and benefit from the feedback.

Tell your child the truth gently. Give them honest, constructive feedback about their performance and avoid externalizing the loss or sugar coating. Help them think about what tools will help them succeed where they are struggling.

Keep these principles in mind when talking to your child about failures:

- Be empathetic but tell them the truth
- Don't externalize the loss
- Don't let them rely on ability alone, hard work is needed for mastery
- Help them recognize what they can and cannot control ie. Their attitude vs the refs decision
- Focus on improving something and areas of potential growth
- Don't judge, we are all learning

You've got this!

Dr. Jen, The Umbrella Project