

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Academy

August/September 2023



Welcome

It is our pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our new students and staff members who are joining the OLLCA family this year. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following new permanent staff members:

Vice Principal

Mr. De Angelis

Elementary:

Ms. Glazier (7)

Ms. Greig (7)

Ms. Spielmacher (7 FI - English portion)

Mr. Ottaway (8)

Ms. Samide (8)

Ms. Gillies (8)

Mr. Cece (Core Resource)

Ms. Westacott (Core Resource)

Ms. Genova - ITIN French

Ms. Seca - ITIN Phys Ed (for FI only)

Ms. Damiano - ITIN Music

Secondary:

Mr. Feeney - Hospitality

Ms. Esposito - Co-operative Education



Dates to Remember:

September 5, 2023

First day of school
elementary
(grades 7 & 8) and
Grade 9 Orientation
Day

September 6, 2023

First day of classes
for **ALL secondary**
students

September 11, 2023

Picture Day

September 11, 2023

Late busses resume

September 22, 2023

P.A. Day (Elementary
and Secondary)

October 3, 2023

Gr 7/8 Immunization
Clinic at OLLCA

October 20, 2023

P.A. Day (Elementary
and Secondary)



It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to several esteemed members of our permanent OLL staff who have moved on to new adventures. To begin, we wish Ms. Therriault every happiness as she journeys into retirement after a very distinguished career. Vice Principal Allan, Ms. Primucci and Ms. Dametto will not be returning this year. Ms. Ceci has accepted a pathways position with our school board, and Ms. Veltri has taken a teaching position at another school. Our afternoon secretary, Ms. Walsh, will also be working in another school community as of September. These staff members have offered their talents, passion, and commitment to our school community during their time here, and we are so grateful for the ways they have helped to shape OLL. We will miss each of them very much.



Kindly be sure to give a warm greeting to our new Vice Principal, Mr. De Angelis. Mr. De Angelis' enthusiasm, warmth and commitment to student success will make him a wonderful addition to our community. Moving forward, students in grades 7, 8 or 9 will be under Mr. De Angelis' portfolio, while Ms. Anniballi will assist students in grades 10, 11 and 12.

We are excited to announce that the Hospitality Program will begin anew, under the direction of Mr. Feeney. As of September 5th hospitality classes will have full use of the cafeteria space. As such, Nella's Catering will no longer provide hot lunches for our students. Students and staff will be able to pre-order hot lunches from the cafeteria, but it will take several weeks to establish the program. Until that time, **all elementary students must bring a packed lunch and snacks, as they are not permitted to leave school property** unless picked up by a parent or guardian.



Please be advised that **all** students at OLLCA must comply with the **uniform policy**. This expectation was clearly articulated at the time of registration, and compliance will be strictly enforced. Students who are out of uniform may not enter classes.

The uniform consists of these items **ONLY**:

Shirt: Navy or white **uniform polo shirt** with OLLCA monogram OR OLLCA long-sleeved rugby shirt (coming this Fall)

Pants: Dark **grey dress pant** with OLLCA monogram

Sweater: Navy zip polo sweater with collar and monogram OR "Bulldogs" crewneck sweater

Shoes: **Black shoes** with no other colours or markings and a fully enclosed heel

- Hats may not be worn in school between 8:55am (start of school) and 2:58 pm (dismissal). Hats must be off from bell to bell.
- Hoodies are NOT to be worn underneath OLL polos: we recommend students/families purchasing a sweater for when the colder weather settles in.
- DGN Kilters is our Board approved uniform supplier; however, articles of clothing with the appropriate logo but from a previously approved supplier will be accepted.

While students are expected to begin the school year in full uniform, we recognize that some uniform items may be on **backorder**. A backorder list is provided to the school by the vendor. If your child does not have a complete uniform due to a backordered item, please contact the School Administration to make alternate arrangements.

Why is the uniform so important?

Ensuring that students adhere to the uniform policy is one important way that staff ensure the safety of all students in the building. Uniforms make it easier for staff to identify possible intruders who should not be in the building, and help staff to identify potential external issues before they arise.

Further to this, school uniforms allow for greater group cohesion and a sense of commonality. Uniforms eliminate the potential that a student will be scrutinized, or even bullied, for their clothing. They encourage students to feel part of a larger community, and to develop a stronger concept of group identity. A sense of unity is an integral part of our Catholic community, and uniform compliance is a small but important method of helping to achieve this.



**Sticks in a bundle
are unbreakable.**

- Kenyan Proverb

Bussing

To find out if your child qualifies for bussing, please go to **www.schoolbuscity.com**

Grade 7 and 8 - must live 1.6 km away from the school to qualify for bussing.

Grade 9 to 12 - must live 4.8 km away from the school to qualify for bussing.

Please note that these distances were determined by the Ministry of Education, and it is not within our power to adjust them.

Parents/guardians do not have to register for bussing. Your address information is downloaded by the Transportation Department and bus stops are created using this information, if you qualify. If you have moved or no longer use a daycare provider for before/after school, please notify the school immediately so that updated bus information can be created. Please be sure that your child knows the bus number to and from school prior to the first day. Buses drop off and pick up students at the west parking lot of the school (parking lot across from Tim Horton's) and depart promptly. **No student can ride a different bus even if they qualify for a bus.** They must only ride the bus that has been assigned to them on www.schoolbuscity.com

Note: driving distance is not used. Paths and catwalks are considered when the transportation department determines qualifications. Stops are created within 400 m away from home (elementary) and 600m away from home (secondary).

Lockers

Homeroom teachers will inform students of their locker number. Requests to change locations due to change of classes will not be entertained. Combinations must be numbers (no letters, keys or puzzles). Students are not to share lockers with their peers.

Locks

Grade 7 - Students who paid their SAF fee will receive a new lock in their homeroom class on the first day. Those who did not pay their Student Activity Fee (SAF) can purchase a lock from the office for \$11.00 (EXACT cash only - no change provided), or bring their own combination lock. Please note that the office must have record of the serial number and combination of every student's lock. Kindly contact the office for further information if required. Grade 8 to 12 - Please be sure to bring your lock with you to school. If you have forgotten your combination, please contact the school PRIOR to the first day.



PA Days - **NEW!**

Please note that ALL elementary students will now follow the "E" on the Board calendar. Secondary students will continue to follow the "S" on the board calendar. The YCDSB school year calendar can be found at <https://www.ycdsb.ca/schools/school-year-calendar/>

Physical Education Uniform **NEW!**

During Physical Education classes, students will now be permitted to wear their own track pants, shorts that touch the top of the knee, t-shirts (must have sleeves and be waist length) and non marking running shoes.

Students will NOT be permitted to wear: any ripped attire, tank tops, crop tops, short shorts, yoga pants, or yoga shorts. There are lockers in the changerooms so that students can hang their uniforms in a locker. Students should bring a lock from home to use in the changeroom only during gym class. **NO items of value should be brought into the changeroom, including cell phones, airpods or jewelry.** These items should be kept at home or locked in their hallway locker. Changerooms cannot be monitored, and OLLCA will not be responsible for any items that are lost or stolen as a result of a failure to leave them in a secure location.

Catholic School Council

Our first Catholic School Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21st, at 7 pm. CSC is a wonderful way for parents and guardians to help shape the culture of our school, and to take an active part in planning special events for our students. Last year's council, under the leadership of CSC President Rachel Mortimer, engaged in many rich and fruitful discussions, and we are grateful to everyone who participated. Please note that all are welcome to CSC meetings. Home-to-school partnerships are integral to students success, and we value any opportunity to collaborate with our OLLCA families.

As always, we ask that you please reach out to us directly with any questions or concerns.

Keep up to date with school news via our website: <https://ollh.ycdsb.ca>

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

