

ST. STEPHEN'S OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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www.ststephencayuga.ca
[@stscatholic](https://twitter.com/stscatholic)



Principal: Mr. J. VanLeuvenhage

Secretary: Mrs. Reidy

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

A big thank you to all those families who were able to attend our "Meet the Teacher" Open House/ BBQ last month. It was so great to meet new families and reconnect with our greater school community. The energy throughout the event was amazing. I appreciate the support you have displayed as we start the 2023-24 school year.

We are collecting non-perishable items for the Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Cayuga Food Bank. We hope you will find it in your hearts to contribute to this worthy cause.

Hopefully you have had a chance to log on to your child's Brightspace page to ensure there are no issues. Our teachers are using Brightspace for different purposes, so be sure to check with your child's teacher for more information on how they wish to communicate to families (Brightspace, weekly email updates, etc.) if they have not done so already. If you are experiencing difficulty with Brightspace, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher via email for assistance.

Don't forget to follow St. Stephen's school on Twitter. Keep up to date with events happening within our school community by following [@stscatholic](https://twitter.com/stscatholic). Even if you do not have a Twitter account you can still see what is happening by typing [@stscatholic](https://twitter.com/stscatholic) into a search engine. The school webpage has a calendar to reference for upcoming important dates. If you would like to contact our temporary secretary for any reason, she can be reached at mreidy@bhncdsb.ca.

We appreciate your continued co-operation and flexibility with **dropping your children off at our pylon marked area each morning**. Keeping our students safe is our top priority.

May your Thanksgiving tables be filled with the bounty of God's harvest and be surrounded with the love of your families and friends.

God bless,

Jeff VanLeuvenhage
Principal



Important Dates:

- Tuesday, October 3rd—PA Day—no school for students
- Wednesday October 4th—Blue Jays Day
- Monday, October 9th—Thanksgiving—no school
- Tuesday, October 10th —Monthly School Mass
- Wednesday October 11th—Fresh From the Farm Orders Due
- Tuesday, October 24th—Dental & Vision Screening
- Thursday, October 26th—Cross Country Meet
- Friday, October 27th—Immunizations (Gr. 7)
- Tuesday, October 31st—Halloween
- Wednesday, Nov. 1st—Photo Retake Day



Costumes:

Students are able to wear costumes on October 31st; however, be sure that all costumes are culturally sensitive, prop free and appropriate as always. If you do not want your child to wear their costume, they can wear black and orange as an alternative.

Treats from home:

Unfortunately, **no treats** (candy, food, etc.) can be brought from home to give out to classmates. Thank you for your understanding to ensure the safety of all.

St. Stephen's 2023-2024

Parent Council

Thank you to all our new members who joined us on Thursday, September 21st, for our first meeting. We are looking forward to a great year!!

Chair: Lauren Burley

Vice-Chair: Jackie Williams

Secretary Treasurer: Nicky Los

A big thanks goes to those who participated in all of our fundraisers that took place last year. We appreciate all of your support !

MEDICATION,

ASTHMA and ALLERGIES

The staff at St. Stephen's School must follow Board procedures for the administration of medication during school hours. If your child requires such medication you are asked to contact the office and the necessary arrangements will be made.



Authorization to provide such services must be made in writing by the parent and physician on the appropriate form (obtained at the school). Only prescription drugs will be administered. Non prescription drugs such as aspirin and Tylenol will NOT be administered to the students. Please keep the school updated on any changes to your child's health, including the use of an inhaler or new allergies. We need to keep your child safe and having up-to-date medical information is key.



SOCCER TOURNAMENT

On September 20th the St. Stephen's Junior and Senior Co-ed Soccer Teams competed in the Board soccer tournament. Congratulations to both teams who worked hard and put forth their best effort.

A special thanks to Mr. Bortolotto, and Ms. Major for their time during school coaching and supporting the team!



Chipmunk Bus Tracking App

Greetings St. Stephen Community,

STSBHN, the transportation department which provides bus services to the three school boards of our district, is continuing to use the tracking application which allows parents to track their child(ren)'s school bus. We have been working with the app for over a year now and are looking to expand its use.

The app is entirely free and is available on systems which run in iOS and Android platforms. The app is simply called Chipmunk (and is under the travel category).

To access the app, simply select the school board that your children attend and then log in with the same account that you use to access your child(ren)'s bus details from the transportation portal. Detailed information on how to access, login and use the app are available by visiting the Frequently Asked Questions page STSBHN's website

(<http://www.stsbhn.ca/faqs>).

As you use this app, please convey any issues directly to transportation—Rosemary Stearns rstearns@stsbhn.ca or 519-751-7532 x3. The issues will be reviewed and conveyed to the app developer for correction.

Thank you for helping us move forward with this technology,

Philip Kuckyt

Manager of Transportation

Eye Health

Did you know that all children and youth, 17 years and younger are eligible for free eye exams in Ontario?

- 👁 Vision problems are common among school-aged children but are not always easy for parents to detect.
- 👁 Vision problems can lead to challenges in school, play and every day activities
- 👁 The Health Unit offers school-based vision screening to senior kindergarten students each year.
- 👁 Vision screening does not replace the need for a full exam by an eye doctor.



Some optometrists in Ontario participate in the Eye See, Eye Learn program which provides free glasses to children in junior and senior kindergarten. Visit <https://optom.on.ca/esel/> for details

Health and Social Services
Haldimand and Norfolk

Report Your Child's Vaccinations

All children attending school in Ontario are **required by law to report their vaccination status** to the local health unit

You can **report your child's immunizations by phone, email or online**. You will require your child's Ontario Health Card Number when reporting their vaccines online

Contact your child's **health-care provider** to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations



The local health unit offers **routine vaccination clinics** to catch up, visit our website for upcoming dates



Report by PHONE 519-426-6170 ext. 3214 or FAX 519-426-9246 or
EMAIL vpd@hnhss.ca or WEBSITE hnhu.org/immunization-reporting/

Health and Social Services
Haldimand and Norfolk

Concussions

Did you know that only 1 in 10 concussions result in loss of consciousness.

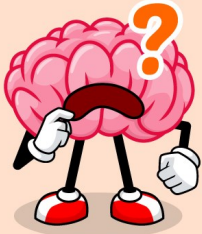
A concussion is a brain injury that cannot be seen on routine X-rays, CT scans, or MRIs

Symptoms and complaints that may indicate your child has a concussion.



Thinking Problems

- Does not know time, date, place, details about a recent activity
- General confusion
- Cannot remember things that happened before and after injury
- Knocked out



Child's Complaints

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Feels dazed
- Feels "dinged" or stunned; "having my bell rung"
- Sees stars, flashing lights
- Ringing in the ears
- Sleepiness
- Loss of vision
- Sees double or blurry
- Stomachache, stomach pain, nausea

Other Problems

- Poor co-ordination or balance
- Blank stare/glassy-eyed
- Vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Slow to answer questions or follow directions
- Easily distracted
- Poor concentration
- Strange or inappropriate emotions (i.e., laughing, crying, getting mad easily)
- Not participating well

If you think your child has a concussion, STOP their activity immediately and seek medical attention