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"...It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Mark 4:30-32
Your Child’s Faith-filled Journey

We believe in fostering a strong relationship between your home, our school and your parish. You will find our teachers supporting your child’s ongoing growth in faith through Mass, prayers, religious education, Catholic social teachings and a curriculum that is infused with Gospel values. Your child will likely have opportunities to see your priest and other members of your parish community while at school.

One of the things that makes Catholic education truly unique is that we integrate Catholic beliefs and values into the required subject areas provided by the Ministry of Education. Whether your child is exploring literacy or learning about science, what we teach reflects our Catholic beliefs.

Throughout this booklet we make reference to educator teams. Each Kindergarten classroom has a team consisting of a Kindergarten teacher as well as an early childhood educator. These two professionals will work together, using their complementary skills, to meet the needs of your child.

In God’s Image

While in our school, your child will benefit from religious education in every grade. In both Junior and Senior Kindergarten, the program is called In God’s Image. Developed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, it provides songs, activities, prayers and resources for topics such as me, community, church times, special days, plants and animals.

Believe in Our Schools

We are honoured that you are choosing one of our Catholic schools for your child’s education. The distinct, faith-filled experiences offered to your child on their learning journey will help prepare them for a positive future. We believe in our schools as well as the benefit and gift of Catholic education - we hope you will share this belief with us.
Often times, the first step in getting ready for something is to do research. To get your child prepared for his or her big day, you may want to start by gathering some information about what Kindergarten is going to be like. Let's start by telling you a little bit about our Kindergarten program so that you can get ready to register with us.

**Introducing Full Day Kindergarten**

We know that a strong and comprehensive Kindergarten program is important for the long-term success of students. All of our schools offer a full day Kindergarten experience (Junior and Senior) that builds community and provides rich and inclusive learning for all children.

During the regular school day, children are involved in many different kinds of activities designed to help young learners explore, discover and grow. They will have opportunities to initiate learning and play, as well as take part in more structured play-based learning.

Your child will thrive under the guidance of both a teacher and an early childhood educator. These educators have complementary skills helping to create a learning environment ideal for supporting the unique needs of your child. With two qualified professionals in the classroom for the entire school day, there is more time for individual and small group instruction.

“**It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.**”

*Albert Einstein*

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**Before and After Childcare**

Many of our schools offer optional before and after school childcare programs, e.g. 7 to 9 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m. When there is enough interest from families, our board works with community partners, such as the YMCA, to offer the program at the school site. These programs are run by early childhood educators and are available for a fee.

To find out if your child’s school offers on-site before and after childcare, please visit [www.smcdsb.on.ca/parents/childcare](http://www.smcdsb.on.ca/parents/childcare).

**Learning**

Through play-based learning and small group instruction, students will learn to develop knowledge and skills in language, mathematics, science and technology, personal and social growth, health and physical education, and the arts. Your child will have many opportunities to plan and choose activities and learn through purposeful play, e.g., developing mathematical skills using building blocks.

The role of the educator team is to help your child develop:

- independence
- spirituality
- initiative
- creativity
- the ability to make decisions
- early literacy and math skills
- the ability to learn and relate to others
Active and Healthy Children

We know that being active is vital to all aspects of normal growth and development and that is why daily physical activity will be a part of your child’s routine at school. Through games and activities, your child will develop coordinated movement, balance and stability. An active lifestyle also promotes positive attitudes, wellness and healthy lifestyles.

How is My Child Doing?

Parents are eager to know how their children are doing in school. The educator team will observe students working and playing, they will talk to them about their work and they will observe them completing specific tasks. Your child’s learning will be observed, assessed and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Through informal meetings, parent conferences and written reports, you will receive regular updates on your child’s learning. Three times a year, the teacher will formally communicate with you about your child’s progress:

• Fall – parent/teacher conference
• Winter – report card
• Spring – report card

These formal updates will include suggestions about how you can support your child’s learning at home.

Whenever you have questions about how your child is doing in Kindergarten, we encourage you to contact the educator team.

Programming that is Right for Every Child

We know that all children learn differently and so our educators will create a program for your child based on the curriculum and your child’s readiness, interests and learning style. Teachers pay particular attention to offering experiences that help your child learn skills, understand concepts and make connections.

Kindergarten provides your child with a good balance of effective learning strategies that are used by the teacher to instruct your child, such as:

• activities led by the educator team or child
• active and quiet work/play
• large and small group work/play
• independent work/play
• targeted lessons for individuals, small groups and large groups
• indoor and outdoor play

Technology in the Classroom

We know that many children are coming into Kindergarten with an impressive knowledge of technology. In our Kindergarten classrooms, we are committed to fostering a love of learning using the very latest technology. From interactive whiteboard technology to laptop computers and more recently iPads, your child will benefit from using technology to enhance what they learn in a range of subject areas. In addition, our educators continue to benefit from ongoing training and professional development in the latest tools and programs.
Full Day Learning

Research shows that children who participate in full day Kindergarten get a solid foundation for future learning. We know that young children are competent and quite capable of complex thinking. They are also curious and full of potential. That is why full day learning at the Kindergarten level is so beneficial.

The Kindergarten program offered at our schools provides children with a strong start for their learning journey. It can help improve reading, writing and math skills, which sets a strong foundation for future learning and growth. The program is structured to help make the transition to Grade 1 easier for both you and your child. And by spending a full day learning through play, your child will develop the academic and social skills necessary for future success.

What is Play-Based Learning?

Your child’s teacher and early childhood educator are guided by an Ontario curriculum document, which encourages play-based learning. The focus will be on using play to develop a strong foundation for learning in all areas, including language and math, the arts and physical activity. This approach also helps your child to develop socially and emotionally through interaction with their peers and the educators who guide them.

Here are Some Examples of what Play-Based Learning Looks Like in the Classroom:

Exploration and investigation:
Several children design small boats and then bring them over to a water centre. Each child puts his or her boat in the water and then places one shell at a time in the boat. Another child helps keep track of the number of shells using a simple tally. The teacher or early childhood educator asks the children to find out which boat held the most shells before sinking and think about how it is different from the other boats.

Creative thinking:
A small group of children make several attempts to build a tower as tall as they are. Through trial and error, they discover that if they make the bottom of the tower wider, they can build it taller. They draw a picture of the finished product and label the pictures to show their solution.

Observing and learning:
After making bird feeders from recycled materials, the children place them in a tree outside their classroom window. They observe and record the activity that takes place at each of the feeders. With support from the teacher and early childhood educator, and based on their own observations, some of the children change their feeders and place them back outside to see if the birds will eat more seeds or land more easily.

For more information about full day Kindergarten, please visit the Ministry of Education’s website at www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten

“Play expands intelligence, stimulates the imagination, encourages creative problem solving, and helps develop confidence, self-esteem, and a positive attitude toward learning.”

Dr. Fraser Mustard
Nurturing, Caring and Safe Learning

Our professional educators work hard to create caring and nurturing classrooms. Your child will learn how to establish positive and constructive relationships with other children and adults. As new friendships blossom, shyness will be replaced by enthusiasm and joy.

Including Everyone

We believe that God has created each child as a unique individual and that is why we promote an atmosphere that includes and accepts everyone at our schools.

English Language Leaners

In Kindergarten, your child will be able to nurture relationships with children from a range of cultural and diverse backgrounds, which we respect and celebrate. Some children may come to Kindergarten speaking a different language and will take English as a Second Language programs to help them as they continue to learn English.

There is a wealth of information for English language learners and their families on our website at www.smcdsb.on.ca/parents/esl. Registration forms (as well as other helpful resources) are available in Portuguese, Polish, Spanish and Tagalog. Families may also want to use the “Google Translate” feature on our board website to translate all of the information on the site into a wide range of different languages.

Special Education

Our board places a significant emphasis on special education programming and we make a commitment to include all students in classroom learning experiences. This commitment is central to the delivery of our special education programs and also speaks to our promise of nurturing a sense of belonging for all of our students.

Inclusive education responds to the diverse learning styles of each student where every kind of learning is valued. Inclusion is rooted in the Gospel and within our school communities we believe inclusion is everyone’s responsibility.

Children with special needs are provided with support and encouragement so that they can participate in the classroom in meaningful ways. There may be specific programs, services and resources that we can use to help make your child’s transition to Kindergarten as smooth as possible. We are committed to working with you and your child to ensure that his or her individual needs are met. By letting your school know as early as possible about any special requirements your child has, our staff will work with you to develop an individual education plan that can address your child’s specific learning needs.

We look forward to building your child’s confidence and positive feelings toward learning and toward others, with the support of special education programming.
Safe Community

The safety of your child is very important to us. Throughout the school year, we will work with you to make your child safe and comfortable in our school.

We have many programs and procedures that reflect our Catholic values and beliefs. Our faith helps us ensure that all children are respected and safe while entrusted to our care. You will find more details about what we do to help maintain a safe learning experience for your child on page 15 of this booklet.

Registering for Kindergarten

Now that you know more about Kindergarten and Catholic education in our schools, it is time to start thinking about how to register.

In order to know which school your child will attend, you can call the Catholic school in your area or visit our website at www.smcdsb.on.ca and look at the boundary maps in the School Directory.

Registering becomes easier if you can start gathering the documents you will need early on. Our school office administrators will also help you with registering.

What You Need to Register Your Child

Proof of Age

In order to register in Junior Kindergarten, your child must be four years old by December 31st of the year they start school. For Senior Kindergarten, your child must be five years old by December 31st of the year they begin school. If parents decide to delay registering for a year, their child will be placed in the grade with their peer group of the same age.

Please use your child’s birth certificate to provide proof of age.

DID YOU KNOW? In Ontario, parents can apply for a replacement birth certificate on-line at www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca

Parent or Child’s Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate

To register your child in our Catholic schools, a baptismal certificate for your child or one of the parents must be provided.

DID YOU KNOW? There are certain exceptions outlined in our Admissions to Elementary Schools Policy that can be made by the superintendent of your school. View the Policies and Procedures link on our website at www.smcdsb.on.ca

Student Immunization Records

Parents are required to report up-to-date immunization information to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. The health unit has great resources and can help answer questions about your child’s immunization. You can visit their website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

DID YOU KNOW? Immunization information can be provided to the health unit by phone, fax, in person or online. By law, students attending elementary and secondary schools are required to keep up-to-date immunization. Health care providers do not notify the health unit when they have provided immunization to children.
Right to Attend School

In the province of Ontario, your child has the right to attend school if he or she is a Canadian citizen, has permanent resident status, or has other immigration documents such as a copy of your child’s passport with a Canadian immigration stamp, indicating your child’s date of entry into Canada. If a passport with date of entry stamp is not available, please contact our Planning Department at 705.722.3555 ext. 351.

Proof of Address

Bringing in your tax assessment form is a good way to provide proof of your address. Hydro, telephone or gas bills are also acceptable.

What else?

Your Tax Support Helps

We encourage all parents to support Catholic education by completing an Application for Direction of School Support if their tax assessment form shows they currently support the public school system.

Designating your support for the separate system is important because it could help determine the number of trustees we are able to have and it also shows support for Catholic education. Both of these are critical to maintaining a strong Catholic education system in our province.

DID YOU KNOW? If you move, your tax support will automatically revert to the public system and you will have to fill out a new application.

Health Card Information

We no longer collect health card information for children when they register in one of our schools because the Personal Health Information and Protection Act introduced new rules in November 2004. For more information, visit the Information and Privacy Commission website at www.ipc.on.ca

Student Registration Form

When a child registers at one of our schools, parents are asked to complete a registration form. This form is the same regardless of whether you are registering your child for Junior Kindergarten or Grade 12. The form is available on your school website or the board website at www.smcdsb.on.ca. These forms have also been translated into Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Tagalog.

When to Register

Registration dates for Junior Kindergarten are announced each year through our website, advertising, school newsletters and church bulletins as early as January. Our schools usually designate a specific time to focus on Kindergarten registration, but they will accept registrations at any time during the school year. Because each school may slightly vary the specific time for registration, be sure to contact your local school to get all the details you need.
Once you have registered your child for Kindergarten, you can turn your attention to getting set for the big day. There are many things you can do over the next few months to prepare your child for a smooth transition to school. This section of the booklet will give you the “ABCs” and “123s” that you and your child will need to get set for a positive and exciting Kindergarten experience.

Preparing Your Child

As children near their next big milestone in life – going to school – many questions go through parents’ minds. Is my child actually ready for school? How will they adapt? Will they be alright without me there? How will they do academically, socially or emotionally? The list of questions can be long.

Generally, a child who is excited and enthusiastic about learning will do just fine in Kindergarten. As a parent and your child’s first teacher, you are able to foster that love of learning before school starts to set a strong foundation for moving forward. Encouraging a relationship with your child’s teacher and early childhood educator is also helpful.

Teaching your child additional skills can make the transition to a classroom setting easier. Recognizing that each child is unique and develops differently, here are some of the things you could work on over the coming months to prepare for school. Don’t worry if your child doesn’t acquire any or all of these skills, because the most important thing is to foster a love of learning. If your child is excited about learning, and open to the relationship with the classroom educators then he or she will love Kindergarten.

Helpful Skills

- Reading with your child regularly and encouraging quiet listening during story time
- Recognizing his or her own first and last name, and first and last names of parents
- Having your child print his or her name
- Sharing and taking turns
- Putting on and taking off shoes (Velcro shoes are best)
- Working on bathroom routines like dressing and undressing, flushing the toilet and washing hands
- Recognizing numbers 0 – 10
- Singing and saying the alphabet song
- Recognizing capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Drawing the four basic shapes – square, circle, rectangle and triangle
- Having your child say the colours in a small crayon box
- Colouring and cutting
- Buttoning and zipping clothing
- Tidying up toys when finished playing

Remember, if you practice writing with your child, teach and use lowercase letters, except at the start of a proper name or sentence.
**Lots to Do...**

Kindergarten parents have a lot to do to prepare their children to become the youngest members of their Catholic school community. Labelling belongings, getting Velcro shoes and easy to open containers, finding the right backpack - large enough to hold everything, but not so large that they topple over - meeting the teacher, and scoping out the bus stop. It is an emotional and exciting time to be sure, because getting ready for a lifelong journey of learning is an important step.

**What to Wear?**

Children often have very specific ideas about what they want to wear. It is a wonderful show of independence when your child chooses an outfit and is able to get dressed without help. But, there are some things to consider when dressing for comfort and success in Kindergarten.

Children will be participating in a wide range of activities. They will be sitting on the floor, jumping, running and bending, and it is important that your child has clothes and footwear that will be comfortable during these activities.

Educators have many young children in a class and will often have to help put on and take off footwear, outerwear and other pieces of clothing. By choosing clothing and footwear that is simple to take on and off, you make things easier for the educators so that they can spend more time teaching. You will also be helping your child improve their own skills.

It is also important to dress your child in clothes that are durable and easy to clean, as well as appropriate for the weather. We value outdoor play as part of Kindergarten and so your child will need clothing suitable for all types of weather.

**Backpack Basics**

Choosing a backpack and lunch box can be a fun and enjoyable experience for your child and is one way that you can generate excitement about going to school. Educators will be sending information home with your child throughout the school year. You will want to find a bag that is large enough to carry a lunch box, a sweater or jacket, as well as activities and crafts that your child may bring home. Children should feel comfortable carrying, opening and closing their backpack so that it doesn’t become cumbersome or frustrating.

Lunch boxes should be large enough to hold snacks, drinks and lunch. Try finding plastic containers that fit nicely into the lunch box and are easy for your child to open and close. Before the first day of school, you may even want to practice opening and closing plastic containers with your child and placing them in the lunch box.
More on Preparing Your Child

Bedtime Routines

Although it might be difficult during the waning days of summer, it is important to begin a bedtime and wake-up routine leading up to the first day of school. Research shows that children between 3 and 5 years of age require 11 to 13 hours of sleep. It is helpful to get your child in the habit of going to bed and waking up at a time that will match the schedule that you will be using once school actually starts.

My Name Is...

Now that your child is entering Kindergarten, his or her name will appear everywhere. In order to avoid confusion, you should take time to label belongings with your child’s given and family names. Your child’s name should appear on everything – backpack, footwear, outerwear, lunch containers and so on.

Healthy Eating

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day – research tells us that it provides the fuel necessary to concentrate and learn. You can help prepare your child for a good day at school by preparing a well-balanced meal at breakfast time.

At school, snacks and lunch are also essential. Your child will begin to learn about the value of healthy foods for growth, strength and general well-being. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit suggests light and nutritious snacks. Visit the Health Unit’s website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org for more on healthy eating options. In addition, we want to ensure all students are safe, and so we ask that you respect procedures and rules surrounding food and other allergies in your child’s school.

We are called to be stewards of the earth and our schools are committed to caring for God’s creation. So we encourage students to bring a lunch without a lot of packaging. Some schools practice litterless lunches, i.e., lunches that don’t use any packaging or waste, so that students can help respect and care for our environment.

Getting To School

Making Catholic education accessible to children in our school communities is important to us and so we provide safe and reliable transportation to children who live further than 1.6 kilometers from school. If you live closer than 1.6 kilometers, you will be required to walk or drive your child to school. To make arriving and departing easier for everyone, take some time to become familiar with the drop-off and pick-up locations and procedures at your child’s school.

“Child, give me your hand that I may walk in the light of your faith in me.”

Hannah Kahn
Taking the School Bus

Taking the bus to and from school will be a safe and fun experience for your child. For some children, and even moms and dads, there can be nervousness about going on the bus for the first time. That is why the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), who provides transportation services for our schools, has developed the First Rider Program.

This free program is offered in August each year so that students can feel comfortable and safe riding the bus for the first time. You and your child will go for a ride on a real school bus and learn everything that is involved with taking the bus, before the first day of school. Check out the SCSTC website at www.simcountyschoolbus.ca to find out dates, times and locations for the program.

You can help make the transition easier by practicing walking to the bus stop and telling your child about the bus ride in a positive and exciting way. You will get information about your bus stop location and schedule from your child’s school before the start of school.

Make sure to arrive at the bus stop location at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival, so that your child is ready to go. Explain that once at school, a trusted person will take them to the Kindergarten area so that they can meet and play with new friends. At the end of the day, be sure that someone is always at the bus stop to greet your child.

We encourage parents to visit our website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca to find out more about school bus safety and about bus cancellations during severe weather conditions. Also, remember to check with your child’s school to determine the inclement weather zone for your area.
You’re finally ready and everything is set, so now it is time to go on a wonderful and exciting lifelong learning journey.

Your Child’s Big Day

On the first day of school, try to keep things as normal as possible and stick to your regular routines. You may find it helpful to wake up a little earlier than normal so that your child can get ready in a calm and unhurried way. Consistency and routine are so essential to children, especially once they start school.

Now the hard part! When you say goodbye to your child on the first day, make it quick, light and reassuring. Give a hug and remind your child that you or the usual caregiver will be there after school for pick-up. As difficult as it may be, try not to let your feelings of anxiety and separation known to your child.

Your Child’s Safety

Ensuring Safe Arrival and Attendance

It is important that your child arrive at school on time. Not only does it make things easier at the school, it also teaches your child the value of being punctual. Our schools take attendance every day to confirm your child’s safe arrival. If your child is going to be late or absent, it is important that you call the school immediately. If you don’t get through to someone directly in the office, be sure to leave a detailed message on the school’s answering machine, including your child’s full name and teacher’s name. We make every effort to contact you if your child is absent and we have not heard from you.

Picking-Up Your Child

If you are planning to pick-up your child at any time during the school day, it is a good idea to provide your child’s educator with a note outlining your plans in advance. If your child is being picked-up mid-day, parents must report to the office.

Reporting to the Office

As part of our schools’ safety procedures, all parents and other visitors to schools are required to sign in at the office, where they will be provided with a badge that clearly identifies them as a visitor. To ensure the safety of all students, parents will not be able to go to their child’s classroom to drop off items, or to check-in, etc. If you need to see your child for any reason throughout the school day, please stop at the office and the staff there will be happy to help you.

Creating Respect

To create a respectful and safe school for every child, each school has developed what is called a code of conduct (school’s procedures and rules). Schools’ codes of conduct are rooted in our Catholic values and reflect the importance of responsibility, respect, spirituality, and civility. These codes are based on Ministry of Education guidelines, but have been specifically developed by parents at your child’s school.
Children Who Need Medication

There are some students who require regular or special medication. We know that you want to be sure that your child receives any medication he or she needs. The board has very specific procedures regarding giving medicine to children at school. Medication cannot be given to a child by school staff unless you have filled out and submitted a written consent form which is available at all our schools or on our website at www.smcdsb.on.ca in the Healthy Schools section.

Medication must be provided to a staff person at the school in its original container. Children are also not allowed to carry medication with them at any time (with the exception of inhalers and epi-pens).

Allergies

We want to ensure that all children are safe and comfortable at school. Some students and staff have allergies and can suffer severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions. And so we urge parents and students to become familiar with and respect schools’ procedures surrounding allergies.
Communicating is so Important

Throughout the school year, the school and teacher will be sending various pieces of information and newsletters home with your child. Many schools also have an electronic newsletter that you can sign up for through the school website. It is important to read everything and return forms and required information to the school promptly. If you have any questions or concerns at any point during the school year, be sure to contact your child’s teacher.

If your child is experiencing difficulty, ask his or her teacher or early childhood educator for help. It is helpful to ask your child each day about school and learning. Tell the school about any changes that might affect your child’s ability to learn or behave.

Getting Involved

Establishing a positive and communicative relationship between parents, educators and students is a critical part of achieving excellence in education and it is something we value. As a parent, you are a positive influence in your child’s learning and in life. We look forward to working closely with parents, as students develop and grow in our care.

Now that your child has started school, there are a lot of ways you can contribute to a great learning experience and one of the best ways is to become involved. We know that every parent’s situation is different and that levels of involvement will understandably vary, but even simple activities, like reading with your child each day, will make a huge difference.

Here are some of the ways you can participate in your child’s education, now and in the future.

Parent/Educator interviews – you will be invited to attend a conference with your child’s teacher in November. This is a formal opportunity to have an undivided, one-on-one discussion about your child’s progress.

Participating in school events – attending special events such as plays, assemblies, teas, barbecues, masses, etc., are great ways to informally meet educators, school staff, other children and parents. This also shows children that you are interested in their school experience.
Volunteering - our schools are always looking for parent volunteers. There is a wide range of volunteer opportunities to help you become engaged with your child’s education.

Catholic School Community Council - each of our schools has a Catholic School Community Council made up of parent volunteers and staff. You can work with other parents and members of the school community to make improvements to the school and student learning. There is also a Catholic Parent Involvement Committee made up of parent representatives from school councils across our board.

Anyone interested in volunteering must submit an original or certified copy of a Criminal Background Check, including Vulnerable Sector Screening. Ask your child’s school for more information or visit our website at www.smcdsb.on.ca in the Get Involved section.
Learning from Home

Parents can actively support their child’s learning through activities that are engaging and simple, such as singing, reciting rhymes, reading books and playing games.

There are many things you can do with your child to build a strong foundation for the future. Literacy and numeracy skills are the cornerstone of all academic learning – strong reading, writing, speaking and math skills are critical in order to succeed in all subject areas in these early years. We encourage you to explore some of the following activities with your child.

Oral Language

- Surround children with language – talk to them often and respond to their questions
- Provide a selection of durable books – have your child retell the stories
- Read nursery rhymes or sing songs and chants. Listen to sing-along DVDs or CDs
- Talk about shapes, colours, letters and movements – solve problems together
- Write exactly what your child says – this shows the relationship between writing and talking

Reading

- Read to your child daily and talk about the story or pictures
- Make sure your child sees other members of the family reading
- Take your child to the library and visit local book shops
- Encourage children to choose their own books
- Select books that describe familiar experiences, concepts and objects
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages – try pointing to words as you read
- Play travel games, e.g., read licence plates, restaurant names
- Let children use pictures to help them read words in a book – even though it may seem like they are favouring pictures over actually reading the words, this is a proven way to teach children how to read

“Every child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.”

Chinese Proverb
Writing

• Have your child watch as you print their name
• Talk about things that are printed all around us, e.g., road signs
• Provide a special place for writing
• Write lists, messages and notes in front of your child – talk about what you are doing
• Provide children with magnetic or plastic letters and encourage them to make words
• Make a scrapbook together – let children see you write words and sentences – then read these to them

Our website has literacy and numeracy activities for every grade level. You can find the link at www.smcdsb.on.ca under the Parent menu – Elementary Education – Learning from Home.

Math

Young children are naturally curious and they actively seek out patterns in the world around them. Talking, playing and everyday family experiences support mathematical development.

Try some of these:

• Playing with blocks or Lego™ with your child
• Collecting objects (buttons, shells, leaves) with your child
• Cooking together
• Setting the table for dinner

There are many other everyday things we can do that, often without realizing it, are mathematical. These include pairing socks out of the dryer, drawing, playing board games, marking dates on a calendar, learning your phone number and address.
Kindergarten is Only Just the Beginning!

We would like to welcome you again to our Catholic school community and wish you all the best as you and your child embark on an exciting learning journey. We sincerely look forward to your child enjoying a faith-filled and rewarding future in Catholic education.

As your child moves through elementary school and then on to one of our Catholic high schools, we will continue to focus on exceptional academic programming that is rooted in faith. Our entire team of dedicated staff is excited about helping your child develop and grow spiritually, academically, physically and socially. We thank you for entrusting your child to our care and for giving us the opportunity to guide them in learning and in faith.

“Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of heaven belongs.”

Matthew 19:14