



Durham Catholic District School Board



St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

**Motto: "St. John the Evangelist Catholic School is a Catholic School
Community where J.O.Y. means put Jesus and Others before Yourself"**



In the Beginning

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School was opened in September 1955. The original school consisted of only four classrooms, designed to accommodate 160 students from Grades 1 through 8. The Sisters of St. Joseph were invited to assume the leadership of the new school. Under the guidance of the first principal, Sister Leona, the school began its mission of Catholic education.

She was succeeded by Sister Enid (the daughter of Frank Selke of hockey fame) in 1957. It was only natural that the students of St. John the Evangelist became staunch supporters of the Montreal Canadiens. In 1958, the school was visited by a contingent of Montreal players, including Frank Selke and Maurice "Rocket" Richard.

In response to a growing population, four more classrooms were added to the existing school in 1958.

Changes in Leadership

In 1959, the Sisters of St. Joseph withdrew from St. John's. Father Leo J. Austin, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, invited the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception to take over the teaching and administrative duties at the school. Sister Mary Rose Moran was appointed principal at this time. The school continued to grow over the years. By 1962, there were 12 classrooms. It was in this year that Kindergarten was officially introduced to the St. John community. In 1966, the gymnasium and library were added to the school, along with eight more classrooms, one of which was used as a library. Sister Mary Rachel took over as the principal of the school and remained for one year. In 1967, Sister Marie Ann Bondy was appointed principal and remained until 1979.



Three Grey Sisters – L to R: Sr. Yvonne Paquette, Sr. Mary Carmel, Sr. Mary Goulet

It was at this time the school's first lay principal, Frank Corrigan, was appointed. In 1999, the school library was transferred from Room 8 to the new addition at the front of the school. The school office, now located at the front of the building, was also added at this time.



Frank Corrigan, the first lay principal of St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, 1979–1983

New Programs for New Times

In September 2010, St. John the Evangelist C.S. became the site of the Board's Full Day Kindergarten pilot project. In the summer of 2012, three existing primary classrooms were renovated, resulting in two fully serviced Full Day Kindergarten classrooms. Beginning in September 2012, St. John the Evangelist C.S. became a Ministry of Education Full Day Kindergarten program school where a Teacher and an Early Child Educator work together in the classroom to teach the children.

One Grade 1 French Immersion and one Grade 4 Extended French class opened in September 2012, resulting in a school population of 220 students. St. John the Evangelist Catholic School is not just a school made of bricks and mortar. It has been a school blessed with dedicated families, staff and administrators, caring clergy, trustees and a Catholic School Council committed to Catholic education.



Pastors

Founding Pastor:

Reverend P. Laurent

Pastor 25 years ago:

Reverend Leo J. Austin

Present Pastor:

Reverend A. Iacobelli

Distinguished Alumni

In March 2012, the Durham Catholic District School Board embarked on a Board-wide project to recognize successful graduates from St. John the Evangelist Catholic School and to acknowledge their careers and accomplishments.

Father Charles T. Forget, Pastor

Father Forget is the middle child of seven children, all of whom attended school at St. John the Evangelist. It was in his Grade 1 class that he received a mysterious spiritual confirmation one day of his future vocation to be a priest.

Looking back, he could see how the strong connection between his family's home life, the parish church and the school he and his brothers and sisters all attended made for a unified sense of life lived in God. He has been a priest now for 19 years and is pastor of St. Leo Parish in Brooklin. He feels that his school life was an integral part of his vocation story.



Bob Chow

Bob Chow is an Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair in Retinal and Early Eye Development at the University of Victoria. His work examines the formation of neuronal cell types in the retina, with the goal of revealing mechanisms that will guide the design of treatments for retinal and other neuronal diseases. He received his BSc at the University of Toronto, got his PhD at New York University, and did his postdoctoral training at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He got his first big break in Grade 8 as a Durham Catholic District School Board regional science fair finalist. Bob graduated from St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in June 1982.



School Prayer

Dear God,
We, your children, pray that we may bring peace and joy
to all those whom we meet today,
being kind and caring like your special friend, St. John.

He was a student of your Son Jesus, and a teacher of the good news;
help us to spread St. John's words that we are all created in your image. Help us
to respect and protect your creation.

Like St. John's eagle, help us to soar above all anger and hatred.
Look after those who need you today in a special way ...
and hold us all in the palm of your hand.
We ask these things, with love, through our Mother Mary
and Jesus, your Son and our Brother.
Amen.

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us.

Principals

Sr. Leona (1955–1957)
Sr. Enid (1957–1959)
Sr. M. Rose Moran (1959–1965)
Sr. M. Rachel (1965–1966)
Sr. Marie Ann Bondy (1966–1979)
Frank Corrigan (1979–1983)
John Holowaty (1983–1989)
Brenda O'Donoghue (1989–1994)
John Arbour (1994–1996)
Beryl Cameron (1996–1998)
Nikole Perreault (1998–2004)
Lynda Morrison (2004–2009)
Brian Miettinen (2009–present)

Contributors:

Monique Christie, Teacher
Mirella Dobbin, Teacher
Kevin Green, former student
Brian Miettinen, Principal