



Durham Catholic District School Board

St. Jude Catholic School



In the Beginning

St. Jude Catholic School first opened its doors on September 5, 1989, with 13 classrooms in the main building, five portables, 25 staff members and student enrolment of 557. St. Jude C.S. was the first school in the Board to be mandated by the Ministry of Education and Training to have a childcare centre attached.



The first staff photo, 1989–90; Back row: D. Tyszko, N. Williamson, M.J. Sheedy, R. Hanley, W. Tweedie, S. Pantalleresco, K. Crockower, R. Suszek, B. MacGillvrary Middle row: T. Leroux, H. White, D. Lawrence, H. Levine, Y. Majoor, R. Wilson, M. Wilcox, M.J.

Marrin, J. Kiyonaga, K. Gainer Front row: R. MacDonald, K. Lennox, J. Green, D. Mikus, F. Corrigan, L. Frost, C. Rowland, C. Tyson, J. Hurley, A.M. Keon

St. Jude Catholic School was built at a time in Ajax when the community was growing exponentially! Ajax, then dubbed “a bedroom community in the Greater Toronto Area,” was growing so fast, several schools were built in a very short time period. One family remembers that while they were living in the same house in Westney Heights, her son attended three different schools from JK to Grade 3 (St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, St. Jude Catholic School and St. Patrick Catholic School).



Welcome to our school!



A garden at the school honours Father Bolger, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church.

Leadership at St. Jude Catholic School

Many teachers and parents from the school community have taken on leadership roles in the Durham Catholic District School Board (Linda Frost, Principal; Hyacinth White, Vice-Principal; Julia Pellerin, Principal; Karen Taggart, Principal; Jim Wilson, Principal; Anne O'Brien, Principal and Superintendent; Jane Kiyonaga, Vice-principal and teacher at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT); Sonia Wylie, Vice-Principal; and Sharon Bird (parent from the opening of the school – current Principal).

What Makes Us Proud and What Makes Us Sad, but Thankful for Our Faith

As in any Catholic community, there are many stories that make the school community very proud, inspired and thankful. But there are also stories that test its members' faith. Stories that have shown the incredible amount of support available from teachers, students and parents of the St. Jude Catholic School community; stories of teachers who returned to God much before their time, as well as parents of children in the school. It is perhaps through the eyes and hearts of the children that we learn the most about our faith. We learn that God lives through each and every one of us, and from each passing we learn, value, prioritize and are thankful for God's many gifts.

Eco Team at St. Jude Catholic School

The St. Jude C.S. community is very proud of the staff, students and parents who for

several years have demonstrated true stewardship and care for our world through many initiatives.





Outdoor classroom

Tanya (Petitti) Fetter
Graduate of St. Jude Catholic School, 1990



Tanya (Petitti) Fetter was a member of St. Jude Catholic School's first graduating class in 1990. From there, she took on a leadership role as the supervisor of a swim school in Pickering.

In 2005, she began working as the manager of a swim school in Whitby. In this role, she learned the important aspects of running a business. She took over the ownership of the swim school at Extreme Fitness in Whitby in September 2009 and renamed it SwimZone.

Tanya runs an extremely busy and successful swim school with over 400 students attending. The school is known for its personable and well-trained staff who help children and adults gain confidence in the water in a fun and safe atmosphere.

The staff, students and parent community at St. Jude Catholic School congratulate Tanya for all her efforts and achievement in contributing to physical fitness and safety for youth.

Angels Take Flight

Since it opened in 1989, St. Jude C.S. has endeavoured to be the heart of the community. Working in partnership with families along with the wider community, a number of pioneering ideas have been implemented.

After participating in Operation Christmas Child, which sends shoeboxes of small gifts to children across the world, the school community decided to begin its own Christmas tradition of helping families within the school through the Angel Tree. Before realizing what was truly happening, it had taken flight. The school community embraced the idea wholeheartedly, and as a result, the program has been expanded to include families within the parish as well.

With the Board's introduction of EcoSchools came another first – the "Angel Sale," which was the brainchild of former Principal, Karen Mullen-Taggart. Each year, students have the opportunity to do their own Christmas shopping firsthand. The Angel Sale garners contributions through donations of new, regifted or even slightly used items that might otherwise end up in a landfill site. With the money raised, Christmas food baskets can be supplemented in a number of ways. Everyone wins, bringing smiles to many faces at this special and holy time of year.

In this history, St. Jude C.S. would like to honour and remember two St. Jude teachers. Yvonne Bunkiewicz taught her entire career at St. Jude. She specialized in the primary grades and influenced the lives of many students. Yvonne passed away suddenly in 2009. She was a dedicated and loving mother of two of St. Jude's former students, Rachel and Grace. Yvonne was an avid traveller and very spiritual. Her contribution to Catholic education will always be remembered. Bernadette MacDonald, Grade 2 teacher and a long-time employee of DCDSB, passed away on April 2, 2012. She touched so many lives – her students, colleagues and friends at Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), as well as countless teachers and school administrators whom she guided in her role as literacy coach. She also greatly influenced the lives of teacher candidates at York University Faculty of Education, where she spoke with passion and dedication, and the teacher candidates she mentored in her classroom. At the school, a butterfly garden is planned for the outdoor classroom in the primary yard to remember her love of butterflies.

St. Jude Catholic School
... is a faith community,
living the gospel message of Jesus Christ.
Our mission is to provide personal excellence in education
(spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally),
in a supportive environment that
empowers the individual and encourages life long learning.

Our Patron Saint

St. Jude, also known as St. Jude Thaddeus, was one of the 12 Apostles. The legend states that St. Jude was born into a Jewish family in a town in Galilee and that his father was murdered because of his outspoken devotion to Christ. He had three brothers: St. James the Less, Saint Simeon of Jerusalem, and Joses. His mother was a cousin of the Virgin Mary and his father a cousin of St. Joseph.

Ancient writers tell us that after Jesus' ascension into heaven, St. Jude preached the gospel in many countries. He taught people to be humble and meek and love God. A 14th-century writer said that St. Jude was the bridegroom at the wedding at Cana. St. Jude was the one who asked Jesus at the Last Supper why he would not manifest himself to the world after his resurrection. Very little else is known of his life.

St. Jude is often shown with a flame around his head. This represents his presence at Pentecost, when he received the Holy Spirit with the other apostles. St. Jude is traditionally depicted carrying the image of Jesus in his hand or close to his chest. Occasionally, he is represented holding an axe or club, as he was brought to death by one of these weapons. In some instances, he may be shown with a scroll or a book (the Epistle of St. Jude) or holding a carpenter's rule. St. Jude suffered martyrdom around 65 AD in Galilee with the apostle Simon, with whom he is usually connected. Sometime after his death, Saint Jude's body was brought to Rome and placed in a crypt in St. Peter's Basilica.

St. Jude Thaddeus is invoked in desperate situations because his letter found in the New Testament stresses that the faithful should persevere in difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them. For this reason, he is the patron saint of the sick and of desperate and lost causes.

The shared feast day of saints Jude and Simon is October 28.

School Prayer

Let us pray for the gift of God's spirit
As our community grows stronger.
We all belong to the family of St. Jude Catholic School.
We ask God's continued blessings
To help us grow in love for ourselves, for our friends,
for our family, and for our staff.
Amen.

St. Jude, pray for us!

Principals

Frank Corrigan (1989-1995)

Betty Ann Craig (1995-1997)

Liz Jarrell (1997-2000)

Gisele Vesna (2000-2006)

Jim Wilson (2006-2008)

Karen Taggart (2008-2011)

Sharon Bird (2011-present)

Contributors:

Sharon Bird, current principal

Helen Dingwall, retired teacher