

# St. Alfred Sept. 2024 Newsletter

@StAlfred\_dpcdsb



**Catholic  
Education** |



**PILGRIMS  
OF HOPE**



**CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
WEEK**

**MAY 4 – MAY 9, 2025**

**St. Alfred Catholic Elementary School**

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EVERY CHILD, A PROMISE

## Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus,

I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

## Principal's Message

With September comes the start of a new school year. We are excited to embark on this learning journey with you. A big, warm welcome to students, staff, and families who are new to our community. Welcome back to returning staff and families. A special welcome to our Junior Kindergarten children who are starting school for the first time!

Staff have been busy preparing for school start up. Thank you to our custodial staff and secretarial staff for their hard work to make sure the start of the year is smooth. Further, thank you to educational staff for the work they have been doing to create a warm and welcoming environment.

As a Catholic community we are supported by the strong connection between home, school and parish. We at St. Alfred are committed to working with you and all our community partners in order to enrich the spiritual, academic, and well-being needs of our students.

Together, we look forward to a successful school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the school administration.

God bless you and your families,

J. Lavalley, Principal

A. Di Giovanni, Vice-Principal

## About Us

- J. Lavalley - Principal
- A. Di Giovanni - Vice Principal
- G. Lapicciarella - Head Secretary



- D. Belchior - Superintendent 905-890-1221
- Mario Pascucci - Trustee - 905-302-3096
- Sts. Martha & Mary Parish - Rev. Xavier De Pinto  
<http://stsmarthaandmary.org/> and/or  
<https://stsmarthaandmarymi.archtoronto.org/en/>
- S. Seidell - School Council Chair



### Follow Us on X (formerly known as Twitter)

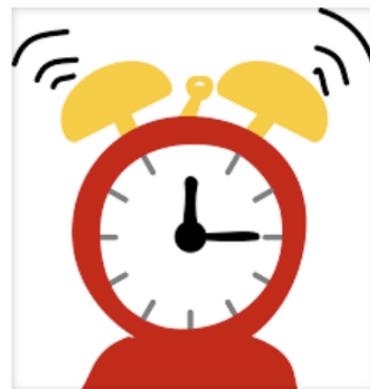
Did you know that St. Alfred is on X (formerly known as Twitter)?

Follow us on Twitter to learn more about what fantastic activities happen every day at our school. Getting frustrated that you keep missing out on Cookie Day or Spirit Week announcements to name a few? Get important reminders so your kids don't miss out on special events like this! Join us today.

[@StAlfred\\_dpdsb](https://twitter.com/StAlfred_dpdsb)

### School Hours

8:00 – School office opens  
8:45 – Morning bell  
10:30– 10:45 - Morning recess  
11:35 – 12:35 – Lunch  
2:10 – 2:25- Afternoon recess  
3:10–3:15 – Dismissal  
4:00 – School office closes



### STS. MARTHA AND MARY PARISH

#### Weekday Masses

Monday: - No Mass  
Tuesday 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.  
Thursday: 9:00 a.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

### Sts. Martha and Mary Parish - Sacramental Information

Please find attached below information regarding Reconciliation, Holy First Communion, and Confirmation.



## Sts. Marth and Mary Parish Sacramental Flyer 2024 2025.pdf

[Download](#)  
95.4 KB



### Dates to Remember

- School Assembly & Liturgy - Tuesday, September 10, 2024
- Monday, September 16, 2024 - PA Day (no school)
- Open House/Curriculum Night - Wednesday, September 25, 2024 (6:30pm-8pm)
- Truth & Reconciliation Week - September 23-27, 2024
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) - Monday, September 30, 2024
- Terry Fox Walk - TBA



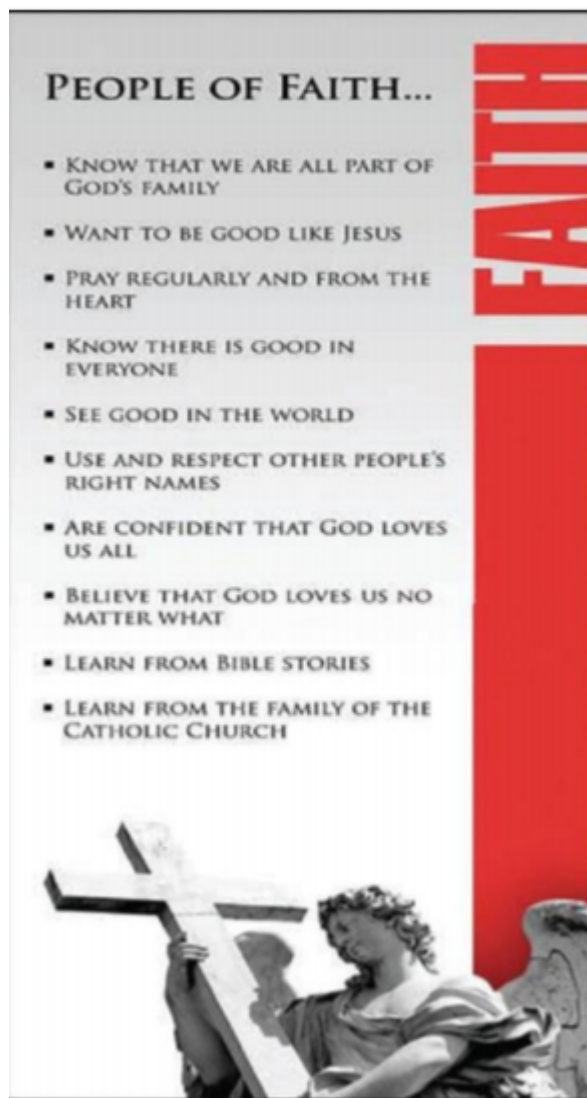
### September Virtue - Faith

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1)*

God made us to live together as a family community.

#### From the perspective of the Catholic Graduate Expectations, a person of faith...

- Knows the saving story of our Christian faith
- Speaks the language of life
- Prays and worships God



## DPCDSB Thrive in the Community Newsletter

### Math@Home Newsletter

Each **Math@Home** newsletter will:

- Highlight a mathematical concept/skill;
- Include related *Family Math Activities* that can be done at home;
- Spotlight a resource that can be used to further support doing math at home.

Please see the attached PDF for details. This month's focus is: **Math Mindset**



**Math@Home---MATH-MINDSET.pdf**

[Download](#)

996.1 KB

### Student Absences - SafeArrival Absence Reporting System

At Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.



This is a reminder that here at St. Alfred, we will be using the **SafeArrival** absence reporting system this school year.

Please be informed that **parents are required to report student absences prior to the bell time for the current day**, future absences, or absences that span 2 or more days up to 5 consecutive days. Absence which exceeds 15 days will need to be communicated with the school office directly.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger App** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Once you are signed up and logged in, select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1 (844) 435-3440** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time. If further assistance required on how to report an absence using **SafeArrival** can be found on the following link: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/parents/absence-reporting>

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website, or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications. We appreciate your diligence and attention regarding the reporting of your child's attendance for the upcoming school year.

Thank you!

## **Protocol for Student Accidents, Injuries, Illnesses**

As per Dufferin-Peel General Administrative Procedures (GAP), the Principal of each school is responsible for establishing a communication procedure to parents/guardians for student accidents, injuries, or illnesses.

### **General Expectations**

All accidents, injuries, and illnesses requiring first aid will be reported to parents/guardians. This communication procedure shall be used regardless of the severity of the accident, injury, or illness. Where an accident, injury, or illness occurs at school, standard first aid treatment shall be given immediately by a qualified First Aider, when available. In the case of an injury, staff shall not move

the injured party if there is a suspected back or neck injury as this could potentially cause further damage.

Where an accident, injury, or illness occurs on a school sponsored excursion, first aid treatment shall be given by the excursion provider/location, when available. If a qualified first aid provider is not available, the students' parent/guardian and/or emergency services will be contacted, as appropriate. A staff member shall report any accident or injury to the Principal as soon as possible on the day of the illness, accident, or injury.

If an accident or injury involving a student has occurred while at school but has not been discovered until a later time, the Principal, when informed of such accident or injury, shall inform the parent(s)/guardian(s)/emergency contact and their instructions acted upon, as appropriate.

If the Principal or their delegate believes that the injury or illness may not be of a serious nature, the parent(s)/guardian(s)/emergency contact shall be informed and their instructions acted upon, as appropriate.

### **Serious Accident, Injury, or Illness Response**

If the accident, injury, or illness appears to be of a serious nature, which may require diagnosis and/or treatment by a qualified medical practitioner, the following procedures shall apply in the order described below:

- a) An ambulance shall be called immediately (911) to transport the accident/injury victim and/or person experiencing a serious illness to a hospital. A staff member shall accompany the victim to the hospital.
- b) For serious accidents, injuries, and/or illnesses which occur on DPCDSB property during school hours, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student shall be notified immediately.
- c) Where the accident, injury, or illness involves a student, Emergency Response Services personnel shall be provided with a copy of the Student Index Card.
- d) If a student is admitted to a hospital as a result of an accident or injury, or if the accident or injury results in a serious or fatal injury, DPCDSB's Risk Management and Insurance Officer, Health and Safety Department, will be notified by telephone on the same day as per GAP 519.01 – Board Insurance – Incident Reports.
- e) Principals shall complete the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) on-line incident report form as soon as possible. Principals must ensure that the red box at the top of the on-line incident report form is checked.
- f) OSBIE and DPCDSB's Risk Management and Insurance Officer shall receive copies of on-line OSBIE report forms simultaneously. OSBIE prioritizes reports daily and will follow-up with the Principal and/or the Risk Management and Insurance Officer regarding serious or fatal injuries.

**\*Source: Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board GAP 101.02**

### **International and Indigenous Languages Elementary Program**

Please see attached for more information regarding the DPCDSB International and Indigenous Languages Elementary Program



## School Yard Supervision

A reminder to both parents/guardians and students that yard supervision does not begin until 8:30 a.m. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring student safety.

## Kiss & Ride

The Kiss and Ride lane is a convenience provided to parents with the intention that parents remain in their cars. If you need to assist your child, or exit your vehicle, please park in a parking spot or on the street in a designated area.

### Rules to Remember

- Never park in the Kiss and Ride lane and get out of your car.
- Always pull up to the front of the line and let your child out at the sidewalk where the supervising teacher will be standing. Do not let your child out anywhere else!
- If you are parked in the school lot, please wait for the supervising teacher's signal to exit the lot

Thank you for your assistance in making our school the safest it can possibly be for our students!

## Class Placements

Due to any significant unforeseen increase and/or decrease of student population, all class placements are **tentative** until September 16th, 2024, Reorganization Day. We will be reviewing our numbers throughout the next few days and we may need to reorganize some classes within the school. Should this be necessary, all students involved will receive a letter explaining to the parents the mandated reorganization and the process involved.

## Annual Consent and Notification Form

This week your child(ren) will bring home an Annual Consent and Notification Form. This can be found on the back of the Student Verification Forms. This must be filled in and returned to your child's teacher by Friday, September 13th, 2024. This will ensure that the school is aware of where you prefer your child (ren) to be over the lunch hour, whether you provide consent for walking excursions to local sites and whether you provide consent for your child(ren)'s pictures, recordings and work to be shared with the local school community. Any changes to the contract throughout the year must be submitted in writing to the teacher and/or office. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## Valuables



Students are requested NOT to bring valuables, items of importance or money to school. This includes video games, iPods, phones, expensive sports equipment, etc. The school cannot accept responsibility for valuables brought to school. Personal items should be marked with the child's name.

## Information for Parents/Guardians about DPCDSB

Ontario's Ministry of Education has provided parents and guardians with the document, [Your child's education: A parent guide to our school system](#). Information specific to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) on topics listed in the Ministry of Education's guide for parents and guardians can be found in the [DPCDSB Companion Resource](#) and/or on the DPCDSB website ([www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)). DPCDSB also has a policy regarding advocacy and responding to concerns and inquiries. The policy includes information regarding roles and responsibilities, procedures regarding contacting appropriate staff and timelines associated with receiving a response to inquiries and/or concerns. [Policy 2.0 Advocacy: Responding to Concerns and Inquiries](#).



## Catholic Code of Conduct

DPCDSB is committed to the implementation in every school of the Catholic Code of Conduct that clearly reflects the need to provide a safe, caring, inclusive and healthy Catholic school community. All community members will work together to develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally by aspiring to the highest possible standards of Catholic behavior, in living out the gospel values, and by fostering a Catholic culture of respect, responsibility and concern for the common good. The Catholic Code of Conduct is available can be found on the DPCDSB website (<https://www.dpcdsb.org/students/catholic-code-of-conduct>). Parents, Guardians, Students and Community members are invited to provide feedback regarding the Code of Conduct using the link provided on the DPCDSB website.

## Student Handbook

The student handbook is posted on [DPCDSB website](#) under the Students Tab ([Elementary Student Handbook](#); [Secondary Student Handbook](#)). The student handbook contains information regarding DPCDSB policies, guidelines, and expectations for students. Please note, failure to review the handbook does not remove the onus of responsibility from a student to adhere to school policies, rules, and procedures. If you have any questions, please contact your school's main office.



## Fire Drills

Please note that we are required to conduct 3 fire drills each school term. The drills occur during the school day.

## Student Insurance

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board takes every precaution to provide a safe learning environment for students, however accidents can happen. When they do, injuries may involve medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. Families may be surprised to find they must pay the cost of crutches, casts, splints or ambulance rides. As a parent, guardian or adult student, you are responsible for such expenses, which may result in financial hardship. Potential injuries could involve dental/ orthodontic treatments, ambulance expenses, crutches, casts, splints, physiotherapy, broken eye glasses, and prescription drug expenses.

As permitted under the Education Act, the DPCDSB provides student accident information, however the Board assumes no responsibility for the cost of the plan, applications, premium payments or claims; nor does the Board receive any remuneration from the Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during extra-curricular activities (e.g. athletics, clubs and field trips).

Please note that the DPCDSB requires that parents, guardians and adult students provide written acknowledgment that they have received student accident insurance information prior to a student's participation in out-of-school excursions and/or extra-curricular sports activities.

If the student's parent has purchased either the Silver, Gold or Platinum Plan for their child and that child is a full-time student, that child would have coverage for accidents occurring 24/7 during the period of coverage up to the limits of the policy purchased. The coverage under these plans is not restricted to school days/school activities.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, require any assistance, or prefer to enroll online or by phone, please contact the Client Service Department of Old Republic Canada through one of the following options:

**Tel: 1-800-463-5437 (toll free) or 905-523-6525**

**Email: [IMKAdmin@insuremykids.com](mailto:IMKAdmin@insuremykids.com)**

**Web: [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com)**

**Address: P.O. Box 557, Hamilton, ON, L8N 3K9**

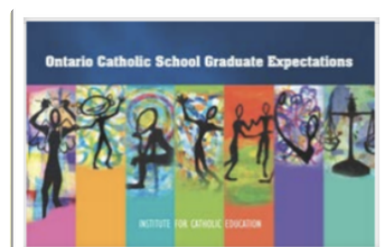
**Hours: Monday to Friday (8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET)**

## Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations inform the teaching and learning in all of our classrooms from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Our instructional practices reflect the knowledge, skills and mindsets embodied in these expectations. The Catholic Graduate is expected to be:

**A discerning believer** formed in the Catholic faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection, and moral living

**An effective communicator** who speaks, writes, and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values



**A reflective, creative, and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good

**A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner** who develops and demonstrates God-given potential

**A collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity, and vocation in work that respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good

**A caring family member** who attends to family, school, parish, and the community

**A responsible citizen** who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life.

## Late Students

Please note that the school day **begins promptly at 8:45 AM**. Students **must** enter through their designated doors at the back of the school if they arrive prior to 8:45 AM.

Parents/Guardians are **not permitted** to park in the front of the school to wait for the bell and have their child(ren) enter through the main entrance doors.

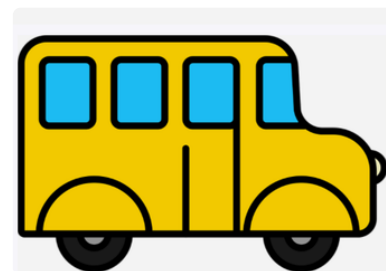
If students are entering through the main entrance, they will be required to sign in at the office and marked as Late.

## Transportation Information

### Web Access to Transportation Information

The STOPR website address is:

[www.stopr.ca](http://www.stopr.ca)



This website provides access to up-to-date information regarding delayed buses and bus cancellations. Parents must have their child's OEN in order to obtain transportation information.

## Student Information

Please remember to update the office with any new information regarding your child. The office needs to be advised of any changes to telephone numbers, emergency contacts, and/or address so that we always have the most up-to-date information for your child in case of emergency.

The office must be advised of any medical concerns. All medication must be kept in the office.

## Emergency Evacuation

Teachers and students regularly practice emergency evacuation procedures. These include safe exit from the building in the event of a fire, precautions in the event of a bomb threat and safety actions / lock downs to be taken in the event of an intruder alert. In the unforeseen event that we must evacuate the school for emergency purposes, our students will evacuate to B.W. Fleming School.

## St. Alfred Catholic School Council

Communication between home and school is greatly enhanced by parental involvement with the Catholic School Council. It is our pleasure to invite all parents/guardians to consider becoming a member of the Catholic School Council. Please note that our Council will be comprised of parents, school staff as well as community and parish representatives. The aim of the Catholic School



Council is to support students and school activities through various initiatives. The Catholic School Council also provides a forum for parents to meet and share information and ideas concerning the school community. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Catholic School Council, further information will be forthcoming electronically from our school (email and/or School Messenger).

On behalf of the school community, a special thank you is extended to last year's Catholic School Council members for their outstanding work during the course of the year. I know that our students will continue to benefit from their dedication and commitment!

For previous meeting minutes, please visit our school website: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/ALFRD/news>

## **Students Who Are Unwell**

As we do our part in keeping St. Alfred a healthy and safe environment for all students, it is important that we continue to be diligent in isolating students who are unwell.

**Please note: it is a requirement that we follow the safety protocols set out by Peel Health and the DPCDSB. It is important that you have a plan in place if you receive a phone call to pick up your child. Also, it is important that you have an alternate pick up person ready to pick up your child(ren) if you cannot do so. We are aware that this is sometimes hard to coordinate however, the expectation of the school, board, and Peel Health continues to be that pick up of ill children is mandatory.**

Thank you to the St. Alfred school community for continuing to keep us safe!

## **Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

From time to time, there may be cases of pediculosis or head lice in our school. This should not be cause for alarm. Lice are a nuisance, but not hazardous to your child's health. An alert letter will be sent home to parents and guardians of the affected classes. If more information is required you may visit the Region of Peel at the following website:

<https://peelregion.ca/health/shp/reference-guide/head-lice.htm>

## **Allergen Awareness Alert**

In addition to our Board Policy, the passing of Sabrina's law serves as a reminder of the seriousness of anaphylactic reactions. It compels a continued call for action and ongoing monitoring of existing practices to support the safety, health and welfare of all students at St. Alfred School. As there are a number of students in our school who have a severe life threatening allergy to nuts, we ask our families to refrain from sending to school any food, etc. that contains nut products (e.g., peanut butter sandwiches, snacks with nuts, etc.). While we cannot guarantee a "Nut Free" or "Allergen Free" environment, you can help to reduce the risk to our students by not sending in peanuts, nuts of any kind, products containing nuts, nut oil, or nut by-products, foods



that MAY have come in contact with nuts or nut products and fast food or commercial snacks where the content or exposure to nuts of commercial foods or snacks is unclear (e.g., Timbits). **Edible birthday treats will not be shared with students at school. Please do not send cakes, cookies etc. for distribution. Thank you for your cooperation.**

## Storage and Administration of Medication

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually. If your child requires medication, please have all pertinent forms completed and returned with the medication to the office as soon as possible. Parents are reminded that children are NOT allowed to keep medication in their desk, backpack or classroom (with the exception of an epi-pen or puffer if allergies are severe). All dispensing of medication requires medical permission and must be stored in the office.

## Ryan's Law - Ensuring an Asthma Friendly School

We would like to inform you that St. Alfred continues to participate in 'We Share the Air' a Scent Sensitivity Awareness Campaign. There are students in attendance who suffer from life-threatening asthmatic conditions to air pollutants. Exposure even to minimal odours may cause potential life-threatening reactions. Very common severe chemical triggers are: perfume, cologne, scented products and personal care products (such as hairspray). These products may cause severe reactions for students. The safety and well-being of all of our students is a priority. In order to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, we request that our school community refrain from wearing scented personal products complying with our Scent Free Zone Campaign at school and all school events. Please ensure that all caregivers are also aware of our awareness campaign. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teacher or the schools staff.

## Custody of Children

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at our school asking to visit with their child or take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect the child when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of custodial agreements between parents. We require that a copy of all legal documentation be kept in your child's school records.

## School Cash Online

### Benefits of using School Cash Online

**Fast** – With School Cash Online, you can pay all your student's school fees with the click of a button. Trips to the school to drop-off cash or sending your student with money will be a thing of the past!

**Convenient** – Receive email notifications regarding school fees and events, and then pay the fees, anytime, anywhere.

**Simple** – Keeping track of what's going on at your student's school can be overwhelming. With School Cash Online, you can easily manage all of the items and activities your student needs.





**Safe & Secure** – Pay for your child's fees without the worry of them carrying funds to school. When you use School Cash Online, you can also feel confident knowing we use industry leading practices to protect your information.

To directly login or to register, visit:

<https://dpcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

## PLASP Information

Before and After School Programs – Register Online Today

PLASP Child Care Services is now accepting registrations for their before and after school programs, including programs at this school. We encourage you to register as soon as possible. Available space is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



PLASP programs are licensed by the Ministry of Education and are adhering to strict public health guidelines. Highly trained staff facilitate fun, age-appropriate activities both indoors and outdoors.

Before School programs operate from 7:30 a.m. until school starts and include breakfast daily. After School programs begin at school dismissal, include a substantial daily snack, and run until 6:00 p.m.

PLASP Child Care Services is a charitable organization, operating on a not-for-profit basis, providing award winning programs for children, for more than 40 years. Visit [plasp.com](http://plasp.com) to register, or contact the PLASP Support Services Centre at 647-484-4372.

## Stay Connected



St. Alfred Website

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/ALFRD>

DPCDSB Website

<https://www.dpcdsb.org>



Twitter

[@StAlfred\\_dpcdsb](https://twitter.com/StAlfred_dpcdsb)

[@DPCDSBSchool](https://twitter.com/DPCDSBSchool)



**Julie Lavalle**

Julie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters