

# St. Stephen's School – "Week at a Glance"

Tuesday, September 2nd– Friday, September 5th, 2025

## Parent/Guardian Weekly Memo #1 2025-2026

*At St. Stephen Catholic School, we are committed to nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, and moral growth of every child. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and guided by the values of the Catholic faith, we strive to create a supportive and inclusive community where students are inspired to achieve excellence, develop strong character, and serve others with compassion and integrity. Through faith-filled education, we prepare our students to become lifelong learners, responsible citizens, and faithful disciples of Christ.*

### Dear Parents and Guardians of St. Stephen's Catholic Elementary School,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the final days of summer! As we prepare to welcome our students back on **Tuesday, September 2nd**, I want to share some important information to help ensure a smooth and successful start to the school year.

Our dedicated staff have been working hard over the past few weeks to prepare classrooms and learning spaces, and we're excited to greet your children and begin another year of growth, learning, and community.

### Key Information for the Start of School:

- **First Day Procedures**

On Tuesday morning, teachers will meet students in the schoolyard and escort them to their classrooms. This helps ease the transition and ensures a safe and welcoming start.

- ☐ **Morning Drop-Off Guidelines**

If you're driving your child to school.

- ☐ The **front of the school is reserved for buses only**—no student drop-offs permitted there.

Staff will be present to assist and guide families, especially those new to our school community.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

- **Meet the Teacher Night – September 10<sup>th</sup> (4 pm-5:30 pm).**

Please join us for our annual **Meet the Teacher Night**. This is a great opportunity to visit your child's classroom and connect with their teacher.

*Note: This evening is not intended for academic discussions, as we are still in the early stages of the school year.*

- Please feel free to contact me at any time. My door is always open. The teachers and I are here for your children, and together we can make their elementary years successful.

Mr. Docherty

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Monday, September 1st, 2025	PA Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labour Day</li></ul>
Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>First Day of School</b></li><li>• Snack Day</li></ul>
Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• </li></ul>
Thursday, September 4th, 2025	Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Snack Day</li></ul>
Friday, September 5th, 2025	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name that Song and Random Acts of Kindness Draw (2:30)</li><li>• Pizza Day (Starting in October)</li></ul>

**\*\*Upcoming Dates/Events:**

September 10 Meet the Teacher BBQ (4-5:30)  
September 12 PA Day  
September 18 First Mass @ 9 am (all are welcome)  
September 24 Parent Council Meeting (4:15-5:15)  
September 26 Monthly Assembly (11:15)

**\*\*FYI\*\***

- **Medical Updates**

- ☐ Children with medical conditions need to return their form from June so we can update their records. If you need a form, please contact the office.

- **School Cash Online**

- Permission forms and pizza days for October will be posted. **Please use cash online only.**

- **Mobile Devices Policy**

In accordance with the Ministry of Education's guidelines, all personal devices must be **kept out of sight** during the school day.

- ☐ Devices may be stored in backpacks or with the teacher.
- ☐ Any communication during the day should go through the school office.
- ☐ Repeated misuse of devices will result in progressive consequences, including parent pick-up.

*Teachers may allow device use for specific classroom activities, but students are not required to bring devices, as the school provides adequate technology.*

- **Attendance Initiative**

- ☐ As we begin a new school year, we are excited to share one of our key goals for student success: improving attendance across all grades. This year, we are striving for a **90% average attendance rate** for our students. **As of last year we had the 5<sup>th</sup> worst attendance in the board.** We will be giving awards to those students with the best attendance at the end of each term.

Regular attendance is critical for academic success. Here are three important reasons why:

1. **Consistent Learning:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to keep up with lessons, assignments, and classroom discussions.
2. **Stronger Connections:** Being present helps students build relationships with peers and staff, creating a sense of belonging and support.
3. **Positive Habits:** Good attendance fosters responsibility and routines that benefit students both in school and beyond.

We believe that our parent community is a vital partner in this effort. Together, we will work hard to continue to make St. Stephen's a place where students feel welcomed, engaged, and excited to learn every day.

- **Board Spiritual Theme for 2025-2026**

To honour and celebrate the ongoing Jubilee Year, the theme is an extension of our Pilgrims of Hope theme, “***Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness,***” rooted in the Scripture,

“As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves.” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

We are truly looking forward to a fantastic year ahead at St. Stephen’s. Our staff are enthusiastic, caring, and committed to supporting every student’s success. I look forward to seeing our students on Tuesday and connecting with families at our Meet the Teacher Night. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

**Bell Times**

- **School Start: 8:50am**
- **First Nutrition Break: 10:30am-11:10am**
- **Second Nutrition Break: 12:50pm-1:30pm**
- **School Dismissal: 3:10pm**