

# MONSIGNOR PAUL BAXTER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From child to mother in four short years — this is the experience of Monsignor Paul Baxter Catholic School in South Nepean, all due to the booming residential growth which took place in the Longfields area between 1999 and 2003, creating severe overcrowding in the newly-built Monsignor Paul Baxter Catholic School and bringing about the construction of St. Andrew. For Monsignor Paul Baxter School, it meant going from being a school housed within another school (St. Luke), while waiting for a new facility on Beatrice Drive to be completed, to becoming a host school itself, providing space for the newly-created St. Andrew School until that facility was ready.

A junior kindergarten to grade 6 school, Monsignor Paul Baxter Catholic School was originally formed in September 1999, because of booming enrolment at St. Luke Catholic School. The new school community was housed at St. Luke until the new school building on Beatrice Drive was ready in the spring of 2000. Its official opening was held on May 29, 2000.

Enrolment grew until it reached 854 students. This growth led to the formation of St. Andrew Catholic School, which began in September 2003, sharing the Monsignor Paul Baxter School facility until it was ready to move into its own premises in December 2003.

Monsignor Paul Baxter School is named after one of the most loved priests and teachers ever to serve in the Ottawa area. He taught for years at St. Pius X High School, where his students held him in high regard. When he left teaching to become a parish priest, the same qualities that made him an outstanding teacher and role model for his students endeared him to his parishioners. He was pastor at St. Patrick Church in Fallowfield at the time of his death.



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Father Baxter's memory and example were instrumental in the drafting of the school mission and school motto for Monsignor Paul Baxter Catholic School. The school mission statement reads as follows: "In keeping with the teachings and values of Jesus Christ, as embodied by Monsignor Paul Baxter, we strive to create a culture of excellence, honesty and integrity. In partnership with our Catholic community, we establish a learning environment that nurtures the love of God and others. We celebrate the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of every child. Realizing the uniqueness of each child, we strive to meet the diverse needs of all

students and thereby foster the love of education and lifelong learning." The school motto is taken from the words of Father Baxter: "Try your best, be kind to others, keep the faith."

Monsignor Paul Baxter Catholic School has quickly established a tradition of presenting an annual major Arts production under the direction of Teacher Tammy Doyle. These amazing theatrical works have proved very popular with the parent community as well as with the students. In 2001-02, the first Arts production was *It's a Jungle Out There*. This was followed by *Stomp Rhythm* in 2002-03, *The Wizard of Oz* in 2003-04, *Dancing Through the Decades* in 2004-05, and *Angels' Breath from Heaven to Earth* in 2005-06.

Monsignor Paul Baxter Catholic School has a dynamic school council, providing enriching activities for the school community, such as an annual barbeque and family dances. The school council also undertook fundraising initiatives to help provide the students with two new play structures.

Monsignor Paul Baxter School has four kindergarten classrooms, 18 regular classrooms, a fully-equipped computer lab, a gymnasium, a library and a child care facility.

### **Present Principal**

Marie Boyes (2004-present)

### **Past Principals**

Kevin Mullins (1999-04)

### **First Teaching and Support Staff**

Helen Bergeron, English Kindergarten

Lise Campeau, French Kindergarten

Joe Ellen Meech, English and French Kindergarten

Kate Drummond, English Kindergarten

Clare Mackey, Grade 1

Margaret Skinner, Grade 1

Nathalie Davidson, Grades 1 and 2

Joanna VanZeeland, Grade 2

Janice Estey, Grade 3

Mary Jo Latour, Grade 3

Carole Polnicky, Grade 4

Glenn Kennedy, Grades 4 and 5

Chris Wakefield, Grade 5 and principal-designate

Rachel Charette, French in Grades 1 and 2

Monique Lortie, French in Grade 3

Annie Lebeau, French in Grades 4 and 5

Linda Kohli, Resource

Martha Palmer, Resource

Cathy Law, Teacher Assistant

Katie Bosman, Teacher Assistant

Sylvie Delorme, Secretary

Kevin Mullins, Principal

### **Staff Recognition**

Teacher David Dazé received the Daniel Patrick Kelly Award for Coaching in 2005. The Daniel Patrick Kelly Award is presented annually for exemplary coaching at the kindergarten to grade six levels.

### **Colours**

Blue and white

### **Logo**

The school's initials forming the shape of a cross.

This logo was designed by a grade 5 student, Carissa Kohene.

### **Motto**

Taken from the words of Monsignor Paul Baxter:

“Try your best, be kind to others, keep the faith.”