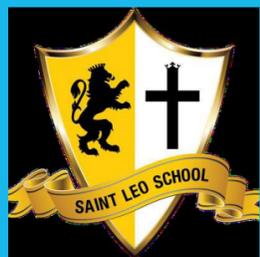


Welcome to  
St. Leo School  
English and French  
Immersion  
Kindergarten  
and to our Catholic  
School Community



Brant Haldimand Norfolk  
Catholic District School Board

# For all



A photograph of three young children crouching in a grassy field. The child on the left is wearing a blue jacket and a blue beanie. The child in the middle is wearing a red jacket and a black and white striped beanie. The child on the right is wearing a pink jacket and a pink beanie. They are all looking down at the ground. The background is a blurred green field.

# Let the Journey Begin

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board offers an engaging, play-based, English and French Immersion Kindergarten program in a safe, caring and inclusive environment. The program is designed to nurture the development of the mind, body and spirit.

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land upon which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe Nations.

We recognize that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board and its schools have many ties to Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations, situated on the traditional land of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, within the Two Row Wampum and the One Dish One Spoon Treaty areas.

As a Catholic learning community and as Treaty People ourselves, we strive to build the Kingdom of God; where all people are treated with respect and dignity as we move forward, as allies, towards truth and reconciliation.

# Introducing Our Kindergarten Support Teams

English Team ~ Teacher & Early Childhood Educator

~ Ms. Griffin and Mrs. Obili

French Immersion Teams ~ Teacher & Early Childhood Educator

~ Mme. Lloyd and Mme. Marcos

~ Mme. Thoms and Mme. Harrison

~ Ms. Witteveen and Mrs. O'Neill - Resource Teachers

~ Mrs. Leslie Dawdy - Secretary

~ Mrs. Margi Szoke - Principal

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

# View of Children



All children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential and experience.

-The Kindergarten Program

All students can succeed. Each student has his or her own unique patterns of learning.

-Learning for All

# Spiritual Development and Learning

A child's faith journey in school includes various experiences:

- learning different forms of prayer including Christian meditation
- participating in school liturgies
- exploring the wonders of God's creations

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14)

Families are composed of individuals who are competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience. Families love their children and want the best for them.

Families are experts on their children. They are the first and most powerful influence on children's learning, development, health, and well-being.

-The Kindergarten Program

# We Are Partners in Your Child's Education



# Why is Self-Regulation important?

**Self-Regulation lays the foundation for how we adjust our feelings, actions and thoughts so we can handle difficult situations, so we don't get overwhelmed.**

- Self-Regulation includes recognizing what calm feels like and what it feels like to become overstressed.
- The ultimate Self-Regulation goal is to help children understand when and how to manage stress.

## **As parents/caregivers/families:**

- it is important to be aware of your own stress, how it affects you and, in turn your children.
- you will be most able to build your child's self-regulation if you take care of your own.

Handwritten-style text in light blue: "for all"

# Learning Through Play



Children learn through purposeful play and inquiry in the classroom and outdoors. They learn about themselves, others, and the world around them by exploring, discovering, experimenting, and questioning. In our French Immersion classrooms our children learn to communicate in French through this purposeful play using new expressions and simple vocabulary.

“...for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”

-Fred Rogers

# Four Frames

In Kindergarten, your child will build their skills, knowledge, and experiences in four key areas or frames of learning.

The frames reflect the natural way children learn and help educators and families focus on how a child's learning develops.





# FRAME - Belonging and Contributing

Children explore and learn through their connections to others and roles as community members. Through play and interactions with peers, they learn about relationships as they build an understanding of the contributions they can make to various groups, the wider community and the world around them.



# FRAME - Self-Regulation and Well-Being

Children develop a sense of self-awareness and an understanding of the importance of physical and mental health and wellness. They learn important life skills including how to regulate their emotions and how to adapt to distractions.



## FRAME - Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours

Children think critically about the world around them and communicate their learning in different ways. They use language and materials to express ideas and emotions and develop reading and writing skills. Using numbers and patterns in play strengthens their growing mathematical skills.



## FRAME - Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours

Within the French Immersion Kindergarten program, children will focus on oral language development in French. Letters and sounds along with numbers and math skills will be taught in French to support students who are learning reading and writing skills. Explicit English instruction for reading, writing, and math will be introduced in Grade 1.



# **FRAME - Problem Solving and Innovating**

Children make meaning of the world around them by observing, questioning, planning, exploring, testing theories, and solving problems. They use their natural curiosity to investigate new and complex ideas.

# The Kindergarten Team

Teachers and Early Childhood Educators work together to plan and implement the program and to maintain a healthy physical, emotional, and social learning environment.

Together they :

- interact with each child every day to create a program based on your child's interests
- create a sense of belonging
- support their social and emotional needs and academic growth

\* The Kindergarten team is required of classrooms of 16 or more children

# Supporting Your Child in French Immersion

Share in the excitement of learning a new language with your child:

- Bring French books into your home (visit the French section at the library, book sales at school, dollar store)
- Use common phrases in your home such as “bonjour”, “comment ça va?”, merci, s’il vous plaît, j’aime, oui, et non merci.
- Count in French when climbing stairs or passing trees on the way to the park
- Sing French songs with some fun You Tube videos such as Alain le Lait
- Have your child enjoy teaching you French!

It is very important to continue to support your child in English with daily reading and writing.

# Outdoor Play



Benefits of outdoor play include the development of:

- Gross motor skills
- Coordination
- Physical fitness
- Self-regulation skills
- Social and emotional skills
- Literacy skills
- Numeracy skills and many more.....

**And most of all it allows time to connect with nature while having fun!**

Arrive dressed for all weather conditions to fully engage in daily outdoor play!

*Hot and*

# How Learning is Communicated

Examples of educator communications to families include:

- Conversations through phone calls
- Conversations in person
- Email
- Written notes
- Digital portfolio entries
- Kindergarten Communication of Learning reports (fall, winter, late spring)
- All parent communication is in English



Ministry of Education

## Kindergarten Communication of Learning Initial Observations

Board Logo

Date:

Student:	OEN:	Days Absent:	Total Days Absent:
Year 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	French: Immersion <input type="checkbox"/> Core <input type="checkbox"/> Extended <input type="checkbox"/>	Times Late:	Total Times Late:
Teacher:	Early Childhood Educator:*		
Principal:	Tel.:	Board:	
School:	Address:		
Address:			

### Key Learning / Growth in Learning / Next Steps in Learning

ESL  IEP

[Comments about student learning should be entered in a font size that is clear and legible.]

“Ongoing, clear and meaningful communication between parents, their child and the educator team is vital to a child’s growth in learning.”

-Understanding Your Child’s Reports

# Health and Safety Measures

The BHNCDSD values the health and safety of all students. Kindergarten students have the option to wear face masks.

Please refer to the Board website for the most up to date health and safety protocols.



# St. Leo School Day

8:30 ~ 8:45	Supervision
8:45 ~ 9:30	100 Minute Learning Time
9:30 ~ 10:25	
10:25 ~ 10:45	Nutrition Break ~ Outdoor Play
10:45 ~ 11:05	Nutrition Break ~ Eating Time
11:05 ~ 11:55	100 Minute Learning Time
11:55 ~ 12:45	
12:45 ~ 1:05	Nutrition Break ~ Outdoor Play
1:05 ~ 1:25	Nutrition Break ~ Eating Time
1:25 ~ 2:15	100 Minute Learning Time
2:15 ~ 3:05	
3:05	Dismissal to Grown Up or On Bus



# Arrival and Dismissal

- Supervision on the yard begins at 8:30, school starts at 8:45
- If bringing your child to school, walk around the left side of school or at gate in back field, to where Educators are waiting, give your child a kiss, say good-bye and then leave. Your child will be fine with the Educator (don't worry!).
- School is over at 3:05. Meet your child where you dropped them off in the morning. The Educator will release your child to you with eye-to eye contact.
- Students who take the bus will be greeted in the morning when they get off the bus by an Educator and at the end of the day escorted to the bus by an Educator



*Korall*

# Snacks and Lunches



- All snacks and lunches are to be **nut free**
- We encourage nutritious snacks such as yogurt, cheese, crackers, fruits, vegetables
- **Labelled** refillable water bottle (we are going bottled water free!)
- **Easy to open** containers, **labelled** with child's name (first name and initial of last)
- **Food that doesn't require heating**

# Dress for Success

- Washable, comfortable clothing for activities (recess/gym)
- Velcro **labelled** indoor running shoes to be kept at school.
- Pack an extra change of clothing (pants, shirt, underwear and socks) in a **labelled** Ziploc bag to be kept at school.
- Buy a backpack that can hold school related items, a lunch pail and refillable water bottle.
- 3 facemasks if you choose (one for each learning block)



# Self-Help Routines



At school students use the washroom independently.

- ~ Practice turning taps on, washing and drying hands.
- ~ Practice opening and closing their backpack.
- ~ Practice dress and undress:  
buttons, zippers, snaps, coat, shoes (indoor and outdoor),  
hat and mittens

***Remember to label all personal items.***

# Activities to do During the Summer

- \*Sort magnetic numbers and letters
- \*Practice counting
- \*Colour with crayons and pencil crayons
- \*Create using scissors, construction paper, glue sticks
- \*Read with your child, have them point to pictures found in the story**
- \*Practice reciting nursery rhymes
- \*Play catch together



# Staggered Start for September

*for all*

## **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

All Second Year Students (SK) and half of the First Year Students (JK)

## **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

All Second Year Students (SK) and half of the First Year Students (JK)

## **Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

ALL Kindergarten Students

The school will communicate with families in the first week of September as to which JK students will attend on the Tuesday and who will attend on the Wednesday.

# Volunteering at St. Leo



- Our School Council is a group of parents who are very active in the school; planning events and activities and fundraising to benefit the school. **Please consider being a member of our parent council.**
- School Council meetings are held monthly, and **everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.**
- Snack program happens every Tuesday and Thursday for all students.
- **If you are interested in volunteering for either Parent Council or Snack Program, please let the office know.**



# Before and After School Program

For information about the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford School Program available at St. Leo please contact:

## **Brantford School Age Child Care:**

YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford

100 Water St, Brantford, ON. N3T 0P1

Tel: 519-512-4891 x 3197

There is also a letter included in your package for more information.



# Information from the Office

- Medication – form to be filled out; only doctor prescribed
- Allergies/Anaphylaxis/Asthma -please notify teacher so appropriate documentation can occur. We require 2 Epi-pens at school.
- School Cash Online; sign up for payment of a variety of things like trips, fundraising etc.
- Lunchbox Program – more info to come for Hot Lunch Days and payment information online.
- Subscribe to school webpage, Twitter, calendar
- Personal information changes, (e.g. phone number, place of employment, emergency contact) please notify office.



# Transportation

Please visit the website

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

for information regarding your child's busing.

First Rider Video ~ Posted on Website

Any questions, contact the school office. 519-759-3314.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X36pt5HCvp4&t=231s>

# Questions/More Information

- Questions or Concerns? Contact us: 519-759-3314
- Leslie Dawdy [lwood@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:lwood@bhncdsb.ca) (Secretary)
- Margi Szoke [mszoke@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:mszoke@bhncdsb.ca) (Principal)

Visit our website: <http://www.stleobrantford.ca>

Follow us on twitter: @stleocatholic



A group of diverse young children, including a girl with dark hair, a boy with brown hair, and a girl with dark skin, are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are outdoors with green foliage in the background. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

**Thank you for choosing Catholic Education and  
welcome to our Catholic School Community.**

If you have questions or for more information, visit [www.CatholicEducation.ca](http://www.CatholicEducation.ca) or connect with your school principal.