



December 2021 St. Leo School Newsletter

St. Leo Catholic School
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Brantford, ON
N3R 5T2
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519-759-3314
Website:
www.bleo.bhncdsb.ca
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Principal:
Margi Szoke
Secretary:
Leslie Wood

General Information

We are a dual track school offering instruction in English for JK-8 and in French Immersion for JK-SK, Grades 1-6 (expanding by one grade each year.)

Next School Council Meeting:
December 16th, 2021 @ 7 pm
Virtually via Teams



Dear St. Leo School Families,
As Advent begins we joyfully prepare, wait in hopeful anticipation, and we tell the story of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. As a Catholic school community, we are excited to share that good news message of our faith through our daily instruction and preparatory activities. We encourage our students and their families to volunteer, spend some extra time in prayer, speak kindly to strangers, go to Church and share hope with those who need it most.

For the month of December, our students will be asked to focus on the virtue of charity, and we are encouraging our students to think more about what they will *give* than what they will get during this Christmas season. Our Social Justice efforts will include the collection of food, gift cards and new hats/mitts for our Tree of Warmth. We will also be collecting donations of clean gently used outerwear for sharing within the community, Society of St. Vincent DePaul and Nova Vita. This is an opportunity for all our students to action our call to serve and care for one another in our faith journey. We have also added a new item in School Cash Online, *Charitable Donation*, where you can make a donation that will be used to support families in our St. Leo Community and beyond.

God Bless you and your family at this most special time of year!

~Mrs. Szoke

PARISH NEWS



ST PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

9 Waverly Street,
Brantford , ON N3R 2K2

Ph: 519-753-8439

www.stpius.ca

Father John Redmond, Pastor
Andrew Beach, Pastoral Associate

A Message from our Pastoral Team: Christmas @ St Pius Parish

Here at St Pius Parish we're gearing up for a very special Christmas, and we're doing our best to make sure you can stay connected!

Interested in learning about our Christmas in-person or online services? <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/christmas-2021-details/>

Looking for the link to watch us online (4pm; 6pm; 8pm; and 10pm streamed Masses on Christmas Eve as well as 9am and 11am Masses on Christmas Day)? <https://stpiusbrantford.online.church/>

Want to register to join us in person? <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/christmas-mass-registration/>

Want to get involved in some way? <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/christmas-2021-details/get-involved/>

Questions? christmas@stpiusbrantford.ca

First Eucharist & First Reconciliation

A reminder to all parents that registration for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist in the spring of 2022 is now available. Head to <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/first-communion/> to find out more or to register. **The registration deadline is December 17th.** If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 519-753-8439 and speak with Andrew.

WINTER WEAR

This is the time of year to dig out those snowsuits, hats and mittens. Please remember to **label** all your child's outerwear. Ensure that your child has proper clothing for the weather. This includes proper footwear to stay warm for our outdoor play.



SCHOOLCASH ONLINE:

Our School Board continues to encourage the use of SchoolCash Online for parents to submit payment for school related purchases. All payments this year at St. Leo will be through School Cash Online. For those who have not yet registered please follow these steps:



Step 1: Go to this website: <https://bhncdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

Notes from the Office:



ON TIME ARRIVAL - One of the key ways that you can support your child's learning, and create sound work habits, is to ensure they arrive on time for school. Our bell time is **8:45 AM**. Please note you are visible on our Live Teams Announcements if arriving after 8:45 😊

GET PREPARED FOR A SUCCESSFUL DAY - Please help them to organize themselves at night by packing their backpacks, laying out their clothes and making their lunches so that the morning is organized. A good night's rest sets up the next day for success.

EARLY LEAVE/APPOINTMENT – The school office is a busy place, especially at the start and end of the school day. Last minute requests for students to leave early are difficult to manage – both due to the volume of requests and their last minute nature. Parents are reminded to send a note to their child's teacher if there will be a different dismissal arrangement (early pick up, different person to pick up, no bus, no YMCA, etc.) ***If a change legitimately occurs at the last moment, please make EVERY effort to contact the school BEFORE 2:45 pm.*** Thank you.



Check Your Child's Hair:

You know the routine - it's that time of the year again. Check your children's hair at least twice a week, remind them not to share combs, hair bands, hats, scarves, and call the school if you notice a problem. Remember too, that if head lice is detected, you also need to treat your entire house - bedding, upholstery, any clothing that is pulled over the head, and anything that comes in contact with the hair. It's a big job, but it's necessary!

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

As we head further into winter, it is time for us to review our inclement weather policy. Transportation by bus is impacted tremendously by inclement weather – be it delays to buses or cancellations. Decisions are made by 6:30 am regarding cancellation of buses and school closures. Please check the Board's website for any cancellations after 6:30 am. Safety is the deciding factor when making this decision. **When buses are cancelled, schools are closed** to all staff and students. Please check the Student Transportation section at the front of your child's agenda for further details. **St. Leo School is in ZONE 4.**



Movement Across the Day: (This message is brought to you by Ophea)

The Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines have been released for the Early Years (0-4) and Children and Youth (5-17). The highlights are below.

Sweat: children should accumulate at least 60 minutes/day of moderate to vigorous physical activity. These activities should increase heart rate and breathing and may cause a child to sweat. Examples include running, climbing on playground equipment, and dancing.

Step: children should accumulate several hours of light physical activity throughout the day. Examples include walking, wheeling, and active chores.

Sleep: children should receive uninterrupted sleep each night with consistent to-bed and wake-up times. 3-4 year olds need 10-13 hours, 5-13 year olds need 9-11 hours, and 14-17 year olds need 8-10 hours.

Sit: children should limit the amount of time they spend sitting for extended periods. Recreational screen time should be limited to no more than one hour/day for 3-4 year olds, and no more than two hours/day for 5-17 year olds.

How does physical activity fit into your family's day?

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Brought to you by Lunchbox Orders

Cooking with Kids



Healthy school meals are just one click away.

Place your lunch order at www.lunchboxorders.com

Cooking with Kids! by Amy Skeoch MHSc, RD

Do your kids help out in the kitchen? Can't even imagine inviting them in? If you can relate with the latter question, you're not alone. Many parents feel that having kids help prepare meals and snacks is just too much work and takes too much time. Initially it may take longer for those veggies to be

cut-up, or that lettuce to get washed, but over time you might actually appreciate your child's acquired food skills!

Cooking with your kids is a great opportunity to connect with them, while teaching important life skills. See below for a *general guide* to what your child can handle:

Ages 3-5 - With supervision, they can pour liquids, tear lettuce, simple stirring, washing produce

Ages 6-8 - As motor skills improve they can use measuring spoons, form meatballs, dice veggies when supervised/taught how to use a paring knife* (watch those fingers!), grease pans, drain/rinse items, make sandwiches, scrape plates and load/unload the dishwasher

Ages 9-11 - The optimal age! They can use a toaster oven, read and follow a recipe, use the pizza cutter, can opener, make scramble eggs, pancakes, muffins, and wraps

Age 12+ - Follow more complicated recipes, use kitchen appliances

*Note: to learn about safe knife skills visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hue1A6LoC8>

Tips:

- ✓ Start Small – focus on 1 skill/month.
- ✓ Keep it Simple – start with basic skills and food items they like to eat to build their confidence.
- ✓ Think Weekends – Sometimes we are too rushed throughout the week, choose a weekend breakfast or snack to invite them to help you.
- ✓ Compliment Them – everyone likes to know when they've done something well!
- ✓ Enjoy the Moment – don't worry about the end result, instead make some great memories with your kids!

Sources:

<http://www.momables.com/teach-your-kid-how-to-cook-by-age/>

<http://www.familykitchen.ca/>

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

IF SOMEONE AT SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



Not all students are at-risk if there is a positive case at school.



Public Health will follow up with close contacts, likely including the class cohort.



Close contacts will receive direction from the Health Unit regarding next steps.



We remind everyone to always monitor their health and stay home when ill.



Public Health will continue to monitor and notify parents/staff of risk as needed.

BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT

Who is a close contact at school?

CLOSE CONTACT

You were within a 6 feet, or 2 metres distance for 15 minutes or more throughout the day.



Someone in your class, on your school bus or in your after school cohort.

You had close physical contact with the person, such as a hug.



A person who accidentally sneezed, or coughed on you while talking in close proximity.



NOT A CLOSE CONTACT

You maintained a 6 feet, or 2 metre distance.



Goes to the same school, but is not in your cohort.



You were briefly in the same room together but kept your distance.



You passed a person quickly in the hall, or at recess.



www.bchu.org/coronavirus

BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME
GRADE 8 STUDENT & PARENT

OPEN HOUSE

JAN 12



St. John's
College

sjconline.ca/futurestudents



Assumption
College School

assumptionlions.com/futurestudents

ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JAN 3 - FEB 25

catholiceducation.ca



**Kindergarten French Immersion
Program Spots Limited**



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board