



## 2021 Newsletter

### St. Leo Catholic School

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Brantford, ON

N3R 5T2

Phone:

519-759-3314

Website: [www.bleo.bhncdsb.ca](http://www.bleo.bhncdsb.ca)

Twitter: @stleocatholic

Principal:

Jennifer McLaren Gibbons

### General Information

We are a dual track school offering instruction in English for JK-8 and in French Immersion for JK-5 (expanding by one grade each year)

For copies of newsletters and other important forms/information, please visit our school website at:  
[www.bleo.bhncdsb.ca](http://www.bleo.bhncdsb.ca)

### Prayer for Mothers

*All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.*

*We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.*

*We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.*

*We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.*

*We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.*

***Amen***



### From the Principal's Desk

We will be celebrating Catholic Education Week from May 2 – May 7. The theme of Catholic Education Week this year is 'Nurturing Hope.' The events held throughout this week give us the opportunity to celebrate our Faith within the school and greater community.

During the month of May we will honour our Mothers. May is also a very special month for the Catholic Church as it is the month of Mary, Mother of God. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our mothers a very happy Mother's Day.

We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our families who continue to support us in learning with their children in distance learning. We know that this format of learning can be challenging for many students, but we are blessed by your commitment to their education. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance or have questions about assignments or tasks. Staff are working to find ways to support all learners and ensure that assignments are meaningful and relevant. We appreciate your support.

God Bless,

*Mrs. Jennifer McLaren Gibbons*

Principal



### **Parent Council PRO GRANT Event:**

Our St. Leo School Parent Council has organized Paul Davis guest speaker on Safety and the Internet for students and families. Please save the date of May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm to join. More information will be provided on how to register soon.



The five sub-themes for Catholic Education from May 2 – May 7: *Nurturing Hope* are

*Preparing the Earth*  
*Sowing Seeds of Gratitude*  
*Cultivating Relationships*  
*Harvesting New Fruit*  
*Marvelling in Wonder*

### **CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Congratulations to **Sophie Zammit** who is the recipient of the **Catholic Student Leadership Award for 2021**. This award is given to a student who demonstrates a commitment to Catholic Faith and exemplifies the Catholic Graduate expectations.

### **MOVE TO DISTANCE LEARNING**

Thanks to all of our families in supporting us as we moved back to Distance Learning. While we understand the challenges this platform of learning presents, we are working hard to meet student needs and provide extra support when necessary. It is important to note that attendance is taken each day and we are working to ensure that if you login to Brightspace each day even as an “asynchronous” learner you will not be marked absent. Please note however, if your child will be away for an appointment or you know that you can't login on a certain day it helps if you can let the teacher know so we can ensure we mark attendance accurately each day.

Finally, we are working to ensure that teachers collect the most important assignments during this distance learning time. Teachers are responsible to write a Term 2 report card and we want to ensure that this report reflects the best work students have completed and shared both in class and during our distance learning time. Ensuring that student's hand in assignments to the teacher whether through Brightspace or even by emailing them in is so important. Please know we want to support everyone; however, we cannot help if we don't know what you need. Please ensure you are regularly communicating with the teachers about how things are going and letting them know if assignments are being worked on or ready to submit. We understand that it can be challenging but we appreciate your commitment and dedication to the learning taking place. Please let us know if we can help out in anyway. You can email or send a message on TEAMS to teachers or myself.

### **WE ARE TWEETING!!**



In an effort to keep everyone informed about events in our community, St. Leo's has a Twitter account. You can follow us @stleocatholic to keep up with what is happening in our classrooms and special events in our school community.



## **A Note From the Public Health Nurse at Your School... Protect Your Brain! Wear a Helmet!**

Bicycle riding season is just around the corner! Remember to keep yourself and your children safe on every ride by wearing a bicycle helmet that fits properly and by following the rules of the road.

Here are some helpful tips:

- Before buying a helmet for yourself or your child, make sure it meets the correct safety standards and has a safety sticker from one of the following organizations: CPSC, Snell or ASTM
- Make sure that the helmet fits properly! Visit Parachute Canada, [parachutecanada.org/resources](http://parachutecanada.org/resources), for instructions on properly fitting a helmet
- If a helmet has never been in a crash and is not damaged in any way, it needs to be replaced every five years
- If the helmet has been in a crash or is cracked or damaged in any way, it needs to be replaced immediately
- Remember – different activities may need different helmets. If you are unsure whether or not the helmet is safe for the activity, check with the company that made the helmet!

You are your child's best role model. Role model safe behaviours by wearing a properly fitted helmet yourself. You only have one brain. Protect it by wearing a helmet!

For more information about bicycle helmets, safety tips and answers to frequently asked questions, visit Parachute Canada at [www.parachutecanada.org](http://www.parachutecanada.org)

### **KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION**



Kindergarten Orientation for next year's new Kindergarten students will be a bit different this year due to lockdown and stay at home orders that are currently in place. We hope to be able to share with families of students starting school in September of our plan for Orientation soon.

### **LENTEN CARING COLLECTIONS CAMPAIGN**

We are so proud of our St. Leo Community and the support shown through our Lenten Caring Collections Campaign. With your help we raised funds to support the families through Saint Vincent de Paul Society. This is just another example of how amazing our school community is and how when we journey, encounter and transform with our God to make a difference in the lives of others. Way to go Lions!!

### **CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021:**

We are in the process of organizing class placements for September. At this time, many changes may occur so we are not able to provide class breakdowns or assigned teachers, but hope to provide this information next month. We are aware that some families may want to discuss class placements for next year. Families are encouraged to reach out to Mrs. McLaren in writing or by phone with requests, however, it is important to remember that all requests may not be granted. As a team, we consider many things when creating class lists and it is often difficult to accommodate everyone's personal requests. Sending requests in early is strongly encouraged.



**ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 9 Waverly Street, Brantford, ON N3R 2K2  
 Ph: 519-753-8439 [www.stpius.ca](http://www.stpius.ca)  
*Father John Redmond, Pastor,*  
*Andrew Beach, Pastoral Associate*

Please continue to check out the St. Pius Church website for updates and for live feed information of the Mass'.



**VICTORIA DAY**

There will be **NO SCHOOL** for students on *Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>* as we celebrate Victoria Day.

**Changes to your Contact Information?**

If you have moved, have new/different emergency contacts, have changed your work phone or any other important information, please ensure you provide this to Ms. Wood at the office at 519-759-3314. This is especially important for emergency situations. Thanks for your support in ensuring our records are accurate.



**Update your contact info!**

**Fun with the Brantford #SignWars Challenge**

