

Sept. 14, 2020.

### **September Newsletter 2020**

#### **Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Obili and Mrs. Osorio**

Welcome to St. Leo Catholic School and the Full Time Kindergarten English program! We are very excited to have you here!

We have an excellent educational team within our classroom, and I am pleased to introduce you to Mrs. Vivien Obili our Early Childhood Educator and Mrs. Shafiza Osorio, our Educational Assistant. I am Ms. Maureen Griffin, and I have the privilege of being your child's classroom teacher this year. Working together as a team, along with a strong home-school connection, our students are going to have a fun, faith-filled year exploring, creating, and learning.

We are now within the third year of our Board's Spiritual Theme. The Theme this year, for the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is, "Hearts on Fire, TRANSFORM", taken from the Gospel of Luke 24:32, The Road to Emmaus. How fitting, as we begin this new journey together during these unprecedented, transformative times. This year has been like no other we have ever seen, but with the Grace of God and our faith-filled dedication to diligently practice and maintain the Brant County health Unit guidelines, we will get through this together.

#### **The following is for your information:**

**\*Rules and Routines-** This September the class will be concentrating on our very important rules and routines. The guidelines from the Ministry of Health, and the Brant County Health Unit, will be our top priority. Practicing physical distancing, proper hand washing and hand sanitizing, as well as wearing our masks and independent bathroom hygiene.

**\*COVID-19 Ontario Self- Assessment Tool-** please make sure that you and your family are regularly accessing the Ontario Self-Assessment Tool website. If you or any member of your family is feeling unwell, please follow the directions provided by the website and the Brant County Health Unit. Working together, we can help slow the spread of COVID-19.

**\*Visitors-** parents/ guardians and visitors are not permitted within the school without an appointment. Please call the office for details.

**\*Family Information Sheets-** Once you receive your Family Information Sheet package, please check carefully that all information is correct and updated for our school files. This is very important information, and accuracy is key. Please return them to the school as soon as possible.

**\*Allergies/ Medical Information-** please make your child's teacher/ school **aware immediately** of any allergies or medical information that is essential to your child's wellbeing.

**\*Allergy Safe School-** we are a “nut safe” school. We have **several children** within our school with **life threatening allergies**. **No items containing tree nuts or peanuts are allowed within the school**. Please read all labels and packaging before sending any food products to school. **No** peanut butter or Wow butter is allowed. Within our school, and our classroom, we have many children with **Life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, mustard, shellfish, and egg**. Please avoid sending these items to school for all the children’s safety. Unsafe snacks will be returned home. No homemade baking items may be sent into the school. Thank you for your cooperation!

**\*Agendas-** The school will **NOT** be using agendas this year. Agendas were ordered prior to the pandemic and have now been “gifted” to each student to utilize at home. Please do not send them back to school.

**\*Brightspace/ School Website-** please subscribe to both Brightspace and the St. Leo School website. There will be no paper copies of letters, forms, newsletters being sent home from the school. All communication will be done through Brightspace and or the School website. All communication with your child’s teacher will be done through Brightspace or their teacher’s school email address. **More information to follow regarding log in for Brightspace.**

**Our school website is: [stleobrantford.ca](http://stleobrantford.ca)**

**\*School Cash Online-** is the only method of payment for items needed throughout the school year, i.e. school trips, Spirit Wear. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

**\*Communication Envelopes-** there will be **no** communication envelopes this year. All information will be provided through Brightspace and the school website. If you need to report your child’s absence, or an appointment please call ahead of time to the school office.

**\*Police Check-** police checks are mandatory for all parents/ caregivers, who wish to volunteer within the school or for field trips. Please make sure you have an updated police check on file within the school office. Please call the school office for more details.

**\*Pick Up/ Drop Off-** currently the procedures for pick up and drop off are as follows.

The Kindergartens will be dropped off and picked up from either the far side of the school building and or the back- field gate. Our class has been designated the Kindergarten Pen area. Please notify your child’s teacher immediately of your drop-off/pick up plans.

**Drop off- please do not drop your child to school until 8:30 a.m., when a teacher will be on yard duty.**

**Pick Up- our dismissal bell rings at 3:05 p.m., please pick your child up promptly.**

If there are any changes to your drop off/pick up plans, the teachers must be notified.

**Please notify the school/ teacher ahead of time if your child is being picked up by a different person! Identification will be asked for! This is to ensure your child’s safety, please be patient with the process. Thank you!**

Please be aware, that due to the nature of the pandemic, these plans are fluid and may change. If a change is made, your teacher will notify the families.

**\*YMCA Before/ After Care Program**- please notify the school/ teacher if your child is participating in the before/ after -care program. Please contact the YMCA for more information.

**\*Bus**- please notify the school/ teacher if your child will be arriving/ departing school by bus. Also, if there are any changes to their mode of transportation.

**\*Walkers**- please notify the school/teacher if your child will be arriving/ departing school by foot. Please make the school/ teacher aware of approved adults/persons with whom they may arrive and depart with. Please notify the school/ teacher in advance if there are any changes to who the child will be picked up by. Identification will be asked for to maintain your child's safety.

**\*Go Green**- to further our commitment to the environment, and to help eliminate germ spread, the school is encouraging all parents and caregivers to "Go Green". Please try to send a litter-less snack and lunch, re-usable cutlery, re-usable containers, re-fillable water bottles, and re-usable straws. Thank you for your support!

**\*Twitter**- our school is on Twitter if you would like to follow us. St. Leo @stleocatholic

**\*Attendance**- regular attendance is key to a successful school year. Please try to be punctual when dropping/ retrieving your child at school. Our morning bell is at 8:45 a.m. Please do not leave your child unattended on the playground. Morning supervision does not start until 8:30 a.m. If your child is going to be absent, or is leaving the school early, please call/ notify the office as soon as possible. Our end of day bell is at 3:05 p.m. Please pick up your child promptly.

**\*Bell Times:**

8:45- morning bell- school begins

10:25-11:05- first nutrition break (20 min. outside, 20 min. eating inside)

12:45- 1:25- second nutrition break (20 min. outside, 20 min. eating inside)

3:05- last bell- school ends

**\*Speech/ Behavioural Concerns**- if you have any speech/ behavioural concerns regarding your child, please speak to the teacher as soon as possible.

**\*Home Reading Program**- More information to follow.

**\*S.T.E.M. Program**- we are very excited to be participating in the S.T.E.M. (Science Technology Engineering Math) Program this year. Our lead teacher will be Miss Alana Kras, who will be visiting our classroom with many amazing and innovative activities.

**\*Scholastic Book Orders**- all book orders will be online this year. More information to follow.

**\*Independent Toileting Skills-** this year, more than previous years, it is extremely important that all children within the Full Time Kindergarten Program **must** be able to independently toilet themselves. This includes wiping themselves after a bowel movement. It is very important that you help your child develop and master this skill. Of course, accidents do happen, so please make sure you send a complete change of clothes (top, pant, underwear, socks) to be kept at the school. Thank you!

**\*Attire-** here in Kindergarten, we **will get dirty/messy**. We will be busy exploring, creating, and learning, working with paint, glue, food colouring, soil, bingo dauber, shaving cream and much more. Many of which can stain clothing. We do attempt to take every precaution available, to help ensure no staining, however we are not always successful. Please do not send your child to school in clothes that can not get dirty. Getting messy is half the fun! Thank you!

**\*Outside Exploration-** our Kindergarten class will participate in 100 minutes of outside exploration every day, all year long. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather! Layering clothing is best, to ensure your child is not too hot or too cold. Rain boots are a must for rainy days and wet seasons.

**\*Physical Education/ Health-** this year our class will have gym/ health every Day 2 and Day 4, with Mr. Jerez. Please make sure they have a pair of proper running shoes that can be left at the school. **These shoes can also be their necessary “indoor shoes”.**

**\*Innovative Space-** this year our class will be having innovative space/ computers within our classroom twice a week. The computers and tablets will be coming to us. There will be no library book exchange this year due to COVID-19.

**\*Fire/ Lockdown Drills-** it is mandatory that the entire school participate in fire/ lockdown drills occasionally. These drills are handled in the most comforting and reassuring way possible for all students. A tremendous amount of preparation work is done prior to any drill, to help alleviate any possible anxieties a student may have. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office.

**\*Backpacks-** if possible, it is best if your child has a full-size (large) backpack. There are many creations that will be coming home, as well as lunch pails and water bottles. During the winter months, there is also scarves, hats, and mittens.

**Please note:**

**Due to COVID-19, it is highly recommended that nothing but essential school items (lunch pail, water bottle) be within the backpack. No toys, stuffed animals, key chains, or blankets are allowed. This is to help stop the spread of germs and virus’ traveling between home and school. Thank you for your cooperation!**

**\*Donations-** this year the school is not asking for “classroom” donations due to COVID-19. However, if you would like to send in an individual Kleenex box, with your child’s name on it, it will be placed on your child’s desk. Thank you!

**Expectations of Behaviour**- it is important to realize, especially this year, that rules and routines are necessary to help keep all the students within our classroom and school safe, happy, and healthy. Please help us by reviewing and reminding your child of proper behaviour expectations. Please review the following:

- \* keep your distance from others
- \* follow the posted signage
- \* wear your mask, avoid touching your face
- \* proper hand washing, especially after using the washroom
- \* keep hands off others, and other people's belongings
- \* no rough play (wrestling, ninja, body tag)
- \* listen while others are speaking
- \* no interrupting, raise hand when you wish to speak
- \* wait your turn, patiently
- \* use only your personal items
- \* bring used supplies/ toys/ items/ to the sanitation station
- \* no sharing food
- \* use a soft inside voice
- \* use walking feet within the school/ classroom
- \* be respectful of teachers, friends, others, themselves

Thank you!

I am confident that we will have a wonderful year full of laughs, learning and love. Please feel free to contact me at the school anytime, or via email ([mgriffin@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:mgriffin@bhncdsb.ca))

Thank you!

Ms. M. Griffin, Mrs. V. Obili, and Mrs. S. Osorio

