



## February 2019 – Newsletter



### St. Leo Catholic School

233 Memorial Drive

Brantford, ON

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Phone:

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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-Grade 3 (expanding by one grade each year) Current Enrolment is 325 students We have 15 Homeroom Teachers, 3 Early Childhood Educators, 8 Educational Assistants, 2 French-as-a-Second-Language teachers, 2 Special Education Resource Teachers, 3 Prep Teachers, 1 Library Tech, 2 Custodians, 1 Secretary, 1 STEM Teacher and an active School Council.

Next Meeting of School Council is

**Monday February 11, 2019 @**

**6:30 in the Library**

*All are welcome!*

**SCHOOL START: 8:45 am**

**SCHOOL DISMISSAL: 3:05**

### Special Valentine Wish

I'd like to hang a valentine  
Upon the world's front door...  
With hearts of love and peace entwined  
To last forevermore.

With love to guide our daily path,  
There'd be no one in need;  
God's blessings would be shared by all  
Of every race and creed.

Peace would come to all the world  
As nations great and small,  
Would put aside their selfish aims  
To work for the good of all.

If I could have my wish today,  
I'd wish for nothing more  
Than to hang a great big valentine  
Upon our world's front door.

Author– William Franklin Jr.



February marks the beginning of a new term at school. Report cards will go home on Friday February 8, 2019. It is important that students have an opportunity to talk about what they did well first term and what they would like to do better for second term. This is an opportunity for a fresh start. Help your child set achievable goals. Post them on your fridge to remind you and your child(ren) what you want to work on for the rest of this year. Keep up the great effort Lions!!

Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Valentine's Day. This day will also count as one of our special food days this year but we would like to remind parents that treats have to be store bought and peanut free. Homemade baked goods do not comply with Health regulations. We wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day!

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

## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Parents, please ensure that your child(ren) are coming to school dressed for the weather. Students are expected to wear a hat and mittens/gloves outside for recess, regardless of the grade they are in. The students will be going outside for at least part of recess whenever the weather permits. If the temperature drops below -20° C the children will remain indoors at the break. We monitor the temperature throughout the day as the temperature fluctuates greatly. **Students should always come prepared to go outside.** An extra pair of socks may also be beneficial to have at school on days when your child's feet get very wet. Thank you very much for your cooperation in helping keep our children warm and dry this winter.



## BOOTS AND SHOES



Parents, please ensure that your child(ren) have a pair of indoor shoes to wear each day after recess. Students will be asked to take off their outside shoes/boots before entering the classrooms. The extra pair would be used during indoor time and would be stored accordingly for that grade. Thank you very much for your cooperation in helping to keep our school clean.

## FAMILY DAY

Please note that **Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019** is Family Day and there will be no school that day. Enjoy the day together as a family!

## REPORT CARDS

First term report cards will be sent home on **Friday February 8, 2019** with your child(ren). Please take the time to look over the report card with your child and comment on the third page of the report. We ask that you ***sign and return both the bottom portion of the third page of your report card and the report card envelope.*** Please also note that interviews were held in November, however, you may request a meeting with your child's classroom teacher at any time.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next **School Council** meeting will be held on Monday February 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm. in the school library. Everyone is welcome to attend.



## ***A NOTE FROM YOUR SCHOOL'S PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE...***

Winter is here to stay for a while, but there is no need to hibernate indoors. Instead, go outside with the whole family and enjoy playing old games or trying out some new ones.

Building a snowman, tobogganing, playing a game of hockey, going skating or participating in a winter treasure hunt are all great activities that will get the whole family moving.

Before heading outdoors, keep these tips in mind:

- **Dress warm and layer clothing.** Don't forget a warm hat, mittens and boots!
- **Stay away from ponds and rivers.** They may look frozen, but the ice may not be thick enough to support your body weight. Play it safe!
- **Pack a lunch and something to drink.** It's easy to forget that in the cold air you can still get hungry and thirsty.
- **Wear Sunscreen.** You can get sunburn even in the winter!
- **Watch for frostbite.** Kids get frostbite faster than adults. Signs of frostbite include a prickly or itchy feeling in the skin, numbness and/ or discoloration on the face, ears hands or feet. Stay protected, stay warm.



## BRANT FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### BRANT FOOD FOR THOUGHT SNACK PROGRAM

We are very excited to have begun our Snack Program with our grant from Brant Food for Thought. This program runs every Tuesday and Thursday morning providing students with a healthy, nutritional snack to begin their day. Many students are taking advantage of this program and it is free to all of our students. Thank you very much to the many families who provided us with a donation to the program as well. Donations will continue to be accepted and can be sent to the office. We know that children learn best when their tummies are full so providing this valuable nutritional snack helps many of our learners.

### PARKING AT ST. LEO SCHOOL

We are aware of the challenges of parking in the area around our school. We would like to remind people to adhere to all parking regulations and signs on Memorial Drive and on the surrounding side streets, particularly at arrival and dismissal times. The area directly in front of the school is a **No Parking Zone**. When parking, be sure that you are not blocking the driveway for the school, or residences around the school. In recent weeks, we have had some accidents and some near misses due to illegal parking and unsafe driving (i.e.: u-



turns in areas where children are crossing, double parking, etc.) Please be respectful when parking on side streets making sure you are allowing enough room for owners to pull out of their driveways safely. We want to ensure the safety of all in our school community so we thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

### PINK SHIRT DAY

On Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the staff and students of St. Leo School will be celebrating anti-bullying by wearing PINK! Everyone is encouraged to show their support by wearing pink!



### COLD/COUGH AND FLU SEASON

It is clear that cold/cough and flu season is upon us!! We truly appreciate the challenge that obtaining daycare for sick students presents for many of our families but it is necessary for the health and well-being of all our students and staff. We ask that you assist us in minimizing the effects of these highly contagious illnesses for all concerned by allowing your child to heal at home. At the school, disinfecting all surfaces has already taken place and will continue with increased frequency. Working together, we can reduce the spread. Thank you, in advance, for all your efforts around this concern. **Remember that hand washing is the best strategy to reduce exposure to cold and flu.**



### BASKETBALL

In basketball action, the St. Leo School boys' and girls' teams travelled to Holy Trinity to compete in the Board Tournament on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Both teams played excellent, had fun, and did a wonderful job representing our school. A special thank you to our coaches, Mrs. DiLoreto & Mr. Esbaugh for their time and effort in preparing our teams. Our girls team made it to the semi-final round and our boys lost in the finals to come in second place!!



### **Congratulations to our students who participated, well done!!**

Ty F., Max H., Rocco T., Matthew G., Nathan B., Dylan S., Tristan R., Riley D., Mateos M. Anden F. Sydnee F., Ireland S., Georgia A., Makayla S., Cate W., Angelina S., Kaitlyn T., Maddie P., Julia M., Laurel L.



## **ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL**

Educators have long understood the connection between good attendance, punctuality, and academic success. Frequent absences, and late arrivals, even when justified, make effective instruction and assessment difficult for teachers and compromise learning for students. In recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number of students arriving late for school in the morning. We remind all parents that the bell to begin our day rings at **8:45 a.m.** and instruction begins promptly after the children enter the classroom. Late arrivals disrupt the learning environment for all students, cause the teacher to restart instruction and necessitates repeated review of concepts. **We ask that all families do their part to ensure our students are arriving promptly and ready to begin their instructional day on time. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation.**

If your child must be away or late, for any reason, please notify the school BEFORE 8:30 am. You may leave a voicemail message anytime between 4 pm and 8:30 am weekdays and 4 pm Friday night to 8:30 am Monday morning – 519-759-3314. If your child's absence is not reported, you will receive an automated call to your home/cell as well as an email, please follow the instructions on the message and then call the school to report the absence. The automated message will continue to call until you call into the school to report the absence. Thank you



## **OUR PARISH**



### **First Reconciliation & First Communion**

A reminder that our First Reconciliation Retreat is Saturday, February 16th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. First Reconciliation is Saturday, February 23rd starting at 1:00pm in the main body of the church. If you had a conflict with either of these dates, you will be contacted shortly regarding an alternate. Our First Communion preparation meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30pm in the main body of the church.

### **Youth Ministry: "Kookies" For Kenya Fundraiser**

Every year our Youth gather on the Friday before St Valentine's Day to bake and decorate more than a thousand cookies. These cookies are then sold as a fundraiser following all weekend masses. All young people in grades 6 and above are invited to join us on Friday, February 8th to help. Our event starts right after school and will end at approximately 8:00pm. Dinner is included. Please also consider picking some cookies up after one of our masses to support our mission work in Africa!

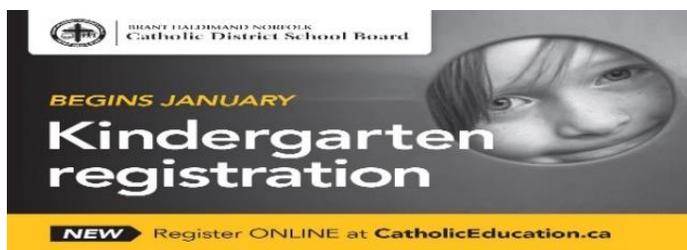
### **Youth Ministry: Rock-Climbing Trip**

All young people in grades 6 and up are invited to join us for our annual Rock-Climbing trip to Gravity Climbing Gym in Hamilton on Saturday, March 2nd. The cost is \$25 and forms must be returned by February 27th. Please contact Andrew Beach at [abeach@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:abeach@hamiltondiocese.com) for more info, or check out our Youth Ministry page at [www.stpius.ca/youth/news](http://www.stpius.ca/youth/news)

### **Lenten Season**

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday celebrations on Wednesday, March 6th. Stay tuned for more details about our Parish's Lenten plans. Please also consider joining us for the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7:00pm all throughout the season of Lent. All are welcome!

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Beginning January 2019, the Board is utilizing an online Kindergarten Registration tool that will make the process more convenient for parents. Parents will simply:

1. Create an account (**a confirmation email will be sent to your email account**)
2. Provide registration details
3. Upload a few documents (**please prepare by taking pictures of them or scanning them so you have an electronic copy ready to upload**)

The registration process **takes about 20 minutes to complete**. You can **'Save'** anytime and login later to finish or upload required documents. All the information that you have entered will still be there. Just remember to choose the **'Save'** button before exiting.

We recommend that parents get a head start by preparing electronic versions of the following:

- **Canadian birth certificate** (or proof of Canadian citizenship, proof of permanent residence, record of landing, or other Immigration and Citizenship documentation).
- **Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate or, if your child is not baptized, the Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the parent or guardian.**
- **Proof of home address** (a rental/lease agreement, drivers license, utility bill, proof of purchase).

**Items to remember: If you have any difficulties or questions during the registration process, please contact the school (519-759-3314), email [info@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:info@bhncdsb.ca) or call 519-732-5282.**

### **Ophea Newsletter – February Screen time at home**

The Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines recommend 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. According to the 2016 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth, only 24% of 5-17 year olds are watching less than two hours of recreational screen time/day.

Below are some suggestions for reducing screen time:

- Co-create family rules around screen time.
- Try a family screen time challenge, such as screen-free hours each day, or one screen-free evening/week.
- Remove screens (including cell phones, computers, and TVs) from bedrooms.
- Change your language. Instead of “You can’t watch TV...” say “Let’s turn off the TV so we can...”
- Set limits around your own use of screens.

How else can you reduce your screen time as a family?