

September 2018 Newsletter

Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year

Dear Lord,

As our children leave for school, we pray that you will keep them in your care.
Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good.
Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well.
Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom.
Help them to be kind to others and lead others to be kind to them.
Give their teachers patience and understanding
and help them teach what is just and true.
Send your angels to guide and guard our children and to keep them from all harm.
Open their young hearts to your presence and
enfold them in your peace and protection.
Hold them in the palm of your hand and bring them home safely at day's end.
Amen.

St. Leo Catholic School

233 Memorial Drive

Brantford, ON

N3R 5T2

Phone:

519-759-3314

Website:

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.



Welcome back to another exciting year at St. Leo School. We hope everyone had a great summer and a smooth start back to school.

Fall is a special time when we

celebrate the reward for the fall harvest and give thanks for the blessings of God. It is also a time of new beginnings. Each new year brings the promise of new friends, meeting new teachers and a chance to grow and develop. We are thrilled you selected Catholic Education and as a staff we are committed to joining you on this journey to prepare your children for their individual futures.

Our New Board 3 year theme is "Hearts on Fire" based on the story of the Road to Emmaus. In our first year, we will 'Journey' together similar to Jesus and his disciples who travelled to Emmaus. We are reminded that He is always present in our lives. Walking alongside the disciples, Jesus engages them in dialogue and teaching, nurturing their relationship. We believe in our Catholic school we create that same experience and look forward to supporting your children and family in nurturing this relationship with Jesus. I look forward to sharing this message with our families this year and continue to support our community as we have in the past. It has been a busy summer at St. Leo with the installation of new cooling and heating systems in our kindergarten rooms. We are excited to offer French Immersion in Grade 3 this year. Our new portables will support the continued growth in our school. We have exciting times ahead.

I want to acknowledge all of the teachers, ECE's, and EA's for their hard work preparing their classrooms and to Mrs. Rohr, Mrs. Chopp and Mrs. Gardner for all the effort they have put into preparing our school for September.

I hope everyone has a great year! Welcome back!

God Bless,
Mrs. Jennifer McLaren Gibbons
Principal

WELCOME BACK TO OUR STAFF:

Office Contacts

Principal	Mrs. J. McLaren Gibbons
Secretary	Mrs. T. Gardner
Custodian	Mrs. L. Rohr
Cleaner	Mrs. V. Chopp

Home Room Teachers

Kinder – Eng	Mrs. M. Griffin
ECE	Mrs. V. Obili
Kinder – F1	Mme. A. Lloyd
ECE	Mme. C. Marcos
Kinder – F2	Mme. C. Thoms
ECE	Mme. T. Harrison
Kinder – F3	Mme. A. Poulimenos
Grade 1/2E	Mrs. L. Walden
Grade 1F	Mme. L. Durrer
Grade 1F	Mme. M. Noronha
Grade 2F	Mme. N. Buchuk
Grade 3	Mrs. P. Low
Grade 3F	Mme. L. Venne
Grade 4/5	Mr. D. Esbaugh
Grade 5/6	Mrs. A. Mulrain
Grade 5/6	Ms. K. Geloso
Grade 6/7	Mrs. A. DiLoreto
Grade 7/8	Mr. S. Squeo
Core French	Mme. A. Damiani
Core French	Mme. S. Hill
Prep	Mr. L. Jerez
Prep	Mrs. J. Godin
Prep	Mrs. H. Christilaw

Special Education Department

SERT	Ms. T. Witteveen
SERT	Mrs. T. O'Neill
EA	Ms. J. Hannah
EA	Mrs. B. Geoghegan
EA	Ms. Schuurman
EA	Mrs. T. Mamela
EA	Mrs. L. Madia
EA	Mrs. H. Ireland
EA	Mrs. S. Osorio
EA	Mr. R. Figueiredo

BOARD THEME 2018-2019

Our Board Theme "Hearts on Fire" (Luke ...) will help us over the next 3 years. This first year our focus is on 'Journey'.



SCHOOL HOURS

School Yard Supervision	8:30 – 8:45
Instructional Block	8:45 – 10:25
Nutritional Break	10:25 – 11:05
Instructional Block	11:05 – 12:45
Nutritional Break	12:45 – 1:05
Instructional Block	1:25 – 3:05
Dismissal	3:05

ARRIVAL and PICK – UP PROCEDURES



In an effort to foster independence in our young students and to ensure the safety of all in our school community we ask that you allow your

child to enter the school **on their own in the morning**. To ensure the teachers and the students can begin their morning routines promptly, we kindly ask that you say your goodbyes to your children as they enter the school.

At the end of the day, we ask that all adults **wait outside for their children to be dismissed at the appropriate exit** by their teachers. When we have adults waiting to pick up children in our front hall and outside classroom doors it causes congestion and safety concerns at dismissal time. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

PETS NOT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY: We are asking everyone's cooperation in not bringing pets on school property during school hours particularly before and after school drop off/pick up. If needed, you could pick up students at front sidewalk if you need to bring pets with you. There are several reasons that pet's are not allowed;

- A dog's behaviour can be unpredictable,
- People have allergies to dog hair and a variety of pets; and
- People have fears of dogs.

We appreciate your understanding.

LUNCH OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students in our older grades will be permitted to leave the school at the nutritional break **only if they bring a note signed by their parents.** Leaving the school during lunch is a privilege that may be revoked if students are returning late, or not acting maturely off school property.

Join Me For Lunch



VOLUNTEER POLICE CHECKS

Please be advised that the Board Volunteer Policy requires that **all** parent volunteers must have a police check done **before** volunteering at our school. This includes parents **volunteering** to chaperone on class trips. Please call or come to the school for the letter that must be completed and brought to the Brantford Police Department in order to volunteer within our school. The Vulnerable Sector Police Check must be completed **every three years.** Also required is Accessibility For Ontarians with Disability Training. Please see the school's website or review the last page of the newsletter for detailed information on this training.



SCHOOL INFORMATION SHEETS

Student Verification Forms were sent home last week with every student. Please complete these forms, make any necessary changes, and **return them to school by Monday, September 17th.** CONSENT forms*, Internet Use Agreements and church/community trip permission forms are also required to be completed every school year.



Medical forms are especially critical and will be sent home with students previously identified. If you need a form and have not received one, please contact the school as soon

as possible.

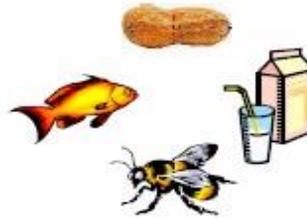
PLEASE READ OVER EACH OF THE FORMS CAREFULLY AND MAKE ALL NECESSARY CHANGES ON THE FORMS. We are required to have all forms signed/re-signed yearly.

- LIMITED CONSENT forms are available upon request.

MAD SCIENCE: The Mad Science program will begin on September 25th for our Grade 1-6 program who sign up online. The program will run during nutrition breaks every Tuesday from 12:45-1:25. More info attached on registration from Mad Science.

ANAPHYLAXIS

A Life Threatening Allergy



ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY / LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure a *safe and welcoming school environment* for all staff and students. In the case of children with documented life threatening allergies, protecting their safety entails the cooperation of the ENTIRE school community.

At St. Leo School, we have several students with severe food allergies. The foods which are a threat to students in our school community are:

- all peanuts and peanut products+
- all tree nuts+
- mustard
- sesame
- eggs in their raw form
- shellfish

It is the expectation that you refrain from sending any products containing any of the above mentioned allergens to any class in the school. Residual exposure in the gym, washrooms, library, computer equipment, etc., could have serious consequences.

+ Board Policy PROHIBITS the use of "Wow butter" in all elementary schools due to the risk of possible confusion. We thank all for their cooperation in ensuring the safety of all our children. The complete policy can be viewed at: www.bhncdsb.ca

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

Father Andrew Czarny, Pastor

Andrew Beach, Pastoral Associate

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS

Father John Redmond, Father Andrew Czarny and Mr. Andrew Beach are important members of the St. Leo

so important to the faith journey of our students. They will be guiding our students through the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation, as well as visiting classrooms on a regular basis. We would also like to invite and encourage our parents to join us for our school masses throughout the year. **Our opening prayer liturgy will be Tuesday, September 11 at 9:00 a.m. for K-2 students and 9:30 for 3-8 students in our gym.**

AGENDAS



Every child from JK through to Grade 8 will be utilizing an agenda as a tool of organization. We ask that as a parent, you promote the use of our agendas on a daily basis, by viewing and signing each day's comment box. **Please make a point of reviewing the information that is included on the first eight pages of the agenda.** These pages are a valuable source of information with regards to communication, school safety, busing, our religion program, dress code, special education, web-site references and general "need to know" information. **Please go to SchoolCash online to complete payment for the agendas – payment may be made now. The cost for each agenda is \$6.00.**

NO CASH OR CHEQUES WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE SCHOOL.

ATTENDANCE – SEPTEMBER PROCEDURES+



Good attendance is necessary for proper progress in school. Our students are expected to attend school every day school is in session, unless prevented by personal illness or family emergency. Vacations during the year require a written note to the Principal outlining the expected length of absence. St. Leo Safe Arrival Policy states that an absence from school must be accounted for by **+a telephone call to the school prior to 8:45 am (519) 759-3314.** Attendance is taken daily at 8:45 am and at 1:25 pm. This procedure is followed to ensure the safety of your child. Your cooperation saves numerous daily phone calls by the school. *Students who arrive late in the morning, should report directly to the office for a late slip and then proceed to class.* Please remember to telephone or send a note if:

- Someone other than yourself is to pick up your child
- Your child is to leave early or is to leave the school yard during the day
- You know in advance that your child will be late.

School community. We are very fortunate to have a parish team who are so committed to the spiritual growth of the students of St. Leo. We look forward to having Fr. John, Fr. Andrew and Mr. Beach in the school this year, to help foster the church-home-school connection that is



FRESH FROM THE FARM, HEALTHY FUNDRAISING FOR ONTARIO SCHOOLS

Students raise funds by selling Ontario-grown potatoes, carrots, onions and sweet potatoes. More information to follow.

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT

Our Meet the Staff evening will be held on **Wednesday, September 19th, from 5:00 – 7:00p.m.** You are invited to drop in at any time throughout the evening. This is a great opportunity to meet the staff, students and parents who help make St. Leo such a great school community! This year will be a drop-in format to classrooms, we will not be serving dinner this year.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

A Student Accident Insurance form has been sent home for your consideration. Should your child need an ambulance, damage their teeth or break a bone, this insurance will cover many costs not covered by OHIP or employee group plans. This insurance will provide coverage for school activities as well as activities outside of the school day. Should your child be injured on the basketball court or the soccer field, you will be able to claim many of the expenses associated with their injury if you purchase Student Accident Insurance. All rates are one-time, annual fee and family rates are offered. Please consider purchasing this affordable insurance after reviewing the application form from Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Picture day will be held on **Monday, September 24, 2018** for all students at St. Leo. The retake date will be Tuesday, October 30th.





ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL

St. Leo School is a part of the Board's BYOD program (**B**ring **Y**our **O**wn **D**evice to school).

Details of this program and permission forms to allow use of personal electronic devices will be discussed with students and sent home shortly into the new school year. Until that time, students **MAY NOT** use cellphones or other electronic devices **DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME** without permission from staff.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

For the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of all members of the St. Leo School Community, please remember that, when you are coming to the school during the day, you **MUST** report to the office and receive a visitor's badge. This way the staff and students are aware that the office knows who is in the school and for what reason. If you are here to meet with a staff member, please note that **ALL** meetings should be pre-arranged in order to maximize their effectiveness. Unscheduled or "surprise" meetings (*i.e. at the classroom door*) are not effective, confidential or appropriate.



PA DAY

Friday September 14th is a Professional Development day and there is no school for students. Staff will be celebrating our System Wide Faith Day at Holy Trinity.

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

Our School Board strongly encourages the use of SchoolCash Online for parents to submit payment for school related purchases. We thank those who use this payment method and we as that, for those who are new to our school or who have not yet registered, that you 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.

This will be the ONLY method to remit payment for agendas, school trips, fundraising, and many other school initiatives. If you are having trouble with SchoolCash Online, there is online and toll-free help available.

WE ARE TWEETING!!

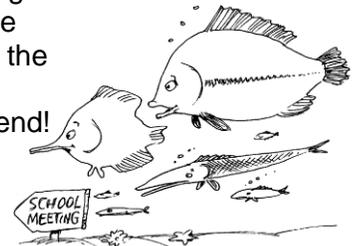
In an effort to keep everyone informed about events in our community, St. Leo's has a Twitter account. You can follow us **@stleocatholic** to keep up with what is happening in our classrooms and special events in our school community.



ST. LEO SCHOOL COUNCIL

The St. Leo School Council is an important component of our school community. All parents are invited to attend our meetings. School Council elections for executive positions will be held this month (September 2017). Forms are available at the office or on our school website. Please have forms in to the office by Sept 19th if you are interested in joining.

The Council meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month in the school library. Everyone is welcome to attend!



PARKING LOT REMINDER & SCHOOL DROP OFF ZONES

For the safety of our students walking into and out of the school yard, we ask that **parents refrain from using the school parking lot when dropping off and picking up students.**

Also, **FIRE ROUTES** are **CLEARLY** marked on either side of the school and **MAY NEVER BE BLOCKED.** We

HOT LUNCHES

We will again be offering lunches throughout the school year, using the Lunch Box Orders online system that was used successfully last year. Participation in this program is completely optional and includes food and beverage options from vendors that are compliant with Ministry nutritional directives. More information will be sent home once we have our menu organized for ordering online.



INDOOR SHOES



While at school, all students are expected to wear a clean pair of shoes when indoors. This practice provides for a cleaner and safer school facility. We recommend that students have running shoes

that can also be worn in the gym as their indoor shoes all year long.

Thank you for your cooperation.



PAWCHA AWARDS

(aka we “caught ya” making great choices)

We are on the lookout for students making great choices that reflect our Gospel values and our Board theme of ‘love tenderly.’ Students “caught” making these choices will be awarded a “Pawcha” notice that identifies what they did and who they are. These Pawchas will be posted on our main bulletin board. Weekly draws, per division, will be made for prizes and to recognize these students. At the end of the month, all student pawchas will be entered into a draw for the “grand prize” of lunch with Mrs. McLaren. Help us support this positive recognition program by asking your child how they served their school today.

have *extremely* limited parking available for staff at St. Leo School and those spots are normally filled prior to 8:15 am. *It is prohibited for anyone to park anywhere on school property other than in designated parking spots.* Please avoid the frustration ... and a possible ticket/tow ... by staying out of the school parking lot even for drop off/pick up/short visits (other than an emergency).

PLEASE DO NOT STOP/PARK IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL DURING THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY. THIS IS A BUS LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE. FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL, PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THIS AREA AND DO NOT BLOCK OR DELAY THE BUSES.



**FOR ALL ST. LEO SCHOOL
FAMILIES**

Stay Connected to St. Leo School!
Subscribe to our Website

All families are encouraged to subscribe to our website. By subscribing, you receive alerts when our newsletter has been posted and when news or updates to our school calendar are posted. We do not send home hard copies of our newsletter (except to new students for the September issue ONLY). You can find all trip forms, order forms, etc., on our website as well.

**You can subscribe by visiting our website at:
www.stleobrantford.ca/**

Scroll down our homepage to the “Subscribe” button in the gold bar, near the bottom of the webpage, and follow the directions.

**Never miss another note or notice from school.
Subscribe TODAY!**