

# WELCOME!

**“We are artists, builders, explorers, inventors”**

Sept. 6, 2018.

Welcome to St. Leo Catholic School and to the Full Time Kindergarten Program! We are so happy that you and your child (ren) are here!

The Theme this year, for the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is, “Hearts on Fire, Journey”, taken from the Gospel of Luke 24:32, The Road to Emmaus. How fitting, as we all begin this new journey together with our Kindergarten students.

My name is Ms. Maureen Griffin, and I have the privilege of being your child’s teacher this year. Along with myself, we have an amazing team of educators working within our classroom to help ensure a successful, happy, and loving environment is provided for all our students. I am thrilled to introduce you to Mrs. Vivian Obili, our Early Childhood Educator, as well as, Mrs. Theresa Mamela, our Educational Assistant. 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.

The following is for your information:

**\*Family Information Sheets-** you have already received your Family Information Sheet. Please check carefully that all information is correct and updated for our files. Please return them to the school as soon as possible.

**\*Allergies/Medical Information-** please make your child’s teacher **aware immediately** of any allergies or medical information that is essential 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 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 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. Thank you for your cooperation!

**\*Agendas-** your child has already received their agenda. This is a very important tool to help facilitate teacher/parent communication. The cost is \$6.00. Please pay using Cash on Line by Sept. 22/18. Thank you!

**\*Cash on Line-** is the only method of paying for items needed throughout the school year; i.e. school trips, Spirit Wear. If you have any questions, please call the school.



**\*Communication Envelopes-** your child has already received their burgundy Communication Envelope. Please return it daily. It is very important for ensuring notes/forms/agendas get home and back to school safely

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

**\*Pick Up/ Drop Off-** our class will enter and exit by the back, side doors of the school. For safety reasons, parents are asked to drop/ retrieve their child outside the door. This helps to control the release of children to the proper caregiver and, relieves congestion/confusion within the hallways. **Please notify the school/teacher ahead of time if your child is being picked up by a different person.** Also, please be aware that identification will be asked for. This is to ensure your child's safety, please be patient with the process. Thank you!

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

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

**\*Go Green-** to further our commitment to the environment, the school is encouraging all parents and caregivers to "Go Green". Please try to send a litter-less lunch, re-useable cutlery, re-useable containers, re-fillable water bottles (we have amazing water re-fill stations within the school), and to use the school website. All school newsletters, notes, permission slips, forms, and calendars, etc.. are available on line. We are trying to cut back on the amount of paper that is sent home, and hopefully save some trees. Please refer to the website for all future notifications and important information. Thank you!

**\*Fresh Grade-** the school will be using "Fresh Grade" for electronic communication and notifications. Please sign up for "Fresh Grade" and receive instant notifications to your phone. More information to follow.

**\*Twitter-** we are on Twitter if you would like to follow the school.

**\*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 8:25 a.m. If your child is going to be absent, or is leaving the school early, please notify the office as soon as possible. Our end of day bell is at 3:05 p.m.

**\*Bell Times:**

8:45- morning bell- school begins

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

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

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-** we will be participating in a "Home Reading" program. More information to follow.

**\*STEM 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 must be returned to the teacher prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**\*Independent Toileting Skills-** 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 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 exploring, creating, and learning. We will be working with paint, glue, food colouring, soil, bingo daubers, etc... many of which can stain clothing. We do attempt to take every precaution available, but 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!

**\*Physical Education/ Health-** this year our class will have gym/health every Day 1 and Day 2. 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 time every Day 1 and Day 2. Please send in a pair of headphones (labelled with his/her name) for your child to use during computer time. They will also be doing their library book exchange at this time as well.

**\*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.

**\*Backpacks-** if possible, it is best if your child has a **full-size (large) backpack**. There are many things going home on a daily/weekly basis, including agendas, communication envelopes, lunch pails, water bottles, completed activities, etc. In the winter we have gloves, hats, and scarves as well.

**\*Donations-** our classroom is a busy place full of artists, builders, explorers, and inventors! We also share everything, both good and bad, unfortunately. Many of our daily consumables deplete very quickly, so we are asking for a few donations to help our class stay both healthy and creative. If possible, would you please help by donating some/any/all of the following:

\*boxes of Kleenex

\*hand soap



\*hand sanitizer

\*disinfecting wipes

\*paper straws

\*plastic forks/spoons/straws

\*dry erase markers

\*empty boxes, cartons, paper towel/toilet rolls, pudding cups, paper plates, dixie cups

\*craft supplies

Thankyou!

**\*Rules/Routines:** It is important to realize that rules and routines are necessary to help keep all the students within our school, safe, happy, and healthy. Please help us by reviewing and reminding your child of proper behaviour expectations. Please review the following:

\* keep their hands off of others, and other people's belongings

\*no rough play

\* listening while others are speaking

\*no interrupting, raising their hand

\*waiting their turn

\*sharing toys and supplies

\*no sharing food

\*using a soft inside voice

\*using walking feet within the school

\* being respectful of the teachers, their friends, and 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 at anytime.

Thank you,

Ms. M. Griffin, Mrs. V. Obili, Mrs. T. Mamela

