



## October 2018 Newsletter

**St. Leo Catholic School**  
233 Memorial Drive  
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-Grade 3 (expanding by one grade each year)

Current Enrolment is 326 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.

### Give Thanks to God

*Dear Lord,*

*Loving God, your creation is so beautiful. This autumn is so beautiful. Thank you for the colourful leaves in our school yard, the crisp air, the harvest of the farms and the excitement of Halloween. As the leaves fall and change, your power and love remain changeless and eternal. May the beauty of this day, and the blessings of this life, glorify Your name, now and always.*

*Amen.*



### From the Principal's Desk

Wow...where did September go? This week marks the beginning of October and Fall is in the air. We continue to be very busy at St. Leo, as we establish our routines and complete our educational plans for the school year.

You have received important procedural information from your classroom teachers and through your child's agenda. Please call us if you ever have any questions regarding our procedures. I also wish to thank you for the prompt return of the Family Information Verification Sheets. The emergency contact information is vital for us to effectively care for your child.

Finally, I want to thank all of the families who attended our Meet the Staff night. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for families socialize, and to meet their child's teacher(s). I hope this evening was enjoyed by all in attendance.

October will be an exciting month as we celebrate Thanksgiving together as a school community, compete in the board soccer tournament, cross country meet and celebrate our first school Mass together at St. Pius X Church. We've had a great start to the school year. Our students are outstanding and I look forward to watching them grow spiritually, academically, and socially this year.

May your Thanksgiving tables be filled with the bounty of God's harvest and be surrounded with the love of your families.

God Bless,

Jennifer McLaren Gibbons  
Principal



## **REPORTING ABSENCE**

Just a reminder that, if your child is going to be absent or late from school, please call the school to notify us. You can leave a message on the office machine 24 hrs a day at **519-759-3314**.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports will be going home on **Friday, November 9th**. There will be an opportunity for parents to sign up for an interview time on **November 15<sup>th</sup>**, in the evening, or the morning of **November 16<sup>th</sup>**, to discuss your child(s) progress. More information and a sign up form for an interview time will be sent home later this month.



**ST. LEO SCHOOL COUNCIL** On behalf of the School Council, we would like to welcome everyone back as we look forward to another great year at St. Leo School. Our executive for the 2018-19 year is: *Co-Chairs* - Lori Martisius and Holly Colaiacovo, *Treasurer* - Lerryn Fennell & , *Secretary* - Kristine Tumm, and *Parent Reps* - Corrie Bradfield and Andrea Pineau. Our next School Council meeting will be held on **Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend! Regular meetings this year will be held on the third MONDAY of the month. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend whenever possible. As always, all parents are invited and encouraged to attend any meetings they can. We look forward to seeing you there!!!

**AGENDAS:** If you have not yet paid \$6 through SchoolCash Online, please do so before October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL**



Our school is a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school. Additional information about how this program works and the contract that is required will be sent home in the next few weeks. Please be sure to read the contract thoroughly before signing as it outlines the proper academic use of electronic devices at school and the consequences for inappropriate/unauthorized use.



Just a reminder that Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day and there will be no school for students.

## **\*SCHOOLCASH**

## **ONLINE**

Our School Board continues to encourage the use of SchoolCash Online for parents to submit payment for school related purchases. All payments this year at St. Leo will be through School Cash Online. For those who have not yet registered please follow these steps:

**Step 1:** Go to this website: <https://bhncdsb.schoolcashonline.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.

**If you require HELP setting up or using SchoolCash Online, please call:**

**1-866-961-1803**

**Don't wait until it's too late and your child misses out.**



## **REMINDER – FOOD ALLERGIES/SAFETY**

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated again ensuring our school is a safe place one for all of our students. This is just a reminder that we have a number of students with **severe and potentially life threatening allergies**. The foods which are a threat to students in our school community are:

- all peanuts and peanut products
- bananas
- all tree nuts
- mustard, sesame
- eggs (in their raw form)
- shellfish

It is the expectation that you refrain from sending 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. **If your child has anaphylaxis and you have not yet notified the school, please contact us immediately.**

## **October is Child Abuse Prevention Month**

We will be participating in **GO PURPLE DAY!!** Children's Aid Societies are working with schools and other organizations across the province to **GO PURPLE** and break the silence that surrounds child abuse. Please wear purple on **October 24<sup>th</sup>** to support this important topic.



## **PICTURE RETAKE DAY**

**Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>** – For all retakes and those who missed the first Picture Day on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

On **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** our school co-ed soccer team will compete in the “AAA” Board soccer tournament at the John Wright Soccer field in Brantford. Thank you to Mme Poulimenos for coaching our team.



## **VOLUNTEER POLICE CHECKS**

Please be advised that the revised 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 Brantford Police Services in order to *Ontarians with Disability Training*. on this training.



the form that needs to be completed and brought to the volunteer in our school. We also require *Accessibility for* Please see the school's website for detailed information

## **HALLOWEEN**



On **Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**, the students from St. Leo School will celebrate Halloween with a variety of activities in the school. Teachers will send home information about class celebrations as the date approaches. Please remember that no weapons (knives, swords, guns, etc.) or masks are permitted.

## **HOT LUNCHES**



Please see the attached letter regarding our Hot Lunch Program. **Our hot lunches are offered Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Fridays.** All orders are available until the Sunday at noon before the week begins.

### **PARISH NEWS**

#### **ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH**

9 Waverly Street,

Brantford, ON N3R 2K2

Ph: 519-753-8439

[www.stpius.ca](http://www.stpius.ca)

*Father Tim Hingston, Pastor*

*Father Andrew Czarny, Pastor*

*Andrew Beach, Pastoral Associate*



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**Please join us for our first school Mass at St. Pius X Church on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**All are welcome.**

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## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

### **Children Not Yet Baptized**

If you have a child you would like to have Baptized, please call the Church Office. Baptisms take place monthly, except during Lent. If your child is over the Age of Reason (around age 7), they will need to go through a special preparation process and will celebrate all three Sacraments of Initiation at once. If you or your child are interested in this program, please contact Andrew Beach at the Church Office as soon as possible. This preparation journey typically begins in mid-November.

### **Confirmation**

Our Confirmation program is open to students in grades 7 and above. Our initial meeting has already taken place, and forms were due by September 28th. If you have missed the registration deadline, please call the Church Office immediately.

### **First Communion/First Reconciliation**

First Communion and First Reconciliation preparation will begin in early December for all students grades 2 and up who have not yet received these sacraments. Our first information meeting will be on Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30pm for you and your child. More details will be sent home at the start of November.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Our Youth Ministry program is open to all young people in grades 6 and above. We normally gather once a month for an activity or trip.

### **Hallowe'en for Hoodies**

Join our Youth Ministry as we participate in our third annual "Hallowe'en for Hoodies" in support of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. We'll be dropping flyers off at local houses on Saturday, October 27th informing people of the collection. On Wednesday, October 31st we'll be going door-to-door collecting hoodies, coats, mitts, scarves, gloves, and other cold-weather gear. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Andrew Beach.

### **Other Upcoming Youth Ministry Dates**

December 8th - Care Package Creation for Spiritual Bouquet project

December 15th - Advent Party

January 13th - Parish Christmas Party

February 8th - Kookies for Kenya

## **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

### **Annual Fall and Christmas Bazaar**

The Catholic Women's League will be holding their annual Bazaar on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 2:00pm in the Church Hall. Come find great deals, or enjoy some delicious foods from the deli or the baked goods table.

### **ST. LEO BIG FIVE RULES**

All students have been introduced to our Big Five Rules. These rules help support a common understanding of behaviour within our school community. We are working to encourage positive and supportive behaviours that foster our Board Theme of 'Love Tenderly.' In addition to our Big Five Rules, individual classes have created additional rules to support the learning environment and have established a plan for rewards and consequences. Mrs. McLaren has visited all classes to discuss their established rules, rewards and consequences. We encourage you to talk to your child about our Big Five Rules and how they help make St. Leo a safe place to learn and play.

1. All our rules will be fair and reasonable and democratically decided upon.
2. Disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated.
3. Hands off. Do not touch anyone else or their belongings without permission.
4. Lots of talking! Talking is necessary for learning! Be respectful and do not interrupt when the teacher or someone else is talking or giving instructions.
5. The principal and all staff will be aware of all the class rules. The principal will support our good behaviour and respond to negative behaviour according to the rules of the classroom and school.

***Please read the following information sheet on HEAD LICE TREATMENT.*** Good information for every household.