



# ST. PIUS X

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2021



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we settle into the Holy Season of Advent, which began on November 28, we prepare for Jesus to enter our lives as the light of the world. Although Jesus is always present in our hearts, we use this special time to reflect on our many blessings and to pray for those who are in need. The school will use daily prayer, virtual Advent Liturgies, and good deeds for the community to foster our faith as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The school community continues with acts of charity by donating to various organizations including the Food Bank and St. Vincent De Paul Society.

On behalf of the St. Pius X School staff, we would like to wish your family a safe, healthy and blessed season!

Sincerely,

Mrs. J Rudyk



## WHEN A STUDENT IS SICK AT SCHOOL

What is the process when a child is sick (exhibiting even one COVID-19 symptom) at school?

It is important that parents/guardians/and staff understand what takes place when a student exhibits **even one** COVID-19 symptom while at school. As a reminder, every student is to complete the [Provincial School and Child Care screening process](#) before leaving for school. **The following process was established by Public Health Ontario** and will be updated as new directives arrive.

As of **Sept. 4, 2021**, symptoms (referred to in the screening process) for students/child care participants include:

- Fever and/or chills
- Cough or barking cough
- Shortness of breath
- Decrease of loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea

If a student reports they are experiencing (or it is brought to a staff member's attention) any COVID-19 symptom, the following process takes place:

1. The symptomatic student is immediately dismissed from school, along with all unvaccinated siblings (from any BHCDSB school) **AND**;
2. All unvaccinated members living in the same household as the symptomatic student are required to self-isolate **and**;
3. All vaccinated members living in the same household as the symptomatic student, who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, are required to self-isolate.

**Symptomatic student and all unvaccinated siblings** (regardless of school location) may not return to school until **ONE** of the following three options has occurred:

- **Symptomatic student has received a negative COVID-19 test result AND**;
- Has not had a fever (without using medications) **and**;
- It has been at least 24 hours since symptoms improved (or 48 hrs if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) **and**;
- Has not been in close physical contact with someone who currently has COVID-19.
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- **OR**
- **Symptomatic student has received an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider AND**;
- Has not had a fever (without using medications) **and**;
- It has been at least 24 hours since symptoms improved (or 48 hrs if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea).
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- **OR**
- **It has been 10 days since symptoms started for the symptomatic student AND they are feeling better AND**;
- Has not had a fever (without using medications) **and**;
- It has been at least 24 hours since symptoms improved (or 48 hrs if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) **and**;
- Has not been in close physical contact with someone who currently has COVID-19.
- As well, **all unvaccinated** members living in the same household must also **self-isolate for 10 days from last contact with symptomatic individual**.

## **COVID-19 Information and Updates:**

A reminder to complete the [COVID-19 Screening](#) each day before coming to school. Thank you for doing your part to help keep everyone in our school community safe and healthy!

Thank you as well for communicating with the school if your child will be absent from school due to illness. A reminder that, under the revised public health protocol, if a student is exhibiting COVID symptoms at school, all unvaccinated siblings are required to be sent home as well.

All families are asked to check their email each day up to and including 6:00 PM to ensure, as per the new process, that your child has not been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19 and ordered to self-isolate by our local public health unit.

For COVID-19 updates and the most recent information, please visit our [Board's COVID-19 page](#).



## **FACE MASKS**

With the colder weather, face masks can sometimes get damp. As a result, we encourage students to bring spare masks in case they need to change them throughout the school day. Masks should fit snugly around the mouth and nose.

Also a reminder to families that face masks **MUST** be worn when accessing the school and the Kindergarten area for pick-up and drop-off. Thank you for your cooperation in helping keep students, staff, and other families safe!

## Kindergarten Registration and Gr. 8 Open House for SJC and ACS

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME  
GRADE 8 STUDENT & PARENT

# OPEN HOUSE JAN 12

 St. John's College  
sjconline.ca/futurestudents

 Assumption College School  
assumptionions.com/futurestudents

## ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JAN 3 - FEB 25  
[catholiceducation.ca](http://catholiceducation.ca)



Kindergarten French Immersion Program Spots Limited

 BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

This year, Christmas break will be from **December 20th to December 31st** and the school is closed during this time. The last day of school for students is **Friday, December 17, 2021** and we will return to school on **Monday, January 3, 2022**.



For safety and efficiency reasons, ST. PIUS X SCHOOL has eliminated Cash & Cheques coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

**NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *GET HELP* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.**

**Step 1: Register**

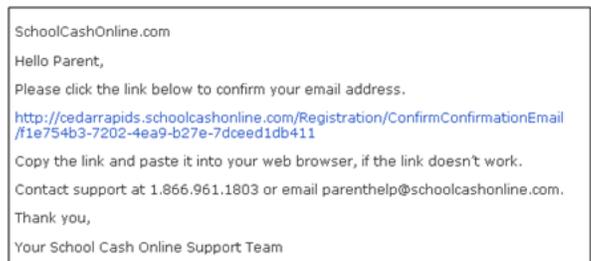
If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://bhncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> and select the **“Get Started Today”** option.

Complete each of the three Registration Steps  
\*For Security Reasons your password, requires **8 characters**, **one uppercase** letter, **one lowercase** letter and a **number**.



**Step 2: Confirmation Email**

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.  
The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



**Step 3: Find Student**

**Note: Student Number is Not Required**

This step will connect your children to your account.

Enter the School Board Name

Enter the School Name

Enter Your Child’s Name & Birth Date

Select **Continue**

On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**

Your child has been added to your account

**Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student**

If you have more children, select **“Add Another Student”** option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select **“View Items For Students”** option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

**Find Student**

**School Information**

School Board Name: School Board 1575  
Looking for a student in a different school board?  

School Name:  

**Student Information**

Do you have the student number?

Student Number  

First Name:  \*

Last Name:  \*

Birth Date:   \*  
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))

## A Message from St. Pius X Church...

### A Message from our Pastoral Team: Christmas @ St Pius Parish

Here at St Pius Parish we're gearing up for a very special Christmas, and we're doing our best to make sure you can stay connected!

Interested in learning about our Christmas in-person or online services?

<https://stpiusbrantford.ca/christmas-2021-details/>

Looking for the link to watch us online (4pm; 6pm; 8pm; and 10pm streamed Masses on Christmas Eve as well as 9am and 11am Masses on Christmas Day)? <https://stpiusbrantford.online.church/>

Want to register to join us in person? <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/christmas-mass-registration/>

Want to get involved in some way? <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/christmas-2021-details/get-involved/>

Questions? [christmas@stpiusbrantford.ca](mailto:christmas@stpiusbrantford.ca)

### **First Eucharist & First Reconciliation**

A reminder to all parents that registration for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist in the spring of 2022 is now available. Head to <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/first-communion/> to find out more or to register.

**The registration deadline is December 17th.** If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 519-753-8439 and speak with Andrew.



## Tips for Keeping Your Family Safe This Holiday Season

The holiday season may be the most wonderful time of the year. It is also a time of year where mishaps and visits to the emergency room may increase, especially for children. Protect your little ones from common holiday dangers by following some of these holiday safety tips:

Make sure your Christmas tree is sturdy. Trees that are not secured properly can fall onto children.

Keep trees away from sources of heat such as electrical outlets, radiators and portable space heaters.

Practice fire safety and have a family emergency plan in the event of a fire.

Hang smaller decorations higher up on the tree. Small decorations may look pretty but can pose a choking hazard for young children.

When buying toys, look for ones that are well-made and age appropriate. Remember to check the Government of Canada's Recalls and Safety Alerts database to see whether any toy has been recalled.

Keep holiday plants out of children's reach. Mistletoe and holly are poisonous and can cause an upset stomach.

Be aware of food safety guidelines to avoid accidental food poisoning over the holiday season.

For more holiday safety tips, visit the injury topics section of Parachute Canada at [www.parachutecanada.org](http://www.parachutecanada.org)



*Merry Christmas to all...*



## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

New Junior and Senior Kindergarten registrations for the 2022 - 2023 school year will start during the month of January. If you know of any families with Kindergarten-aged children who will be attending St. Pius X School next year, please let them know to register! For Junior Kindergarten, children must be 4 years old by December 31, 2022 and for students registering in Senior Kindergarten, they must be 5 years old by December 31, 2022.

### **WHEN CAN I REGISTER MY CHILD?**

Registration for Kindergarten takes place during the month of January at all BHNCDSD elementary schools. Families do have the opportunity to register up to September for Kindergarten, however it greatly assists the school with planning and organizing for the coming year when students are registered early.

### **HOW DO WE REGISTER?**

The Board's Kindergarten registration process is online. In order to complete the online registration there are some documents that you will need to have ready to upload. We recommend either scanning or taking an image of the documents in advance of beginning the registration process. If you are unable to create electronic copies of the documents, you can still complete the online registration process and then provide the original documents to the school to be photocopied at a later date.

### **What documents do I need?**

- Birth certificate or proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent residence status (citizenship documentation, permanent resident card or record of landing).
- Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate or, if your child is not baptized, the Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the parent(s) or guardian(s).
- Proof of home address (a rental/lease agreement, utility bill, proof of purchase, etc.).

### **Where do I go to register?**

- Prepare electronic copies of the required documents and visit [www.catholiceducation.ca](http://www.catholiceducation.ca) to register.

If you have any questions or concerns, please

contact the office at 519-753-6422.



The banner features a blue background with a white arrow pointing down from the text 'ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION' to the dates 'JAN 3 - FEB 25'. Below the text is a row of six diverse children's faces. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Kindergarten French Immersion Program Spots Limited' and 'BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board'.

**ONLINE  
KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION** JAN 3 - FEB 25  
[catholiceducation.ca](http://catholiceducation.ca)

Kindergarten French Immersion Program Spots Limited  BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK  
Catholic District School Board

## **Inclement Weather**

The decision to cancel transportation services and close schools to students shall be made by the school board PRIOR to 6:30 am and will be announced on the designated radio stations, CHCH news, our board website and school Twitter. There are FOUR zones and St. Pius X School is ZONE 4. Please listen to the local news or check the board website to see if our school is closed.

With snowy weather already here, we have had a few questions about how and when the decision to delay or cancel bus transportation is made. Our students' safety comes first. Please know that all transportation decisions are made for individual areas and routes across Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk counties. Decisions are not made from a Brantford office, but rather by the Manager of Transportation Services Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk with input from the individual bus operators and others located in your immediate area. Those observations, together with your municipal information and weather forecast help make the decision to run, delay or cancel individual routes and/or zones across the district.

We understand that weather and road conditions are different across our large geographic area and Student Transportation Services does everything possible to make timely decisions that are in the interest of safety for all.

Please remember to always rely on [www.stsbhn.ca](http://www.stsbhn.ca) and your local radio station for transportation information throughout the school year.



## **COLD-WEATHER INFORMATION**

Recesses will be outdoors unless outdoor temperatures fall below -20°C (including windchill), then, in accordance with Board policy & guidelines, students will have indoor recess. Please ensure that your child(ren) have appropriate clothing to enjoy our Canadian winter! Students should come to school with boots, hats, mittens/gloves and proper outerwear, such as snowpants and a winter jacket. We also encourage parents to send an extra pair of socks, pants and mittens/gloves, which can be kept in your child(ren)'s backpack or cubby, in case they get wet during outdoor recess. Please remember to label your child(ren)'s belongings so if they are misplaced, they can be returned to their rightful owner!

Also, a reminder that students who are not well enough to play outdoors during nutritional breaks should remain at home until they feel well enough to participate in a full school day.

## **HEAD LICE**

Head lice can be a common problem, particularly among children aged 4-12, and especially this time of year with winter coats, toques, etc. Head lice is not an indicator of cleanliness and are spread from one person to another when there is close head-to-head contact or when items that have touched the hair of someone who has lice are shared.

For information on what to look for, preventative measures, and treatment, please visit the Brant County Health Unit site at [www.bchu.org](http://www.bchu.org). As per Board policy, students with head lice are not permitted to return to school until all lice and nits have been removed. That is why it is important to be vigilant in checking your child(ren)'s hair regularly.



## **Strong Start Reading Volunteers Needed**

Strong Start® Charitable Organization offers a literacy program called *Letters, Sounds and Words*™, which has been specifically designed to help young children who need extra practice when learning essential early reading skills. To learn more about Strong Start, please visit their [website](#).

### **The *Letters, Sounds and Words* program at our school**

Strong Start's *Letters, Sounds and Words* program is a fun and engaging way for community members to help young children acquire the essential literacy skills they need to be confident and successful learners. This 10-week program targets children in Senior Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 with additional supports in their early reading skills. Children are matched with trained community volunteers who come into our school to work one-on-one with them, playing carefully designed games and activities. The program is designed in 4 strands to help children learn the names of letters, a sound each letter represents, how to recognize words by sight and how to build a word using the sounds of its letters. Classroom teachers select which children would most benefit from this program, as well as the strands in which they should be enrolled.

### **As a Strong Start volunteer, you will:**

- Attend two, 2-hour training sessions (currently being offered online due to COVID)
- Work one-on-one with a child in SK, Grade 1 or 2 in our school
- Play games to develop the child's literacy skills (all games and materials are provided)
- Make a minimum time commitment of 30 minutes/week for 10 weeks

### **How you can get involved at Strong Start at our school**

You can make a difference! Volunteer and help a young child learn to read at our school. Contact our school's Strong Start Site Coordinator, Ms. DeCloedt, or the office if interested.

## Parking Lot Reminders

Student drop-off and pick-up times continue to be very busy and congested.

Student safety is of great concern to us, and therefore we request that you please adhere to the following procedures for traffic flow in the parking lot:

- \* There is **no stopping** in the Fire Lanes.
- \* There is **no parking** in the driveway/lane ways/ “Kiss and Drop-Off” area.
- \* We invite you to drive in and follow the laneway all the way around to the far side where you can stop and allow your child(ren) to exit your vehicle safely onto the sidewalk (“Kiss and Drop-Off”).
- \* There is **no stopping and getting out of your vehicle in the “Kiss and Drop-Off” laneway** during our entry and dismissal times (8:50 - 9:10 & 3:10 - 3:30). **PLEASE DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR HERE.**
- \* Parking is available at the church, on the road in front of the church, or on Waverly St.

Signs have been posted throughout the parking lot to help with these procedures.

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

