



# ST. PIUS X

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## FALL NEWS 2020



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Titan Families,

I sincerely hope you are all safe and healthy! March 13th seems like yesterday but also a lifetime ago. A lot has changed since the school closure, and school does not look the same as it did when we were last together, but what will not change is our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment at St. Pius School! This is an unprecedented time for all of us and we know that everyone is doing their best under the circumstances. It will take all of us working together to ensure the safety of our Titans. We will work diligently in supporting all students and families in adjusting to the new guidelines that we will follow at school.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our returning families as well as those who are new to our school community—St. Pius School is truly a great place to learn, teach, and grow! For those who may opt virtual learning, I know that it is not an easy decision but please be assured that our doors are open for when you are ready to return.

We promise to nurture and care for your children while challenging them with rich learning experiences and allowing them to develop to their highest potential. We are excited that we can, once again, come together to learn, pray, grow and play!

On behalf of the staff, we look forward to another awesome year. Together, we've got this!

Have a great year!

*Jennifer Rudyk*



### SAVE A TREE

**Avoid missing crucial information. Sign up at [www.stpiusxbrantford.ca](http://www.stpiusxbrantford.ca) and receive all information from our website. You will receive an alert when we update information.**

**Go to "Register Now"**



**Follow Us On Twitter:**

@piustitans

Or put the following link in your browser and you too can follow us! Make it a favourite!

<https://twitter.com/piustitans>

### School Bell Times

Yard Supervision Begins	8:55 am
Instructional Block	9:10 - 10:50 am
First Nutrition Break	10:50 - 11:30 am
Instructional Block	11:30 - 1:10 pm
Second Nutrition Break	1:10 - 1:50 pm
Instructional Block	1:50 - 3:30 pm
Dismissal	3:30 pm

### Outdoor Supervision

There is no supervision outside before 8:55 am and after 3:30 pm, with the exception of bus supervision.

Kindergarten students will go directly into their play area in the morning, under the supervision of staff.

All students are expected to leave promptly at end of day dismissal and avoid congregating on school property.



### Monthly Newsletters

In an effort to be environmentally responsible, and stewards for God's creation, all monthly school newsletters will be posted online to our school's website ([www.stpiusxbrantford.ca](http://www.stpiusxbrantford.ca)). If you haven't done so already, you can sign up for email notifications so that you are alerted when upcoming events and important information/updates are posted.

## 2019 - 2020 Staff

Kindergarten 1	Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Sagodi (ECE)	Gr. 6/7	Mr. Senia
Kindergarten 2	Ms. Lemmon, Ms. Calhoun/Ms. Coleman (ECE)	Gr. 7	Mrs. Osborne
Gr. 1	Mrs. Staley	Gr. 8	Mr. Melski
Gr. 1/2	Miss Jeffery	FSL	Madame Vieira
Gr. 2	Miss Roswell	FSL	TBD
Gr. 3	Ms. Bennett	SERT	Mrs. Fraser
Gr. 3/4	Mrs. Murray	SERT	Miss Hingston
Gr. 4/5	Mrs. Ferraccioli	Library	Miss Hughes
Gr. 5/6	Mrs. Rocchi	Prep	Mr. McCormick
Custodians		Mrs. Stapledon, Mr. Blower, Ms. Quintanilla	

### **Support Staff:**

Mrs. Tomassetti-Bortolotto, Mrs. Furtado, Mrs. Bond, Miss Wanklin, Miss Heron, Mrs. Wood,  
Mr. Fotheringham, Miss Walton, Mrs. Nyenhuis, Mrs. Enyedi

Secretary: Mrs. Brzozowski

Principal: Mrs. Rudyk

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

St. Pius X School upholds a daily safe arrival procedure to ensure the safe arrival of your child(ren). School starts at 9:10 am every morning. If for any reason your child(ren) will be late or absent, please call the school at **519-753-6422** before 9:00 am to report this information. The school has an answering machine so you may call in the evening and leave a message as well. If a child's absence is unexplained, we will need to call your home, work or emergency contact number to ensure that your child is safe. Attendance is taken twice daily by 9:25 am and 2:05 pm.

We encourage families to be respectful of the start time as there is a direct correlation between attendance and academic achievement. Students who are late not only miss critical learning, often in Language and Math, but also disrupt the learning of others with their arrival. **Late students must report to the office before going to class.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Please remember to phone the office if:

- Someone other than yourself is to pick up your child(ren)
- Your child is to leave early or is to leave the school during the day
- Your child will knowingly be late.
- There is a change in transportation (e.g. child is being picked up instead of taking the bus)
- Your child(ren) will be away for an extended absence or family vacation.



\*\*\* **We kindly request that you do not text your child throughout the day.** We will never deny a student access to a phone to call home (if needed), or pass along a message for you when you call the office. This helps us to ensure that all of our students are safe, as well as monitoring who is coming and going from the building. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

## STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY

To maintain safety in our school, all exterior doors are locked during school hours. A security camera system is in place to monitor the doors as well. In the interest of student safety, all visitors, including parents, are requested to report to the office and sign in upon arrival and to obtain a visitor tag. **For safety reasons, parents and volunteers are asked to refrain from going directly to the classrooms and wandering in the hallways.**

If you are picking up your child at a time other than regular dismissal time, he/she will be called to the office/front foyer to meet you. **Parents and caregivers are not to go to the schoolyard during school hours to pick up children as we would have no record of the child leaving. We ask that you refrain from waiting in the office, front foyer and hallways at dismissal as once again we need to monitor who is coming in and out of the school, and dismissal time can be very congested.**

Parents/caregivers picking up children from Kindergarten are asked to please wait for your child by the gate at the Kindergarten area. It is our protocol that our Kindergarten students will be given to you directly by hand. All other children can be picked up at the Primary doors on the playground.

Thank you for your support in keeping all of our children safe!

### ANAPHYLAXIS ALLERGY ALERT

St. Pius X School is a Peanut/Tree Nut Safe School. We have several students with severe risk allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. As a Catholic School community, and in accordance with Sabrina's Law (2005), we ask your cooperation in helping us ensure that all students are in a safe and healthy environment by reading all labels and packing lunches and snacks that are free of these items. This is a life-saving measure. If other caregivers prepare your child(ren)'s lunches and snacks, please share this information with them. In addition to peanut and tree nut allergies, we have students who have life-threatening allergies to other foods such as **seafood and sesame**. Please avoid sending these foods in lunches.

Please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (e.g., WOW Butter, etc.) is not permitted. The reasoning behind this is that these substitutes look and smell like peanut butter, which makes it difficult for staff to monitor as well as possibly causing anxiety for students and staff with a severe allergy.

While it is impossible to create a risk-free environment, students, parents and staff can all take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. If your child has a life threatening allergy, please inform the school (if you have not already done so) as a Plan of Care **MUST** be completed as soon as possible. If you require an Anaphylaxis form, please contact the office. Please provide 2 up-to-date Epi Pens, clearly marked with the student's name and known allergy - 1 for the student to carry, and 1 for the office.

### ASTHMA

In 2015, Ryan's Law was passed in the Ontario Legislature. This is an important step in supporting the well-being and safety of students with asthma in our schools.

If your child has asthma, please advise the office ASAP. Documentation is required as to your child's condition (i.e. triggers), symptoms and medication. This helps us put a plan in place to keep our students safe!

### DIABETES & EPILEPSY

The safety and well-being of the children in our care is of the utmost importance. Along with Anaphylactic reactions and Asthma, we also want to be sure that we have plans in place for students who have diabetes and epilepsy. If your child has either of these conditions and you have not yet completed the required forms, please contact the school immediately to provide the necessary information and receive a copy of the required forms. If at any time your child's medical condition changes, please notify the office immediately.

### MEDICATION

If for any reason your child needs to take medication at school, a medical form needs to be completed by the prescribing physician. The medication will be kept in the office and given to the student at the appropriate time of day. Please **DO NOT** send medication to school with your child to be self-administered. Forms can be obtained from the office or on the Board's website [www.bhncdsb.ca](http://www.bhncdsb.ca) (under Policy No. 200.19). If your child requires the administration of non-prescription medication at times (i.e. Tylenol, Benadryl, etc.), please contact Mrs. Rudyk at the office.

**PLEASE**



**NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS**



## **“Hearts on Fire — TRANSFORM”**

**(Luke 24:32)**

**Our Board’s three-year spiritual theme is “Hearts on Fire” taken from “The Road to Emmaus” (Luke 24:32), with the focus for Year 3 being “TRANSFORM”.**

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Catholic School Councils are advisory bodies involved in the educational decision-making process by providing advice to the school principal and to the Board, on school-related matters as requested. As well, they assist in planning events and fundraisers, and purchasing resources for the students. School Councils place the overall interest of the school and the students first and strive for the continued promotion throughout our Catholic education system. Council meetings are open meetings and all parents are welcome to attend.

St. Pius X School has a hard working, dedicated and dynamic School Council...and WE WANT YOU! We are always looking for individuals in the school community that would be willing to participate and share their talents with the school community. If you are interested in volunteering your services, please call the school. Joining Council is one way of being an active participant in Catholic Education and being involved in all the new and exciting things taking place at our school.

See you there!

## **BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) / ELECTRONICS**

St. Pius X School will continue to be a BYOD school for Gr. 6 - 8 students. It is not necessary for your child to have a phone at school, but the BYOD initiative allows students to bring their personally owned devices into the classroom, **UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THEIR TEACHER**, to enhance their learning experiences. Participation in this program is NOT mandatory. School Board policy *Digital Citizenship and Bring Your Own Device AP 600.34* outlines the responsibilities of all stakeholders (i.e., students, staff, and parents). Classrooms have created their own contracts/expectations for students as well. **Please be aware that students ARE NOT permitted to use their phones in the washroom/changeroom or during recess (inside and outside).** Ultimately, the goal is to teach students responsibility and citizenship for using their devices in a socially responsible manner that reflects the values of our faith.



### **Parking Lot**

As you can imagine, student drop-off and pick-up times are very busy.

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.
- \* In the morning, 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" area** 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!**

**\*\*\*THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO US.**

**IF THESE PROCEDURES ARE NOT FOLLOWED, THE PARKING LOT WILL NEED TO BE CLOSED.\*\*\***

## Socktober

As the weather begins to turn cold, our school Social Justice Team will be collecting items which help keep us warm, and donating them to various organizations (e.g. St. Vincent de Paul). During this month, we will be participating in SOCKtober. We will be collecting NEW socks, gloves/mittens, hats and scarves. We welcome any size and colour. There will be a collection bin located in the front foyer of the school by the office. We will be collecting items from Oct. 5th to Nov. 5th.

Thank you for supporting our Social Justice Team and those in need.

To kick off Socktober, we will be having "Crazy Sock Day" on Mon., Oct. 5. Students are invited to wear crazy, colourful and fun socks to help raise awareness of this worthwhile initiative.



## We Give Thanks!

Gracious God, you sustain our living in every way, from the air we breathe and the food we eat; to the beauty and wonder of all of Creation; to the life-giving relationships we have with each other. May we express our thanks for all of these blessings through our willingness to serve and share with each other. Amen.

We ask our Lord for His blessing during this season of Thanksgiving and give thanks for all that He has provided for us and offered to us. Here at St. Pius X School, we are thankful for:

- The opportunity to return to school to be with our Titan friends and families
- Students arriving to school happy and healthy
- Our relationship with Fr. John, and Andrew from St. Pius X Church
- Our students who try hard every day to follow our "TITAN" rules!

On behalf of the staff, I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!



## **HALLOWE'EN**

On Thursday, October 29th, students and staff will have the opportunity to dress in black and orange for the day.

On Friday, October 30th, students and staff will have the opportunity to wear Halloween costumes. The day is meant to provide a safe and fun experience for everyone, therefore costumes should reflect our Catholic values and beliefs and not reflect violence, excessive gore, blood or anything inappropriate or derogatory. For safety reasons, props such as guns, knives, swords or any "look alike" weapons are NOT permitted. Students in Gr. 3/4 - 8 will still be required to wear COVID masks, and these masks continue to be recommended for students in JK - Gr. 3.

In keeping with the COVID safety protocols set out by the Board and the Public Health Unit, students will not be permitted to bring in treats (candy, cupcakes, popcorn, etc.) to share with their classmates. If you are sending in Halloween treats as snacks in your child's lunch, please ensure they are peanut/tree nut, and sesame seed safe.

Halloween will look a bit different at school this year but we will make sure that it is fun for all of our Titan ghouls and goblins!



### **Coming Up...**

**Crazy Sock Day - Mon., Oct. 5**

**Spirit Wear Day - Wed., Oct. 14**

**"Dress Purple" Day - Tues., Oct. 27**

**Black and Orange Day - Thur., Oct. 29**

**Halloween Costume Day - Fri., Oct. 30**