



ST. PIUS X

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



FALL NEWS 2021



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Titan Families,

As we move into the autumn season, we bear witness to some of God's tangible handiwork with the transformation of trees turning into glorious shades of colour. In this season of Thanksgiving, I wish to extend to all of you a heartfelt thank you for entrusting your most precious gifts to us - your children. I am thankful that we can once again see their smiling eyes, hear their laughter, and witness their joy and their bright minds full of wonder and learning! I am also extremely thankful for the wonderful staff here at St. Pius School. They continue go above and beyond to provide a safe, secure and loving environment, rooted in our faith for your children, not to mention a top-quality education! Thank you to our school community as well for your continued support and encouragement as we navigate the start-up of a new school year. Together, we can continue to ensure the safety of all in our St. Pius community!

Thank you to all who have returned their package of verification forms to us to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information on record. This is especially important in the event we need to contact you to pick up your child. Please ensure you have indicated to us your preferred email and your phone number as we use this information for our primary means of communication. If either of these change throughout the year, please let the office know.

On behalf of the staff, we look forward to another awesome year. We are better together!

Have a great year!

Jennifer Rudyk



SAVE A TREE

Avoid missing crucial information. Sign up at 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.



School Newsletters

In an effort to be environmentally responsible, and stewards for God's creation, all school newsletters will be posted online to our school's website (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.

2021 - 2022 Staff

Kindergarten 1	Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Sagodi (ECE)	Gr. 6/7	Mrs. Lombardo
Kindergarten 2	Ms. DeCloedt, Ms. Calhoun (ECE)	Gr. 7	Mrs. Whalen
Kindergarten 3	Mrs. D'Andrea	Gr. 8	Mr. Melski
Gr. 1	Mrs. Staley	FSL	Monsieur Gouthro
Gr. 1/2	Mrs. Gilbertson	FSL	Madame Vieira
Gr. 2/3	Miss Roswell	Prep	Miss Zorzi
Gr. 3	Ms. Bennett	SERT	Mrs. Fraser
Gr. 4	Mrs. Murray	SERT	Mrs. De Dominicis
Gr. 5	Mrs. Ferraccioli	Custodian	Mr. Antunes
Gr. 6	Mrs. Rocchi	Librarian	Miss Kazzim/Miss Hughes/Mrs. Burns

Support Staff:

Mrs. Tomassetti-Bortolotto, Mrs. Furtado, Mrs. Bond, Miss Wanklin, Miss Heron, Mrs. Wood,
Mr. Fotheringham, 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. **In keeping with COVID protocols, appointments are required. 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. Gr. 1 - 3 students can be picked up at their primary classroom windows.

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 in September. Forms were sent home in June, but if your require a new 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 (under Policy No. 200.19). If your child requires the administration of non-prescription medication at times

PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**

2021-22 Board Spiritual Theme

“Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)



This year, our Pastoral Theme is entitled, Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together. Our focus is aligned with the OCSTA Catholic Education Week Theme. At BHNCD SB, we are a dedicated, faith-filled, Catholic education community who are stronger together. There are five key sub-themes we will explore throughout the year.

Rediscover. “I have found the coin that I lost.” Lk.15:9b

Rebuild. “Rebuild the house of the Lord.” Ez. 1:3

Restore. “The God of all grace will restore, support, strengthen and establish you.” 1 Pt. 5:10.

Renew. “The Lord your God.... Will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.”

Rejoice. “Be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things.” Joel 2:21

Follow **#bhnRebuildRestoreRenew** on social media.

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.***

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Did you know that St. Pius X School offers the convenience of Online Payments to parents? School Cash Online is an online payment service used by all of the schools throughout our Board.



For SAFETY and Efficiency reasons, we do not want cash & cheques coming into the school. We will be posting events online for purchase (e.g., fundraisers, hot lunches, field trips, etc.) It's easy to register, just follow the steps below.

Here's how to register:

Step 1: Please go to:

<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.

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. Andrew, 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 28th, students and staff will have the opportunity to dress in black and orange for the day.

On Friday, October 29th, students and staff will have the opportunity to wear Hallowe'en 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 will still be required to wear COVID masks.

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.

Hallowe'en will look a bit different at school this year but we will do our best to make sure that it is still fun for everyone...stay tuned for more info on our Family Pumpkin Contest!



Coming Up...

Krispy Kreme Orders due - Fri., Oct. 1

P.A. Day - Fri., Oct. 8

Picture Day - Wed., Oct. 13

Krispy Kreme Pick-up Day - Wed., Oct. 13

Spirit Wear Day - Thur., Oct. 14

"Dress Purple" Day - Wed., Oct. 27

Black and Orange Day - Thur., Oct. 28

Hallowe'en Costume Day - Fri., Oct. 29

Family Pumpkin Contest - Fri., Oct. 29