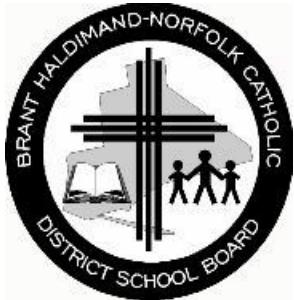




St. Patrick School News



November 2020

ZONE 4

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Thank you for your continued cooperation with everything Covid related. All of the children continue to wear masks, which is our best defense against spreading or catching Covid-19. Students continue to practice hand-sanitization and hand-washing frequently through-out the day. The custodian continues to do his heightened cleaning routine. Parents are keeping children home from school if they are not feeling well and are quick to pick up their child if someone starts to feel unwell at school. And it all seems to be working so far! Thank you.

The EAs and I are working on directing traffic during the morning drop-off. Kindergarten parents are doing well parking in the large parking lot and walking their child to the Kindergarten area. Everyone else, please use the circular drive-way to "Kiss and Drop-off" your child. Please go as far down the circular driveway as possible to allow cars to pull up behind you. And please have your child exit your vehicle on the right side of the car onto the sidewalk. We do have a couple of parents with disabled persons parking access that use the marked parking spots near the board office. If this is you, please display your sign in the front window of your car.

This month we will be starting pizza days and Lunchbox food orders. Please look on-line for the order forms. Orders are done through School Cash Online. The snack program is starting on November 4th. Protocols are in place to minimize the handling of food containers before it reaches your child.

Progress Reports go home on Friday November 6th. They will be coming home in paper format. Parent-Teacher interviews will take place by telephone or on TEAMS on the evening of Thursday, November 12 and the morning of Friday, November 13th. Mrs. Bennett has already posted the Interview letter on our website and an automatic school message has been sent out to all parents. You need to e-mail her back at gbenett@bhncdsb.ca with the date and time you are available for the teacher to give you a call. Please note that the number may appear as "blocked" when you get the call. Please pick up the phone, because it is most likely the teacher calling. Your interview time will be sent home with the Progress Report.

Thanks,

Dr. Petruka

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.



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BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT

Vision and Dental Screenings

Please be aware that the Brant County Health Unit has cancelled all Vision and Dental Screenings for the remainder of 2020. We will wait for further information regarding 2021.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will go home on Friday, Nov. 6th. All families are encouraged to register for an interview time to discuss their child(ren)'s progress with the classroom teacher. If you are not available for an interview on Thursday Nov. 12th (pm) or Friday Nov. 13th (am), please contact your child's teacher to arrange another time.

Please return your signed portion in the original report card envelope so that it can be used for the remaining report cards of this school year.

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST WINNERS

Thank you to all the families that participated in our annual pumpkin carving contest. This year we had **many families participate!** All the pumpkins looked fantastic.

Congratulations to the families who won in the following categories:

Funniest: **Semiwolos family**

Scariest: **Hughes family**

Most Creative: **McLean family**

Thank you to everyone for making this Halloween an enjoyable day!

SNACK PROGRAM NEWS

The snack program is starting Nov. 4th. It will be running on Monday and Wednesday to start, and Thursday will be added a little later. Thank you to Mrs. Hope, Mrs. Perrodou, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Gudgeon and Mrs. Palombi for running this program for us.

(Please note, the volunteers will not have any contact with students and will only work in the kitchen to help prepare snacks when needed.) New Covid-conscious safe food handling guidelines have been put into place.



BRANT FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LUNCH PROGRAMS—Optional

LUNCHBOXORDERS—Tuesdays

Beginning Tuesday, November 3rd you have the option of ordering a lunch for your child. There will be a rotation of the following vendors: Swiss Chalet, Pita Pit and La Bottega. Ordering is easy and online. Please check out the school website for information on how to register.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON—Dec. 15th

Due to COVID this year's Christmas Luncheon will be different from past years.

As an option to our regular Tuesday Lunchbox Orders, there will be a Festive Dinner available from Swiss Chalet to purchase.

PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA — Thursdays

Our first pizza day will be Thursday, November 5th. Orders for December and January will be posted soon so if you have not yet registered for School Cash Online (SCO), please do so as this is where you can order and get notifications of items posted in SCO.

IN LIEU OF FOOD DRIVE

St. Patrick 's school community has shown that in tough times such as COVID, kindness and generosity shines through!

With donations submitted through School Cash Online, we are able to send a cheque to St. Vincent de Paul in the amount of \$193.00

THANK YOU for helping those less fortunate during these times.



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

It's been an unusual year, that's for sure. We know that your family has faced many disruptions - changes to school schedules, learning from home, the adoption of face coverings, and perhaps even layoffs and job losses. The world is not what it was when we celebrated Halloween last year. Please know that we have been praying for your family in this trying time, and for all those involved in our school system. If there is some way that you'd like us to pray for you in a special way, please get in touch and let us know. There's a link to make a prayer request on our website, or just give us a call. We have a dedicated team of nearly 30 individuals who bring these prayer requests to God on a daily basis, and we'd love to pray for you.

In the middle of September, while many of you were getting into the swing of a return to school, we were already having another conversation at the church - what will Christmas look like? We know that for you, as for us, Christmas is one of the most special times of year. There's no doubt that with the pandemic raging on, Christmas will be different this year. We excitedly welcomed nearly 900 people to our 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass last year, and still had four more well-attended Masses. With physical distancing requirements, we'll be lucky to fit 900 into the church across all five Masses this year. As a result, while we'll be happy to welcome those who would like to join us, we'd also like to encourage you to consider joining us in another format - online, from home. You'll hear a lot more about this in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, we'd love you to participate in helping us keep Christmas special. One way you can help? If you have a picture from the past year of your engagement with the Parish (a Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, attendance at an event, etc.) and you'd be willing to share it publicly, pass it along! We'll be including a picture slideshow of the past year as part of our online program for Christmas Eve. You can forward any pictures to pastoralassociate@stpiusbrantford.ca

First Eucharist & First Reconciliation

A reminder to all parents that registration for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist in the spring of 2021 is now available. Head to <https://stpiusbrantford.ca/first-communion/> to find out more or to register. If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 519-753-8439 and speak with Andrew.

Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry Program for young people in grades 6 and above has been on hold since the middle of March. However, we have a special project in mind for Christmas. If you're interested in more information, please contact Andrew at 519-753-8439 or email pastoralassociate@stpiusbrantford.ca.

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation began approximately a week ago, and we're excited that nearly 60 young people have chosen to move forward with receiving this Sacrament despite the pandemic. Please pray for them - and our leadership team! - as we navigate this complicated preparation process together. We are blessed to have these young people seeking the Lord's good gifts!

Children Not Yet Baptized

If you have a child you would like to have Baptized, please call the Church Office at 519-753-8439. 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 your child is interested in this program, please contact Andrew at the Church Office as soon as possible. This preparation journey is scheduled to begin at the end of November.

CONFIRMATION 2020-2021

Confirmation preparation just started at St. Pius X Church. It is not too late to join but you need to call Andrew Beach at St. Pius X Church, 519-753-8439, to register.

All sessions are done on Zoom this year.

STRONG START VOLUNTEERS

Currently, since volunteers who work one-on-one with students are not yet allowed in schools, Strong Start's *Letters, Sounds and Words* program is on hold as per our school board's decision. We are looking at a possible January start of this valuable program in our school. In anticipation of the program starting in January, Strong Start is offering Volunteer Coach training right now, both in-person and on-line. Participants must register for the training. Here is a link to all the times and dates to share with your school community or anyone who you think would be interested in becoming a Strong Start volunteer in our school:

<https://www.strongstart.ca/programs/letters-sounds-and-words/training/>

Thank you for your consideration and continued support for the Strong Start program.

If you have any inquiries regarding Strong Start at this time, you can contact

Ruth Mills at:

519-743-9578 ext.106

519-761-8459 (cell)
www.strongstart.ca

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER...

- November 3 - Hot Lunches begin
- November 4 - Snack Program begins
- November 5 - Gr. 7/8 Immunizations
- November 6 - Progress Reports go home
- November 6 - Virtual School admit or demit deadline—4:30 pm
- November 11 - Remembrance Day
- November 13 - P.A. Day (no school)
- November 12 - Parent-Teacher Phone/TEAMS Interviews (3:30-5:00 & 6:00-7:30)
- November 13 - Parent-Teacher Phone/TEAMS Interviews (9:00-12:00 only)

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- December 15 - Christmas Lunch
- December 18 - Last school day for 2020!

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January 4, 2021! Welcome Back to School