



St. Patrick School News



October 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Thank you for your continued cooperation and vigilance this past month.

I am happy to say that all students arrive at school with a mask, which is our #1 defense against Covid-19 at this time in addition to social distancing and hand washing/sanitization.

In class, our students in grades 3/4 to 8 are wearing their masks full-time with few complaints or reminders needed. Although masks are not mandatory in K to grade 2/3, the majority of children are choosing to wear a mask in class full-time however sometimes they take them off or wear them improperly (not covering their nose). Please talk to your child about your expectations and how to wear a mask properly (see info on following page).

Most of the time, children in grades 1–8 are wearing a mask when using the washroom and are respecting the number of students limited in the washroom at a time without reminders.

At recess, all children are allowed to take their mask off, however, since many children have difficulty maintaining a 2 meter social distance while playing, students are reminded that they can choose to wear a mask outside when social distancing is challenging for them. More lines and games have been painted on the playground to give children additional activities to do during recess. Every day, each class has a pre-determined zone in which their cohort (grade) plays. Each class rotates through the different play areas throughout the week.

During eating time, of course masks need to come off. Children are remaining seated and right now are enjoying watching a video or listening to relaxing music while eating. Remaining as socially distant as possible in the seating arrangement determined by the teacher and refraining from boisterous conversation is prudent (since it is the inevitable spray or mist from talking through which the virus is believed to spread.)

Teachers and many of our school families appreciate the efforts being made to wear a mask since masks help to keep all of us (and our extended families) safe. Thankfully, we are getting used to wearing a mask and sometimes don't even remember we have one on. All staff members wear a mask and shield while teaching to protect the children and themselves.

Children are using hand sanitizer upon entering in the morning and after outdoor play times. Teachers have also scheduled handwashing during class time.

The clear plexiglass collaborative table dividers have arrived and each classroom will have at least one collaborative table available to them for 4 children to work together. We have also put a clear plexiglass divider on each table in the grade 7/8 room for added protection. We have ordered plexiglass dividers for the kindergarten tables but they haven't arrived yet.

Thank you for staying off the playground (unless you have a kindergarten student) and not hanging around and visiting with each other during drop-off and dismissal times.

Thank you for doing the self-assessment every day and keeping your children at home if they are not feeling well until they are 24 hours symptom free.

Thank you for coming to get children who become ill at school quickly.

Thank you following the directives of the health authorities if your child has more than one of the symptoms related to Covid-19 (see list on the next page) by seeing your family doctor, getting a Covid assessment, or self-isolating for 14 days.

I know this is not easy, but it is helping. If we all do our part, we will be healthier for it.
Sincerely,
Dr. Petruka

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Although it is hard to see, if you look closely you can see the new clear plexiglass collaborative table dividers. Each classroom has at least one.

WEARING MASKS – DO IT RIGHT

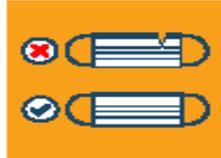


The **disposable surgical mask** is usually worn by sick people to protect others from cough, sneeze and other body fluid droplets. Surgical masks should be thrown away each day or after each visit to health care providers. Wear a **cloth mask** when going out in public during social distancing, to protect yourself and others from asymptomatic carriers.

DONNING OR PUTTING ON THE MASK



Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Dry your hands with a clean paper towel and throw the paper towel away.



Check surgical masks for any defects and throw away defective masks.



Make sure mask exterior faces out.



Place mask on your face. If mask has a bendable edge, put it on your nose.



Put one loop around each ear or tie the upper ties behind your head with a bow.



Pinch the bendable top edge of the mask around the bridge of your nose. Tie the lower ties behind your head with a bow.



Make sure the mask covers your nose and mouth so that the bottom edge is under your chin.



Wash your hands.

DOFFING OR REMOVING THE MASK



Wash your hands before removing the mask.



Don't touch the part of the mask covering the nose and mouth, it may be contaminated.



Untie or remove the ear loops and remove the mask by the straps.



Cloth masks can be removed and reused during the day. Wash hands, remove mask by straps, hang or place it away from others.



Throw surgical masks away after intended use (at hospital/clinic). Wash cloth masks in a laundry bag in hot water, & fully dry on medium/high heat.



Wash your hands.

Donning and doffing properly helps prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please do your part and help keep everyone safe.



Assess your child DAILY for SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



Complete this self-assessment DAILY before sending your child to childcare or school settings.

Before sending your child to childcare or school settings, assess your child for NEW, WORSENING or UNEXPLAINED symptoms related to COVID-19. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, please DO NOT send your child to childcare or school and contact your health care provider.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:



FEVER
(temperature of 37.8°C or greater)

Yes No



NEW OR WORSENING COUGH

Yes No



SHORTNESS OF BREATH

Yes No



SORE THROAT OR DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING

Yes No



ALTERED SMELL OR TASTE

Yes No



NAUSEA/VOMITING, DIARRHEA, ABDOMINAL PAIN

Yes No



RUNNY NOSE, OR NASAL CONGESTION
(unrelated to seasonal allergies, post nasal drip etc.)

Yes No

Self-Assess Daily Online:
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/severe-symptoms>

Adapted from York Region



HALLOWEEN

Children are already looking forward to Halloween. Children are encouraged to wear a costume to school on October 30th (there will not be time to change at school). Costumes need to be appropriate for a Catholic School (no blood and gore, no weapons, not too scary for the little ones). If the weather permits, we will have a socially distant parade around the outside of the school and board office for people to see us (please fill out the attached permission form). Parents are welcome to socially distance themselves on the grass around the playground to see the parade. The parade will begin at approximately 9am.

Following the parade, children will be in their classrooms for activities with their cohort. It is a designated special treat day, so you can send a special treat for your child to enjoy during third block. Unfortunately we can not share treats in class right now so if you want to send a treat home for each student in your child's class, they must be pre-packaged. The teacher or an EA will put the treat in a bag for each child to take home.

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

On the morning of October 30th, families are invited to bring their carved pumpkin to school and put it outside on the tables by the Grade 2/3 doors. Pumpkins will be separated into three categories: Scary, Funny and Creative. During the day, children will come with their class to view the pumpkins and will choose their favourite in each category. The family that wins each category will get a \$25 Food Basics/Metro Gift Certificate. (Please make sure the scary ones aren't too scary and are in alignment with our Catholic values. Please keep in mind our young audience—some being only 3 and 4 years old). Thank you.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will go home on Friday Nov. 6th. More information will be coming home mid-October about how Parent-Teacher interviews will be conducted this year.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR SHOES

Please be sure your child has an extra pair of shoes for wearing indoors at school. These do not need to be expensive because they will only be worn indoors! We ask that all students, Kindergarten to Grade 8 follow this policy, to help keep our school as clean as possible.

FOOD DRIVE

Since we cannot collect and donate food items right now, we will be collecting money via School Cash on-line during the month of October to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. You will receive an e-mail notification to remind you.

WEAR PURPLE DAY—OCT. 27

On October 24th we invite students to wear purple to school to promote child abuse prevention awareness.

Thanksgiving prayer for the family

Lord,

We feel so blessed to have been given such a wonderful family.

We ask that our roots would be deep in your love.

Fill our hearts, friendships and homes with your truth and forgiveness.

We thank you for each person, for their unique qualities and special characters.

Watch over each one and keep them safe,

Fill their lives with your goodness,

Inspire their hearts to follow you,

Bless the work of their hands,

And weave us all closer together.

Amen.



PARENT CONSENT/PERMISSION FORM FOR EDUCATION TRIPS
(Students Under 18 Years)

THIS FORM MUST BE READ AND SIGNED BY EVERY STUDENT WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE AND BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A PARTICIPATING STUDENT

St. Patrick School, of Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is arranging

Halloween Parade - Friday, October 30, 2020 at approximately 9:00 a.m.
(Name of School Program)

Dressed in their costumes, students will walk on the sidewalk out of their assigned doors of St. Patrick School, along the parking lot, left onto Baxter Street, left onto Fairview Drive and then down the sidewalk between the School and the Board Office and return to their classrooms, through their assigned doors, all while maintaining social distancing.

(Description of activity, location, dates and mode of transportation)

ELEMENTS OF RISK:

Educational activity programs, such as this parade involves certain elements of risk. Accidents may occur while participating in these activities. These accidents may cause injury. By choosing to participate in the activity, you are assuming the risk of an accident occurring.

The chance of an injury occurring can be reduced by carefully following instructions at all times while engaged in the activity.

If you choose to participate in the Halloween Parade on Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:00 am. you must understand that you bear the responsibility for any injury that might occur.

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board does not provide accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expense insurance on behalf of the students participating in this activity.

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board strongly advises that all students participate in the STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE PLAN offered by Reliable Life Insurance Company and which covers participants for all accidents. 24 hours per day, every day during the full policy term.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE HAVE READ THE ABOVE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITY DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE ARE ASSUMING THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DOING SO.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

PERMISSION

I give _____ permission to participate in the Halloween Parade
(Name of Student)
to be held on Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD