



# We're Going Back To School



September 2020  
ZONE 4

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Welcome or Welcome Back!

My name is Dale Petruka and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new principal of St. Patrick School. I've heard wonderful things about the St. Patrick School community. I am excited and look forward to working with the students, parents, staff and community members.

A little about myself: I began my career as a teacher in 1990. Over my years in education, I have taught every grade, JK-8, in some capacity. In 2001, I earned my Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Ottawa and have since been called Dr. Petruka (some people like to call me Dr. Dale and I'm okay with that too!). I became a vice principal in 2002 and was appointed principal in 2003. I love working with children, being in a school, and being a principal. I see my work as a privilege, an honour, and my vocation.

On behalf of the staff it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to another wonderful year at St. Patrick School! Although this year will be different from past years due to the Covid-19, we anticipate that once students get used to the new routines and procedures, children will learn many new and amazing things and have fun. We look forward to working with you and the school parish in order to serve our students so that they may grow to their fullest potential!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Petruka

## IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

Parents are asked to take their child's temperature every morning and to review the self-assessment questions. If your child has a fever or you answered "yes" to any of the questions, you must keep your child at home. Please make arrangements *now* so that your child has a place to go or someone to watch them if they are sick and cannot attend school. Also, please ensure the school has the phone number of an adult that can get to the school immediately to pick up your child if he/she becomes ill at school. Please give this number to Mrs. Bennett by phoning 519-759-0380, emailing her at [gbennett@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:gbennett@bhncdsb.ca).

Please know that the school staff must treat all illness presented at school as possible Covid-19. Any child with symptoms of illness will be removed from the classroom and put in the isolation room until he/she can be picked up from school. The child will wear a medical grade mask (if tolerable) and be watched by an adult wearing full personal protective equipment (gown, gloves, medical grade mask and face shield). The longer a sick child is in the school, the greater the risk of infection to students and staff, so a quick pick-up by an adult is needed. If a child is sick in a classroom, all students will be removed from that area and taken to an uninfected area while heightened cleaning protocols take place in that classroom and any area of the school the infected child has been.

While at home, when your child is well enough, you are able to access the student work available on the computer via Brightspace.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school with questions or to give us emergency contact information (519) 759-0380.

# St. Patrick School News

## Contact Us:

320 Fairview Drive,  
Brantford, Ontario N3R 2X6

Tel. (519) 759-0380

Twitter @stpatseagles

[www.stpatrickbrantford.ca](http://www.stpatrickbrantford.ca)

# Staff for the 2020-21

Kindergarten  
ECE  
Grade 1  
Grade 2/3  
Grade 3/4  
Grade 5/6  
Grade 7/8  
FSL/Prep  
SERT  
E.A.  
E.A.  
E.A.  
E.A.  
Librarian  
STEM  
Custodian  
Secretary  
Principal

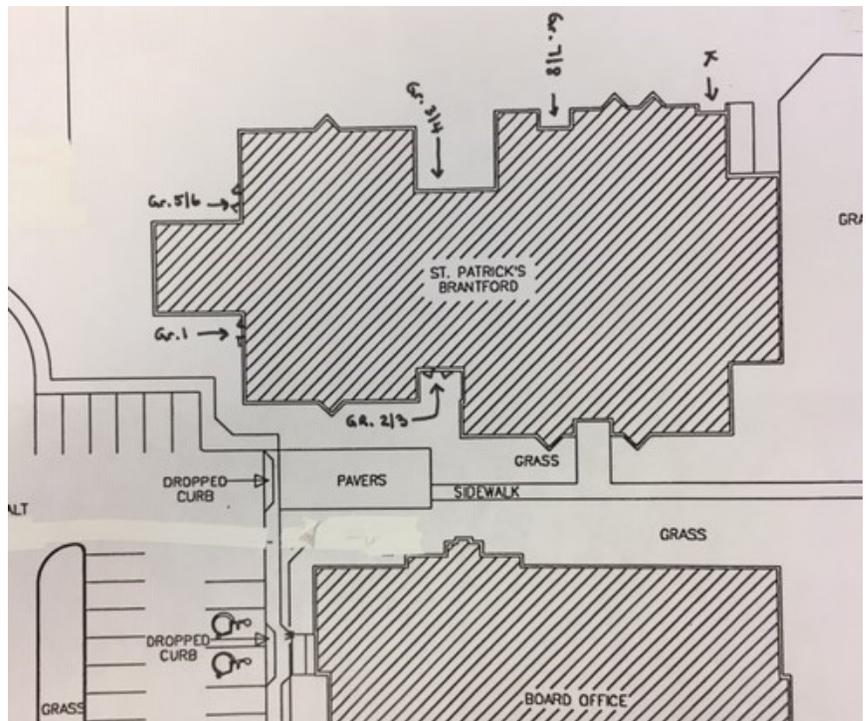
Miss Jamie Koehler  
Mrs. Rita HehenKamp  
Miss Kelly Grace  
Mrs. Anna Matwijiw  
Mr. Nic Melfi  
Miss Nicolina Strkalj  
Mr. Tyler Leyzer  
Ms. Lisa Venne  
Mr. Joe Persia  
Ms. Kelly Sobolewski  
Mrs. Louanne Madia  
Ms. Jennifer Munroe  
Mrs. Deanna Lewis  
Mrs. Kim Jesik  
Miss Kayla Santilli  
Mr. Donald Maunder  
Mrs. Glenna Bennett  
Dr. Dale Petruka

## SCHOOL HOURS

Start Time: 8:45 am (supervision begins at 8:30)  
1<sup>st</sup> Nutrition Break: 10:25—11:05 (eating time 10:25) Snack  
2<sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break: 12:45— 1:25 (eating time 12:45) Lunch  
Dismissal Time: 3:05 pm

This year, each class will have their own exit and entrance door. (Please see the diagram.)

All parents, except Kindergarten parents, are asked not to come on to the playground, not to congregate, and to respect social distancing. Parents picking up their children are asked to wait on the sidewalk by the parking lot remaining socially distant from others.



## NEW DROP OFF AND PICK UP ROUTINES

*Due to Covid-19, parents of students in Grades 1–8 will not be allowed on the playground or field. Please stop at the sidewalk if you are walking your child to the playground and leave immediately. Children are to go to the area near their class' entrance, visiting and playing with children in their cohort while remaining socially distant from classmates. (See the attached map to see where children will enter and exit the building.) Children are not to bring any play equipment from home to school. Masks are not required on the playground, however children will put on their masks while standing in line before entering the school.*

*At dismissal, parents of Grade 1-8 children are not allowed on the playground. Parents need to wait on the sidewalk or beyond. Please do not congregate. Teachers will walk younger students to the sidewalk and ensure that children are picked up by their designated parent/guardian.*

*A separate letter has gone home to parents of Kindergarten students. Kindergarten parents will walk their child to the Kindergarten gate entrance, let their child into the K area, and leave the area immediately remaining socially distant from others on the playground. Members of the Kindergarten team will be outside to welcome and comfort our youngest learners. At dismissal, Kindergarten parents will come on to the playground to pick-up their child, remaining socially distant and leaving immediately.*

*Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with the new pick-up and dismissal routines.*

## SCHOOL SAFETY

As part of the Ministry's "Safe Welcome Program" for Elementary Schools, all doors to the school will remain locked, including the main entrance (you must use the intercom to enter the building).

The school and board parking lot gets very busy and congested at the beginning and end of the school day. Please park in a designated St. Patrick's spot or park on the street.

**Please do not block the taxi/bus driveway or park in the clearly marked Fire Routes or Board Office spaces. Please note that City of Brantford enforces the by-laws in our parking lot and non-compliance may result in a ticket being issued.**

## CHANGES IN STUDENT INFORMATION

In order to keep school records up to date, please inform the school of any changes in address, telephone numbers or emergency numbers.

## PARENTS/VISITORS

Due to Covid-19, we will not be able to welcome visits from parents and other community members into the school at this time. If you need to pick up your child for an appointment, please wait for your child outside the front door by the office. If you need to drop something off for your child, there is a red drop off bin right inside the door. Please ring the buzzer and let Mrs. Bennett know the purpose of your visit.

When returning to the school, students need to ask themselves the self-assessment questions and if they answer "no" to all of the questions, they may re-enter. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Please make sure to limit these interruptions when possible as important learning takes place throughout the whole school day.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

St. Patrick Catholic School has a hard working, dedicated and dynamic School Council. However, 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 fill out and return the School Council Nomination Form.

The Catholic School Council is an advisory group which works with staff to assist with the goals of the school. Council works in conjunction with the school to assist in purchasing resources as well as strengthening the bonds between St. Pius Church and St. Patrick Catholic School, supporting the school and consulting with the BHNCD SB on policy development.

***Our School Council meeting will be held virtually in early October. All parents interested in being part of our Parent Council for the 2020-21 school year are welcome and encouraged to attend.***

Joining parent council is a great 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!

## BICYCLES, SCOOTERS AND SKATEBOARDS

We encourage our students to stay active and healthy, and walking or biking to school is a great way of getting physical activity. A bike rack is available at the school. Please ensure that your child has a lock to secure their bicycle or scooter. The school will not be responsible for damaged or stolen student belongings.

**Due to fire regulations, we are unable to store bikes or scooters in the school during the school day.**

## DYNAMIC CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

As a school, we practice the principles of DCM both within the school and on the playground. DCM is a system in which students participate in developing classroom rules as well as appropriate rewards and consequences for those who choose to follow or choose not to follow the mutually agreed upon rules. The emphasis is on being proactive to encourage positive behaviours that allow everyone in the school to learn and to be respected. Children are provided with clear and specific feedback to help them make appropriate and positive choices. These principles are successfully followed in many schools. Our goal is student success. An important part of DCM is the mandatory "Big 5" Rules which are supplemented by classroom rules/rewards/consequences developed with the input of the students and teachers in each individual classroom.

### **St. Patrick School Big 5**

- 1. All our rules will be fair and reasonable and democratically decided upon.**
- 2. Disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated.**
- 3. Hands off. Do not touch anyone else or their belongings without permission.**
- 4. Lots of talking! Talking is necessary for learning! Be respectful and do not interrupt when the teacher or someone else is talking or giving instructions.**
- 5. The principal and all staff will be aware of all the class rules. The principal will support our good behaviour and respond to negative behaviour according to the rules of the classroom and school.**

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Ask your child(ren) about our Caught Ya! Awards. Students who are caught acting kindly or following targeted routines may be recognized with a Caught Ya award in their classroom. Caught Ya award winners will have their name entered in a monthly draw for a socially distant personal-sized pizza lunch with the principal. One student from each class, including French class, will be randomly drawn each month.

### **IMPORTANT: 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. Outdoor shoes (or boots in bad weather) will be left in the hall/mudroom, and indoor shoes will be left in the classroom. We suggest that indoor shoes be running shoes.

## FIRE DRILLS AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

We are fortunate in Canada that intruder violence or fires in schools rarely occur. However, we cannot be complacent with respect to our preparedness for such an event. As such, our staff has reviewed lockdown and fire drills and plan to conduct 3 fire drills in the fall and 3 in the spring. Teachers will be talking about lockdown procedures but due to the need for social distancing, will not be able to practice a lockdown drill at this time. Teachers will talk to the children before the drills to prepare them. Talking about the drills at home with your child can also alleviate any anxiety. Remind children to follow teacher/police/principal direction, not to use cell phones, and to remain silent during a lockdown. Also, please note that during an emergency situation at the school, we ask that you do not phone the school or your child's cell phone since a ringing phone may alert an intruder to the student's whereabouts or it may tie up phone lines that are needed to communicate with emergency personnel. We will communicate to parents via website, twitter, letter or call out system as soon as possible. Please keep all of your contact information up to date in the office so that we can reach you in case of emergency.

## **MedicAlert's NO CHILD WITHOUT PROGRAM IS AT OUR SCHOOL**

The *No Child Without* program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca). To register your child, you will need a *No Child Without* brochure from the office.

## **AIR QUALITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL**

I know that parents are concerned with the quality of the air within schools at this time. Please note that the air exchange system in the open area was upgraded about 3 years ago. Although not required, to further boost the air quality in the open area, six new HEPA Air Purifiers have been placed the area. This summer, the exhaust system in the gym/office/K room area was replaced with a new upgraded system. Our school meets or exceeds required air quality standards.

## MEDICATION

All schools must follow specific Board procedures for the administration of medication during school hours. If your child requires medication you are asked to contact the office and the necessary form will be sent home.

Only prescription drugs will be administered by staff. Staff are unable to administer non-prescription medication to students. You will be required to come to the school to administer non-prescription medication i.e. Tylenol, etc.

Please **DO NOT** send medication such as Tylenol for your child to take themselves.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

For information or if you have questions, a COVID-19 phone number is available for parents.

The general line is 519-753-4837, press 1.

Please leave a message.

Email: [covid-19@bchu.org](mailto:covid-19@bchu.org).

Line is staffed from 830 am to 6pm



## VOLUNTEERING AND POLICE CHECKS

We welcome all parent and adult volunteers to St. Patrick School. Please contact the office if you are interested in volunteering.

Volunteers must provide a Criminal Background Check every three years. In years when a CBC is not required the volunteer must sign the prescribed Offence Declaration. If there is a break in the volunteer's service of more than one year a new CBC must be provided.

Everyone needs to provide a CBC even if volunteering for class trips. This must be completed before volunteering, we cannot allow a volunteer to attend a trip when the CBC is in progress. If you would like an application please contact the office or the classroom teacher.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES & LEARNING TOOLS

Cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices are to be used as learning tools during instructional time when appropriate. These devices are not to be used during recess or nutrition break for recreational use. When devices are not being used during class time, teachers will store them in a secure location until they are needed. Students will not be permitted to store phones or devices in their desks.

Phone/device use agreements will be coming home later this week. Each student and a parent/guardian must sign this agreement to allow the student to bring a device to school.

We know that some students have cell phones for safety reasons when they are walking to or from school. Please note that if you need to contact your child during the school day, this contact should come through the office. You can leave a message at the office at 519-759-0380 and it will be passed on to your child.

For privacy reasons, at no time are students permitted to use phones or other devices in washrooms or change rooms.

Please ensure that your child is aware that the school cannot be responsible for lost or damaged phones or other devices if brought to school.



## School Cash ONLINE (SCO)

St. Patrick School uses only SCO for all payments (trips, hot lunch and milk days, etc.) Cash and cheques are not accepted.

With this being said, there may be events that will require only cash payments and you will be notified of this in the parent letter.

Most items are online for one to two weeks to allow ample time to pay. Please ensure you receive a receipt at the end of your transaction to confirm completion of payment. You can also check your history tab to make sure that your orders are complete.

Forms should not be submitted to the office until payment has been completed in SCO.

**NOTE:** A reference instruction sheet is available on our school website. If you experience any difficulties with payments or registration please contact the HELP line 1-866-961-1803

## SCHOOL AGENDAS

It has been the practice at St. Patrick Catholic School, for all our students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 to use an agenda. This has been an excellent tool for all our students, staff and parents, however, this year, because we want to avoid sending things back and forth between home and school, agendas will not be distributed until we receive approval from the health unit to use them again. Please check your child's class Brightspace page for messages from the teacher.

## Prevalent Student Medical Conditions

If your child has a prevalent medical condition that requires support or monitoring, we request that you contact the school as soon as possible to ensure that our staff have the necessary information to ensure your child is safe while at school.

The following are medical conditions that require a **Plan of Care** as determined by Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board policy and/or provincial legislation. The **Plan of Care** will be completed in collaboration with the school administrative team:

- **Asthma** – Please complete the Asthma Plan of Care
- **Anaphylactic Reactions** – Please complete the Anaphylaxis Plan of Care
- **Diabetes** – Please complete the Diabetes Plan of Care
- **Epilepsy** – Please complete the Epilepsy Plan of Care

If your child has any of the aforementioned 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.

Please note: It is the responsibility of parents to notify schools of any medical concerns and to update the Plans of Care on an annual basis.

For more information regarding specific School Board policies or procedures concerning specific medical conditions, please visit: <http://www.bhncdsb.ca/>.

## Dress Code Reminder

Modesty and common sense are the main guidelines for the dress code that is in place. Schools rely upon the good judgment and support of parents/guardians in helping their children determine appropriate wear for school.

The BHNCDSB believes that proper dress for pupils helps to create a positive and safe Catholic learning environment consistent with the mission and values of the Board. The responsibility for meeting the expectations of the Dress Code is primarily that of the parents/guardians of the students.

All students attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, reflect principles of modesty, and shall not include the following:

- Short shorts/skirts, bare midriffs, halter tops, tank tops, etc.;
- Accessories such as spiked bracelets/necklaces or any externals not in keeping with the spirit of the dress code, as determined by the local school; and/or
- Language and/or representation on attire that indicates gang affiliation and/or depicts violence, profanity or discrimination of any kind whatsoever or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group.



### **Before and After School Program!**

The YMCA offers a "Before and After School" program at our school!

Snacks are provided by the program and are served in accordance with Canada's Food Guide.

For more information contact the Brantford Family YMCA at 519-752-6568 x 101. Families requiring

## **MILK & HOT LUNCH PROGRAMS—optional**

**Tuesdays:** Once again, we will be working with Lunch Box Orders to provide you with the convenient option of ordering lunch for your child(ren). This program will begin in October. You must register annually online through Lunchbox at [www.lunchboxorders.com](http://www.lunchboxorders.com)

Instructions can be found on our school website. More information on this program will be sent home soon!

**Thursdays:** We will be trying Papa John's pizza this year. Ordering will be through School Cash Online only. This program begins October and more information will be sent home soon.

**Milk Program!** The program will be offered through lunchboxorders with Crown Dairy being our supplier.

Please remember to receive your receipt at the end of your transactions to confirm the completion of your order. You can also check your history tab to make sure that your orders are complete.

## **SNACK PROGRAM**

The Healthy Snack program will continue this year! Volunteers will be preparing and serving a healthy pre-packaged morning snack for all students on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Volunteers will be adhering to new health guidelines due to Covid-19 this year.

We are looking for some new volunteers - many hands make light work! The snack preparation in the morning takes approximately an hour. If you would like to help but cannot come in the morning right at the start of the school day we can also use assistance on Monday and Wednesday afternoons just before the end of the school day to clean snack bins for their next use. As well, throughout the year, we have occasional one time events that assist us with our funding through Brant Food for Thought, the lead agency for this program.

Erin Hope, Snack Program Co-ordinator

## **TREATS AND BIRTHDAYS**

Please do not send in treats for the class on your child's birthday. Under the Ministry Policy (P/PM 150), and the BHNCD SB Nutrition Policy, the maximum number of days in the school year that may be designated as special treat days for a school is ten (10). Special treat days allow the schools to serve or sell foods or beverages that do not comply with the standards in P/PM 150 and the BHNCD SB Nutrition Policy.

Special treat days include Halloween, last day before Christmas break, Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday, Grade 8 Graduation and the last day of school. We reserve a couple of extra days for events that may come up. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **SCHOOL WEBSITE—SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS, ALERTS**

Paper copies of newsletters will only be sent home for September and June. All other monthly newsletters will be posted to the school website. In order to receive notifications/alerts of items posted to the website, you must subscribe at the bottom of [www.stpatrickbrantford.ca](http://www.stpatrickbrantford.ca)

Once you enter the school website, scroll down to the bottom of the page and you will see the SUBSCRIBE button. This is where you will register your email address to receive all of St. Patrick School's notifications on alerts, news items, upcoming events, and more!



- ⇒ Please pack the necessary utensils for your child's lunch: spoon, fork, etc.
- ⇒ Return all the required forms to the office: Student verification, consent, etc. by Friday, September 18th
- ⇒ Send indoor shoes for your child(ren) ASAP
- ⇒ Label clothing and water bottles for easy identification.

# ALLERGY ALERT!

There are students in our school with life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Even a trace amount from peanut/nut products or food that has come in contact with a peanut/nut source (cross contamination) can result in a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reactions include respiratory difficulties and blockage of the airways, which if not medicated immediately, can lead to death.

To provide the minimized allergen environment, we need the support and cooperation of you, the parents/guardians and the school community. Students are asked to **bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts and tree nuts as well as products that have the “may contain peanuts/tree nuts” warning on them.** Please read labels before sending food to school. Keep in mind not all packaging is clearly labeled with the warning. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If you have caregivers who provide your child with lunches or snacks we encourage you to share this information with them.

When bringing a treat to celebrate a special event, we encourage non-food items so all students can participate in the celebration. Unfortunately we are not able to share food items brought into the school by students for the whole class.

## NUT ALLERGY HELP (Understanding what to look for)

When identifying whether or not food is safe to send in school lunches, there are a few things to look for:

### READ THE LABELS!

That means there should be **NO** tree nuts & peanuts in the ingredients (read them!)

The item should also be made in a **TREE NUT & PEANUT FREE FACILITY.**

The label can NOT say “May Contain Nuts” or “made on equipment that also processes nuts”, or anything similar.

### DON'T BE FOOLED BY SYMBOLS!



*The symbol on the left indicates “peanut free”, but not necessarily “tree nut” free so read the ingredients to be sure!*

*Each company’s standard of school safe is different so read the ingredients to be sure!*



Anaphylaxis Canada recommends reading all labels instead of just reading the symbols.

### Remember that peanuts and tree nuts are NOT the same thing.

**Peanuts:** a member of the legume family and not related to tree nuts.

**Tree Nuts:** Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Cashews, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Hickory Nuts,

Macadamia Nuts, Pecans, Pine Nuts, Pistachios, Shea Nuts and Walnuts.

We realize this request may require added planning and effort on your part when packing your child’s lunch and snacks; however, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation to keep our students safe. We cannot guarantee a nut free environment for students nor an “allergen free” area at our school, but with your help we can make our school as safe as is reasonably possible in this regard.

## What do you need to know about Student Accident Insurance?



### *What do you need to know about Student Accident Insurance?*

Accidents can and do happen! Each year, many families spend thousands of dollars when their children are injured at school, on field trips, while participating in non-school activities, or at home.

**Our School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or their employer's health care plan.**

It's important to know that most accident-related expenses are not fully covered under OHIP and some expenses like ambulance fees, casts, crutches, physiotherapy and emergency dental care are usually not covered at all. This leaves you, the parent/guardian, financially responsible for these unexpected and usually hefty expenses.

To help protect your family, consider obtaining student accident insurance which provides coverage for these types of costs. As a convenience to you, we have made an arrangement to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids®. Participation is voluntary but highly recommended and the costs are to be paid by the parent/guardian. The program is available for students up to age 26.

Coverage is provided for a wide range of accidental expenses, including:

- **Dental expenses** - includes 10 years unlimited dental benefit coverage, future dental up to \$1,650 per tooth, and injury related orthodontia coverage up to \$2,500 per accident
- **Total and permanent disability** - up to \$350,000
- **Loss of limb/loss of use**
- **Accidental death**
- **Ambulance fees**
- **And much more!**

Insuremykids® Student Accident Insurance offers three plans with a variety of benefits at affordable rates – their most affordable plan is available for as little as \$17.00 per year and provides coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Their most popular plan is the Platinum at \$33 per year, which provides out-of-province emergency medical coverage and travel benefits. Family rates are available for three or more children in the same family, even if attending different schools. You can also save on time and premium with an optional 3-Year or 5-Year plan, available for online purchase.

For more information or to purchase directly online, please visit [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) or call 1-800-463-5437.