

ST. BERNARD'S



CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Bernard's Catholic School

Fall Newsletter

255 Oxford Street, Orillia, ON
705-326-2331 ~ <http://sbe.schools.smcdsb.on.ca>



SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Our Story ~ Our Journey

The Journey Begins

Loving God,
 You are kindness and caring,
 You are wondrous and wise,
 You are our friend and guide,
 You are our deepest truth.
 You bring us together
 To learn,
 To play,
 To worship together.
 Be with us and guide us
 Now and throughout the school year.
 We make this prayer in your loving name.
 Amen.



Fall Blessings

Our school year is well underway. We've been busy over the last 2 weeks establishing routines and getting settled back into our school schedule.

I would like to officially welcome all the new families to our wonderful school community. I also want to thank everyone for welcoming me to the St. Bernard's family. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring Catholic community.

We have had to re-organize many of our classrooms to accommodate Ministry class size regulations. All students (78 in total) were moved to their "new" classrooms on Friday.

Although fairly common, I understand that these delays and class changes are not ideal. I appreciated your patience as we worked through this process.

I look forward to working with everyone this year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Leah Smith

MEET OUR TEAM

2017-2018

It is my pleasure to introduce:

Mrs. Sweet	Kindergarten (Year 1 & 2)
Mrs. Davies	Kindergarten (Year 1 & 2)
Mrs. Whitwell	Kindergarten (Year 2) & Grade 1
Mr. White	Grade 1/2
Mrs. Moreau	Grade 3
Mrs. Downey	Grade 3/4
Mrs. Kennedy	Grade 5
Mrs. Bochenek	Grade 6
Mrs. Taylor	Grade 7
Mr. Ayers	Grade 8
Mrs. Martin	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Kehoe	Educational Assistant
Mr. Imbeault	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Roth	Educational Assistant
Mrs. May	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Woods	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Schug	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Loader	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Van Boxmeer	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Wiles	Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Truemner	Special Education Teacher
Mr. Marwick	Special Education Teacher/ Reading Recovery Teacher
Miss Wigglesworth	Science Teacher/Librarian
Mme. Lawlor-MacDonald	French Teacher
Mrs. Belanger	Chief Custodian
Mr. Duffy	Evening Custodian
Mr. Mathews	Part-Time Custodian
Mr. Yarnold	Part-Time Custodian
Mrs. Sim	Lunch Supervisor
Mrs. Kaczynski	Lunch Supervisor
Mrs. Soestmeyer	Lunch Supervisor
Mrs. Mugford	Office Administrator
Mrs. Smith	Principal

Our Daily Schedule

St. Bernard's Catholic School is on a *Balanced School Day* schedule:

8:40 a.m. – Yard supervision begins*

8:55 a.m. – Entry bell

10:55 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – First Nutrition Break

11:15 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. – First Recess

1:15 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. – Second Nutrition Break

1:35 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. – Second Recess

3:15 p.m. – Dismissal

* Please do not drop your child off prior to 8:40 as there will not be any supervision. Thanks!

Our School Board Theme

"You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul.....
Teach them to your children"
- Deuteronomy 11: 18a -19a



OUR STORY ~ OUR JOURNEY

Every year, our board chooses a spiritual theme, which serves as our inspiration and spiritual focus. The

theme for the 2017-2018 school year is *Our Story ~ Our Journey*

This year's theme is especially fitting as our country celebrates its 150th anniversary. Our nation's story is one filled with the journeys of so many different cultures, races and religions. Our faith calls us to learn from these diverse journeys as we continue to grow together as one nation.

This year, we encourage our staff, students and families to reflect upon the stories which shape us, as we journey together in faith and learning.

Open House

Join us on Thursday, September 28 for our annual St. Bernard's Open House. Come by and meet the staff and see your child's classroom. To help save you time we will be selling pizza here at the school that evening. The open house begins at 5:00 and **classrooms will be open from 5:30-6:30.**

Milk

Milk is now available at both nutrition breaks for \$1.00. Students may bring money on a daily basis and come to the server to buy their milk. We hope that families will take advantage of this nutritious option.

Breakfast Club



Thanks to the many volunteers who have built up our program over the years, we are blessed to have a thriving breakfast

club here at St. Bernard's. We are now recruiting new and returning volunteers to help us out this year. Please contact Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Mugford if you have some time to give in the mornings (approximately 45 minutes ~ 8:15a.m. – 9:00a.m.)

Student Agendas

Communication with home is essential for your child's success. The use of an agenda promotes time management, organizational and communication skills. Students in grades 1 – 8 have received a school agenda. The cost of the agenda is \$5.00. Please send the money to your son/daughter's classroom teacher if you haven't done so already.

Allergy Aware School

Allergies and Medication

Please do not send nut/peanut products to the school with your children. We have students with severe food allergies that can be life threatening. With your cooperation, we can keep all students safe.

If your child requires any medication to be administered at school, please stop in at the office and obtain the necessary forms. A new form must be completed every school year. Medication must come to school in the original container and be kept in the office and distributed from the office. If your child has food or environmental allergies, please send a note to your child's teacher or notify the office.



School Picture Day

Students will have their pictures taken on Thursday, October 12th. Students who are absent will have their pictures taken on Tuesday, November 14th but will not be part of the classroom group photo.

Terry Fox Run/Walk



This year our Terry Fox Fun is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th from 2:20-3:00 p.m. Our rain date is on September 28th. Pledge sheets will be sent home this week and donations must be returned

to the school by Monday, October 2.

Also, please make sure that students are dressed appropriately to participate in the run, including proper footwear and water.

Safe Arrival and Dismissal

In order to ensure the safe arrival of every child, we ask that you call the school and report your child's absence. Calling the school at 705-326-2331, day or night, will help ensure every child is safe. If you are calling at night, please leave a voice mail message indicating the name of your child and his/her classroom teacher's name. We appreciate your support with this important procedure.

If your child must leave school prior to the end of the day, please send in a note to your child's teacher. The permitted adult must pick up the child at the office and sign him/her out. A written note is also necessary if your child's end of the day routine is changing on a particular day (not taking the bus, walking home, being picked up by a relative etc...). Please note that children not registered on a bus are not eligible to take the bus (e.g., going home with a friend).

You may also call the office to report changes, however, we cannot guarantee that calls placed after 2:30 p.m. will be communicated to our students. That is a busy time in the office so calling earlier will ensure the safe dismissal of all our students.

Optional Paid Lunch Program

Once again we will have Pizza on Tuesdays (\$2.00) and Pitas on Thursdays (\$4.50). Order forms went home this week and are due on Tuesday, September 26. Stay tuned for more lunch options this year.



School Visitors & Volunteers

We are very appreciative of any volunteer support that parents are able to offer. All parent volunteers at the school must have a Criminal Background Check (CBC), and have the original CBC submitted to the office. This includes volunteering on your child's field trip. Stop by the office to obtain a letter that can be taken to the police station to start the process. Visitors to the school must come to the front office to sign in and obtain a visitor's identification tag. This is for the safety of all students.

Student Drop Off

All parents/caregivers are to say their good-byes at the edge of the schoolyard or fence in the morning. We find that saying a quick good-bye and moving out of sight is helpful especially for our younger students who may be having difficulty separating from you.

The bus lane at the front of the school is for buses only and not student drop off/pick up. This would be a safety hazard for our students. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our students safe.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Copies of the School Board's policy on Head Lice can be found on the Board's website. Parents will be notified if a child is found to have head lice. Parents/guardians will be asked to take their child home to commence treatment right away. Students will only be readmitted to class after they are free of any head lice (nits included). If you suspect your child has head lice please contact the school. We will send home a letter with their classmates giving other parents information on how to treat for lice and what to look for to prevent the spread within the classroom. Student names will not be indicated in this letter.

Lunch Supervisors Needed Immediately

Contact Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Mugford if you are able to commit some time to our Lunch Staff Team. Shifts are from 10:55-11:35 & 1:15-1:55. **This is a paid position!** You will need to have your Criminal Background Check.





Getting Involved

The Catholic School Community Council is an advisory group that meets once a month with the Principal and other staff representatives to provide ideas and opinions that reflect the views of the Catholic school community. Please consider joining our group. You do not need to be an elected member to attend Council meetings. A nomination form (for those wanting to hold an official position and be a voting member) is attached to this newsletter. Please send it back to the school by Tuesday, September 26. Our first meeting will be that evening in the school library from 6:30-7:30 p.m. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Home and School Communication

We will do our very best this year to keep you informed of school activities and events. New this year, we have a Twitter Account. Follow us at @SMCDSB_SBE
You are also encouraged to visit our school website and click on "e-newsletter" to subscribe to our eBlasts (emails sent directly to your email account).

Or, you can complete the form below, cut it out and send it to school with your child.



You will also be able to access newsletters and forms on the website. Our website: <http://sbe.schools.smcdsb.on.ca/>

The school Newsletter will only be published 4 times throughout the school year (more if needed). Important information will be delivered in a more timely manner through the methods listed above.



Name(s): _____

Student(s) Name(s): _____

Email Address: _____

I give my express consent for the St. Bernard's Catholic School staff to send me updates via the above email address.

Signature: _____



Upcoming Dates

- Fri. Sept. 22 - Wear Yellow to support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Tues. Sept. 26 - CSCC (Catholic School Community Council Meeting) 6:30-7:30 in our school library ~ all welcome!
- Pizza and Pita order forms due for October lunches
- Wed. Sept. 27 - Terry Fox Run/Walk 2:20-3:00 p.m.
- Thurs. Sept. 28 - Rain date for Terry Fox
- OPEN HOUSE 5:00 p.m. (Pizza) 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Classrooms open)
- Fri. Sept. 29 - P.A. Day ~ No school for students
- Tues. Oct. 3 - First Pizza lunch
- Thurs. Oct. 5 - First Pita lunch
- Mon. Oct. 9 - Happy Thanksgiving! ~ Board Holiday
- Thurs. Oct. 12 - School Photo Day
- Fri. Oct. 27 - P.A. Day ~ No school for students
- Tues. Nov. 14 - School Photo Re-take day
- Wed. Nov. 15 - Progress Reports sent home with students
- Thurs. Nov. 16 - Grade 7 Immunizations
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Fri. Nov. 17 - P.A. Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mon. Nov. 20 - Kiwanis Children's Safety Village (all week)
- Fri. Dec. 22 - Last day of school before the Christmas break