



October 2024



Parish Information

St. Mary's Church
Our Lady of Assumption
Parish
Father Laszlo
133 Murray Street
Brantford, ON N3S 5P8
519.753.7316
www.marybrantford.com

St. Peter School News

175 Glenwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3S 3H1
519.752.1611 • www.stpeterbrantford.ca • **Zone 4**

Principal: Mrs. Giovanna Oviedo • Secretary: Mrs. Tracy Faria



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

What a start to the year! Fall has arrived and we have been blessed with beautiful weather. During our first month back at school students and staff settled into routines and are working hard. We are continuing our Dynamic Classroom Management principles with the collaborative development of rules and expectations in each classroom. This has helped each classroom to get off to a productive start. If your child has not yet told you about their classroom expectations, please ask them about it.

A big thank you to everyone who came out to our Meet The Staff Event. It was great getting to know more families. Our parent council meeting had a great turn-out. We welcome everyone to the next council meeting.

At St. Peter, we are a dedicated, faith-filled, Catholic education community who are stronger together. Staff is encouraging students to think about how they can continue to bring Catholic values into their daily lives.

In Canada and at St. Peter School, we have so much to be thankful for. I hope that you have a relaxing Thanksgiving weekend with time spent with friends and family.

God Bless,

Giovanna Oviedo

CHOCOLATE BAR FUNDRAISER—ends October 10th

Please return all unsold bars and/or payment in *SCO* as soon as you are finished selling. Once everything is tallied and accounted for, the main prizes will be awarded.

Thank you to those who have supported this annual fundraiser. All of our students will benefit from your participation!

Congratulations to our Early Bird winners and our 1st Draw Prize winner!!

Prize Draw—October 4, 2024

Top 3 sellers awarded prizes—October 11, 2024

Hallowe'en Parade Walk—Thursday, October 31, 2024

We will, be having our annual Hallowe'en Parade, starting at approximately 9 am on October 31st. The students and staff will be walking from St. Peter School, along Glenwood Drive, up Locks Road, down Colborne Street and back to the school. All students in Grades JK - 8 participate.

The generic permission form you signed at the start of the year, through School Cash Online, covers this activity.

Children are to wear their costumes to school. Costumes must not conflict with our Catholic values. Costumes are to be modest and school appropriate. No blood or gore are to be worn at school. Violent accessories such as knives, guns, spears, and swords are **not** permitted at school. Masks may be worn *during the parade* if they do not obstruct a student's ability to see, however, they must be put away for the remainder of the day. Following the parade, students will return to their rooms for class activities.

If you are sending treats for the class they must be store bought and nut free. Please let the teacher know if your child has any food restrictions.



LUNCH DAYS - optional

The ordering calendar has been launched. Be sure to register in School Cash Online to see the orders. Instructions are posted on the school website.

Wednesdays— Big Box Pizza (includes gluten free option)**Fridays**— Rotation of Mr. Sub & La Bottega

NOTE:

If your child happens to be absent on a lunch day, and you have ordered a lunch, we will not be able to keep it for the next day. We ask that you let us know by 1:00 pm on the lunch day, if you want it given to someone specifically or if you will be picking it up at the end of the school day.

If there is a sibling at school we will send it home with them, otherwise we will give it away at our discretion or dispose of it. We are not able to guarantee the quality or safety in storing the food overnight.

Please understand that the safety of our students is our biggest concern. However, if you know in advance you may be able to cancel your order through Lunchbox Orders directly.

PARENT COUNCIL NEWS:

The next meeting will be at the school on Monday October 21, 2024. All are welcome to join in and find out what we are about and share your ideas on upcoming events .

Welcome to our Council:	Chair & Co-Chair	Shannon Celi & Jane Plant
	Secretary	Stephanie Mitchell
	Treasurer	Sharon Rayner

Come and Join Parent Council

Are you looking for ways to get involved with our school? Come join parent council to help improve student achievement, accountability and the students well being. We as parent council support administrators and teachers. We advocate and discuss funding and issues that affect various aspects of education, and school improvements. Parent council allows you to contribute your skills and knowledge to benefit your child(ren) but your school community as well. There are many opportunities to help with volunteering, fundraisers etc. Please join us at our next meeting Monday October 21

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 BHNCD SB 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.

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 1	- Soccer Tournament
October 2	- October Liturgy
October 4	- Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Prize Draw
October 8	- PD Day—no school
October 10	- Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Ends, all money due on SCO & unsold bars returned to the school.
October 11	- Top 3 Seller Prizes awarded
October 14	- Thanksgiving Holiday —no school
October 21	- Parent Council Meeting (at school)
October 25	- Retake Photo Day
October 28	- Hotdog Day
October 31	- Halloween Parade Walk

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT

Head Lice

What are head lice?

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the scalp, where they lay eggs. They do not jump, fly, swim, or live on cats and dogs.

Head lice are common in school aged children. They are not a health concern or a communicable disease. They are also not associated with illness or poor hygiene.

Symptoms

- tickling or itchy feeling on the head.
- feeling something moving in hair.
- frequent scratching the head.

How do I know if my child has lice?

In very bright light look behind ears near the neck and close to the scalp for small insects moving in hair (lice), and small eggs (called nits) that are attached to the hair near the scalp.

How to prevent lice

Lice spread from one person to another when there is close head-to-head contact or when items that have touched the hair of someone who has lice are shared.

Do not share personal items such as:

- brushes and combs
- hair bands, ties, and elastics
- head phones
- hats or helmets
- scarves or towels

Treatment of Head Lice

Lice shampoo products have been shown to be the most effective method for getting rid of head lice.

Before using a head lice shampoo product, read the product inserts and carefully follow the instructions on the package.

For non-chemical treatment options, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or health care provider. Also, speak to your health care provider if your child has head lice and:

- is under 2 years old
- has a seizure disorder
- has lice or nits on their eyebrows and eyelashes
- has open sores or wounds on the scalp
- has allergies

Cleaning Your Home

Head lice can live up to 24 hours off the head. Pay special attention to items that directly touch the head such as hats, pillowcases, car seat covers, combs and brushes.

Wash these items in hot water and dry them in a hot dryer for at least 15 minutes or store the items in an airtight plastic bag for 2 weeks.

Reference: Head lice infestations: A clinical update, Canadian Pediatric Society, September, 2016

For more information please contact the BCHU re: Infectious Diseases at 519-753-4937 ext. 454

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.

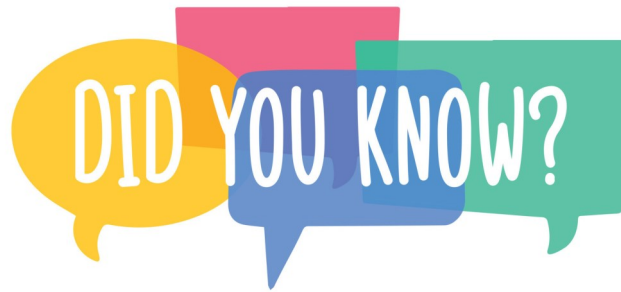
Remember that peanuts and tree nuts are **NOT** the same thing.

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.



Many families do not know that our school board **does not** cover accident costs!

If an accident happens, the board may be prevented from offering financial solutions to our families even if we wanted to. Student accident insurance, Insuremykids®, can mitigate your board's exposure and help you manage the loss for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extra-curricular sports.

Each year, many families are left financially unprotected when their children are injured at school, while participating in non-school activities or at home. 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. Please check with your provider regarding your coverage.

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.

To help protect your family, it is recommended that you consider obtaining student accident insurance. As a convenience to you, the Board has arranged 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 Sight, Hearing, or Speech.**
- **Accidental Death.**
- **Ambulance Fees.**
- **And much more.**

Insuremykids® Student Accident Insurance offers three plans with 24/7 coverage at affordable rates – their most affordable plan is \$17 per year and their most popular plan is the Platinum at \$33 per year, which provides out-of-province emergency medical coverage and travel benefits. All annual plans provide **13 months of coverage** from the date of purchase. 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 only.

If you wish to purchase coverage, please do so directly online at www.insuremykids.com or call **1-800-463-5437**. The insurance agreement is between **You** and the insurance underwriter, **Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada**. For more information, please visit www.insuremykids.com.



Elementary Guide for Families

Kindergarten Family Survey

We are surveying our JK/SK families to see if the printed **Elementary Guide for Families** is something we should continue to provide.

With more families finding their information online, and BHNCD SB being responsible stewards of the environment, we are wondering if we should continue, stop, or change the process of sharing the guide with our new families.

Please take a few moments to take our brief survey and share your thoughts. The survey is open until October 2, 2024. Three participating families will receive a selection of children's books for their family. If you wish to be entered into the draw, please include your email address on the form.

- If you need to review what the guide looks like, please visit the [online version](#).
- Link to the brief survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/hnqFnjKDi8>

We appreciate you sharing your voice. Together we are better!

Thank you!