St. Bernard of clairvaux

Catholic Elementary School

250 Washington St., Waterford, Ontario N0E 1Y0 Phone: (519) 443-8607

[**www.stbernardofclairvauxwaterford.ca**](http://www.stbernardofclairvauxwaterford.ca) **twitter ~ @sbcswaterford**

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Ms. H. Knill-Griesser – Principal Mrs. Sharon Martinow – Secretary Mr. Ted Rust - Custodian

***Belonging for all***



**September 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**+ Dear Jesus,**

**You call us to be your friends.**

**Your amazing love calls us to be true friends**

**To each other.**

**Through this school year,**

**let us walk with you**

**let us talk with you,**

**let us pray with you,**

**and let us be guided**

**and protected by you.**

**Let us listen to your word calling out to the disciples.**

**+Amen**

**Daily School Schedule**

**Students enter school and go directly to**

**their own classroom 8:30 – 8:45 a.m.**

**Morning Bell 8:45 a.m.**

**First 100 Minute Block 8:45 – 10:25 a.m.**

**Staggered Nutrition Breaks**

**And Recesses 10:25 – 11:05 a.m.**

**Second 100 Minute Block 11:05 – 12:45 p.m.**

**Staggered Nutrition Breaks 12:45 - 1:25 p.m. Recesses**

**Third 100 Minute Block 1:25- 3:05 p.m.**

**Dismissal Bell 3:05 p.m.**

**BEFORE STAFF and STUDENTS COME TO SCHOOL DAILY The Ontario Self-Assessment Tool MUST BE COMPLETED. WE NEED EVERYONE COMING TO SCHOOL TO FEEL WELL, TO HELP ALL OF US BE HEALTHY**

**From The Office:**

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Elementary School. We extend a special warm welcome to our new students, staff, and families.

Our School vision is our faith-based communities inspire life-long learning and service to others. Our Motto is Excellence in Learning~Living in Christ. Belonging for all honours the sacred dignity of each person, created in the image of God. We will be promoting Self-Regulation strategies within all our classrooms coupled with Christian Meditation to enhance student well-being. We will continue to give Mathematics a major focus in our School Improvement planning.

Parental engagement continues to be a main goal for this year. Staff will be working together with parents and students to set up our virtual communication and learning in Brightspace.

The co-operation of home, school and parish is instrumental in the building of a successful Catholic School community. We look forward to a great partnership throughout this school year.

I look forward to serving you and your children to the best of my abilities. Please call to set up a meeting or to simply ask a question.

Thank you for choosing St. Bernard of Clairvaux school and Catholic Education.

Ms. H. Knill-Griesser, Principal,

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

**Agendas:** We will not be using agendas this year, however an agenda will be sent home with your child(ren) as a gift from us this year.

**St. Bernard’s Staff 2020-2021**

**Office Contacts**

**Principal** Heather Knill-Griesser

Secretary Sharon Martinow

**Home Room Teachers**

ELKP - A Christine McClung

ECE Vanessa Campbell

ELKP - B Elizabeth Storoschuk

ELKP Amandalyn Spencer

Grade 1 Michelle Licskai

Grade 1/2 Nick Calvesbert

Grade 2/3 Emma Filek

Grade 3/4 Kelly Van Leuvenhage

Grade 4 Stacey Hellewell

Grade 5/6 Leeanne LaChance

Grade 6/7 Natalie Rigato

Grade 7/8 Greg Zelem

Core French Jessica Pilon (Christina Worden), Lyndsey Valletta

Prep #2 Katelyn Rokowski

Lunch Monitors Vicki Sciannella

 Cynthia Corbett

Librarian Christina Gohn

STEM Teacher Jeff Van Leuvenhage

**Special Education Department**

SERT Jennifer Davidson

EA Melanie Caldwell

 Amanda Haskett

 Kelly Steinhoff

**Site and Class Environments**

Parents and other guests are not allowed at our school site in the same way as before. We need to have visitors and families make an appointment to see the teacher or the Principal. Staff may have TEAMs meeting or phone calls instead. All visitors are expected to wear a mask and hand sanitize upon entry, and sign in just outside the office.

**Safe Arrival**

The school upholds a daily safe arrival procedure to ensure the safe arrival of your child/ren. If you know your child/ren are going to be absent or late to school, **please call the school at 519 443-8607 before 8:40 am.** Please feel free to call anytime in the evening or through the night and leave a message on our answering machine. If a child’s absence is unexplained, the school office staff will call your home, place of work, or the emergency contact number to ensure that your child is safe and accounted for.

If your child(ren)’s departure from school is changing that day please send a note or call the school by 2 p.m.

**Watch Out for Life-Threatening Allergies**

Many children have allergies. A few, however, are **life threatening**. Some children, for example, are severely allergic to peanuts. Even a tiny bit can be fatal within minutes. Nuts, shellfish, fish, eggs, milk and latex products are also known to cause severe reactions. Knowing that your child has allergies and knowing how to deal with them is your best defense. If your child has a severe allergy, please let us know. **Please note that we are a nut free school.**

With your help, we will do our best to prevent mishaps and to make sure that all of our students are safe and healthy!

WOW butter is also not permitted to be sent to school.

**Family Information Sheets**

The Student Verification Form being sent to all parents is the standard form from our student management system. We realize that family information and circumstances may have changes over the summer. Please review the Student Verification Form and make additions and changes as required. Please sign the form and return it to the school at your earliest opportunity.

Please also complete and return the Cell Phone Policy Agreement Consent and Technology Use Agreement Forms as soon as possible

**Appropriate School Attire**

Families are reminded that the School Dress Code is detailed in the first section of the agenda.

Note also that students are asked to wear outdoor footwear to school each day and then to change to indoor footwear upon entering the building. Stocking feet are not permitted. All gym periods will be outside at the present time. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is appropriately dressed to support an environment of respect and learning.

**Parent Parking**

Parents, please be

aware that parking is always a concern here

at St. Bernard. Please

note that there is no parking in the respective traffic/bus lanes at the front of the school or in the staff parking area. We have an extensive parking area in the Church Parking lot for all visitors and drop offs or pickups. This can be accessed from Thompson Road. It is also vitally important that speed limits are maintained for safety in the parking lot. Please extend co-operation and courtesy when you need to use the parking lot.

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our kids safe.

**Religious Celebrations with**

**Father Al and Father Olivet**

We continue to be blessed with the leadership of our Pastors Father Al and Father Olivet who are important members of our Catholic School community. We are very fortunate to have Parish Priests who are so committed to the spiritual growth of our students. We look forward to having Father Al, Father Olivet, and Ian Duckworth in our school this year, to help foster the Church, home and school connection that is so important to the faith journey of our students. We will be celebrating school liturgies in our individual classrooms this year.

**Snack Program**

We are planning to continue our Snack Program this year. If you are looking for a place to volunteer, then this worthwhile program is a perfect place to start. Give us a call at the office at **519 443-8607**…it is that simple.

**Bicycle/Scooter/Skateboard Safety**

Students may ride their bikes to school and lock their bike against the racks while they are in school. Students are reminded that they are to walk their bikes, skateboards, scooters etc. on school property.

If your child rides his/her bike to school, they **must wear a properly fitting bicycle helmet.**

**Injuries Occurring at School**

We would like to stress that any injury which occurs at school must be reported to a staff member immediately. Please speak to your child(ren) and reinforce that it is essential to report injuries, even if the injury does not appear serious. We will contact parents regarding injuries. Please be assured that **any** injury above the shoulder will be reported by telephone to the parent.

**Medication**

Regulations stipulate that the school personnel cannot administer any drug, including Aspirin without written permission from the parent/guardian and a doctor. If there is a need for such medication, please contact the school and we will be happy to provide the appropriate forms required. This requirement is in keeping with the school board policy and must be reviewed yearly.

**CATHOLIC CHARACTER TRAIT**

**AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:**

We are on the lookout for students making great choices that reflect our Gospel values (**September’s Value is Hospitality**). Students identified by their teachers will be awarded a certificate. Help us to support this positive recognition program by asking your child how they served their school today. Staff will also be recognizing student achievement at the end of each month with a celebration certificate.

**Meet the Teacher virtual/phone meetings**

In order to respect Physical Distancing our meet the teacher meetings will take place by Brightspace meetings and/or telephone calls from your child’s teacher.

**Leaving School Grounds:**

Please inform the school, if your child will be going home for lunch everyday. If your child does not normally leave school for lunch, and would like to leave on a particular day, **a signed note by a parent will be required before permission is given by the school**. It is very important that lunch plans are communicated to the teacher to ensure the safety of all children.

***Electronic Devices:***

Please note that St. Bernard School staff are not responsible for any lost or stolen electronic devices. We understand the desire to keep your children safe by having them carry a cell phone, however this must come with some responsibility.

If your child carries a cell phone, please notify the teacher and complete and return the Cell Phone Policy Agreement Consent.

If a staff member sees a student texting with their phone, it will be taken away and returned at the end of the day. If the habit becomes persistent, then the phone will be given to Ms. Knill-Griesser and a parent will have to pick it up.

Under no circumstance will it be permitted to photograph or audio/video tape another person

with electronic devices as this is a direct invasion of privacy and will result in serious consequences.

In keeping with all our expectations regarding respect towards other, this is also an expectation in the interaction with all members of our school community when using Social Media.

Electronic devices are only permitted for use in our school at the direction of the classroom teacher and for learning purposes only. Otherwise they are not to be seen or used.

Help us to teach electronic manners and respect by supporting these expectations with your children.

Please review the expectations with your child.

**Catholic School Advisory Council:**

Would you like to be a parent representative on our Catholic School Council? Would you like to join a group of dedicated parents/guardians and staff committed to improving the learning of the children at St. Bernard Catholic School?

If you are interested in letting your name stand for nomination for the 2020-2021 Catholic School Council, please submit your name to the office by Friday, September 18, 2020. We are looking forward to a great partnership.

**Student Accident Insurance Forms**

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. The Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extra-curricular sports. If a student is injured, families are responsible for any costs not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or their employer’s health care plan. Most accident-related expenses are not fully covered under OHIP and some expenses like ambulance fees, casts, crutches, physiotherapy and emergency dental care are paid by the family. The program is available for students up to age 26. Coverage is provided for a wide range of accidental expenses.

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 usually not covered at all. This means that families are 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, the Board has arranged to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids®. Participation is voluntary, but highly recommended and costs for this insurance are 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. Please consider purchasing this affordable insurance by visiting the Board’s website: http://www.bhncdsb.ca/parents/accident-insurance and clicking on the www.insuremykids.com link.

***Volunteer Training Requirements***

As part of the Police Check requirements for parent volunteers in Ontario schools, all volunteers must complete a brief online training course about Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities. This can be accessed on our School’s website by selecting **Volunteer** on the **School Information** menu. Please ensure both your Police Check, that includes vulnerable sector screening and the AODA training is completed to ensure that you are able to volunteer at our school.

**STRONG START**

Once again we will be a Strong Start School. This is a wonderful reading program to help students in SK and Grade 1 to promote their literacy skills. Volunteers are needed to run this program and training is provided. (2 X 1 **hour** sessions). Mrs. Davidson will be sending out a letter with more information. Please contact this office if you are interested in making a difference at our school.

**SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**

***Credit Cards are accepted.***

School cash online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children’s school fees. Now with a few clicks you can pay for your child’s trips (no school trips this year), hot lunches, spirit wear and so much more from the comfort of your home. All you have to do is register an account, attach your children and in no time you will be able to make payments online. All this can be done easily on our school website…just click on School Cash Online and register….it is that easy. https://bhncdsb.schoolcashonline.com

***Please also note that cheques will no longer be accepted for any school payments. Please contact the school if you are having difficulty with the School Cash Online process.***

**Student Photographs**

Individual student photographs will be taken in January 2021. Composite photos will be creating virtually by Edge Imaging.

**BUS PATROLLERS:**

We are implementing a student Bus Patrol Program for our school buses for the current year. Training will be involved and we will be targeting our older students for this role. Please encourage your child to volunteer as it is a great way to serve our school and keep riders safe.

**TERRY FOX RUN**

Please join us in supporting the TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN.

Here is the ling for our Terry Fox Donation Website page:

<https://secure.terryfox.ca/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?Team>ID=908391

 **over ------**

***TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION***

**Transportation Delays/ Cancellations, are you getting notified?**

Did you know that there are a number of ways to see if your child(ren)’s bus is running behind schedule or has been cancelled? The ways that you can be notified of an interruption include:

1) downloading the bus delays app from either the Google Play or Apple store; detailed instructions on setting up the app is available by visiting [http://www.stsbhn.ca/faqs](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.stsbhn.ca/faqs__;!!Kq1SNukRZg!sBBOsrdtEzlP2DkHikmLs1alMF2WSfQMb-GLhqRXtk8Y75hRRC-1UUQaQm4pQmBUOk8cnMY$) and clicking on the last FAQ labelled “Delays and Cancellation App”.

 2) register to receive email notifications. To register simply visit [https://transinfobhn.ca/Login](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/transinfobhn.ca/Login__;!!Kq1SNukRZg!sBBOsrdtEzlP2DkHikmLs1alMF2WSfQMb-GLhqRXtk8Y75hRRC-1UUQaQm4pQmBUND6i_PE$) and create and account. After your account has been created, connect your child(ren)’s bus service to your email address by logging in and clicking the “Add Student” button.

Detailed instructions on setting up your account is also available by visiting [http://www.stsbhn.ca/faqs](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.stsbhn.ca/faqs__;!!Kq1SNukRZg!sBBOsrdtEzlP2DkHikmLs1alMF2WSfQMb-GLhqRXtk8Y75hRRC-1UUQaQm4pQmBUOk8cnMY$) and clicking on the FAQ labelled “having trouble logging into the Parent/Student portal”.

For parents who look up bus information before the start of school, you have already completed this option!

 3) visit [https://transinfobhn.ca/Alerts](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/transinfobhn.ca/Alerts__;!!Kq1SNukRZg!sBBOsrdtEzlP2DkHikmLs1alMF2WSfQMb-GLhqRXtk8Y75hRRC-1UUQaQm4pQmBU1yXSGJQ$) daily to see if your bus is running behind schedule or has been cancelled.

If you are having trouble with any of these methods, please reach out to the transportation office by emailing transportation@stsbhn.ca or by calling 519-751-7532.

***“There are two ways of spreading light…***

***To be the candle, or the mirror that reflect it.”***

***~ Edith Wharton***

Please keep this page for reference.