



**MADONNA DELLA LIBERA**  
✦ CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ✦

120 Ninth Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3S 1E7 Phone: (519) 753-5283  
[www.mdlbrantford.ca](http://www.mdlbrantford.ca) twitter ~ @madonnaroar

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Mr. D. Pace– Principal

Mrs. M. Petrella–Vice-Principal

Mrs. Debbie Cotter – Secretary

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***LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER IN CHRIST***  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Best wishes for the new year from the entire staff of Madonna Della Libera Catholic School. We are excited to welcome everyone back from the Christmas break and we hope you have a joyous and peaceful Christmas holiday, and may God's blessings be with you throughout this New Year. The Madonna Della Libera community demonstrated true Christmas spirit and donated to many causes over December and we thank you for these thoughtful donations that will help to provide others in our community with a great Christmas. It was heartwarming and greatly appreciated.



**EPIPHANY**

Loving God, we celebrate this new year of your love  
with joyful hearts and promises  
that we will always follow in your ways.  
Be with us, and keep us safe and happy.  
Help us to learn from Jesus how to be loving and kind.  
Like the wise men, may we see the goodness of God, your Son,  
in unexpected places,  
especially in those at home and at school.  
AMEN



*Christmas*  
**MASS TIMES**



**Dec 24**  
**4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm\***  
\* available when prior masses are full

**Dec 25**  
**7:30 am\*, 9 am, 11 am**  
\* only 50 seats are available

**Reservation is required!**  
**Please visit our website for details:**  
**[www.marybrantford.com/reserve.html](http://www.marybrantford.com/reserve.html)**

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel buses before the start of the school day will be made by 6:30am and will be broadcast over local radio stations. **We are ZONE FOUR.** On the radio you will hear “Zone Four Transportation Cancelled.” **If transportation is cancelled, the school is closed to students.** All school related activities, class trips, etc., are also cancelled.

Students in schools within a closed zone/transportation cancelled on an inclement weather day may choose to access asynchronous learning (Learning that is not delivered in real time) posted in their regular Brightspace classroom. Asynchronous learning may involve students watching pre-recorded video lessons, completing assigned tasks, or contributing to online discussion boards. Staff affected by any closure will be available throughout their regular workday to respond to any parent or student inquiries.

For more information about how inclement weather days are determined, please view our BHNCD SB Transportation and Inclement Weather Video (Link: <https://youtu.be/2C3s-ThtJqU>).

~ Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year will begin during the month of January. In order for your child to start school, you must register him/her using the online tool through an application process. Please note that Kindergarten is available in both our **English and French Immersion pathways**.



## FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

Over the past few years, we, along with other district school boards, have been faced with a challenge of finding qualified French teachers to instruct and facilitate our French programs. We continue to actively recruit, but in the meantime, in reviewing the policy, we **will be** instituting a cap for our junior kindergarten registration in French Immersion.

More information will be made available as the French policy goes through the formal reviewing process. We wanted families to know that a cap may be a reality for the upcoming school year.

## Online Kindergarten Registration

The Board is utilizing an online Kindergarten Registration tool that will make the process more convenient for parents. Parents will:

- Create an account (a confirmation email will be sent to your email account)
- Provide registration details
- Upload a few documents (**please prepare by taking pictures of them or scanning them so you have an electronic copy**)

Parents can get a head start by collecting the following:

- **Canadian birth certificate** (or proof of Canadian citizenship, proof of permanent residence, record of landing, or other Immigration and Citizenship documentation).
- **Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate or, if your child is not baptized, the Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the parent or guardian.**
- **Proof of home address** (a rental/lease agreement, driver's license, utility bill, proof of purchase).
- Education records (if your child previously attended another school).

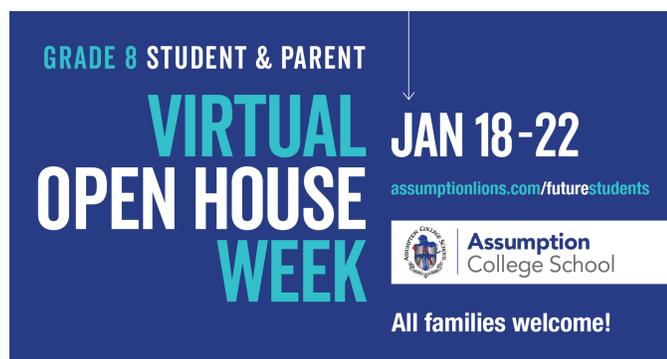
**Tips:**

- **If you have any difficulties or questions during the registration process, please contact the school, email [info@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:info@bhncdsb.ca) or call 519-732-5283.**
- You will need to use the same email address when entering your parent/guardian information that you used when you created your account. That email address is important because it is part of the attendance and information sharing processes during the school year. Other parent/guardian email addresses can be added during the registration process.
- You can upload the required documents as an 'image' or as a '.pdf' file. A quick 'smart phone' picture or 'scan' will do the trick! If you are not able to upload the required documents, complete the online registration process and provide the original paper versions to the school as soon as possible. Your child's registration is not complete until all documents are received at the school.
- If you are registering for a school that is not your home school (meaning that it is not the Catholic school in your immediate area) please complete the registration process by picking your home school. You will then be able to fill out an "Out of Boundary" form.
- If you are registering for our French Immersion program, please select the French Immersion School closest to your home from the list.

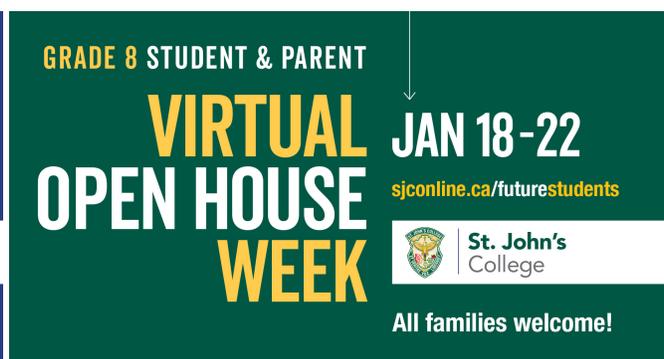
**Please revisit the board website in January to be directed to Kindergarten Online Registration**

**Grade 8 Option Sheets**

Grade 8 students who plan to attend one of our Catholic High Schools will be visited by Guidance personnel in January at Madonna Della Libera. Option sheets/ Course selections for these students will be sent home upon receipt. Virtual Open House Week will also provide important information for students and parents.



GRADE 8 STUDENT & PARENT  
**VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE WEEK**  
↓  
JAN 18-22  
[assumptionlions.com/futurestudents](http://assumptionlions.com/futurestudents)  
 **Assumption**  
College School  
All families welcome!



GRADE 8 STUDENT & PARENT  
**VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE WEEK**  
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JAN 18-22  
[sjconline.ca/futurestudents](http://sjconline.ca/futurestudents)  
 **St. John's**  
College  
All families welcome!

**Professional Activity Day –**  
Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> .....no school today

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## **ABSENCES AND LATES**

### **.... A New Year’s Resolution:**

As part of our school improvement plans for 2021-2022, we are attempting to reduce the number of lates that we have been experiencing in the morning. School starts at **8:40am** and *many students are arriving 5 to 15 minutes late daily.* This not only puts their routines behind but adds to the extra administrative duties for our school secretary. Please help us to help your children to develop responsible habits by ensuring that you get your child to school on time. **Please make this a priority for this new year...**a little change in your morning routine can make a significant improvement in the work habits of your child. ***Thank you.***

## **INDOOR SHOES**

Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes as our floors are quite wet as winter is tracked in from the outside. We also recommend proper boots are worn outside as our grounds have not totally frozen due to the mild winter.... thanks for your cooperation.

## **Smoke-Free Ontario Act reminder**

Smoking tobacco, cannabis or vaping is not allowed in public schools, including the grounds associated with the school and areas within 20 meters of any point on the perimeter of the grounds of the school. The public health unit will carry out inspections and respond to any complaints and failure to comply could result in convictions and fines.

Thanks for your cooperation!



## **FOOD ALLERGY REMINDER**

*Just a reminder, we are asking that you not send foods containing, peanuts, and all tree nuts. Please read labels each time you shop. Manufacturing process and products do change at times.*

## PARENTS CORNER

### **A Note From Your School Health Nurse...**

#### **Take Small Steps to Better Health**

Each New Year brings New Year's resolutions and an opportunity to make positive changes in our lives. This year think about how you can be a positive role model for your child and help them develop healthy attitudes and habits that will last a lifetime.

Focus on being active, eating well and reducing stress.

- Add physical activity into your daily plans. Make it a family event and let your children choose the activities that they would like to try.
- Encourage your children to turn off the TV and to head outdoors to play instead.
- Include your kids in planning, shopping for, preparing and serving meals; visit [www.familykitchen.ca](http://www.familykitchen.ca) for tips.
- Role model positive eating habits by eating meals together as a family. Visit [www.eatrightontario.ca](http://www.eatrightontario.ca) for more tips on creating a positive home eating environment.
- Learn to recognize your own stress symptoms and find ways to cope with them. Have a positive attitude and it will rub off on those around you.

## **CYBER BULLYING**

Cyber bullying, which is sometimes referred to as online social cruelty or electronic bullying, can involve:

- Sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images
- Posting sensitive, private information about another person
- Pretending to be someone else to make that person look bad
- Intentionally excluding someone from an online group

Children and youth can cyberbully each other through:

- Text or digital messages sent on cell phones
- Instant messaging via Snap Chat, Instagram, Facebook Messenger
- Group chats
- Online gaming
- E-mails

Recent studies have found that:

- 18% of students in gr. 6—8 said they had been cyberbullied at least once in the last couple of months
- 11% of students in gr. 6—8 said they had cyberbullied another person at least once in the last couple months
- 19% of regular internet users between 10 and 17 yrs reported being involved in online aggression
- 17% of 6-11 year old's and 36% of 12-17 year old's reported that someone said threatening or embarrassing things about them through email, instant messages, web sites, Facebook, text messages, Instagram, etc.

As parents, please be aware of what your child is doing while on their phone or computer and who your child is communicating with. Setting parent controls is a great way to limit use and avoid inappropriate behaviour online. Have discussions with our children to let them know we are here to support them if they are experiencing problems online.