



Madonna Della Libera News

OCTOBER 2023

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Dear Families,

As we move into the autumn season we bear witness to some of God's tangible handiwork with the transformation of trees turning into glorious shades of colour. In this season of Thanksgiving, we wish to extend to all of you a heartfelt thank you for entrusting your most precious gifts to us - your children. We are thankful that we can once again see their smiling eyes, hear their laughter, and witness their joy and their bright minds full of wonder and learning! We are also extremely thankful for the wonderful staff here at MDL. They continue go above and beyond to provide a safe, secure and loving environment, rooted in our faith for your children, not to mention a top quality education! Thank you to our school community as well for your continued support with our start-up. We hope you find time this season to pause and to give thanks for our many blessings. Take care, stay safe, and God Bless.

Peter Marchand, Principal, and Giovanna Oviedo-Kinrade, Vice-Principal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind
That we pass unseeing
When even the common thornbush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen



Important October Dates

PA Day.....	3
Thanksgiving.....	9
School Photo Day.....	11
Parent Council (CSAC) 6-7 PM.....	18
Brant Cross Country.....	24
Halloween.....	31

Important November Dates

Progress Reports.....	6
BCHU Grade 7 & 8 Immunizations....	9
Parent Council (CSAC) 6-7 PM.....	15
School Photo Retake Day.....	16
PA Day.....	17
BCHU Dental Screening for Kindergarten, Grades 2, 4, and 7.....	23 & 24
Confirmation Parent Meeting @ St. Mary's Parish 7 PM.....	29

JAGUARS SPORTS

Congratulations to our Jr. and Sr. Co-Ed Soccer Teams who did a great job of representing our school at the Board tournament! Thank you to Mlle. Seguin, Mr. Catarino, Mr. Edge, and Mrs. Niblock for coaching!



School Bell Times

Yard Supervision Begins	8:25 AM
Instructional Block	8:40 AM — 10:20 AM
First Nutrition Break	10:20 AM — 11:00 AM
Instructional Block	11:00 AM — 12:40 PM
Second Nutrition Break	12:40 PM — 1:20 PM
Instructional Block	1:20 PM — 3:00 PM
Dismissal	2:50 PM bus students
	3:00 PM all other students

ANAPHYLAXIS ALLERGY ALERT

Madonna Della Libera is a **Peanut/Tree Nut Safe School!** At MDL, we have several students and staff with severe risk allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. As a Catholic School community, and in accordance with Sabrina's Law (2005), we ask your co-operation in helping us ensure that all students are in a safe and healthy environment by reading all labels and packing lunches and snacks that are free of these items. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If other caregivers prepare your child(ren)'s lunches and snacks, please share this information with them.



Please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (e.g., WOW Butter, etc.) is **NOT** permitted. The reasoning behind this is that these substitutes look and smell like peanut butter, which makes it difficult for staff to monitor as well as possibly causing anxiety for students and staff with a life-threatening allergy.

While it is impossible to create a risk free environment, students, parents, and staff can all take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping ALL of our students and staff safe!

HALLOWEEN @ MDL



On Tuesday, October 31st, students and staff will have the opportunity to wear their costumes or dress in black and/or orange for the day. The day is meant to provide a safe and fun experience for everyone, therefore costumes should reflect our Catholic values

and beliefs and not reflect violence, excessive gore, blood or anything inappropriate or derogatory.

For safety reasons, props such as swords or any "look alike" weapons are **NOT** permitted. It is also recommended that students not bring accessories such as wands, tiaras, etc., as these items may be broken or lost at school.

This will also be a nutrition exempt day, but please be advised that snacks **MUST** be peanut/tree nut free (as indicated on the label) and **cannot** be homemade. A balance of healthy snacks and treats is always encouraged! Also, if sending Halloween treats as snacks in your child's lunch, please ensure they are peanut/tree nut safe.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

With the cold weather approaching, students are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. This is especially important as we will continue to bring student learning outside as long as the weather cooperates! Also, please remember to **label your child's belongings** as this helps us return any lost / misplaced items to their rightful owner! If you need labels, please consider using [Mabel's Labels](#) to help support our school:



VISITORS

A reminder that visitors to the school **MUST** sign in at the office upon arrival. If you are dropping off any items for your child(ren) (i.e., lunch), please use the labels at the front office to identify whom it is for. Thanks for your cooperation!

PERSONAL DEVICES

We realize that some students may have a phone at school for safety reasons, a reminder that students are **NOT** permitted to use cell phones at school, unless under the direction and permission of their teacher or another staff member. In the event of an emergency, the school phone can be used as we will never deny a student access to a phone. Also, we kindly ask parents to refrain from texting your child(ren) during the school day as it can be a distraction from their learning. If there is an important message to pass along (e.g., a change in pick-up routine), please call the school or email your child's teacher so that we can ensure the safety of your child(ren).

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

If for any reason your child needs to take medication at school on a daily basis, or in case of a medical emergency (e.g., anaphylaxis, asthma), the appropriate medical form needs to be completed. Forms were sent home in June but are available at the office and assist us in establishing a plan to help keep our children safe. If your child's medical condition changes throughout the school year (e.g., they are diagnosed with anaphylaxis, asthma, etc.), please contact the office so that we can establish a plan of care.

In addition, if your child requires the administration of non-prescription medications at times (i.e., Benedryl, aspirin, etc.), please contact the office (519-753-5283) to discuss and establish a plan to ensure this is done safely at the school under supervision and/or with assistance of staff. Thank you for your cooperation!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Madonna Della Libera is designated **ZONE 4**. This means if bus transportation is cancelled in Zone 4, then the school is closed for **ALL** students! Decisions to cancel or delay transportation will be made prior to 6:30 AM. Please check the Board website (www.bhncdsb.ca) and/or Twitter/X for information and notifications as well.

You can also visit the transportation website at www.stsbhn.ca and sign up for direct e-mail notifications of any bus delays or cancellations!

EARLY ON PRE-SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM



The Early ON program for pre-school children and families at MDL is expanding! Beginning October 10th, the hours of operation will be each morning Monday to Friday, 8:30 – 11:30 AM, and on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. Please note that it will be closed all school holidays. Families accessing the program are asked to enter the school through the front door and sign in. Early ON kindly asks that any strollers be kept at the front doors for your safety. You can visit the [Early ON Brantford](http://www.bhncdsb.ca/early-on) website for more information.

SCHOOL PHOTOS


Get those smiles ready, Jaguars! Edge Imaging will be taking school photos on **Wednesday, October 11th** with re-takes taking place on Thursday, November 16th. Grade 8 Graduation photos are scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th.

BRIGHTSPACE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Brightspace is the online platform that our district uses for teachers to post classwork, notices, updates, and information that pertains to their classroom. The following information will assist you in accessing this at home as well. To access the Brightspace website, visit: <https://bhncdsb.elearningontario.ca/d2l/home>.

This will bring you to the login page (see image below):

Welcome to BHNCD SB Brightspace



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Excellence in Learning – Living in Christ

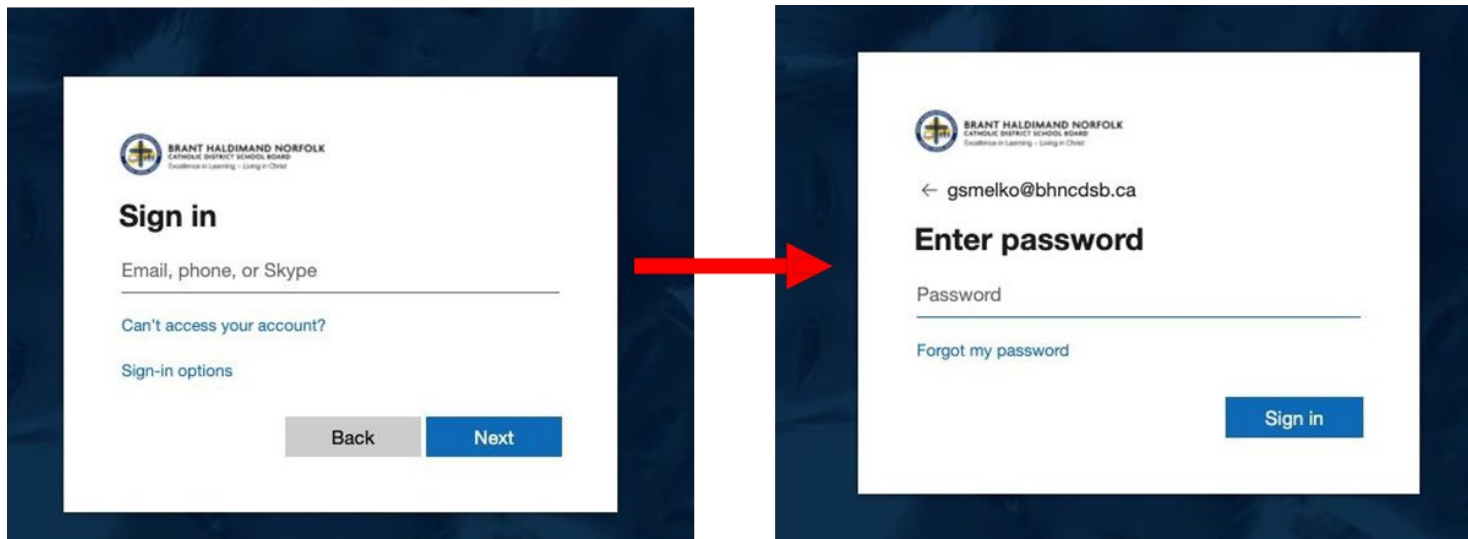
If you are a Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCD SB) student or employee you should click on the User Login button and you will be forwarded to Brightspace automatically. If prompted you should enter your board email address.

If not a member of the BHNCD SB community, you may need to log into Brightspace through the Brightspace Guest Login Prompts which will appear below, after clicking on the Guest Login button. You should enter your username; not your email address at this point. A BHNCD SB student or teacher may need to use the forgot password function if they are unable to log into Brightspace through the Guest Login button.

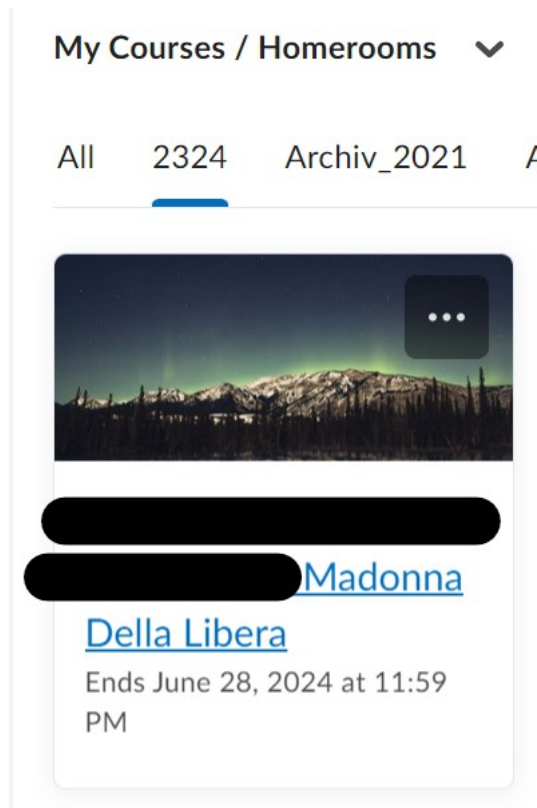
User Login

Guest Login

In order to login, you will need your child's login and password. This information has been provided to them by their teacher. If you require it, please reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher(s) and we will provide it to you.



Once you have successfully logged in you will land on the following page (see image below) You will then click your course for 2023 (2324). Your child's teacher and grade will be listed.



Below is a quick guide to help familiarize you and your child with the layout of the Brightspace classroom and how to begin navigating it to access class information.

The image shows a screenshot of the Brightspace classroom interface. At the top is a navigation bar (Navbar) with icons for Home, Desktop, Resources, Content, Assessments, and Portfolio. Below the navbar is the Activity Feed, which includes a 'Create a post...' button and a 'Latest Posts' section. One post is titled 'Good Morning!' and contains a link to a 'Whole Group Lesson'. To the right of the Activity Feed is an 'Announcements' section with a post titled 'Welcome Back to School'. Below the announcements is an 'Office 365' section with a 'mathies' logo. Three callout boxes with arrows point to these sections: the first points to the Navbar, the second to the Activity Feed, and the third to the Office 365 section.

Navbar:
This is the navigation bar for moving around your Brightspace classroom.

Announcements:
General announcements for the whole class will be posted here. For example, upcoming events, reminders.

Activity Feed:
This section will have the daily tasks for your child as well as attachments of any assignments or links they will need to complete the work for the day.

Office 365:
You will need to log in with your child's login and password to open Office 365 (this only needs to be done once). It will allow you quick access to email, the calendar and OneDrive (OneDrive icon is a cloud).