



MADONNA DELLA LIBERA
✦ CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ✦

120 Ninth Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3S 1E7 Phone: (519) 753-5283

www.mdlbrantford.ca

twitter ~ @madonnaroar

Mr. D. Pace – Principal

Mrs. M. Petrella – Vice-Principal

Mrs. Debbie Cotter – Secretary



LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

October 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians:

If the only prayer that you ever prayed was "Thank You," that would be enough.

Meister Eckhart

October is here already and we, at Madonna Della Libera have a lot to be thankful for:

- all of our staff and students returned safely to school after summer holidays
- We welcomed several new families to our Madonna Della Libera community this fall
- Our parent and school community for their understanding and trust in us during this time. Our parents and families have been amazing!
- The variety of leadership skills displayed by our students and staff and leading by example
- Children choosing to create a peaceful environment at Madonna Della Libera School

Our Healthy Breakfast Club has resumed! A big thank you to staff members, who, without them, we would not be able to run our healthy breakfast club! A reminder that we are taking online payments and donations only.

Let us pray to God, the source of everything that is good, in a spirit of genuine gratitude. *Gracious God, you sustain our living in every way, from the air we breathe and the food we eat; to the beauty and wonder of all of Creation; to the life-giving relationships we have with each other. May we express our thanks for all these blessings through our willingness to serve and share with each other.*

Amen.

Mr. D. Pace & Mrs. M. Petrella

Thanksgiving Day Thanksgiving Day is on Monday, Oct 12th. Enjoy this time of giving thanks with your families.

Parent Parking

Parents, please be aware that parking is always a concern here at Madonna Della Libera. Please extend co-operation and courtesy when you need to use the parking lot. Please note that there is no parking in the respective traffic/bus lanes. It is also vitally important that speed limits are maintained for safety in the parking lot. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping kids safe.

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 our students are safe and healthy!

HALLOWEEN at Our School

We checked with Public Health Unit on a few things (food handling mostly) as well for what should be considered, given COVID, for Halloween celebrations in a school environment.

Costumes:

We are allowing costumes, but no props allowed. Costumes must be culturally sensitive, and appropriate as always. Students must still wear a mask and staff who dress up must also still wear mask/shield.

Treats from home: (food, pencils, fun erasers...) are not allowed for same reasons we are limiting things coming and going from home (like agendas). Even individually wrapped still means multiple hands handling them.

Thank you for your understanding and reviewing with your children.



PAWCHA AWARDS:

We are on the lookout for students making great choices that reflect our Gospel values. Students caught will be awarded a "**Pawcha**" that identifies what they did and who they are and will be kept in each classroom. Our Vice- Principal, Mrs. Petrella will then make monthly draws from Kindergarten, Primary, Junior, and Intermediate. At the end of each month, all student pawchas will be entered into a draw for a gift card which will be presented virtually for the entire school to see in their individual classrooms as we will not be holding assemblies. Help us to support this positive recognition program by asking your child how they served their school today.

WORLD CEREBRAL PALSY DAY

On Tues, Oct 6th, Madonna Della Libera School will be recognizing World Cerebral Palsy Day by wearing **GREEN**. It is time to close the gap between the everyday circumstance and the real potential of people living with CP. Through World CP Day, we will join together to combine our resources, energy and knowledge. We will share our stories and best ideas.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

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 breakfast program 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.

Please also note that cheques are not accepted for any school payments. Cash will still be accepted for some items for the time being.

So help us to enter the 21st Century with our school banking, help our Secretary (Debbie) to reduce the hours that she spends on counting cash, and most importantly keep your children safe from carrying unnecessary cash to school.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Believe it or not, progress reports will be sent home on Friday, November 6th. Teachers are busy collecting and assessing student work. The progress reports are a good indication to you as a parent how your child is doing so far in their new grade. We strongly encourage you to read this report carefully with your child. It is important that your child develop good work habits to be successful in their learning. Our goal is to help them become self-regulated, creative and independent thinkers who can problem-solve effectively.

If you notice that your child is struggling in any of the Learning Skills areas, please ask your teacher about strategies to help your child. Interviews will be scheduled by phone or virtual meetings and we will keep you posted on the plan to discuss with teachers. We hope that you are able to connect with your child's teacher, but if you cannot, please do not hesitate to arrange an alternate time.

Medication

Regulations stipulate that the school personnel cannot administer any drug, including Aspirin without written permission from the parent/guardian. 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. **Do not send medication to school with your child to be self-administered.**

Breakfast Club

We are pleased to continue a modified Breakfast Program effective Monday, September 21 at 8:25-8:40 each morning. All items will be prepacked. A donation of 25 cents through school cash online is welcomed to help fund this important program. Thank you to our EAs and Vice Principal who help run this program.

Electronic Devices:

Please note that 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 a staff member sees a student with their phone, they will be asked to put it away. A second offence, 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 administration and a parent will have to pick it up.

Under no circumstances will it be permissive 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.

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

TWITTER

Madonna Della Libera School is on Twitter and this is a great way to stay informed of the daily on-goings of our school. We will be posting pics and info on special events happening at our school.

Our Twitter handle is @madonnaroar

Brightspace (D2L)

All classroom teachers will be utilizing the Brightspace (D2L) forum for communicating with students and parents and for placing activities for students if needed. We encourage students to visit D2L when they are not at school to keep up with the class activities.

How Being Late To School Impacts Your Child

The occasional tardy is nearly inevitable. Things happen to all of us. Coffee spills and shoes get lost. Conversations need to happen. There are a million things that can cause people to run behind. Ideally our daily routines would include time to account for mishaps to minimize tardiness. If you are finding that your child is late one or more times per week, though, you may need to change your routine to ensure a successful start to your day. Here are a few suggestions that may help.

1) Pack backpacks/lunchboxes the night before. The last thing you want to be doing as you are rushing out the door is trying to find lost homework. Make sure everyone's backpacks are ready to go and prepare home lunches as much as you can. Also fill their water bottles ahead of time and store in the refrigerator.

2) Lay clothes out. Seems too simple to make a difference but hunting down matching socks or pants without holes in the knees is quite the time consumer. Not only that, but you won't have to worry that you didn't notice your child was wearing shorts in negative degree weather until after you arrived at school.

3) Set up a "last stop" area. Pick any available area near the door you typically leave through and put everything there for the day: backpacks, phones, homework, and especially coats and shoes. There are no last-minute distractions this way.

4) Play a family favorite music list. Music can get people moving and can even turn a mood around. Pick upbeat songs that everyone enjoys. Play the same set each day so that everyone starts to recognize the cues and where they should be. For example, when the second song ends, breakfast is over. The third song ending means teeth should be brushed, and when the last song starts, they should be heading to get their coats and backpacks on.

5) If all else fails, wake up earlier. Not the most enjoyable solution, but sometimes drastic measures are needed.