



## 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

Mr. D. Pace – Principal

Mr. J. Persia (Acting Vice-Principal)

Mrs. Debbie Cotter – Secretary

## SEPTEMBER 2021

### Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to a new school year! It is our great pleasure that you have chosen Madonna Della Libera Catholic School to educate your child. This year, our Board Pastoral Theme is entitled, **Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together**. At Madonna Della Libera we are a dedicated, faith-filled, Catholic education community who are stronger together. There are five key sub-themes we will explore throughout the year.

- Rediscover. “I have found the coin that I lost.” Lk.15:9b
- Rebuild. “Rebuild the house of the Lord.” Ez. 1:3
- Restore. “The God of all grace will restore, support, strengthen and establish you.” 1 Pt. 5:10.
- Renew. “The Lord your God... Will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.”
- Rejoice. “Be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things.” Joel 2:21

On behalf of the staff, I would like to send out a warm “Welcome Back” and thank you to all students and parents for your cooperation and patience as we work through this year. A special welcome is extended to all families new to our school community. We look forward to an exciting, enriching, and successful school year. 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. In place of a Meet the Teacher evening, teachers will be in touch and communicate with you using various forms of technology over the month of September.

Please help me in congratulating our vice-principal Mrs. Petrella on her principal appointment at St. Michael’s School in Walsh for this school year. Remember, once a Jaguar-Always a Jaguar! We will miss your energy and positivity. We welcome Mr. Persia to the role of acting vice-principal for the interim. Mr. Persia has a tremendous amount of

experience teaching many grade levels and is excited to be a part of our school community. Welcome to MDL Mr. Persia! We also congratulate Mr. Minshall (custodian) and Mrs. Stevens (prep teacher) on a wonderful retirement and we thank you for their years of exemplary service to our school community. Well done!

All students, parents and staff have rights and responsibilities. Students have a right to an education and a corresponding responsibility not to deny these rights to others. All staff members will enforce the norms of our school to ensure Madonna Della Libera School is a safe and engaging school for all. The BIG 5 norms are designed to ensure Christian behaviours by promoting respect for self, respect for others, and respect for property, all of which encompass our Catholic values in a positive approach. Again, this year, all students are expected to adhere to our Big 5, plus any specific classroom norms decided upon with their teacher. Please remind your children of our BIG 5.

### The Jaguars Big 5

1. All rules will be fair, reasonable, and democratically decided upon.
2. No disrespectful behavior.
3. Hands off. Do not touch others or their belongings.
4. Talking is encouraged other than when an adult is teaching, speaking to someone, giving direction or during tests.
5. Administration will be aware of class rules, support our good behavior, and deal with our poor choices according to the class/school rules.

### VERY IMPORTANT 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) 753-5283 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.

## Daily School Schedule

School Yard Supervision	8:25 – 8:40 a.m.
<b>(Please do not have your child arrive before 8:25am as there will be no supervision)</b>	
Morning Bell	8:40 a.m.
First 100 Minute Block	8:40 – 10:20 a.m.
First Nutrition Break	10:20 – 11:00 a.m.
Second 100 Minute Block	11:00 – 12:40 p.m.
Second Nutrition Break	12:40 - 1:20 p.m.
Third 100 Minute Block	1:20- 3:00 p.m.
Dismissal Bell	2:50 Bused students 3:00 p.m. All others

## Madonna Della Libera Staff 2021-2022

Principal	Daniel Pace
Acting VP	Joseph Persia
Secretaries	Debbie Cotter Sara Barrieau
K - F1	Maria Sampson
ECE	Marissa DeSalvo
K - F2	Christina Alexopoulos
ECE	Bree Lovsin
K - E	Alyse Hinton
ECE	Patricia Kellam
Grade 1 - F	Linda Cinelli
Grade 1- E	Kaitlyn Donnelly
Grade 1/2 – F	Rejeanne Piekosz
Grade 2/3-F	Liane Lalonde
Grade 2- E	Marinelle Fernandez
Grade 3/4 – F	Krystina Pucci
Grade 3 – E	Alexander Galinis
Grade 4/5 – F	Stacey Turcotte
Grade 4/5- E	David Catarino
Grade 5/6- E	Zachary Edge
Grade 6/7- F	Maria Trombetta
Grade 6/7- E	Alyssa Niblock
Grade 7/8 - F	Emma Grande
Grade 7/8 – E	Kayla Doucette
Core French	Merlin Tchaptchet
Prep	Kristin Porter
Prep	Laura Elliott
Prep	TBD
Librarian	Alyssa Hughes
French Monitor	Renee Proulx
Lunch Monitor	Angela Rivera
Lunch Monitor	Roxanne Cabral

## Special Education Department

SERT	Tara D'Agostino
SERT	Taylor Wiepjes
EA	Kathryn Bialas
EA	Ron Mills
EA	Alisha Powell
EA	Bruce McHutchion
EA	William Gemmell
EA	Theresa Mamela
EA	Elizabeth Lymburner

## Custodial Staff

Aaron Chopp / Dawn Bodine

## Student Drop off Procedures

Parents are not permitted onto the school playground. Kindergarten parents can walk their child to the entry Kindergarten gate. If walking to school with your Gr.1-8 child, we will have separation markings on the fenced school walkway and are asking parents to adhere to these separations. Your child will leave from that marked area in the am and come to you in the pm.

## 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. Packages will be sent home to update for students we are already aware of. With your help, we will do our best to prevent mishaps and to make sure that all our students are safe and healthy!

## Family Information Sheets

The Student Verification Forms being sent home to all parents is the standard form from our new student management system. We realize that family information and circumstances may have changed 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 in your child's agenda at your earliest opportunity.

## Appropriate School Attire

Families are reminded that the students are asked to wear proper outdoor footwear to school each day and then to change to indoor footwear upon entering the building. Stocking feet are not permitted. Slippers with rubber soles may be worn in the building, but students must also have running shoes with non-marking soles for gym. Beach wear is not permitted as part of our dress code. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is appropriately dressed to support an environment of respect and learning.



## **Student Accident Insurance**

If you wish to purchase coverage, please do so directly online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://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](http://www.insuremykids.com).

## **Parent Parking**

Parents, please be aware that parking is always a concern here at Madonna Della Libera School. Please extend cooperation 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. Please also keep the handicap parking spaces for those who need them.

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

## **Breakfast Program**

We are pleased to continue a modified Walk-Through Breakfast Program effective Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:40am each morning. All items will be prepacked. A donation of 25 cents per visit is welcomed to help fund this important program. Thank you to our EAs and Vice Principal who help run this program.

## **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. No Scooters, bikes etc., will be allowed inside the school for storage.

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

## **SAFE AND WELCOMING SCHOOL ACCESS**

Madonna Della Libera supports a welcoming and safe learning environment. The secure access measures are as follows:

- all outside doors will be locked during the school day
- Parents/ Guardians will not be permitted to be in the school building during the day as a method of increased safety measures, unless they have a meeting booked.
- all essential visitors to the school will enter through the front door and will need to ring the buzzer when they arrive.
- all essential visitors will sign-in and receive a tag.

These measures have been put into place to ensure that our students are safe, and we appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

## **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. **Do not send medication to school with your child to be self-administered.**



## **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 posted on the main bulletin board. We will then make monthly draws from Kindergarten, Primary, Junior, and Intermediate award winners to win a gift card. Help us to support this positive recognition program by asking your child how they served their school today.

## **Catholic Character Awards**

These monthly themed awards will be presented to students who truly attempt to live out our gospel values and are based on the Catholic Graduate Expectations. Our monthly assemblies will still happen using some creative technology to recognize those students who are creating a positive culture at our school.

## **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**

(A reminder to sign and return the Media Student consent form.)

## **School Council Advisory Committee**

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 Madonna Della Libera Catholic School? If you are interested in letting your name stand for nomination for the upcoming school year, Catholic School Council, please submit your name to the office. Meetings will probably be virtual using TEAMS. We need you!

## **Leaving School Grounds:**

Please inform your child's teacher through the agenda, if your child will be going home for lunch every day. 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. Texting this permission to your child is not acceptable or permitted.

## **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 texting 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.

## **PIZZA DAYS BEGIN OCTOBER 6!**

PLEASE SIGN IN TO SCHOOL CASH ONLINE TO PURCHASE PIZZA. LAST DAY TO ORDER FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER IS SEPTEMBER 26, 2021.

## **New 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. Once we can have volunteers in the building again, we will be sending this info home again.

## **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 spirit wear and so much more from the comfort of your home. All you must 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 will no longer be accepted for any school payments.***

So help us to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## ***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. The attached document identifies how to log into Bright Space (not through the website, but the URL). It also identifies helpful tips and screenshots, as well as who to report issues to.

***PHOTO DAY: Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>***  
***PHOTO RETAKE DAY: Thursday,***  
***November 18<sup>th</sup>***



## Preparing for Back to School Stress

What might be a stressor for some, may not be for another, and stressors can change from day to day! When we have 1 or 2 stressors, we can typically manage. But stressors don't exist in isolation, they can bounce off one another and turn into a stress cycle; resulting in back to-school challenging "misbehaviours". Reframe the Behaviour Look at these "misbehaviours" as "stress behaviours," caused by too much stress. When someone (including grownups) overreacts or behaves in a way that makes no sense, ask why, and look for the stressors that may be causing the behaviour.

## School Re-entry and Self-Regulation

School Re-entry and Self-Regulation 'Back to School' comes with many thoughts and feelings, particularly while still in the midst of a global pandemic. Whether your child appears excited, nervous, or not terribly interested at all in going to school (in person or remotely) it's important to know how to support our children so that back to school can be as stress-free and successful as possible. What is stress anyway? Stress is anything that requires us to burn energy. When you think of the thermostat on your furnace, it turns on and off to keep your home around a certain temperature. But the thermostat can break if overused and the same thing can happen to your child's "brain thermostat".

When there is too much stress, the thermostat, or ability to self-regulate, simply gets overwhelmed. - Dr. Stuart Shanker

Remember, school re-entry can be stressful for adults too... Be kind to yourself and others.