



**St. Boniface  
Catholic School**  
20 Markanna Drive  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1M 2J1  
416-393-5277

**Principal**  
P. Stachiw

**Secretaries**  
G. Da Silva  
S. Filippi

**Superintendent**  
G. Grant

**Trustee**  
P. Crawford

**Parish**  
St. Boniface  
142 Markham Road  
416-261-5983

**Hours of Operation**  
8:55 AM - 3:30 PM

**Lunch Hour**  
12:00 AM - 1:00 PM



## ***St. Boniface Catholic School*** ***September 2009***

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A warm welcome back to you and your children. We hope you had an enjoyable summer. We especially embrace our families who are new to the community and hope you will become involved in our school community. We would also like to welcome Mr. G. Grant to our area of schools. Mr. Grant is our new Superintendent replacing Mr. M. Fenwick. Mr. Fenwick has become the Superintendent of Strategic Renewal for the board. We thank Mr. Fenwick for his support over the past year.

A fond farewell and best wishes to Mrs. L. Karra, Madame M.T. Kabuni, Mrs. P. De Silva, Mrs. S. Primavera and Mrs. J. Antonfelix who have moved on to other assignments. They will all be missed by staff and students.

As usual, the first few weeks of school are especially hectic. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding, as we settle into our school routines.

We are extremely honoured to be part of the Church, home and school partnership, which provides a distinct Catholic experience for our students. At St. Boniface Catholic School, our primary focus is on creating community, which is at the core of everything we do in our school. We hope that the time our students spend at St. Boniface will be a rich and rewarding experience in terms of spiritual, social, emotional, academic and physical development.

This year, St. Boniface Catholic School will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are grateful for the legacy that is ours to continue and acknowledge the invaluable contribution of everyone affiliated with St. Boniface, both past and present. I am particularly honoured to be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration being planned. Information will be provided to you as the plans take shape.

We look forward to meeting you on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at our Curriculum Night/Open House. A flyer will be sent home outlining the format for the evening. Please plan to attend.

P. Stachiw,  
Principal

### Some Points of Information

- Enrolment fluctuations may necessitate alterations in classes towards the end of September. Staffing and student placement in some or all of our classes may be affected. Notification will be sent to you if these changes will be made as needed.
- Immunization information for all students is mandatory. Public Health Department officials check student records each year. Please provide the school with immunization updates as they become available.
- Student information forms will be sent home this week to verify the correct information. We ask that you correct any information and return it to the school as soon as possible. For safety, please make sure that all of the phone numbers are current and there is an emergency contact phone number. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

### Important Upcoming Dates:

September 24 Opening School Mass 9:30 a.m.  
September 28 First CSAC (Parent Council) Meeting & Elections  
September 30 Spirit Assembly in the gym 2:45 p.m.  
October 7 School Photos  
October 12 Thanksgiving  
October 31 Halloween Dance-a-thon Fundraiser

### Portable Redevelopment

You may have noticed some construction in the school yard over the summer. The board approved the relocation of our portables, along with the construction of a parking lot for staff on the school premises. Two portables were removed and the remaining seven portables were relocated to the east end of the school yard. Behind the portables, a staff parking lot was created. Two hydro poles were also removed from the school yard. The main construction is now completed. This project has allowed the school yard to be more open for the students to play in, has created more play space and will allow for unobstructed supervision of the students. It has created a safer and more secure play area.

### Success In School Begins with Regular Attendance

One of the goals in schools is to work in partnership with parents to prepare their child(ren) to become good citizens. In order to make this successful, children need to learn responsibility and adapt to regular routines. When these routines are not consistently followed, it makes it more difficult for children to settle in to the school. Students are asked to arrive at school on time, at least five minutes before the bell rings in the morning. We track the number of lates and absences and are able to print out attendance profiles of all students. One of our goals is to work with parents to ensure their child(ren) arrive at school on time. We will be closely monitoring student attendance this year. If your child is late or absent 10 days or more (not including illness or absence due to a family emergency), a letter will be sent home with your child's attendance profile. If the tardiness or absences continue, we will ask our school social worker to become involved.

When a student misses school it impacts on their learning creating potential gaps in their learning. Also when a student arrives late to school, it disrupts the program that is already in progress. We encourage you not to take your child(ren) out during the school year for extended trips, unless it is an emergency. We thank you for your cooperation with respect to regular attendance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### Safety /Supervision

- ▶ Please continue to use our Safe Arrival Program for student absences/lates by calling 416-393-5277 before 8:30 a.m. Clearly leave your child's name and reason for his/her absence.
- ▶ All visitors to the school, including parents and guardians, must report to the office.
- ▶ No child is permitted to leave the school for any reason without signed permission or direct verbal consent of a custodial parent or guardian. If your child has an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher if early pick-up of your child is necessary.
- ▶ We expect that every student bring a lunch to school, however, if you are dropping off a lunch for your child, please do so before 12:00 noon (lunch begins at 12:00 noon and ends at 12:20 p.m.) All lunches must be labeled and brought to the office. For safety and security reasons, please do not go directly to your child's classroom.

### Anaphylaxis Alert

We would like to inform you that there are staff and students in our school, with severe life threatening food allergies to peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition (anaphylaxis) that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. As this affects the entire school community, we are requesting that you not send any lunches or snacks with your child to school that contain the allergen, e.g. peanuts/nuts. This includes Nutella. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD TO SCHOOL FOR BIRTHDAYS OR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.** Please make sure that all of your children's caregivers are aware of the food restrictions. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in making this a safe year for all our students.

### Administration of Medication

For safety reasons, no child should bring any form of medication to school without prior approval from the office. If medication is to be administered, a form must be filled out by your doctor to indicate that specific medication must be taken during school hours. All medication must be clearly labelled with names (child, parent, doctor) phone numbers and directions. Please contact the school to get the necessary forms.

### Personal Entertainment Items & Belongings

Due to the possibility of loss or damage and/or the likelihood of distraction to students in class, items such as cellular phones, MP3 Players, digital cameras, etc., electronic toys should not be brought to school. We regret that we cannot take responsibility for loss or damage to these items. Please remind your children to keep their electronic devices at home.

### Sacraments of Initiation

A note from Fr. Bernard Vellozo regarding Sacraments of Initiation. Children who would like to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are invited to attend Sunday Masses at their own parishes where the information regarding enrollment, preparation and reception of the Sacraments will be communicated.

### Student Accident Insurance

Old Republic Insurance Company is again offering Student Accident Insurance through the school. Coverage for a variety of physical impairments, loss of life, dental injury, eye glass damage, and any other associated costs caused by an accident is provided. It is important to understand that the school board insurance program does not cover these situations unless liability is proven.

The Student Accident Insurance program is the most effective and expedient method to gain assistance in the event of a serious accident. This is the reason that it is offered to all families at the beginning of every school year. Please review the application form and give serious consideration to the options appropriate for your family. Please mail the application directly to the insurance company or visit [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com).



### YMCA Childcare At Your Door

Did you know that there is a YMCA Child Care Centre located in St. Boniface that provides an environment that inspires discovery learning for children from 2 ½ to 12 years? Spaces are currently available on a full time and part time basis. We provide a stimulating learning experience in a safe and secure environment. Our centre is government licensed and adheres to all regulations and standards set down by the Day Nurseries Act.

At the YMCA our children are Playing to Learn which provides the foundation for learning to read and write, and for learning mathematics, science and technology. The school age children are given opportunities to investigate study, explore and make hypotheses around their findings; which makes them better equipped and prepared to formulate conclusions as adults.

For more information about opportunities available for your child please call Narmin Pirani at 416.261.9092 or drop in.

### International Languages After School Program

The Toronto Catholic District School Board offers **free** Italian classes to students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Classes will be held each Saturday (31 sessions in total) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at St. Brendan Catholic School, 186 Centennial Road, located at Morningside and Lawrence Avenue west of Port Union Road. Parents and students interested in enrolling for the 2009-2010 school year can register in person at St. Brendan on Saturday September 12, 19, 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

### Dismissal

Please note the following details related to dismissal of students at 3:30 p.m.

ALL STUDENTS use the same doors to enter the building in the morning and at dismissal at the end of the day. Please meet your child outside of these doors at 3:30 p.m.

- Junior and Senior Kindergarten students use the south west doors, located beside their play yard, for dismissal (and entry);
- We recommend that those of you who pick up more than one student, arrange to meet the youngest of these students at their dismissal doors first and then establish a meeting place outside where the other students can gather to wait for you.
- All bus students must take their assigned bus home.
- If you are picking up your child before dismissal, please report to the office. Please send a note to your child's teacher in the morning, if you know you will be picking them up early.

### St. Boniface on the Web

Just a reminder that you can also find our monthly newsletters and calendars at our school website. You can find it at <http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stboniface.asp>.

## Dealing With The Back-To-School Blues? Ontario Psychological Association Offers Tips for Parents and Children as the Summer Comes to a Close.

Parents have a lot on their plate: mortgage payments, rent, healthcare, caring for elderly or sick family members, raising children, just to name a few. As the new school year begins, they face additional stressors - paying for back-to-school supplies and clothes. Many parents are also worried about their children starting a new school, changing school districts, facing a more rigorous academic year or dealing with difficult social situations. Often the fear of the unknown - classmates, teachers, the school building - is more stressful for family members, whether it's the children taking the school bus or their parents who have to wave goodbye.

Fortunately, children are extremely capable of coping with change and parents can help them in the process by providing a setting that fosters resilience and encourages them to share and express their feelings about returning to school.

### The Ontario Psychological Association offers the following back-to-school tips:

1. **Practice the first day school routine:** Getting into a sleep routine before the first week of school will help in easing the shock of waking up early. Organizing things at home - backpack, books, lunch - will help the mornings go smoothly. Having healthy, yet kid-friendly lunches will help keep them energized throughout the day.
2. **Get to know your neighbours:** If your child is starting a new school, walk around the block and get to know the neighbourhood children. Try to set up a play date, or for an older child, find out where neighbourhood kids might go to safely get together like a community pool, recreation center or park.
3. **Talk to your child:** Asking your child about their fears or worries about going back to school will help them share their burden. Inquire as to what they liked about their previous school or grade and see how those positives can be incorporated into their new experience.
4. **Empathize with your child:** Change can be difficult, but also exciting. Let your children know that you are aware of what they are going through and that you will be there to help them in the process. Nerves are normal, but highlight that not everything that is different is bad. It is important to encourage your children to face their fears instead of falling into the trap of encouraging avoidance.
5. **Get involved and ask for help:** Knowledge of the school and the community will better equip you to understand your child's surroundings and the transition he or she is undergoing. Meeting members of your community and school will foster support for both you and your child.

Taken from: The Ontario Psychological Association,  
[www.psych.on.ca](http://www.psych.on.ca), Dr. Ruth Berman, Executive Director

