



ST. BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

51 Heather Road, Toronto (Agincourt), Ontario M1S 2E2

Tel: 416 393-5334

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September 2016

Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all our returning students and a special welcome to all of our new students in throughout the grades. We are thrilled that you have chosen St. Bartholomew as your home for your educational journey. We anticipate that the 2016-2017 School Year will bring out the best in our students.

There will be an excellent opportunity to meet friends and school staff members on Thursday September 22 at the annual Curriculum Night at 7pm. As well, our teachers will outline the broad topics of subject study for your child in the upcoming year. That presentation will be made a second time that night, for those of you with second child but in a different classroom.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Catholic School Parent Committee and our students in their local and global focused attempts to help others. Our CSPC provides so many activities throughout the year to enhance the experiences of your child while at school. Our first meeting will be focusing on elections at 6:30 Tuesday September 27 in the school staff room.

St. Bartholomew CS is fully aware of certain students having dietary restrictions and cautions as expressed in the medical information forms distributed to parents. Some students are highly sensitive to some food products such as nuts and tropical fruit products which might result in anaphylaxis shock. Many, many other students are sensitive to some common food products. To this end we are forever vigilant. As a means to reduce worries related to food sensitivities we continue to greatly limit food products coming into the school setting. Sometimes party and celebration foods from parents can be very well intended but can be significantly disturbing to the health of a student. **Parents are requested not to send to school food products** for the intention of sharing. This would include Timbits, cupcakes, cakes, cookies, pop, chips, cheesies and candy. Many ingredients in food products are not fully identified and can be of a health risk to some students.

The Appropriate Dress Code is followed by the students at St. Bartholomew. The clothing colours include either a white or a navy blue top and navy blue bottoms (no jeans). During the winter months many of our students have found added warmth and cosiness through the use of dark blue cardigan sweaters, sweater vests and even collared blue cotton ¼ zipper sweat shirts. Some hoodies or parkas that our students like to wear outside of the school take on a variety of colours that are not **uniform colour compliant** within the school. In an effort to adhere to the TCDSB school uniform guidelines many parents should consider buying a dark blue sweater or parka or a collared ¼ zip sweat shirt for their son or daughter. The school is nicely heated through the distribution of heat that is now enhanced through a final completion of wiring for the installation of our new school furnace with individually controlled room thermostats.

Please be advised the **yard supervision** on the east school yard **begins at 8:30** with the early arrival of TCDSB adjusted bus routing. Kindergarten students will have a newly constructed fenced area in front of the school within a few months but they should currently play toward the east part of the schoolyard where more supervision is available for them on the east side of the yard.



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Some students might frequently **arrive late to school**. Punctuality and organization are important traits to develop. They will be valued throughout life and into the eventual workplace. We seek to reduce the disturbance of classroom instructional time through the continued late arrival of some children. For those students that arrive at the front door late at 9:00 am they will proceed to the office for a late slip.

Thank you everyone for continuing to keep the school safe. From time to time, there are disturbing recent events related to **school security**. While many aspects of appropriate school security have been in place and vigilantly exercised over the past years our school will continue to seek ways to enhance school security even further while still maintaining a cordial and welcoming positive school atmosphere. Our older students exit the school each day escorted by a teacher at 3:30 through the east doors. Kindergarten students are dismissed through the east doors as well. All parents can pick up their child at the end of the day on the east school yard. Parents and visitors are welcome to come in to school at any time before school closure if you intend to take your child home early before 3:30 or if you have a need to discuss anything with office staff and if you wish to make an appropriate appointment with a teacher. Please seek to make an appointment with your child's teacher in after school hours if you would like to meet. These procedures can help to reduce the confusing traffic flow of people in the halls thus affording our teachers a greater opportunity to disperse our children safely and with a greater sense of security as to who is in the building.

For all children and for all guest adults wishing **to enter the school** through the front school doors please be aware that there is posted signage to assist you if needed as to the procedure to request entry into the school. Please press the white button on the security panel on your right hand side as you look toward the door. Please speak clearly into the device and state your name and purpose for the school visit or entry. Then please look through the glass portion of the entry door to visually identify yourself. Either Ms. Fernandes or I will buzz the door mechanism to allow entry.

If you drive your child to school, please be careful when entering the church parking lot. The lot can be quite congested and dangerous. If you leave your car in an appropriate parking space to escort your child, please hold them by the hand when taking the students around the fenced parking lot area. Please be continually aware of cars that might be backing up. I have spoken with Metro Police to assist us in maintaining safe car drop-off and parking procedures and periodically they will be here with us near the parking lot. These ideas would give drivers the opportunity to drop off their child right at the schoolyard entry area or to leave the car and escort the child to the east school yard.

Thank you everyone for helping to make St. Bartholomew CS a safe and happy environment in which our students can continue to live, learn and thrive.

R. Chubb
Principal