



MONSIGNOR CLAIR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Barrie, ON L4M 7B5
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Website: mcl.schools.smcdsb.on.ca



September 2018



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2018/2019 school year! We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer with friends and loved ones and are ready for a successful school year. For those returning, we warmly welcome you back. For our new families, we would like to welcome you to our school community. We are happy that you have chosen a Catholic education for your child and we hope that you always feel at home at Monsignor Clair. We encourage all students to get involved in all aspects of our school community.

This year's School Board theme is Called to be our Story. In our world today, it is not enough to just hear about Jesus we must also live his story every day through our actions and the choices we make. Parents are encouraged to come out for our School Council meetings. It is always helpful to have some fresh ideas and energy to help accomplish some of our goals. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, 2018 in the school library at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing each of you at our Meet the Teacher Pizza Q on Thursday, September 27th, 2018 from 5:00 – 6:45 pm.

PRAYER

Loving God, we come to you at this new beginning of the school year. We have been many places during the summer and our journey has brought us back to this place and to this time together. We know that this is not by accident, but your intimate design for each of us.

As we turn towards you at the beginning of this year as a school community, we begin by saying thank you -- Thank you for this call to service in this Monsignor Clair community. Thank you for where we are on our journey and for the journey ahead. Thank you for where we are on the path of our life. Give us the courage to share our stories and gifts as we journey together throughout the year.

Amen.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

The parish for our school community is St. Mary's Church located on 65 Amelia Street. The pastor is Msgr. Marco Laurencic. Parish Masses: Saturday at 5 pm. Sunday, 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon and 4:00 pm. Our school will hold regular Masses and Paraliturgies during the school year.

Monthly newsletters and our website will provide the dates. Parents and families are welcome to attend these celebrations. **PLEASE NOTE: PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN GRADE 4 AND ABOVE WHO STILL NEED FIRST COMMUNION OR IN HIGH SCHOOL WHO NEED TO BE CONFIRMED, CAN EITHER CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR WHEN YOU ARE AT MASS, JUST ASK FOR THE APPROPRIATE ENROLMENT FORM.**

STAFFING

As principal at Monsignor Clair it is a privilege for me to be a part of a strong and supportive team of staff, parents and community members. I feel particularly blessed in introducing an exceptional staff for the 2018-2019 school year:

JK/SK - Ms. S. Lee – Ms K. Baks -DECE
JK/SK - Ms. A. Milligan – Ms. K. Savel - DECE
Grade 1/2 - Ms. S. Kelly
Grade 2/3 - Ms. G. Bradley
Grade 3/4 - Ms. C. McNally-Zebruck

Grade 4/5 - Ms. K. McLean
Grade 5/6 - Mr. S. Malone
Grade 6/7 - Ms. J. St-Onge/Mr. F. DeFazio
Grade 7 - Mr. K. MacKay
Grade 8 - Ms. M. Durst

French - Mme. M. Cotton
Reading Recovery - Mr. F. DeFazio
Resource Teacher - Ms. J. St Onge
Res.Teacher/Librarian - Ms R. Borgogelli
Phys Ed/Prep - Mr. G. Edwards
Office Administrator - Ms. K. McVeigh
Noon Hr. Office Admin. - Ms. A. Everett
Chief Custodian - Mr. P. Laurin
Night Custodian - Ms. R. Tkachuk

Educational Assistants:
Ms. L. Daoust
Ms. E. MacDonald
Ms. B. May
Ms. S. Lavoie
Ms. T. Nimpo
Ms. V. Sriubiskis
Ms. N MacPhail-Patrick

Noon Hour Supervisors:
Ms. Everett
Ms. Zimmer
Ms. Kouji
Ms. Bera

“SAFE WELCOME” PROCEDURES

All schools in the Simcoe Muskoka CDSB now have all doors locked, including the front door. A buzzer system has been installed so that visitors may request access to the school. Please be patient when coming to the school as office staff may be on the phone or not in the immediate area, and unavailable to unlock the door right away. Students and visitors will not be admitted during announcements. It would be appreciated if visits to the school are limited – thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

DROP-OFF – Supervision for all students begins at 8:45 am. We have a Kiss n Ride area at the front of our school. Please be aware that this area will be opened after the buses leave in the morning. Please respect the traffic cones and be mindful of the safety of our staff who are on duty to make sure your children are safe during our busy mornings.

PICK-UP – All students are to be picked up from school at 3:30 pm. If there is a change to your child’s dismissal routine please inform the teacher in writing with a signature at the beginning of the day. We appreciate using the agendas for most notes to the teacher. A phone call will be accepted only for emergencies. Please call before 2:45 pm if you wish to change your child’s dismissal routine. There will be no guarantee that the office will be able to inform your child in time after this time. We ask that if you need to pick up your child early to please do so before 3:00 pm as after this time our Kiss n Ride area will be closed as we await our buses to arrive. Our Kiss n Ride area will be open again after 3:35 pm once our buses have left. Please do not drive in this area until the traffic cones have been moved.

BEING ON TIME IS A LIFE SKILL

It is important that each child arrives at school in time for our 9:00 am start. This ensures that learning can happen for all without interruptions. Students who arrive late interrupt important teaching time for the teacher, and learning time for students. Students should arrive between 8:45 and 9:00 am.

BUS POLICY & PROCEDURES

Only students on the current bus lists are able to be transported by the school bus. You cannot use the bus for sleepovers and parties. If your child requires a bus change (due to a move or new sitter location), please submit a written note to the office for approval. All children grade 2 and younger are to be met at their drop-off points or accompanied by an older sibling each evening. Safety is the prime concern of the bus operator. When a child endangers the safety of others or themselves on the bus or is a serious distraction to the driver, the driver files a written discipline report to the school. The policy is as follows:

First offence:	Verbal warning
Second offence:	Contact with parents
Third offence:	Suspension of bus privileges

Sinton-Landmark Transportation is the bus company used by Monsignor Clair School. The bus numbers are: 875/839. The phone number for Sinton-Landmark Transportation is 721-4008.

AGENDAS

School agendas will be used in Grades 1 - 8 as a communication tool between home and school. The cost to each student this year will be \$5.00. Please contact Mr Ray if you have financial concerns regarding this payment.

MONSIGNOR CLAIR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Effective Catholic schools are those with integral links to the parish and parent communities. We would invite any interested parents to complete a nomination form (enclosed) if you wish to be a member of our Catholic School Community Council. Nomination forms need to be completed and submitted to the office on or before September 12, 2017. If an election is necessary the parent community will be notified by the school. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the school library. We will be holding elections for Chair/Co-Chair and Secretary. Please use the doors off the parking lot under the Academic Services Sign. Our Open House Pizza Q Evening will take place Thursday, September 27 and we welcome all parents and community members to attend. Please check out our school website at mcl.schools.smcdsb.on.ca for details on upcoming events, and sign up for our online newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make our school great. We are looking forward to another fantastic year.

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please remember to contact the school for any student lates or absences. There is now an attendance form on our website for parents which sends an email to Mrs. McVeigh. Please be aware that teachers and the school office must be informed, in writing, about vacations of 3 days or more. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

REDUCE THE RISK/HEALTH CONCERNS

We have a number of students who have life threatening food allergies. Please remember that we strive to reduce the risk to these students by not sending in any nut or peanut products in your child’s lunch bag. We also have a few children with other food allergies and your child’s teacher may send a note home informing you about these allergies as well. Because a number of our students have life-threatening allergies to particular foods or to insect bites, food cannot be taken into the halls or schoolyard. Teachers will allow sufficient time for students to eat lunches and snacks during class time.

MEDICATION POLICY

Certain students require the administration of oral medication on a regular basis. The school will adhere strictly to the Simcoe Muskoka C.D.S.B. Policy in this regard. If you wish to have oral medication administered to your child by the school, please notify the office. You will be sent a Parent’s Consent and Instruction Sheet to be completed and returned to the school.

DO NOT SEND ANY MEDICATIONS TO SCHOOL THAT ARE NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION VIA THE OFFICE.

We cannot administer medication without written parental authorization and completion of this form.

A new form must be filled out each year.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Students will be bringing home a one page calendar from the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. It contains valuable information relating to Professional Activity Days, and holidays. You can also view the Board Calendar on our School website www.mcl.schools.smcdsb.on.ca

LUNCH TIME

If you wish your child to walk home for lunch, we ask that you inform your child's teacher in writing. **Students will not be permitted to leave school property for any other reason during the lunch period (to a store, restaurant or friends house for example) unless a parent or guardian signs the student out at the office.**

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures will be taken on Thursday, October 11, 2018. Retake day is Thursday, November 8, 2018.

USE OF SCHOOL TELEPHONE

It is school policy that students **will not** use the phone. If your child is sick or is hurt a teacher or the school office administrator will contact the parent of the student. As well we do not allow children to leave their classroom to take a phone call at the office. If you need to speak with your child you will need to come to the school to speak with them.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones have been becoming more common with students at the elementary level and while they are a common means of communication and access to information, they can be a disruption to the orderly operation of the school. Cell phones have also become a tool that can be used for cyber bullying. While on school grounds or in the building during the school day (8:45am to 3:30pm), including lunch hour, cell phones are to be off and left either in a back-pack or pocket. Students are not to have cell phones visible in class, in the school building or on the schoolyard. Only under the direction of a Monsignor Clair staff member may a student take out their cell phone and use it while on school property. If students need to make or receive a phone call, they **must** do so through the main office or under the supervision of their classroom teacher. On a number of occasions parents have shown up at the school to pick up a sick child from school and neither the classroom teacher nor the main office are aware of the illness. A text has been sent to the parent from the child. Texting from their phone to parents will also need to be under the supervision of Monsignor Clair staff. Students bring cell phones at their own risk and the school and staff are not responsible for the security of the device, including if it is left in the main office. If students do not follow the rules the phone will be kept in the school office for **Parent** pickup! **Please review the Monsignor Clair Digital Responsibility Policy with your children.**



STUDENT INSURANCE

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board does not carry student insurance. Information about student insurance was sent out during the first week of school. Please consider this opportunity and respond directly to the insurance company. Students who are interested in participating in any of our extra curricular sports are encouraged to purchase this insurance.

HATS OFF PLEASE!

Students are reminded that school policy states they are to remove their hats when they are in the school building. All visitors are asked to help support this policy.

PIZZA, MILK, SUB ORDERS

This year our main pizza day will be on Wednesdays. Milk will be available on a daily basis. Information regarding any further food being offered will be sent home with your child. This year we will be placing orders with Subway on Thursdays. Order forms will follow in the coming weeks.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL

Parents may drop their children off no earlier than 8:45 am. in the 'Kiss n' Go' driveway after buses have left. **Please do not park in this area.** Remember you may be ticketed at least \$75 if you leave your car in the Kiss n' Go unattended. If you need to park, please use the visitor spots in our parking lot or the church parking lot on the other side of Livingstone St. Please ensure that you have an alternate plan in place in case you are unable to pick up your child at 3:30 pm or should an emergency arise (e.g. neighbour to pick up or walk to a neighbour's house) as teachers or office staff cannot supervise students after hours.

EAT WELL TO EXCEL

Eat Well to Excel is a government funded initiative to enable all school age children to access a healthy snack during the day at no cost to the student. Anyone attending the school can access the snack program. Some food items are as follows: cereal bars, fruit, granola bars and cheese & crackers. Donations are greatly appreciated. We would like to thank Mrs Kouji in advance for generously donating her time to shop for our snack program.

PARKING LOT CONCERNS

Due to an increase in staff with the Board Offices now in use on our second floor, and in an effort to keep our students safe, we would like to notify parents that the parking lot is for school staff and Board Office staff parking only. Please do not use the staff parking lot to pick-up or drop off your children. It gets very congested in the parking lot and this is a safety issue. Some parking spaces are available for parents and staff in the Barrie Free Methodist Church lot on the other side of Livingstone – please use the cross walk at Cundles or at the west end of the school property. Where possible, students and families are encouraged to walk to and from school, encouraging this daily physical activity improves learning and builds a healthy lifestyle. The kiss and ride area will be open once the school buses have dropped off students and left the area, when the traffic cone will be removed. Please be careful when entering and leaving this area – students should be dropped off on the sidewalk side of the car and parents are encouraged to move on, slowly and carefully, as soon as possible.

NEWSLETTERS

Once again this year Monsignor Clair School will be trying to do their part to help the environment. Please go to our school website and sign up for our eNewsletter we will be posting our newsletter on the school website. We encourage all families to access the newsletter and pizza/milk/sub forms through this method. Our Website address is www.mcl.schools.smcdsb.on.ca. Our newsletters and forms will be available in PDF format which all computers can access.

STUDENT SUPPLIES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR:

We are asking that your child please bring some materials with them in September. These are essential materials that your child will use in the classroom. We also discourage any sharing of these materials. It is our hope that providing these lists to you, once again will help you during your "back to school" shopping. Thank you for your support.

Items suggested for a Primary Student (1-3): several sharpened pencils, erasers, crayons, sharpened pencil crayons, crayons, small pencil sharpener with a shavings case, glue sticks, 30 centimetre ruler, 3 large Ziploc bags, child's scissors, small calculator, pencil box, 4 duo tangs (red, green, yellow, blue,), 1 French pocket folder, Kleenex box and roll of paper towels, dollar store headphones and indoor running shoes. Please do not send in binders with your child, as there is no need for them in the primary grades.

Items suggested for a Junior Student (4-6): several pencils, erasers, 3 hole lined paper, binder, several pens (red, blue), highlighter (yellow), pencil crayons and thin tip markers, calculator, geometry math set, scissors, Kleenex box, glue sticks, white erasers, several duo tangs, dictionary, t-shirt, shorts/track pants, indoor running shoes, 1 pocket folder for French.

Items suggested for an Intermediate Student (7-8): pens (black, blue, red), pencils, 3-hole lined paper and graph paper, glue sticks, pencil crayons, pencils, geometry set, ruler, 10 duo tangs with labels, scientific calculator, scissors, pencil case, erasers, Kleenex box, indoor running shoes and t-shirt, shorts/trackpants for phys. ed. Large binders are not required as they do not fit in desks. Plastic pencil boxes often crack. Gel pens are not required.

Note: A French/English dictionary is **highly recommended** for all students in Gr. 5-8.

DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Dogs should not be brought on school property during school hours, including pick-up and drop-off time for safety reasons. This applies to all dogs: big, small, trained or puppies. We ask that if you walk with your dog to school, to please wait at the edge of the property on Livingstone Street.



ECO SCHOOLS

Monsignor Clair is proud to be an EcoSchool! We are continually working to reduce our impact on the environment. We encourage the use of re-useable containers to reduce the waste produced from lunches. We are excited that our recycling program has been expanded to now include all plastic products. To further reduce the waste being directed to the landfill, we ask for your help boomeranging items that can be composted at home. We are also making changes to conserve energy in the school by turning off extra lighting and using natural light when possible. If you are interested in helping with outside greening projects, please contact the school to let us know. With the support of families, we can work toward making a difference.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

The International Language Icon can be found on the front page of our board website. Parents/guardians can register elementary students online at www.smcdsb.on.ca.

The Simcoe County District School Board offers eleven other additional languages. Please visit the website for further information at: <http://www.thelearningcentres.com>.

YMCA DAYCARE

The safety of all students and staff at Monsignor Clair School is of utmost importance to all of us. If you are picking up or dropping off your child at the YMCA daycare centre please remember to enter and exit through the day care and not through the school doors. It has been brought to our attention that parents are accidentally allowing people in through our locked doors, which then puts our evening staff in jeopardy. Thank you for keeping everyone in our school community safe.

SNOW DAYS

A friendly reminder to all parents that the school is open on days when the buses are cancelled. The decision to send children to school rests in the hands of the parents however 90% of our population walks so regular classes could take place if most walking students attended school on these days.



Looking Ahead to ...

Sep 11	-	School Council Meeting
Sep 26-Oct 3	-	Scholastic Book Fair
Sep 27	-	School Pizza-Q 5:00 pm to 6:45 pm
Sep 27	-	Terry Fox Walk
Oct 2	-	School Community Council Meeting
		6:30 pm Babysitting available
Oct 11	-	School Pictures