

The Crusader

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

P.O. Box 580, 1930 Wildwood Drive, Bright's Grove ON, N0N 1C0

Phone: (519) 869-4204 Fax: (519) 869-6518

Principal: Leonard Fera Secretary: Cynthia Cullis



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

<http://www.st-clair.net>

Director:

D. Parr

Superintendent:

L. Demers

Board Chair:

J. Van Heck

St. Michael School

Trustees:

M. Parks, L. Ward

School Hours

8:10 am.	School Begins
8:10 - 9:50	Classes
9:50 - 10:05	Recess
10:05 - 10:55	Classes
10:55 - 11:50	Lunch
11:50 - 1:30	Classes
1:30 - 1:45	Recess
1:45 - 2:35	Classes
2:35 pm.	Dismissal

ALLERGY ALERT!

We have students at our school with severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts and/or nuts. Please keep this in mind when sending snacks and lunches to school with your child(ren).

June 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another school year, we would like to thank all members of our school community for their consistent cooperation and assistance in the many facets of school life.

St. Michael Catholic School has continued to be an academic institution where we have worked to ensure that children are engaged in their learning, where Catholic values are lived daily, and where students and staff work collaboratively. We continue to focus on developing future leaders who will be productive members of our communities.

Thank you for your consistent cooperation and understanding as we work collaboratively to achieve a spirit of unity, peace, and cohesion.

On a personal note, I would like to thank those who have made my stay at SMBG a wonderful experience and wish you the best as your children pursue their Catholic education.

Kind Regards,

Len Fera

Principal

Staffing Update

We would like to thank Mrs. Rocca, Mme. Charette and Mr. Cardy for being exceptional teachers at SMBG and wish them well as they continue in their careers at new schools. We would also like to wish Mrs. Keys and Mrs. Sanders all of the best as they prepare for their retirement.

We would like to welcome Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Whitely and Mrs. Babenko to our 2018—2019 teaching staff.

Grade 8 Completion Ceremony

The Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony will be on Tuesday, June 19th. Congratulations to all our students! We all wish them every success in secondary school and beyond.

Year End Student Awards

Awards will be presented to many deserving students on Tuesday, June 26th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. All are welcome to attend.

School Library

The Library is now closed to prepare for inventory. Please return all library books to the school by Friday, June 8th. Thank-you.

Lost and Found

Please come and take a look through our lost and found. There is quite a collection of items. Please note that all unclaimed items will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul on Friday, June 22nd.

Annual Talent Show: Mrs. Lobsinger will be hosting a talent show on Tuesday, June 26th starting at 12:30 in the school gym. Please join us as we watch our students share their talents.

School Advisory Council:

St. Michael SAC Carnival Night

Everyone is invited to attend our first annual St. Michael's Carnival Night that is taking place Tuesday June 5th from 4:30-7:30 pm at St. Michael's school. There will be something for kids of all ages! BBQ, Twisted Chris Balloon artist, carnival games, prizes, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, DJ, Henna artist, local fire and police departments! Fun for the whole family!

We ask that each family member bring a food item for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and you will receive your pass to play all of the games and participate in all of the activities. You can pre-order your food for the BBQ through School Cash Online and when ordering, be sure to order under one child. We hope to see you there!

Calendar: please review the calendar.

Classroom Organization

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the summer, staff at the Catholic Education Centre and in our schools will begin the work of organizing classrooms for September. As parents/guardians, it is important that you understand and support the role of the principal and Board staff as it relates to classroom organization in your school.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education regulates the number of students in classrooms. In elementary schools, class-size caps are set by provincial directive for individual grades; and for a system-wide average that must be maintained across the entire school board. Therefore, the number of classrooms, grades associated with each classroom and the number of students in each classroom in your school must always be viewed from a Board perspective, not just at the school level. It is also important to note that provincial funding is tied to compliance with this regulation. In other words, if we don't meet the Ministry requirements there is a financial penalty which will affect the support provided to our students.

The result of this directive is that combined grades are common in all schools across the province as a means of ensuring that boards are compliant with the provincial regulation. A common perception among parents is that combined grades are detrimental to learning; or, that they are a reflection of students' abilities – that is, in a Grade 2-3 split, the Grade 2s are above average learners and the Grade 3s are below average. The fact is all classrooms include students with a range of skills and abilities. Combined classes are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. They are simply one of the many ways schools meet students' academic and social development needs.

Further, a great deal of time and effort goes into decisions at all of our schools, as our staff strives to create a classroom environment that supports the needs of all of all students. These decisions are ultimately made by the principal, in consultation with Board administration and student support staff.

Changes in classroom organization that are created when students move in or out of the school boundary, or by changing student needs from June to the first weeks in September, can create a domino effect that could result in changes to classrooms, which can sometimes impact every grade in the school. Even changes at another school can affect the classroom organization at your school.

It is the Board's goal to make every effort to accommodate these changes with as little disruption as possible. Students changing classrooms are always given a warm welcome by their new teacher and their new classmates.

Thank you again, for understanding and supporting the efforts of your principal and the school staff, in this important matter. It is our commitment to you that, although we must always strive to meet this provincial regulation, we will do so at all times having regard for the best interests of our students and our staff.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Deb Crawford
Director of Education

Focus on Faith

The Church calls this season of the year Ordinary Time and defines it in this way.

“Besides the times of year that have their own distinctive character, [i.e. Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons] there remain in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time.”*

Ordinary Time does not focus on one beautiful mystery such as *Christ returning in Glory*, or *God coming to Earth as the Christ child*, or *Jesus loving us so much he was willing to suffer and die for us* or *Christ rising from the dead*. Instead Ordinary time invites us to honour **THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST ITSELF AND ALL ITS FULLNESS**. It invites us to consider the whole story of Christ becoming human, loving us, dying, rising from the dead, returning to God and eventually returning in glory. Looking at the whole mystery and seeing God’s hand in the unfolding of Salvation, we gain new insights into our own life stories. Honouring the whole mystery of Salvation helps us to trust that God watches over the unfolding of our own personal lives and salvation.

During the final month of the school year, there is so many ordinary things to do. Students are finishing assignments and preparing for tests/exams that will help them to complete the year. Teachers are assessing students, marking assignments and preparing final report cards. Parents are helping their children stay focused on schoolwork and sorting out the details for summer childcare and plans. The end of year field trips, fun days, track meets, assemblies and graduations provide glorious ways to celebrate this school year. All of this happens as the summer weather starts making everyone dream of summer vacation and fun. These activities are the ordinary tasks that make family and school life so meaningful. These weeks are unfolding as Ordinary Time.

If we are not careful, we might just live day to day and not even see the mystery of it. Our task is to pause long enough each day and week so we can actually sense God’s activity in our ordinary lives. I invite you to choose a form of prayer that helps you to sense the sacred in the ordinary. Some things to share with your children are bedtime prayer, grace before meals, praying the rosary and attending mass together. One tradition that I find helpful is to pray one *Our Father* to remind us we are all God’s family, pray one *Hail Mary* to remind us the Saints are always waiting to pray for us and pray one *Glory Be* to remind us that God is with us through all time.

God blesses us all the time, these prayers help us to notice. Have a glorious June and an even better summer everyone.

* <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=10842#Ord>

2018 Fun Pass

Celebrate the summer with savings when you plan a trip to Ontario’s attractions with the 2018 Fun Pass.

The 2018 Fun Pass coupons provide free admission for up to two elementary school-aged children at 18 popular attractions when accompanied by a paying adult or senior. Parents can also save \$5 on a daily parking permit at selected Ontario provincial parks. Simply bring a coupon to any participating attraction. Visit Ontario.ca/funpass for more information about the program and to download the coupons.

Sacramental Info Sessions for Parents with Children in grades 2 or 8 in 2018-2019 school year

Please mark your calendars and “save the date” for our parent sacramental information sessions taking place on Tuesday, September 25 from 7-8:15p.m. at Sacred Heart Church; and Wednesday, September 26 from 7-8:15p.m. at St. Michael Church. You may attend either session and the sessions are for PARENTS/GUADIANS only who will have children preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion (grade 2) &/or Confirmation (grade 8) next school year.

Vacation Bible School – July 9 – 13 daily from 9a.m. to noon at Sacred Heart Church

There are still some VBS spots available for children ages 4 (or turning 4 in 2018) to age 11. Please contact the parish office to register. Registration fee is \$25 per participant or \$50/family and includes one free music CD. Bussing is available from St. Michael Church. Registration is limited and no registrations will be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 29.

Christine Bresette

Coordinator of Youth Ministry
St. Michael & Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes
Called – Nurtured – Sent
To carry on the Mission of Christ

Ensure You Are Registered as a Separate School Supporter For the October Municipal and School Board Elections

Ontario's municipal and school board elections take place on October 22, 2018. If you are a resident, owner or tenant of property in Ontario, a Canadian citizen and 18 years of age you can vote in Ontario's municipal and school board elections.

It is the responsibility of every elector to make sure his or her information is up-to-date. By logging onto voterlookup.ca eligible electors can:

- Confirm or update your electoral information;
- Add an elector name to an address;
- Change school support.

You must be registered as an English Separate School Supporter in order to vote for trustees of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. Ensuring you are registered as an English Separate School Supporter also signals your support for Catholic education in Ontario.

Visit <https://www.voterlookup.ca/home.aspx>

