



# St. Patrick School News



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

April 2026  
ZONE 4

### *A Prayer of Forgiveness*

Heavenly Father, I come before You burdened by bitterness and resentment. I recognize that these emotions have kept me captive for too long. I ask for Your forgiveness and the strength to forgive those who have wronged me. Please help me release the weight of anger and hurt, and fill my heart with Your love and peace.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name

Amen

St. Patrick Families;

As the snow finally retreats, we begin to see new signs of life all around us! Spring is a season of growth and it is amazing to see how much our Junior Eagles have grown so far this year academically, in their confidence and skills, and in their wonderful contributions to our school community. A heartfelt thanks to our families for the incredible generosity you showed throughout our Lenten Collection of Caring. Your donations of support the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Brant and our neighbours in need helped our students understand the true meaning of almsgiving and service. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting your child(ren)'s success and St. Patrick School—your involvement makes meaningful difference!



Sincerely,  
Peter Marchand  
Principal

### Principal Award Winners

Congratulations to our March Principal Award winners demonstrating the virtue of Forgiveness in their classrooms and throughout the school:

JK—Danny C.	Gr.3—Meadow M.-Y.
SK—Thomas W.	Gr. 4/5—Michael L.
Gr. 1—Lyla W.	Gr. 6/7—David T.
Gr. 2—Olivia S.	Gr. 7/8—Maddy L.



### Contact Us:

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Thanks for making St. Patrick School a great place to be! The Catholic Virtue focus for April will be **Faithfulness**.

## SPRING OUTDOOR TEMPERATURES & WEATHER

With the arrival of spring, the days are getting warmer (or should be). However, the weather can still be unpredictable at this time of year. Students are encouraged to come prepared for outdoor recess and to dress in layers in order to accommodate the changing weather and temperatures. Please remember to label your child(ren)'s belongings so that, in the case they are misplaced, they can be returned to their rightful owner. Also, students are reminded to have footwear for use outdoors and a pair of indoor shoes. This helps to ensure the safety of students and the cleanliness of our learning environment.



### HAPPY EARTH DAY—April 22, 2025



Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for Environmental protection. It was first held on April 22, 1970.

On Earth Day, we celebrate our beautiful planet and the vital role it plays in sustaining all life. This year's theme focuses on "Restoring our Earth," emphasizing the ecosystems. From reducing plastic use to supporting renewable energy, every small action counts!

Let's come together to protect our Earth and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

**REDUCE, REUSE, RETURN**

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER...

April 1 - May Hot Lunch orders open on School Cash Online

**April 3 - Good Friday - No School**

**April 6 - Easter Monday - No School**

April 10 - Grilled Cheese and Chips for lunch (you have until 11:59pm on April 8th to place your child's order)

April 10 - Grade 8 Grad Photos

April 14 - Grade 4/5 Trip for Bite of Brant (parents make sure permission forms are signed on School Cash)

**April 17 - PA Day - No School**

April 19 - May Hot Lunch orders close on School Cash Online

April 20 - Grade 8 Beef Jerky & Fudge Fundraiser closes and all order forms are due to the Mr Leyzer

April 22 - Parent Council Meeting 5:30—6:30 PM—all are welcome!

April 23 - Sr Volleyball tournament at ACS

April 26 - First Communion at St Pius X Church 1:00 PM

May 1 - June Hot Lunch orders open on School Cash Online

May 3-8th - Catholic Education Week

May 5 - May Crowning Mass w/ Father Joe at St. Patrick School 9:15 AM

May 5 - Celebration of the Arts @ the Sanderson Centre 7:00 PM

May 6 - Kindergarten Orientation Night (for next year's Kindergartners and families) 4:00-5:00 PM

**May 18 - Victoria Day - No School**

May 20 - Parent Council Meeting 5:30 to 6:30 PM—al; are welcome!

May 21 - Grade 7 and 8 GEPH Immunization Clinic

# Waste-Free Wednesdays

Waste-Free Wednesdays  
at St Patrick

Be Good Stewards of God's Creation!

Pack a Waste-Free Lunch!



Reusable  
Containers

Refillable  
Water Bottle

Healthy  
Snacks

Reusable Utensils  
& Napkin

Reduce Waste, Care for God's Creation!

Let's work together to protect our common home!

## Join us for Waste-Free Wednesdays!

As part of our commitment to being "Stewards of the Sacred," St. Patrick School is excited to announce that every Wednesday will now be a Waste-Free Lunch Day! Our goal is to challenge ourselves to pack lunches that leave behind zero trash.

Did you know the average student generates about 67 pounds of lunchroom waste per year? By starting with just one day a week, we can significantly reduce our school's footprint and honor the Earth the God entrusted to us.

How to Participate on Wednesday's:

- Pack lunches and snacks in reusable Containers and avoid plastic bags
- Buy in bulk and portion them into reusable containers
- Use a thermos or reusable bottle instead of juice boxes or plastic water bottles.
- Send a small cloth napkin instead of paper towels.

Thank you for helping our students live out their call to care for God's Creation, one lunch at a time!

## Volunteers

If you are thinking about volunteering for year end trips, please check in with the office **NOW** to determine if you are missing any required documents (e.g., vulnerable sector check, confidentiality agreement or online training). Due to recent changes to the process across the province, there may be some delays in updating your VSC if needed.

## Celebration of the Arts

This year, some students in Grades 4 to 8 will be presenting Dans mon Frigo at the Board's Celebration of the Arts event at the Sanderson Centre on **Tuesday, May 5 at 7 PM**. Tickets can be purchased through the [Sanderson Centre box office](#) starting April 7 at 12 noon for \$10 each.



## Brantford Rotary Classic Run



Save the date! This year's Brantford Rotary Classic Run will be held on **Sunday, June 7, 2026** and will feature a 10km and 5km run as well as a 3 mile walk. To cover the timing costs for students registering in the 5km and 10 km events there is a \$22.75 registration fee which includes fees & taxes. There is no charge to students for registering in the un-timed 3 mile walk. Again this year, all registrations will be done on-line through RaceRoster. The link to register for St. Patrick School can be found on the Rotary website: [www.rotaryclassic.ca](http://www.rotaryclassic.ca). We hope to see you there!

## Attendance Matters



Chronic school absenteeism, starting as early as preschool and kindergarten, puts students at risk for poor school performance and school dropout, which in turn, put them at risk for unhealthy behaviors as adolescents and young adults as well as poor long-term health outcomes.

*Source: The American Academy of Pediatrics / Policy Statement / February 01, 2019.*

## ALLERGY ALERT

Just a reminder that we are a **peanut/tree nut safe** school. We have students and staff with severe, life-threatening allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. Also, please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (e.g., Wow Butter) is **not permitted** as it is difficult for staff to monitor and may cause anxiety for those with a life-threatening allergy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to keep all our kids and staff safe!





BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK  
**Catholic District School Board**

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April 2, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians:

**RE: School Climate Survey – Students Grades 4 to 12**

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSB) is committed to providing safe, caring, and inclusive school environments. Every two years, students in Grades 4–12 are invited to participate in the School Climate Survey. This year, the survey will be administered between **April 20 and May 1**. Results help schools and the Board plan programs and services that support student well-being and promote safe and inclusive schools. This survey is consistent with the duties of the Board under the Education Act.

**Notice of Collection**

To comply with the Education Act s.169.1(1)(a), (a.1), (a.2) and PPM 145, BHNCDSB is required to conduct school climate surveys of students at least once every two years as they play a key role in contributing to a positive school climate. The purpose of the school climate survey is to assess the perceptions of safety from students, make informed planning decisions about programs to help prevent bullying and promote safe and inclusive schools, determine the effectiveness of programs on an ongoing basis, and build and sustain a positive school climate.

**What is the School Climate Survey about?**

The School Climate Survey provides insight into students' feelings of safety, inclusion, and experiences at school. It includes questions from the **Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)** developed by researchers at the University of British Columbia, which focuses on students' social and emotional well-being.

The survey asks students about:

- Social and emotional development
- Feelings of connectedness
- School environment and experiences
- Technology use
- Physical health and well-being
- How they spend time after school

### **When and how will the student survey happen?**

The voluntary online survey will be completed during school hours with staff supervision. Participation is anonymous and confidential. Students may skip any question or stop the survey at any time. Teachers will explain the purpose of the survey beforehand, and students will be provided with information on where to seek support if needed.

### **How will the information from this survey be used?**

The survey is not a test and will not be used to evaluate students, staff, or schools, nor for report cards or assessments. Students' responses will be combined to produce anonymous school and Board reports that inform planning to enhance student engagement and learning and build safe and inclusive school environments. Non-identifiable MDI data may be shared with the UBC research team, and reports may be shared with community partners for research purposes.

### **How is my child's privacy protected?**

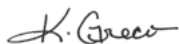
No identifying information is collected from the survey. Survey responses cannot be linked to student records. Data is accessible only to the School Climate Survey team. All collected data will be stored in a secure, password-protected network drive owned and managed by BHNCD SB and on an encrypted server for five years. The data will be securely disposed of as per the BHNCD SB Records Retention Schedule. No individual student will be identified in any reports or publications. Privacy questions may be directed to the Board's Communications and Privacy Officer at [records@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:records@bhncdsb.ca).

### **Where can I get more information on the project?**

Additional information is available on the [BHNCD SB School Climate Survey webpage](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's principal or the Board's Research Associate at [research@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:research@bhncdsb.ca). If you do not wish your child to participate, please complete and return the withdrawal of consent form to the school.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to strengthen our school communities.

Sincerely,



Kevin Greco  
Superintendent of Education



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Catholic District School Board

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If you wish to **withdraw** your child from participating in the survey, please, sign and return this section to your child's teacher.

This form should be returned only if you do **not want** your child to participate in this survey.

Please return this form to your child's school by April 15, 2026, if you do NOT want your child to participate.

I have received and reviewed the Parent/Guardian Information Letter regarding the School Climate Survey that my child's school and the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is undertaking.

- I **do not** consent for my child [NAME] \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the School Climate Survey taking place between April 20 and May 1, 2026.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*An electronic version of the withdrawal of consent form can be found here.  
[electronic version of the withdrawal of consent form](#)

Information submitted through the electronic form will be sent to the school administration.