

NEWSLETTER

Message from the Office

You often hear: Time flies when you're having fun. This year has been no exception!

Our school has celebrated so many proud moments this year. Here are just a few:

- our sports teams have been competitive and our student athletes have been super ambassadors for our school. Athletic successes include:
 - being competitive in every tournament we have entered
 - sweeping the cross country meet, winning every category
 - two championship teams: boys' volleyball and boys' softball

- we have also had great successes in other areas:
 - our chess team finished first at the annual competition
 - our VEX Robotics Team finished second overall in its first ever competition
 - we had excellent representation and great successes at both the CWL and Lions Public Speaking competitions
 - we showcased incredible talent at our spring drama production, "Press Start" and our Talent Show
 - our Social Justice Team was instrumental in raising awareness about very important local and global issues
 - we came together on many occasions to celebrate our Faith (masses, Liturgies of the Word, Marian Celebration, etc)

These, and other successes, would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of many of our staff and students. We thank them for sharing their gifts with our school community.

Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2019. The recent Vespers and Graduation ceremony held to celebrate their many accomplishments were memorable. We would like to acknowledge Fr. Joshua for celebrating mass with us and for delivering such an engaging homily. We challenge our graduates to be the change they want to see in the world. We wish them all the best for their future and continued success in high school.

We have been blessed with many wonderful parent volunteers over the course of this year. Your support of our school and students is so important and we thank you for giving of your time.

As a large school, we experience many changes in staffing from one year to the next. While most staff will return in September, there will also be some new faces due to retirements, parental leaves, transfers in and transfers out. To all of our staff leaving, we wish them all the best in their new schools. For our returning staff, we look forward to continuing our work together in September. Congratulations to Mrs. Veltri on her retirement.

On behalf of all staff at St. Angela Merici, we would like to wish everyone a safe, fun-filled, and relaxing summer. We know another school year will be upon us in the blink of an eye, but for the moment, let's savour a well-deserved summer break.

God Bless

Mr. Almeida and Mrs. Bowen



Moving?

If you will be moving over the summer and/or your children will not be starting at St. Angela Merici Catholic School in the fall, it would be most helpful to let the school know so that classes, staffing, and resources can be set up for September. Likewise, if you know of new families moving into our school boundary, please ask them to notify the school so they are included in our enrolment tally.



109 West Park Avenue
Bradford ON L3Z 0A7

Phone: (289) 231-2085

Principal: Mr. J. Almeida

Vice Principal: Mrs. S. Bowen

School Office Administrator:
Mrs. F. Gillard

School Office Assistant:
Mrs. M. Vernon

School Webpage:
sam.schools.smcdsb.on.ca

School E-mail:
samoffice@smcdsb.on.ca

Superintendent:
Ms. J. Dillon-Leitch

School Trustee:
Ms. J. Salmon

Summer Office Hours

The school office will open on
Monday, August 26, 2019



We say good bye and thank you to staff that were with us just for the school year: Mr. Chiappetta, Ms. Deciantis, Ms. Herring, Mrs. Kasjak, Ms. Perin, and Mr. Venditti.

Good luck in your new schools to the following staff: Mrs. Baillie, Mrs. Bly, Ms. Cabral, Ms. Hall and Ms. Partland



Happy retirement to Mrs. Veltri and Mrs. Crowe.

Congratulations to Mrs. Bruni, Mrs. Kilner, Mrs. Ruggaber, and Mrs. Bettencourt on the births of their babies.



Congratulations to Ms. Richardson & Ms. Carvalho on their upcoming and recent marriages.

We wish these staff members all the best of luck in the future.

school-day - Online Payments & Forms

School-day can be accessed from any web browser and gives parents real-time, secure access to up-to-date information.

Our parents who have signed up have already benefitted from the ability to:

- Receive email communications
- Approve permission forms on-line
- Register for extracurricular events
- Make online payments for sports fees, trips, hot lunches or other activities
- Minimize the risks associated with sending money to school (“backpack delivery”) and
- Reduce the environmental impact of photocopying permission forms and announcements

Letters with sign up instructions will also be sent home in September for parents that have not yet signed up. The Secure-Match key can be used for both parents to sign up.

JK letters will be mailed home mid-July. These letters will include the names of the educator team, meeting date and time, start date, and transportation information.

The letter will also explain the drop off and pick up routines. Parents are to drop off and pick up students at the JK/SK yard on the north side of the school building.



SK letters were sent home the last week of school. SK students will start on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 3.

bell schedule

8:25am	Supervision begins	Students will continue to have two nutrition breaks, each 40 minutes in length. The first will begin at 10:40 a.m. and the second will begin at 12:40 p.m. Half the school will eat for 20 minutes while the other half is outside for recess. After 20 minutes, there will be a switch so that every student has both an opportunity to eat and to go outside for recess. This balanced day schedule will provide larger uninterrupted learning blocks and will cut down on the number of transitions typical of a traditional day schedule.
8:40am	Learning Block #1	
10:40am	Nutrition Break #1	
11:20am	Learning Block #2	
12:40pm	Nutrition Break #2	
1:20pm	Learning Block #3	
3:00pm	Dismissal	

Class lists will be shared on the first day of school. (Please do not call the school to inquire about who your child has as a teacher.). When the bell rings to signal the start of school, parents will be asked to leave their children. Parents are invited into the yard on the first day of school only.

All class assignments are final. Much time and consideration go into the creation of class lists. Please do not call the school to request a change.

SCHOOL TOUR: Parents will have an opportunity to tour the school on the night of our Meet & Greet, Thursday, September 26.

“Family Package of Forms” Envelope

During the first week of school, each family will receive a “Family Package of Forms” envelope. Included in the envelope will be the following forms (these forms will need to be completed and returned): Student Health form, Student Information Verification Form and a Catholic School Community Council nomination form.

For families with multiple children in the school, multiple copies will be in the envelope.

Forms/Flyers for you to keep that will be included are the 2019-2020 Elementary Calendar, school-day sign-up letter (if not signed up already), “insuremykids” Protection Plan pamphlet, and more!

Food/Snack Options for October & November

Please note that all food/snack options will begin after Thanksgiving in October. These options are available only school-day and will be available to order at the start of school.

NO SCENTS PLEASE

Please be aware that we are a scent-free environment. We have a number of staff and students who react severely to scents. We are asking all staff and students, to be mindful of this and to avoid wearing scents to school. All visitors to the school are also asked to adhere to this policy. Thank you for you help.

Arriving to School on Time

Our students need to be here on time. When students arrive late for school they are disrupting school and classroom routines, missing out on receiving classroom instruction and important information. Arriving on time allows them the opportunity to prepare for learning (getting their materials organized, removing outdoor wear, etc.). Entrance bell rings at 8:40 am. Students should be on school grounds and ready to enter the building at that time. We are striving to teach our students the value of time management, punctuality, respect for others, and good citizenship. We are preparing them for life. Our society values punctuality.

Our school now uses an Absence Call Out System for Absent Students

What does this mean? If your child(ren) are marked absent in class (a note, online safe arrival or phone call has not be received in the office by 9:30am) you will be receiving an automated phone call from the Absence Call Out system. Our school phone number, 289-231-2085, will appear in the call display (if applicable). You will receive a call for each of your children if they are marked absent. Please listen carefully to the directions and input the reason for the absence.



Daycare at St. Angela Merici Catholic School 2019/2020

Daycare will be provided by Bradford Progress Childcare Centres. Please call 905-715-2166 to register your child(ren) or for more information.



Please be advised that the first day of school for all students from grades SK to 8 is Tuesday, September 3, the day following Labour Day. Students entering junior kindergarten will follow a staggered entry schedule. Exact start dates for junior kindergarten students will be mailed to families in mid-July.

Class lists will be shared by classroom teachers at 8:25am, the morning of September 3. Students and accompanying parents will learn of student placements that morning. Teachers will be on hand to help students through this process and to collect their classes.

As a parent, if you wish to help out in any way at St. Angela Merici Catholic School, please be aware that a current Criminal Background Check (CBC) with a Vulnerable Sector Screening is required to be on file with the office. This applies to all school-related activities including driving students, assisting around the school with hot lunch, or accompanying students on class trips.

The form can be picked up from the school office.

A Criminal Background Check is valid for one year. Each year thereafter, you may complete an Annual Offense Declaration (AOD) form through the office, at no additional cost.

To be able to continue to volunteer in our school, please pick up this form from the office at the end of the summer and return it as soon as possible.



Hold on to your milk bags!

We will still be collecting clean milk bags next school year. Please hold on to your milk bags and bring them in when we come back in September. The bags are intertwined and woven into useful mats. The mats are then donated to Africa and the homeless in Toronto.

Mabel's Labels Fundraiser

Please visit https://mabelslabels.com/c/?type=fundraiser&b=3011&cur_website=base to place an order and support our fundraiser!

Going to miss the first bit of school due to holidays or illness?

Call the school anytime before Tuesday, September 3 at 289-231-2085 option 5 or use our on-line safe arrival form on our school webpage: <http://sam.schools.smcdsb.on.ca/>

Noon-Hour Supervisor Positions Available

If you are interested in being a full time (everyday, both nutrition breaks) or supply noon hour supervisor, please go to the following link to complete the application form: <https://forms.gle/X9y4urq7DjNmkJ8C9>

The above link will expire on Sunday, August 19 at 11:55pm.



The first meeting of the St. Angela Merici Catholic School Community Council (CSCC) for the 2019/2020 school year will be Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Please use the front doors. The library is just inside, on the right hand side.

We will be holding elections for the Executive at that meeting: Chair and Vice-Chair or Co-Chairs; Treasurer; Secretary; Parish Rep; and Community Rep.

Any parents interested in being on the Council are asked to fill out and sign the self-nomination form that will be included in the September Family Package envelope.

The CSCC serves as an advisory group to the principal and often helps with decisions or determining directions affecting the school. Another main focus is to raise funds to support our school community.

Nut Aware

The School Prevention and Management Anaphylaxis Plan shall fulfill its obligations by: sharing information and creating awareness; developing reasonable procedures for avoidance of potentially anaphylactic situations; and executing appropriate emergency procedures.

While recognizing the parent's rights to food choices for his or her child, most parents acknowledge the right to life and safety as greater, and will support procedures which protect the allergic child.

Peanut butter substitutions such as "Wow Butter" are not to be brought into our schools in order to avoid confusion that may result in an accidental exposure to peanut butter which can cause anaphylaxis. Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School – Revised May 2014 Student Health Care Policy and Procedures Policy LE-02 Section – LE-02.2

What does this mean? Please avoid sending, peanuts and other nuts (including, but not limited to cashews, almonds, pistachios, pecans, walnuts, etc.), peanut butter, and any other product containing or processed in a plant that handles nuts. Please be aware that some snacks such as potato chips, donuts, granola bars, and cookies may contain these products.

Why are healthy lunches and snacks important at school?

Your child's school lunches and snacks are a major source of the essential vitamins and minerals they need to grow and develop over the years.

The foods you pack for your child will give them the energy and nutrients they need to learn and play at school. Without enough energy from food, they may feel tired and find it difficult to concentrate in class. Just like adults, if tasty healthy foods are not available when your child is hungry, the chances that he or she will reach for unhealthy junk food is greater.

Think outside the sandwich! Get creative when choosing items for your child's lunch. Sometimes changing something as simple as the type of grain. For example, using pita, flatbread, tortilla, or cereal instead of bread can make lunch more interesting for your little eater. You may even want to write up a simple chart to brainstorm different options.

As you plan snacks, think of them as a "mini meal" that includes two of the four food groups. Try these simple nutritious snack ideas:

- Whole grain crackers with a cheese stick.
- Fresh cut fruit with a yogurt dip
- Nut-free trail mix. Combine dried cranberries, raisins, dried apricots, and apple rings with sunflower and pumpkin seeds, along with your kid's favourite cold cereal.
- Yogurt tube and small oatmeal muffin

From planning to packing, get everyone in the family involved when making lunches and snacks. Give them healthy options to pick from - they will be more likely to eat a lunch that they choose. Older children can help make sandwiches or stuff pitas, while younger children can place snacks into containers.

Take your children grocery shopping and let them choose some of their favourite foods like breads, vegetables, fruit and yogurts.

Every child has different energy needs, which can change from day to day and over time. Some schools send uneaten food home so parents will know how much their child has eaten, which can be helpful. Involve your child in planning lunches so that they can help you figure out how much food they need.

During growth spurts, a time when your child is growing very quickly, he or she may feel hungrier and want more to eat. It's a good idea to send 'extra' snack foods that won't spoil (such as an apple, whole grain crackers or almonds) for your child to munch if hungry, or save for another day.

from unlockfood.ca

Dropping and Picking Up Students at St. Angela Merici Catholic School

When dropping off students in the morning, please use the “Kiss ‘n Drop” in the north parking lot. Please do not block and/or park in the “Kiss ‘n Drop” as this will cause congestion in the parking lot.

Drive carefully through the parking lot as children will be coming from all directions. Passing cars is not permitted, as staff are removing students from vehicles.

The driveway in the front of the school is for busses, school vehicles, and vehicles with a handicap sign present only.

At the end of the school day both entrances will be closed. Only buses, school vehicles, and vehicles with a handicap sign present will be permitted entry.

We Encourage Active Transportation

Active transportation means making a journey on foot or by bicycle instead of by car or bus. Next time you make a trip, consider if walking or bicycling could get you and your child to your destination instead.

- Involve your child in decisions about how to get around. Given the choice, many children would prefer walking, bicycling or in-line skating to taking the car to get where they want to go.
- Be a role model. Use active transportation for your own journeys whenever you can.
- Walk and bicycle with your child. Help them find the best routes to where they want to go and teach them how to get around safely.
- Take part in car-free days. Encourage your neighbours to take part as well.
- Start a "walking school bus" to get your child and your neighbours' children to school. A physically active school commute can be a fun social time for kids.
- Walk or Wheel to school the day of school, and everyday!

Fostering Independence

Parents/guardians are asked not to remain at the school with their child/children after 8:25 a.m. This will help with the safety of all children and relieve congestion outside.

How can parents deal with a child who cries at school or daycare drop-off? Leave.

We can assure you that, in most cases, the amount of time your child spends in tears is directly proportional to the amount of time you spend lingering. We know it is difficult for parents to leave their child in tears, but if the separation is done right, they won't remain that way.

So how do you do it right? Here are a few do's and don'ts to keep in mind.

Don't: Sneak Out of the Room When Your Child Isn't Looking. Doing so is an easy way to avoid having a child you love scream in your face, but it doesn't help the problem. Your child is crying because they are afraid of abandonment, and when they look up to see their parent has left stealthily, the fear is reinforced.

Do: Say Goodbye and Tell Your Child That You Have to Go But You Love Them. Give them a hug, kiss, or whatever other parting custom you share with your child.

Don't: Look Scared and Sad Yourself. The way young children assess the safety of a situation is by reading their parent's face. If you look like you are scared or about to cry, it will not convey that the situation is safe and will amplify their anxiety.

Do: Smile and Tell Them That You Know That They Will Have Fun at School. Let them see on your face that they are safe and there is nothing for them to worry about. This may take a bit of acting on your part, especially if it is your first child and they are separating for the first time.

Don't: Show Indifference to Your Child's Tears. It is important that they know that you care when they are sad. Don't scold them for crying or act frustrated by their emotions. Doing so will only add a sense of parental disappointment to their ongoing emotional anguish.

Do: Reassure Them. Remind them that you know they will have a fun day at school, even though they are sad right now. Remind them that you (or whoever else) are coming back to get them. If you want, you can make a plan for an activity that you will do together after school. This will give them a reminder of your return, and give the teachers a way to break through the sense of abandonment.

When a child is crying for a parent, it is very comforting to be able to say, "I heard your Mom is taking you to the park after school. That sounds like fun! What's your favorite activity?" Suddenly, the child is smiling and looking forward to the future. Only a minute ago, all they could think about was how alone they felt and how sad they were. Now they are excited for the fun time they will soon be having with their parent. Then it is much easier to play and have fun with their friends.

We know it is difficult to walk away when your child is in tears, but if you do, we can almost guarantee that the child you pick up will be smiling, happy, and excited to tell you about their day at school.

Supervision begins at 8:25am, rain or shine!