

# Mother Teresa Catholic School

110 Northgate Drive, Bradford, ON, L3Z 2Z7  
(905) 778-8653

"SHARING THE SPIRIT"



Sept 2016

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<http://mtb.schools.smcdsb.on.ca> CLICK ON E-Newsletter & SUBSCRIBE

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## Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year

*Prayers to Begin a School Year*

*God of wisdom and might,*

*we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.*

*Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.*

*Bless them and their teachers and staff.*

*Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds*

*as they search for understanding;*

*and peace and zeal to their hearts.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

September 4 was the canonization of our Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997), Foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and tireless servant of the Lord through her service to others. St. Teresa of Calcutta is a modern-day reflection of how we can live the Gospel. A gifted writer and speaker; there are many quotations from St. Teresa of Calcutta that continue to inspire us today. In this space we will share some of her many reflections.... ***Everytime you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.*** Let us remember this as we begin a fresh new year, and share a smile with old and new friends alike!

## Important Dates



Annual School Barbeque	Thurs. Sept 22 (5-7pm)
Terry Fox Run	Wed. Sept. 28
QSP Campaign Kick-off	Sept. 26@ 10:20am
P.A. Day	September 30
Council Meeting	Tues. Oct. 4
School pictures	October 12
Thanksgiving Monday	October 10

## Welcome to a New School Year

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to a new school year at Mother Teresa. We look forward to serving our school community and getting to know one another. The first week of school has just begun, and we have many important pieces of information to share, so please ensure you read the school notices

and newsletters provided. Presently, our student enrollment stands at about 420, matching our projected enrolment of June 2015.

**Even though we matched our projected enrolment numbers, there is always the possibility of a classroom shuffle in September.** Our superintendent will review the numbers, and then she may instruct us to restructure according to the guidelines laid out by the Ministry of Education. In the event this occurs, students will be informed of the changes and then make their way to their new classrooms. Please talk to your child(ren) about the changes and the opportunity it presents for new friendships and learning. For your information, our present school set-up is as follows:

JK/SK	Ms. Baye & Mrs. Lancha, Ms. Ferreira & Ms. Servello
Sk/ 1	Mrs. Neto
Gr 1	Mrs. Periera
Gr 1	Mr. Hughes
Gr 2	Ms. Dobney
Gr 2/3	Mrs. Montevirgen
Gr 3	Mrs. Abate- Campbell
Gr 3	Ms. Theriault
Gr 3/4	Ms. Pavone
Gr 4	Ms. Garagan
Gr 4/5	Mrs. Martini- Bromfield
Gr 5/ 6	Mrs. Richardson
Gr 6	Mrs. Viveiros
Gr 6/ 7	Ms. Gretes
Gr 7	Mr. Hammersley (Mrs. Dias)
Gr 8	Mrs. Franceschini
Gr 8	Mr. Giannone
French	Mme Lamothe, Mr. Camirand, Mrs. Viveiros
Prep	Mrs. Coe, Mr. Camirand, Mrs. Baiden
SERT	Ms. Pike
Library	Mrs. Bissonette
Reading Recovery:	Mrs. Baiden
DECE's:	Mrs. Lancha & Ms. Servello
Educational Assistants:	

Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Donnelly, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Wideman

Custodians: Ms. Bauer, Mrs. Spataro

We take great pride in our school, Mrs. Simurda and we welcome Ms. Ragogna at our front desk are always there to welcome you, and both Mrs. Leung, our Principal and Ms. Edinboro, our Vice Principal are available to discuss and help families with school

issues and learning.

There are a few changes within our teaching staff from last year we'd like to share:

Mr. Hammersley is in for Mrs. Dias' maternity leave. We are in the process of hiring a LTO for Mrs. Lamothe while she is on her half time leave.

Please make sure to introduce yourself to our new Mother Teresa Staff!

Lots of learning happens at Mother Teresa Catholic School, our school day is divided as follows:

8:35	Yard supervision begins
8:50	Entrance to begin school day
8:50-10:50	Classroom learning
10:50-11:30	First nutrition break: Grades 1-3 students and 2 Kindergarten classes eat 10:50-11:10 then go outside for recess, while Grades 4-8 students and the remaining Kindergarten class go outside from 10:50-11:10 then come in to eat
11:30-1:10	Classroom learning
1:10-1:50	Second nutrition break: Grades 1-3 students and 2 Kindergarten classes eat 1:10-1:30 then go outside for recess, while Grades 4-8 students and the remaining Kindergarten class go outside from 1:10-1:30 then come in to eat
3:10	Bus students and walkers are all dismissed

### More Information

#### Arrival and Dismissal

Important, exciting, interesting and serious learning occurs at Mother Teresa Catholic School. Staff try diligently to ensure that time is not wasted, and that all students are involved in all possible ways every moment of the day.



Please ensure your child arrives at school in time for the beginning of the school day at 8:50am. Please note that supervision begins 8:35am, therefore no students should be at school before 8:35am for safety reasons. All students are dismissed at 3:10pm. Parents of JK and SK students must **pick-up their child from their teacher at the JK/SK gate**. All other students can be met at the north side of the front of the school. Parking on Northgate Drive is limited; please walk if at all possible.

If it is necessary for your child to leave school early for an appointment, or will not be taking the bus, please send a written note indicating the change to your child's routine. **All children** with a change in routine **WILL BE CALLED** to the office once you've arrived to sign him/her out. Please understand that this is to ensure the safety of your child.

#### Home and School Communication

Open communication is the key to building a strong positive relationship between home and school. Please let us know of any concerns you may have as they arise so that we can deal with them together.

Be informed. Regular class newsletters are sent home via your child's teacher in September **ONLY** and then monthly newsletters are available via <http://mtb.schools.smcdsb.on.ca>, under Parents & students, Teacher websites, and you may also sign up for the school newsletter by pressing the E-newsletter button and click on SUBSCRIBE....**No paper copies will be sent home** in attempt to reduce our carbon footprint.

### In the Area of Safety

#### Buzzer Access to the School ...

This is part of the Provincial Government's Safe Welcome Program, announced in December 2012 for all Ontario Elementary Schools. At this time, doors are locked. You must buzz to gain entry; patience will be required as office staff may not be at their desks at that moment. To help with this safety protocol we ask that all students arrive before 8:50 am. Those that remain at school for nutrition/lunch breaks will pack a lunch. **Delivery of individual lunches is extremely difficult** as access into the school may be delayed because of the busy-ness of the office. **We ask that you seriously consider SENDING LUNCHES WITH YOUR CHILDREN IN THE MORNING**, as opposed to dropping it off during the lunch hour. The first week of school is a good time to implement and establish this new 'HABIT'! Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

#### Attendance Verification—Safe Arrival

We encourage daily and punctual attendance of our students. If a student is late, they must report to the office prior to going to class. If your child is going to be absent or late, please call the school in advance. The safe arrival number is 905-778-8653. When reporting an absence, please state your child's name, teacher name, and reason for the absence. Please leave a message prior to 8:30am on the day of the absence or after 4:30pm the day prior to the absence. Your cooperation will help us to ensure the safety of students. **(When busses are cancelled due to weather, Safe Arrival calls WILL NOT be made to students who take the bus.)**

#### Change of Routine

Please write a note to notify the school of any change to the regular routine of your child. The office must be made aware of any changes to ensure the safety of students. Please note that only bus students are permitted on the bus and they must ride the bus that was assigned.

#### School Agendas

Agendas are once again available at Mother Teresa Catholic School. The cost is \$5.50, and an agenda is required for all students from Gr. 1 to Gr. 8. Payment must be made by cheque. No cash will be accepted.

### **Parking Lot**

Please note that the parking lot will not be open to traffic between 8:30 and 9:00am in the morning and 3:00 to 3:35pm in the afternoon. Please adhere strictly to these timelines, as student safety is paramount during arrival and dismissal times. We have more staff this year and ask that you not park in the lot in the morning (drop off) or at the end (pick up) of the day. If you have an appointment at the school during midday, you may use a vacant spot if available. Please do not park in the fire route, or in the driveway between the parked cars. Also, please ensure you wait on the SIDEWALK for your child(ren) at end of day, as this ensures a SAFE HABIT and models safety awareness for your child(ren). Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.



### **School Visitors**

We like to greet all of our visitors. We request that all visitors, including parents, volunteers, and former students, BUZZ in at the entry and proceed directly to the main office. All visitors are required to wear a visitors tag for the duration of their school visit. The office staff will be pleased to assist you. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### **Use of Telephone Lines**

The school phone is used for school business and as such is in constant demand. Therefore, students are not permitted to use the phone to call home to arrange for forgotten items or other similar reasons. Also note that personal cell phone use (by students) is not permitted during school hours.

### **When Children Are Sick**

In the event that your child becomes sick at school:

- The parents will be notified to come and pick up the child
- We cannot have an ill child stay in the office all day as there is no one to supervise the child
- If your child feels ill in the morning please make arrangements for your child to be cared for at home
- Please do not send your child back to school until they are well enough to participate fully in all school activities—for example, the school does not have the ability to make arrangements to supervise students who wish to stay in the school for recess because they are ill.

### **Medication for Students**

From time to time it may be necessary for office staff to administer medication to students. A parent or guardian must complete the proper paperwork available at the office prior to giving any medication. Note: students generally are not permitted to carry medication (aspirin, Tylenol, puffers, etc...) on school property. Medication will be contained at the office. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the medication is properly maintained.

### **Anaphylaxis – Allergen Aware**

Mother Teresa School is an Allergen Aware school. There are students in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanuts. Exposure to even the smallest quantities can cause severe and life threatening reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction. The most common allergen triggers are food, insect stings, medications, exercise and latex. We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by attempting to **avoid sending any lunches or snacks that contain nuts, nut oils, or derivatives which could potentially harm a student.** Please also note that the revised Health and Safety board guidelines do not allow the use of “WOW” butter in our schools. (so that it is not confused with Peanut butter) Please do not send food for birthday or special occasions. There are alternatives such as stickers, or pencils. Any class that has a student with an allergy will be an allergen-free class. You will be informed in writing if your child is in one of these classes. If you have any questions please talk to your child’s teacher, or contact the office directly.

Please note: Parents of children who have severe allergies that the school has not yet been made aware of, must contact the office as soon as possible to discuss an emergency medical plan for your son/daughter.

Due to student allergies, perfume or cologne are not permitted on school grounds. Students may use scent free deodorants after gym. Pressurized containers of any kind are not permitted.

### **Extra-Curricular Student Athletics/Student Accident Insurance**

Our school continues to run a fantastic range of excellent co-curricular programs for our students. While every effort is made to complete all due diligence to ensure the care and safety of each student, all athletic programs have the possibility of students getting injured. In many instances many families do not have the appropriate insurance coverage to support them through the injuries. The SMCDSB Insurance coverage does not insure these children for these injuries. For the 2016-2017 school year, it is strongly advised that all students participating in co-curricular sports have accident insurance. This insurance is also available for all students, not just athletes.

## **Community Information**

### **Hot Lunch Program!!**

Our hot lunch program provides convenience for busy parents and hot meals for our students. We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate and deliver hot lunches. If you are available on Fridays and would like to help out, please contact the office. We are starting our Hot Lunch program in early October.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Payment for hot lunch program must be made by cheque. Sorry, no cash will be accepted.

### Tuck Shop

We have a few snacks for sale on a daily basis that are optional for students to purchase. All of these items meet the nutritional guidelines set by the Ministry of Education. We have the following available:

Chocolate/White Milk \$.75

Apple Juice \$.75

Frozen Yogurt \$.75


Popcorn \$1

### Criminal Background Check (CBC) with Vulnerable Sector Screening

If you are thinking of volunteering at the school this year in any manner (trips, lunch hour supervision, hot lunch distribution) it is important to have a current CBC on file at the school. If you do not have one, please come into the school to get the form signed by Mrs. Leung. It will take a few weeks for this to be processed at the police station. If you have a current (not expired) CBC on file at the school, it is VERY important you come in and sign an 'Annual Offence Declaration' form, which then extends the CBC for another year.

### Catholic School Community Council

Please consider joining our School Council. We usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month. We discuss a variety of issues throughout the year including fundraising, EQAO, Safe Schools, bullying and much more. Attached you will find nomination forms. Please fill it out and send it to the school.



**QSP Magazine Orders**  
In the fall, we kick-off our Family Reading Magazine subscription fundraiser to benefit our students. The success of the program depends on your participation. Anyone who purchased magazine subscriptions through the school magazine fundraiser is asked to hold your renewals until the magazine campaign kick off assembly on Sept. 26th.

### Holy Martyrs Church Information

The Children's Liturgy Program will begin again on Sunday, September 11, 10:00 a.m. mass. We invite children attending junior kindergarten and up are invited to participate.

*Volunteers Needed!* Your volunteer commitment will be approximately 20-30 minutes during the 10:00am Mass every 6 weeks or so and a half hour of preparation using the available workbook. Please contact Parish office at 905-775-2065 or Lorraine Frank at 905-775-7833.

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Altar servers are a blessed gift to our Holy Mass and all that attend! It is a great honor and privilege to serve at the Altar of our God, as St. John Paul II indicated in his inspiring address to altar servers. Altar servers are not limited only to the young but can be of any age the only requirement is that they have received their first Holy Communion and be of serious disposition. If this is something your child is

interested in please contact the parish office at 905 775 2065 or see Fr. Boniface after any of the Masses.

### SACRAMENT INFORMATION DATES



Please mark these important dates on your calendars. The dates for information meetings are as follows:

#### CONFIRMATION Information Session:

Tuesday October 4, 2016 at 7:00pm OR

Thursday October 6, 2016 at 7:00pm

#### FIRST COMMUNION Information Session:

Tuesday September 27, 2016 at 7:00pm

#### FIRST RECONCILIATION Information Session:

Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 7:00pm OR

Saturday November 26, 2016 at 11:00am

### Mother Teresa Catholic School Annual Bar-B-Que Thursday, September 22 from 5-7pm

Please make sure to put aside this important date, and come join the Mother Teresa Catholic School Community for a Bar-B-Q! Classrooms will be open from 5-7pm so that your child(ren) can give you a personal tour and share their excitement about the new year with you.



### Learning Opportunities

#### International Languages Information

International Language classes are being offered again this year to interested elementary students beginning this fall. Instruction in a variety of languages other than English and French will be provided at no charge.

The objective of this program is to encourage students to develop or maintain fluency in their chosen language and to enhance their understanding of its heritage.

Register on-line at [www.smcdsb.on.ca](http://www.smcdsb.on.ca). For information about additional languages available go to [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com).

