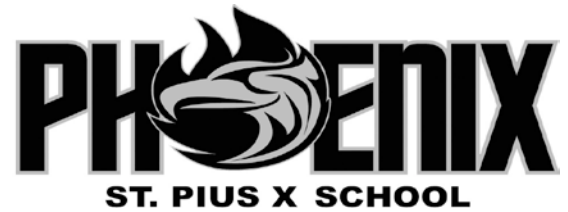


September 2018



Catholic Virtues in Action

INCLUSIVITY

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is John Ianni and I am honoured to be serving our community as the Principal of St. Pius X School. On behalf of the staff, may I extend a warm welcome to you and your child(ren). I would like to extend a special welcome to our new students in Kindergarten and to all families new to our community. We look forward to meeting you early in the school year, and we encourage your involvement and assistance in making this a rewarding school year for your child(ren).

This year, we will continue to focus on Our Collective Commitments of Student Well Being through Catholic Virtues, Safe & Accepting Schools, and Student Voice. We will also focus on academic success by utilizing strategies to help Close the Gap in order to meet the needs of all our children. This will occur in class, in school and during out of school excursions and we will continue to strive to build a stronger Home – School – Parish relationship.

Please take the time to go over the contents of this letter and (for grades 4 to 6) the St. Pius X School Handbook/Agenda with your child(ren). I would also like to encourage you to go to the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board website @ <https://www.tbcschools.ca/> for helpful links and to the Ministry of Education website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca> to learn about the English, Math and SES curriculum.

Parents and Guardians are encouraged to frequently check the school calendar for upcoming events through the school website at www.tbcschools.ca/st-pius-x

Please welcome Mrs. Prpich who will be teaching the grades 4/5 class, Mrs. Wenzell who is teaching HPE/Health/Second Step, Ms. Kasstan who is the new Native Language, Mrs. Filice and Mrs. Villeneuve to the St. Pius X school community.

TREATS/CAKES/CUPCAKES/PERSIANS AT SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL OCCASSIONS:

Please note, that food treats are **NOT** to be sent to school to recognize student birthdays or holidays. If you would like to recognize your child's birthday, a small school tool could be sent in place of a sugary treat, such as a pencil, eraser, bookmark, etc. We appreciate your cooperation in our healthy school status. There are parents that do not let their children consume sugar or artificial food colouring. Please contact me at the school with any questions or concerns regarding this issue.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

We try to keep you informed of all events and activities in your child's school life, in addition to his or her progress. Most notices from the office will go home with the oldest child in your family attending St. Pius X. By the end of this week, you should have received a Student Verification Form, a Catholic School Council Nomination Form, an accident insurance form, a Newsletter survey as to how you would like to receive the school newsletter. It is vital to initiate and maintain communication with your child's teacher. As issues arise during the year, please remember to communicate with your child's teacher. **Most often** a phone call or a conversation with the teacher can remedy a situation at the classroom level. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school at **767-3061**.

CASHNET ONLINE

The Thunder Bay Catholic School Board continues to offer families the opportunity to pay for student activities, field trips, sports fees and hot lunches electronically. The *School CashNet Online* program (<https://thunderbaycatholic.schoolcashionline.com/>) provides a convenient fee payment option that will save time, reduce paper, maintain a focus on instruction in the classroom and limit cash and cheques in our schools. This improved efficiency also aligns with the District's strengthened accounting practices.

We encourage parents/guardians to participate and enjoy the 24/7 convenience of paying for their child's school fees online. We are asking that you please take 5 minutes to register. Once you are registered online, you will begin receiving emails about upcoming events. You will need the students OEN number found on the report card.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. All of our school programming and excursion fees will only be offered online. This includes: Student fees, Pizza and Milk payments, etc.**
- 2. If you have any questions during the registration process or while shopping online, please select the 'SUPPORT' option in the top right hand area of the screen.**

LUNCHES START TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19.

SERVED AT 2ND BREAK. Items can be purchased on line through CashNet the day before or at the office no later than 9:15.

Tuesdays and Fridays – Frankie's Pizzeria Pizza \$3.00
Milk sold as a punch card (\$10.00) or individually (\$1.00)

TRANSPORTATION AND CHANGE OF ROUTINES

Although a great deal of time and energy go into the planning of pupil transportation, it takes a while for the driver to get to know the children and their routes. Please be patient, but always alert, to the expected time of arrival and departure of buses carrying your children. We ask that you utilize the Student Transportation Services of

Thunder Bay's Parent Portal for student route and bus status information. The information can be accessed online at <https://veo.tbcschools.ca/infoshare>. If you have any questions or concerns about bus pick up/drop off times or bus numbers please contact the school.

Please remember to send a note if your child will not be riding the bus at the end of the day. **We must receive a note every time you change your child's routine.** Send a note or call the school to let us know if someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up your child. This will help avoid confusion at the end of the day, as we prepare the children to go home. Please note that **five** days notice is required for any bus change for the month of September. **Please be diligent in following these rules for the safety of all the children.**

STUDENT FEES

Fees of \$20 for Grade 2 to 6 students can be paid by cheque payable to St. Pius X School or online by registering at <https://thunderbaycatholic.schoolcashonline.com>.

KISS & RIDE PROGRAM / BUS ZONE STAFF AND VISITOR PARKING AREAS

1. The Bus Zone is located at the north end (Hammar skjold end) of the St. Pius X School property. No other vehicles will be allowed into this area.
2. **The Kiss and Ride Program begins at 8:45 am. Students are not to be dropped off before 8:45 am as there is no supervision. Pickup of students begins at 3:25 pm.**
3. **Please do not park in the front of the school and never leave your vehicle while in the Kiss & Ride.** The Program is located at the south front (gym doors) of the school. It includes a one-way only paved loop where parents can simply drive up and drop off or pick up your children without exiting your vehicle. PLEASE ENSURE YOU DO NOT WALK YOUR CHILD TO THEIR CLASSROOM. Students who are walked to school should enter through the Kiss & Ride. It is necessary that all children are treated with equity. The Kiss & Ride program is designed to meet our transportation needs. Also, please permit the supervisor on duty, to assist with your child's departure from your vehicle.
4. **Our staff cannot do up seat belts. Pull right up to the exit before helping your child with their seat belt if necessary.**
5. Do not stop your vehicle at the gym doors if there is room ahead of you. Pull up as far as you can to the pylons so that we can get as many cars into the Kiss & Ride driveway and off the street as possible. Our staff will walk your child right to your car.
6. Do not turn into the turning lane unless asked to do so by our Kiss & Ride staff. Filling the turning lane will not allow for other vehicles to exit.
7. Please do not use the Visitor's Parking area to wait for your children. We have very limited Visitor Parking. Please save that area for parents or visitors who need to go into the school. Use the Kiss & Ride Program area. It is safer for your children.
8. The busiest time is right at 3:25 PM. If possible, please pick up the ELKP students earlier (at 3:20). We have Kiss & Ride staff on duty until 3:40 PM.

Please ensure you pick up your child by 3:40. Supervision is NOT provided after 3:40.

9. The children must exit and enter vehicles from the passenger side of the vehicle and only along the sidewalk.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation as we strive to make St. Pius X School a safe environment for our students and community.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- **OPEN HOUSE**

The Open House will be held on Tuesday September 17th between 6:00 and 7:00pm The book fair will be open to everyone on this evening in the library.

- **PICTURE DAY: October 5th, 2018**



- Friday, October 5th and retakes will be done on Friday November 2nd.

- **BREAKFAST CLUB**

The B&G Club will be running the breakfast club again this year. A member of the B&G Club will be greeting students starting Monday September 17th.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please inform the school if your child has any serious medical conditions (includes: Allergies, Asthma, Diabetes, Concussion, etc.). **Anaphylactic management plans must be completed for those students who are anaphylactic. Plans are available at the school office. Please call the school ASAP to complete a plan to ensure your child's safety. Since we have children in our school who are anaphylactic, we ask for your continued support in not sending food items that may contain nuts or peanuts.** Please ensure that the office and the classroom teacher are aware of any serious medical issues, so that we can provide a safe environment for your children.

Our Oral Medications Policy **will not** allow the school to dispense any medication unless these are prescription medication and are accompanied by the required

forms. Please see the **Explanatory Letter Regarding Administration of Medication Appendix A** on the board website for the necessary forms. Please call the school for further clarification.

INSURANCE

The Board does not provide medical insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen. Some injuries cause families to incur medical or dental expenses that are not covered by O.H.I.P. and the parent/guardian becomes responsible for these expenses. For this reason the Reliable Life Insurance Company, the board carrier of Student Accident Insurance coverage, has again been authorized to provide a Student Accident Insurance Policy that offers a variety of optional plans and benefits at affordable prices. This private coverage will help supplement many of the expenses not covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

Please accept our thanks for your continued support of our school. We look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead.

CROSSING GUARD

The City of Thunder Bay has changed their times for Crossing Guard Hours due to most schools moving to a balanced day. Please refer to the changes below if your child walks home for lunch:

John St. And Clarkson St: 8:10 am to 9:10 am and 2:40 pm to 3:55 pm

Windsor St. and Clarkson St.: 8:15 am to 9:20 am **and** 2:45 pm to 3:55 pm.

Windsor St. and Junot Ave.: 8:10 am to 9:10 am **and** 1:00 pm to 1:40 pm **and** 3:20 to 3:50 pm

WHEN YOU VISIT THE SCHOOL

For the safety of the children, all visitors, including classroom volunteers, **MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE** to identify themselves. Parents are reminded that **only adultsemployed by the schoolboard** are permitted in the schoolyard during recess breaks. If you need to see your child during school hours, report to the office and your child will be brought to you. Parents are not permitted to walk students to their classes.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM 767-3061

To ensure the safety of children, if your child is going to be *late or unable to attend* school on any day, **you must notify us**. Parents and Guardians of children who are absent from school without explanation, will be called by Ms. Demers. If we are unable to reach you or your designate, ***we are obligated to contact the Police.*** Our School is equipped with an answering machine, please leave a message with the child's name, the teacher's name, the reason for the absence, the anticipated length of absence, and your name.

Students who arrive late to school are required to get a late slip at the office before going to class. ELKP students **should always be accompanied** into the school.

Students are not to arrive earlier than 8:45. There is no supervision prior to 8:45.

CLOTHING: While at school, students are expected to:

- Be dressed appropriately for the weather in order to participate fully in outdoor activities.
- Have an inside pair of shoes that are *worn at all times in school*.
- Be dressed in a neat and modest manner that will allow for active participation in school activities. **PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING.**

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE. The emergency closure of our school may be necessary due to any number of situations. To ensure the safety of students and staff, an Evacuation & Fire Safety Plan has been developed in accordance with Board Policy #1003 (State of Emergency) and the Board's Crisis Response Plan. Key to this plan is that information on the registration form is completed for each student at the beginning of the school year. On this form, parents are asked to indicate their choice of plan.

Emergency contacts are necessary in case parents/ guardians cannot be reached. Our Emergency Plan includes the use of Hammarskjold High School as our primary evacuation site and the Boys and Girls Club as our secondary evacuation site. In the event of having to evacuate to one of these centres, our Emergency Closure plan would be conducted from there.

TERRY FOX RUN

St. Pius X School is proud once again to be participating in the National Terry Fox School Walk / Run. Our event will take place **Thursday, September 27th**. Family members are invited to join us on our walk / run so be sure to mark your calendars. More information will be sent home as the event approaches.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY – 10 SIMPLE RULES

1. Be on time and wait a safe distance from the road.
2. If you must cross the road, wait until the driver signals you. If you drop something, LEAVE IT and tell the driver.
3. Get on and off the bus in a single file and be sure to hold the handrail.
4. Take your seat right away and remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
5. Keep the aisle clear of feet, bags and other obstacles.
6. Do not put your head, arms or anything else out the window.
7. Do not throw objects inside or outside the bus.
8. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
9. Talk quietly, always be kind to others, and be sure to listen to the driver for instructions.
10. When you exit, take at least 10 steps away from the bus. If you must cross the road, wait for the driver to signal you before passing in front of the bus.

**Junior students living in the Blucher area are not eligible to ride the bus.

THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME

Students are asked to leave expensive items, iPad, jewelry, toys, games and electronic items at home. A reminder that cell phones are to remain at home.

Ms. Demers, is available to pass on information to your child(ren) if necessary.



There is a phone available for students when they need to contact home. Students may bring ear/head phones to use during times that technology is in use in the classroom and with the teacher's permission.


STUDENT FORMS TO UPDATE

Please review your child's forms and return it to the classroom teacher as soon as possible. This information is essential if we are to provide prompt, effective action in case of emergency. Thank you for your assistance in completing these forms by the end of the first week.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL

There are many ways in which you can become involved in the school community. During the month of September, you will receive a volunteer form, where you can indicate specific areas or activities where you would like to be involved. These volunteer forms will be stored in our Volunteer Bank binder, which can be accessed by all staff. There will be opportunities to volunteer in your child's classroom, assist in school activities or to accompany classes on excursions and work on fundraising for student activities. Please complete the form and return it to the school. Another way to become active in the school is to be a part of the Catholic School Council. Please return your nomination form for the council by Friday, September 19. An election will take place if necessary.

SCHOOLSCHEDULE

Arrival to School: 8:45	
Instructional Block 1	9:05 - 10:45
Nutritional Break & Recess	10:45 - 11:25
Instructional Block 2	11:25 - 1:05
Nutritional Break & Recess	1:05 - 1:45
Instructional Block	1:45 - 3:25
Dismissal	3:25 - 3:40

PLEASE NOTE BALANCE DAY TIMES:

Students who go home or out for lunch will have 40 minutes to do so. Please note: the crossing guard will **NOT** be on site during the 2nd, Nutrition Break at the corner of Windsor and Clarkson. If you wish for your child to go home for lunch, please have them leave during this break.
(1:05 – 1:45 p.m.)

**PLEASE KEEP THIS IN THE EVENT YOU HAVE TO
CONTACT THE SCHOOL.
767-3061**

ST. PIUS X SCHOOL STAFF LISTING

PRINCIPAL IANNI, John (Mr.)

JK/SK FIGLIOMENI, Ramona (Mrs.)
1O - OLSON, Francine (Mrs.)
2B – BOYD, Kelly (Mrs.)
3/4H - HALUSHAK, Tracy (Mrs.)
4R - ROBERTS, Carolyn (Mrs.)
5 - SCHARF, Crystal (Mrs.)
6H - HEINO, Kerry (Mrs.)

JK/SK - JOSTIAK, Lisa, (Mrs.)
1/2C - CECI, Joanne (Mrs.)
2M - MACKETT, Charleen (Mrs.)
3M - MATLESE, Deanna (Mrs.)
4/5 – PRPICH, Cathy (Mrs.)
6M - MASTALERZ, Jeff (Mr.)
LIBRARY - IRWIN, Maria (Mrs.)

FRENCH/PALS - MCGUIRE, Doris (Mrs.)

PHYS ED. / HEALTH / SECOND STEP – HARRIS, Anna (Mrs.)
WENZELL, Romina (Mrs.)

NATIVE LANGUAGE- KASSTAN, Shannon (Ms.)

SPECIAL ED.: CRUPI, Carla (Mrs.)

SSP: ALTREE, Robyn (Ms.)
TOWLE, Tracey (Mrs.)
NEWRANSKY, Carla (Mrs.)
DOERPINGHAUS, Erin (Ms.)

BYGATE, Jackie (Mrs.)
TENNIER, Hailey (Ms.)
BRAYSHAW, Erica (Ms.)
GIBSON, Lee (Mr.)

ECE: MALTESE, Lisa (Mrs.)
TAYLOR, Kim (Mrs.)

SECRETARY: DEMERS, Sherry (Ms.)

MUSIC: FACCA, Lesley (Ms.)

HEAD CUSTODIAN – KOPACHYNSKI, Dean (Mr.)

ASST. CUSTODIAN – Rozic, Ana (Mrs.) BELAYNEH, Meke (Mrs.)