



Our Lady of Providence Press

SEPTEMBER 2023

55 Kent Road • Brantford, Ontario • N3R 6X1
Phone 519-758-5056 • www.olopec.ca • @olopatholic



Dear Families,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer with family and friends! I would like to extend a warm welcome to our returning families as well as those who are new to our school community—Our Lady of Providence is truly a great place to learn, teach, and grow! We thank you for supporting Catholic Education and entrusting your children to us. I greatly look forward to meeting all of our families as we work together to support your child(ren)'s education!

At Our Lady of Providence, we are blessed and fortunate to be able to model ourselves after Christ and lay the foundation of Catholic Education for your children. The staff of OLOP look forward to working with you, your children, and our parish to ensure that our students receive the highest quality Catholic Education possible. We know that the full potential of our children cannot be reached unless we work together!

We promise to nurture and care for your children while challenging them with rich learning experiences and allowing them to develop to their highest potential. At OLOP, we come together to learn, pray, grow and play!

Please follow us on Twitter at [@olopatholic](https://twitter.com/olopatholic) or visit our school website at www.olopec.ca to find out what is going on in our school community and to keep up to date with news and events!

I am looking forward to working with families, staff and students of the Our Lady of Providence Community.

Please contact the school at any point if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jack MacDonald

Principal

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings

You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen.

Important September Dates

Terry Fox Walk	14
PA Day	15
Meet the Staff Night 5:30—6:30.....	21
SAC Meeting 6:30—7:30	21
Opening School Mass (10:00)	27
Paul Davis, Social Media Safety(gr. 4-8).27	
Paul Davis, Parent Presentation	27
Junior and Senior Co-Ed Soccer.....	27
SchoolPhotos.....	28
Recognise National Day of Truth and Reconciliation	29

Important October Dates

PA Day	3
International Walk to School Day	4
Thanksgiving—No School.....	9
Walk for Wenjack.....	20
Brant Cross Country Meet.....	24
Halloween Costume Parade.....	31

School Bell Times

Yard Supervision Begins	8:30 AM
Instructional Block	8:45 AM — 10:25 AM
First Nutrition Break	10:25 AM — 11:05 AM
Instructional Block	11:05 AM — 12:45 PM
Second Nutrition Break	12:45 PM — 1:25 PM
Instructional Block	1:25 PM — 3:05 PM
Dismissal	3:05 PM

Outdoor Supervision

A reminder that there is no supervision outside before 8:30 AM or after 3:05 PM, with the exception of bus supervision.

Kindergarten will go directly into their play area in the morning, under the supervision of staff.

All visitors are also reminded to please sign in at the office upon entering the school. Thank you.

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE STAFF

We are blessed to have an amazing staff who are highly dedicated to providing the best learning environment for our children while modeling our Catholic faith! Here is our staff for the 2023-2024 school year:

Principal	Mr. MacDonald
Secretary	Mrs. Andree
Custodians	Mrs. Rohr & Mr. Capaldi
Kindergarten 1	Mrs. Saint and Ms. Oliver
Kindergarten 2	Mrs. Walden and Ms. Piccolo
Grade 1	Mrs. Labinowicz
Grade 2	Mrs. Englefield
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Boismier
Grade 3	Mrs. Vitalis
Grade 4/5	Mrs. Gallo
Grade 5/6	Mr. DeKeers
Grade 6	Ms. MacIntyre
Grade 6/7	Mrs. Paquette
Grade 7/8A	Mrs. Melo
Grade 7/8B	Mrs. McGinnis
FSL	Mme Jenereaux
SERT	Mrs. Scime
EAs	Ms. Mann, Ms. Cuevas, Ms. Rogerson, Ms. Brousse, Ms. Okhimame
Prep	Ms. Rossi, Ms. Hergott
STEAM	Ms. Rumble, Ms. Page
Librarian	Mrs. To

Student/Family Information Forms are being sent home with every student. It is essential that the school have up-to-date information about each student. Please review all of the information on the form and ensure that it is correct. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2023.** If the information has not changed, please sign and return the Student Verification Form. If any corrections need to be made, please do so on the form so that we can update our records. If for any reason the information changes during the school year, (i.e. phone number, contact person, etc.) please notify the school ASAP as this information is very important in helping keep our students safe!

Freedom of Information Form, Concussion Form, STEM and Technology Agreement Form are also required to be completed every school year. These forms are now on School Cash. Please complete these forms online as soon as possible.

Additional information is being sent home. Please go through this information with your child and complete the appropriate forms. Please do not hesitate to contact the office (519-758-5056) with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and getting all necessary forms returned as soon as possible!

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Our Lady of Providence upholds a daily safe arrival procedure to ensure the safe arrival of your child(ren).

School starts at 8:45 AM every morning. If for any reason your child(ren) will be absent or late, **please call the school at 519-758-5056 before 8:30 AM** to report this information to the school. The school has an answering machine so that you may call anytime in the evening and leave a message as well. If a child's absence is unexplained, we will need to call your home, work, or the emergency contact number to ensure that your child is safe and accounted for. Attendance is taken twice daily by 9:00 AM and 1:40 PM.

Late students **MUST** report to the office to sign in before going to class. Thank you for your cooperation. We encourage students to be respectful of the start time as there is a direct correlation between attendance and academic achievement. Student's who are late not only miss critical learning, often in Language and/or Math, but also disrupt the learning of others with their late arrival.

Please remember to phone the office (519-758-5056) or send a message if:

- Someone other than yourself is to pick up your child(ren)
- Your child is to leave early or is to leave the school during the day
- Your child will knowingly be late
- There is a change in transportation (e.g., child not taking the bus and being picked up)
- Your child(ren) will be away for an extended absence or family vacation
- Please kindly avoid texting your child throughout the day. We will never deny a student to call home (if needed), or pass along a message for you when you call the office. This helps us to ensure that all of our students are safe as well as monitoring who is coming and going from the building. Thanks you for your understanding and cooperation!



STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY

To maintain safety in our school, all exterior doors are locked during school hours. A security camera system is in place to monitor the doors as well. In the interest of student safety, all visitors, including parents, are requested to report to the office and sign in upon arrival and to obtain a visitor tag. Parents and volunteers are asked **not** to go directly to the classrooms and hallways as this creates congestion in the hallways and poses a safety risk.

If you are picking up your child, he/she will be called to the office / front foyer to meet you there. Parents and caregivers are not to go to the schoolyard during the school hours to pick up children, as we would have no record of the child leaving. Parents/caregivers picking up children from the Kindergarten area, please wait for your child by the gate at the Kindergarten play area. It is our protocol that our Kindergarten students will be given to you directly by hand. For our Primary parents, when dropping your child off in the morning, please remain at the back or side of the asphalt play area. A reminder as well that pets are not permitted on school property (with the exception of service animals). Thank you for your support in keeping all of our children safe!

ANAPHYLAXIS ALLERGY ALERT

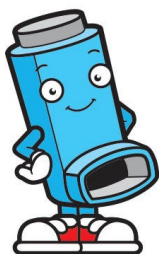
Our Lady of Providence is a Peanut/Tee Nut Safe School! At OLOP, we have several students and staff with severe risk allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. As a Catholic School community, and in accordance with Sabrina's Law (2005), we ask your co-operation in helping us ensure that all students are in a safe and healthy environment by reading all labels and packing lunches and snacks that are free of these items. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If other caregivers prepare your child(ren)'s lunches and snacks, please share this information with them.



Please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (i.e., WOW Butter, etc.) **is not permitted**. The reasoning behind this is that these substitutes look and smell like peanut butter, which makes it difficult for staff to monitor as well as possibly causing anxiety for students and staff with a severe allergy.

While it is impossible to create a risk free environment, students, parents, and staff can all take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. If your child has a life threatening allergy, please inform the school (if you have not already done so) as a Plan of Care **MUST** be completed as soon as possible in September. Also, please provide **at least** one (1) up-to-date application of the Epi-Pen to be carried by the student and be clearly marked with the student's name and known allergen.

At Our Lady of Providence, we do not allow snacks, food or drinks of any kind to be eaten outdoors. All students will have the opportunity to enjoy snacks during their nutrition break. Students are not to share food with others. This will assist in protecting all students. If you require a new Anaphylaxis form, please contact the office. ASAP (519-758-5056).



ASTHMA

In 2015, *Ryan's Law* was passed in the Ontario Legislature. This is an important step in supporting the well-being and safety of students with asthma in our schools.

If your child has asthma, please advise the office ASAP by calling 519-758-5056. Documentation is required as to your child's condition (i.e., triggers), symptoms, and medication. This helps us put a plan in place to keep our students safe!

DIABETES & EPILEPSY

The safety and well-being of the children in our care is of the utmost importance. Along with Anaphylactic Reactions and Asthma, we also want to be sure that we have plans in place for students who have diabetes and epilepsy. If your child has any of the aforementioned conditions and you have not yet completed the required forms, please contact the school immediately to provide the necessary information and receive a copy of the required forms. If, at any time, your child's medical condition changes, please notify the office immediately (519-758-5056).

MEDICATION

If for any reason your child needs to take medication at school on a daily basis, a medical form needs to be completed by the prescribing physician. The medication will be kept in the office and given to the student at the appropriate time. **Please DO NOT send medication to school with your child to be self-administered.** Forms can be obtained at the school or can be found on the Board's website www.bhncdsb.ca (under policy No. 200.19). If your child requires the administration of non-prescription medications at times (i.e., Benedryl, aspirin, etc.), please contact Mr. MacDonald at the office (519-758-5056),

If you need a form, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We utilize School Cash Online as the **ONLY** method of payment for field trips, hot lunches, student items, etc. School Cash is a convenient, safe and secure means to pay for these events/items. If you haven't done so already, please register at School Cash Online for this easy to use service. Here's how:

Step 1: Please go to our school's website or to: <https://bhncdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and follow the steps.

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

You can register using a debit card or credit card. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office (519-758-5056).

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL



Catholic School Councils are advisory bodies which are involved in the educational decision-making process by providing advice to the school principal and to the Board, on school related matters as requested. School councils place the overall interest of the school and the students first and strive for the continued promotion throughout our Catholic education system. Council meetings are open meetings and all parents are welcome to attend!

Nomination forms for joining our OLOP School Council will be posted on School Cash. All forms must be completed by **Thursday, September 14, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.** Our first meeting will be held **Thursday, September 21, 6-7 PM** in the library. All other meeting dates can be found on our school's calendar online at www.olo.ca. Please consider coming out to learn about school and Board activities and initiatives, to share your talents, meet other parents, and to continue to provide wonderful opportunities for all of our students!

Cell phones



Students are only able to use their devices for instructional purposes during class when the teacher directs them to do so. All devices are expected to be turned off and put away before school. Students are not permitted to use their devices during breaks. Students are not allowed to text their parents from their cell phones unless approved by the teacher. In cases of emergency during school hours, parents and students need to communicate via the school office phones. Individual teachers may utilize a detailed electronic device contract. Please encourage your child to comply with this policy. Our students have many freedoms at Our Lady of Providence, but limits from distractions are essential for learning to take place. Class teachers will facilitate a cell phone policy.

STUDENT BELONGINGS

The return to school brings with it much excitement for our students, staff, and parents! A great part about going back to school is all of the new clothes and materials (i.e., lunch bags, backpacks, pencil cases, shoes, etc.) that students get! To help us ensure that any personal items that may be misplaced are returned to their rightful owner, we ask that you please label your child(ren)'s belongings!. Thanks for your help with this!

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The safety of our students is our primary concern. All students are expected to behave in a quiet, respectful manner when travelling on the bus. Please be reminded that riding the bus to school is a privilege and students are responsible to the Principal for his/her behaviour on the bus. Inappropriate and unsafe behaviour will not be accepted and students will be responsible for their actions and the consequences that result. Also, please be aware of the transportation policy stating students who are not registered cannot ride the bus and that special requests can be made through the school principal for emergency situations only.

If you have any questions regarding transportation, or circumstances change and you may now need the bus, call the transportation department at 519-751-7532 or toll free 877-226-6353 or access the Board's website (www.bhncdsb.ca) and login to the transportation site. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school for further assistance.

PARKING AND BUS ROUTES

Just a reminder that traffic flows one-way through the parking lot. Access is from the eastern entrance off of Kent Rd. Please be aware of the two lanes—the one closest to the school is for our buses and taxis. Please DO NOT PARK OR STOP in this lane in order to allow our buses sufficient room to operate and for students to safely access them. Our buses tend to arrive before 3 PM and need to leave by 3:05 PM to service our students and other routes. I understand that parking is at a premium but I appreciate your patience and understanding in helping us ensure that all of our students are safe!

SCHOOL NEWS & NOTIFICATIONS

In an effort to be environmentally responsible and stewards for God's creation, the majority of monthly school newsletters will be posted online to our school's website (www.olop.ca) or sent directly by school messenger.