

# September 2025 Newsletter



**Principal**  
**Mr. J. VanLeuvenhage**

**Secretary**  
**Mrs. E. Mertens**

**St. Michael's School**  
**972 St. John's Road West**  
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**519-426-5462**

**Email:**  
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**Twitter:@stmikeswarriors**

## **A Prayer for Our New School Year**

We give you praise, O God,  
For everything that is new and beautiful,  
For everything which holds promise and brings us joy.  
Bless us as we start this year with our friends and staff at St. Michael's School.  
Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh.  
May we show love to one another and to all.  
May the new beginning of this school year remind us  
That you give us chances to start over again and again.  
Help us to forgive others as we receive your forgiveness.  
Help us to learn and to work together..  
Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak  
And when it is better not to speak.  
We thank you for our friends  
Help us to be good friends this year.  
Help us to be patient with ourselves and with others.  
Bless our school and keep us safe.  
Be with us as we travel each day.  
Help us to be aware of your love shown to us in the people around us.  
Bless all those who care for us in school and at home.  
Help us show our care for them and to say sorry when we need to.  
May the Blessed Mother Mary protect us  
And help us to live as well as we can  
Giving thanks and glory to God as she did.  
Amen.



## **Twitter**

St. Michael's Walsh has an active Twitter account: @stmikeswarriors. By following us, you get access to important updates at the school, highlights of classroom and school events and everyday occurrences. Take some time and follow us, like our posts and learn more about what's happening @ St. Michael's Walsh!

## **School Photos**

School photos will be taken on Tuesday, September 30th. Photo retake day will be held on Wednesday, November 29th. More information will follow.

## Welcome Back

Our Staff for this year is as follows:

■ **Parish Information**  
■ **St. Michael's Catholic Church**  
■ **Parish Pastor:** Father Seejo John  
■ **Associate Pastor:** Father Steve Marsh  
■ **Masses:**  
■ Sacred Heart Langton Sat. 5:00 and Sun. 10:30  
■ St. Michael's Sun. 8:30  
■

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Principal   | Mr. J. VanLeuvenhage |
| Secretary   | Mrs. E. Mertens      |
| Custodian   | Mrs. B. Brock        |
| K           | Ms. C. DeCloedt      |
| ECE         | Ms. S. Leahy         |
| 1 / 2       | Mrs. M. Kitchenham   |
| 3 / 4       | Ms. J. Oud           |
| 5 / 6       | Mr. J. Loncke        |
| 7 / 8       | Ms. K. Iantorno      |
| FSL & Prep. | Ms. C. Worden        |
| SERT        | Ms. A. Aspden        |
| Librarian   | Ms. C. Cunningham    |
| STEM        | Mr. C. Schaeffer     |
| CYW         | Ms. C. Gilbert       |

## School Cash OnLine

### **NEW THIS YEAR: WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING CASH OR CHEQUES FOR PAYMENTS.**

Reminder to register for our convenient online purchasing system to pay for food orders, class trips, and fill out forms. Please go to: <https://bhncdsb.schoolcashonline.com> Select "Get Started now" and follow the online steps. After receiving a confirmation email select "click Here" option, sign in and add each of your children. If you have any questions during the registration process or shopping online, please contact our friendly Ontario based parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803.

## School Information Sheets

Student Verification Forms are being sent home with every student. Please complete these forms, make any necessary changes, and return them to school as soon as possible, so that our records can be updated. Other important forms such as the concussion form, Internet agreement, and the consent to use personal information are being sent home as well, so please be sure to sign them and send them back to the school immediately. These forms (except the Verification Sheet) are also available on School Cash OnLine. If you have changes to your information (such as a phone number) throughout the school year, please call the school so that we can keep our information up to date. Please make sure that email addresses are kept up to date as much of our correspondence is sent through School Messenger. Also, please notify the office if there have been any diagnosis related to asthma or anaphylaxis conditions so that we can keep our records up to date.

## Reminder: Food Allergies

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated once again in making our school a safe one for all of our students. **This is just a reminder that all schools within the board are deemed nut-safe schools.** We respectfully request that peanuts, peanut butter, and foods which contain peanut products not be sent to school at all as even a residue from that food could cause a severe and deadly reaction. If your child has anaphylaxis and you have not yet made us aware of this, please contact us immediately.

## School Hours

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| School Yard Supervision | 8:35 – 8:55   |
| Instructional Block     | 8:55 – 10:35  |
| Nutritional Break       | 10:35 – 11:15 |
| Instructional Block     | 11:15 – 12:55 |
| Nutritional Break       | 12:55 – 1:35  |
| Instructional Block     | 1:35 – 3:15   |
| Dismissal Bell          | 3:15          |



For your child's safety we ask that you not bring or send your child to school before 8:35 a.m. in the morning as there is no supervision on the yard before that time. Thank you for helping us with this.

## Volunteering at St. Michael's

A completed police check is **mandatory** as well as some online training, for any type of volunteering, whether it be driving students to sports events, helping in the classroom, or chaperoning on a trip. Volunteers are an essential part of student success. If you have just an hour a week to spare, and would like to help at school, please contact the office.

## School Council

The St. Michael's School Council is a group of parents who are very active in our school planning events, activities, and fundraising to benefit the students. Please consider being a member of our School Council. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings. Our first meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm in our school library.

## Cell Phones

Students are not to bring cell phones to school unless absolutely necessary.

A **"Restrictions to Student Mobile Device Use and Social Media"** form has been sent home this year for every student from grades K-8. Please read the form carefully with your child, sign and have your child sign the form to be returned to the school at your earliest convenience.

Cell phones have become an issue at schools and public places. We know that some families have provided cell phones for safety reasons for the trip to and from school. However, once at school, cell phones must be turned off and must be handed in to the classroom teacher to be stored safely and is not to be used (unless under teacher direction). If there is an urgent reason for a child to contact home, then they are welcome to visit the office and a call will be made.

## **Student Accident Insurance**

Please see the attached letter in regards to purchasing Student Accident Insurance.

## **Food Orders**

**Please note: No cash or cheques will be accepted. School Cashonline must be used for payments.** Food Orders for the month of September and October will be sent out through School Messenger on Monday, September 8th and will be due on Monday, September 15th at midnight. **No paper copies are being sent home No late orders will be accepted.** There will be no milk offered this year as the company will no longer be doing the school milk program. Sorry for the inconvenience.

## **Donnybrook Fair**

Please mark your calendars for the Donnybrook Fair which will be held on September 19th, 20th and 21st. Please check out the website for details in regards to entering crafts and art work. A pamphlet is also being sent home with students in regards to the different items that can be entered into the fair

## **Parking at the School**

Just a reminder that due to a parking lot shortage and ensure the safety of our students at the school, we are asking for Parents to please pick up / and drop of their child/ren at the Church Parking Lot.

## **Indoor Shoes**

Please make sure your child/ren have a pair of indoor shoes to be left at the school.

## **Transportation Delays/ Cancellations, are you getting notified?**

Did you know that there are a number of ways to see if your child(ren)'s bus is running behind schedule or has been cancelled? The ways that you can be notified of an interruption include: 1) downloading the bus delays app from either the Google Play or Apple store; detailed instructions on setting up the app are available by visiting <http://www.stsbhn.ca/faqs> and clicking on the last FAQ labelled "Delays and Cancellation App". 2) register to receive email notifications. To register simply visit <https://transinfobhn.ca/Login> and create an account. After your account has been created, connect your child(ren)'s bus service to your email address by logging in and clicking the "Add Student" button. Detailed instructions on setting up your account are also available by visiting <http://www.stsbhn.ca/faqs> and clicking on the FAQ labelled "having trouble logging into the Parent/Student portal". For parents who look up bus information before the start of school, you have already completed this option! 3) visit <https://transinfobhn.ca/Alerts> daily to see if your bus is running behind schedule or has been cancelled. If you are having trouble with any of these methods, please reach out to the transportation office by emailing [transportation@stsbhn.ca](mailto:transportation@stsbhn.ca) or by calling 519-751-7532.

## Meet the Staff

Parents will have the opportunity to Meet The Staff on Tuesday, September 23rd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. More information will follow.



## Attendance

Good attendance is necessary for proper progress in school. Our students are expected to attend school every day, and be on time when school is in session, unless prevented by personal illness or family emergency. Vacations during the year require a written note to the Principal outlining the expected length of absence and a form must be completed for the office records. St. Michael's School Safe Arrival Policy states that an absence from school must be accounted for by **a telephone call to the school by 8:45 am (519) 426-5462.**

You can also use the Safe Arrival app on your mobile device, the Safe Arrival Website, or call the toll free number at 1-844-445-4381.

Attendance is taken daily by 9:05 a.m. and by 1:40 p.m. This procedure is followed to ensure the safety of your child. Your cooperation saves numerous daily phone calls by the school. Students who arrive late in the morning, should report directly to the office for a late slip and then proceed to class. Please remember to telephone or send a note if:

- Someone other than yourself is to pick up your child
- Your child is to leave the school early during the day
- Your child will knowingly be late

## Terry Fox Run

Students will have the chance to participate in the Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 26th in the afternoon. Rain date will be Friday, October 3rd. The link to follow is:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/StMichaelsSchoolWalshSimcoe>

A note has also been sent home with students in regards to the event. Thanks to Mrs. Kitchenham for organizing this event.

## Dropping Off Children

Teacher supervision begins on the playground at 8:35. The students will not be under adult supervision before this time, so they should not be on the playground until this time. **Due to decreased teacher supervision, guardians of students in the JK/SK class may drop off their children and meet with our ECE (Ms. Leahy) on the east (church) side of the school**