



September 2017

Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School

Tel: 905-523-2463

<https://imco.hwcdsb.ca>

A proud feeder school for Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School

Mrs. S. Verrelli, Principal
Mrs. E. Minicucci, Vice-Principal
Mrs. L. Petrone and Mrs. D. D'Olimpio
Administrative Assistants

Mr. M. Hucal, Superintendent
Mrs. C. Cornale, Trustee

St. Ann Parish- Father Ian Duffy

School Prayer

Loving God, you prepared the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, Jesus. From the moment she came to be in the womb of St. Ann, you kept her free from sin. May Mary's faith and holiness guide us at Immaculate Conception School. Like her, may we care for others and live with devotion as disciples of Jesus. Give us the grace to study with excellence, work with diligence and serve in charity. Through Mary's prayer and example, may we strive to bring Jesus to the waiting world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Mission

We are a Catholic educational community created to promote the spiritual, intellectual and physical development of our students with Jesus Christ as our Teacher and Lord and Mary as our model disciple.

Our Vision

Immaculate Conception is devoted to being a school family where faith is nurtured, cherished and lived in a respectful, responsible and inclusive setting. We will strive to love selflessly, to think critically and to work diligently in the pursuit of excellence

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School. We are very eager to open our doors to all new and returning students. Welcome to all.

I am very honoured and excited to join this wonderful school community. I am very happy to continue the wonderful traditions and begin some new and exciting ventures together. We welcome several new staff members to the school. A complete staff list is found in this newsletter.

At Immaculate Conception we strive to live out the Gospel values and follow the example of Jesus. We are called to live as Jesus lived, accepting diversity with Devotion, Service and Discipleship.

I would like to thank our custodial staff, Mr. Restivo, Mr. Amaral, Mrs. Almeida and Mrs. Fonseca for all the work they have done to prepare and clean our school over the summer. I would also like to thank Mrs. Petrone and Mrs. D'Olympio who have worked hard to allow for a smooth start-up. Thank you to Mrs. Minicucci for all her support to ensure a smooth transition for myself. Special thanks to all staff who's dedication, passion and hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Beginning in October, hard copies of the newsletter will not be sent home, but can be found on our website. I encourage you to sign up for email notifications through School Connects, so you can receive newsletters and school information directly by email.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Meet the Staff BBQ on September 19, 2017 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Sue Verrelli,
Principal

Mass and Parish News

Above and beyond the regular Catholic Curriculum, we are pleased to announce that school masses, led by Father Ian will continue to take place this year. The first mass will be held on September 19th at 10:30 in our school gym. All are welcome to join us.

Immaculate Conception Staff 2017-2018

Principal	Mrs. S. Verrelli
Vice-Principal	Mrs. E. Minicucci
Administrative Assistants	Mrs. L. Petrone and Mrs. D. D'Olimpio
FDKA	Mrs. K. Piekarczyk/Ms. M. Ebans
FDKB	Mr. C. Coccaro/Mrs. F. Cino
FDKC	Mrs. A. Carter/Mrs. R. Clausen
FDKD	Mrs. J. Lenjosek/Mrs. L. Baumgartner
Gr. 1A	Mrs. S. Sottile-Fortino
Gr. 1B	Mrs. E. Tassone
Gr. 1C	Mrs. K. Filice
Gr. 1/2	Miss M. Cooper
Gr. 2A	Mrs. J. Shea
Gr. 2B	Mrs. N. Kolaski
Gr. 2/3	Mrs. S. Filice
Gr. 3A	Mrs. D. De Luca
Gr. 3B	Mrs. L. Ciccarelli
Gr. 3C	Mrs. L. Schwarz
Gr. 4A	Mrs. M. Baktawar
Gr. 4B	Mr. D. Friscolanti
Gr. 4/5	Miss J. Graham
Gr. 5A	Miss S. Tigani
Gr. 5B	Mr. J. Perri
Gr. 6A	Mr. M. Pocsai
Gr. 6B	Ms. T. Unsworth
Gr. 7A	Mrs. V. Bozzo
Gr. 7B	Ms. C. Galvin
Gr. 8A	Mr. D. Cheeranjie
Gr. 8B	Mrs. M. Miller
Special Education	Mrs. A. Caiella
Literacy Resource/ Reading Recovery	Mrs. J. Palmese
Teacher-Librarian	Miss S. Kiss
Library Clerk	Mrs. K. Sullivan
French	Mrs. L. Morgante, Mrs. D. Boccadaro, Mrs. M. Giavedoni
PPT	Mr. M. Susi and Mrs. L. Smerelli
Arts Itinerant	Mrs. L. Merchant/Mr. D. Doust/Miss L. Facchin
Educational Assistant	Mrs. C. Hamilton
Educational Assistant	Mrs. C. Palmeri
Educational Assistant	Mr. N. Rizzi
Educational Assistant	Mrs. P. Augello
Educational Assistant	Miss N Bassie/Mrs. A. Woods
Educational Assistant	Mr. J. McKibbon
Educational Assistant	Miss C. Landry
Custodian	Mr. M. Restivo
Night Custodian	Mr. N. Amaral
Assistant Custodian	Mrs. D. Almeida

Professional Activity Days

Friday, September 22, 2017
Friday, November 3, 2017
Friday, December 1, 2017
Friday, January 26, 2018
Friday, March 2, 2018
Thursday, June 7, 2018
Friday, June, 22, 2018

School Council Elections

I encourage all parents/guardians to consider submitting a nomination for a position on the Catholic School Council of Immaculate Conception School. Your input and support as a member of the School Council will certainly contribute to strengthening home, school and parish relations. Nomination Forms are being sent home on the first day of school. If interested, please return these by September 14th, 2017.

Elections for 2017-18 C.S.C. will close on Monday, September 18, 2017. Elections will occur on Tuesday, September 19th after the Meet the Staff BBQ.

ARRIVAL:

The morning bell rings at 9:10

a.m. Students are not permitted to enter the school building until the bell rings. There is no supervision available to students inside the school prior to 9:10

*a.m.. Supervision on the schoolyards begin at 8:55 a.m.
Please do not drop-off your children prior to this time.*

Once the bell rings, students are required to quickly and calmly line up and their teachers will escort them into the school.



Vehicle Traffic

Parents are requested to follow the signage and one way arrows into the parking lot when bringing or picking children up from school. There is a designated “**Kiss and Drive**” area which will permit you to drop off your child without having to park your vehicle in the morning. There are two designated “**accessible spaces**” located by the side doors for those who have the required permission and signage to use them. Please respect the spaces and not use them unless authorized to do so. The front of the school is **school bus only** as indicated by the signs the laneway at all times. We ask everyone’s cooperation in following the safety and well being of our students and your children.

Bus Students

Students who require transportation should have received letters from the Transportation Department throughout the summer with the bus stops and times. Parents are asked to ensure that their children arrive at least 10 minutes early at the appropriate bus stop. All JK and Kindergarten students will be issued identification tags attached to a ‘tearaway’ lanyard. Parents, please ensure that your child is wearing his/her identification tag when he/she comes to school.

Riding the bus is a privilege. For safety, it is important that all students demonstrate proper behavior while riding the bus. Repeated misbehavior may result in losing this privilege. A reminder also that bus students are NOT permitted to change buses at any time, nor may they request to be dropped off at a site other than that assigned to them. If your child is not taking a bus on a particular day because of a scheduled appointment, write this in your child’s agenda. In the event that you require assistance from the Transportation Department Staff, please call the contact centre at 905-523-2318.

Lunchtime Supervisors Needed

*If you are interested in being a lunch time supervisor please contact the school A.S.A.P.
Lunch schedule is from 11:55-12:45 every day.*

Thank you.

Use of Electronic Devices

In an age of technology there are many electronic devices that can contribute to the learning environment of students. In addition, there are parents who, for safety reasons, wish to have their child carry a cell phone in their school bag on their way to and from school.

The use of cell phones, paging devices, etc. are not permitted at school during the instructional day unless it has been requested by the classroom teacher for Gr.4-8 as part of our BYOD (Bring Your Own Devices) procedures . This includes class time, recess, lunch as well as class trips which are part of the instructional day. In the event a student has the need to contact a parent for an emergency the office phone will be made available to them. Parents are asked not to text their child at school.

Due to privacy legislation no student can engage in photographing another student while on school property as well. Any devices that are brought onto school property and become visible to a staff member will be confiscated and locked in the school safe. An adult will then be responsible to pick up the device and return it home. The child will then lose their BYOD privileges for one week.

Parents are requested to communicate this expectation to their child. The staff will also be sharing the same information. The school or its staff will not be responsible for any devices that are brought to school and lost, stolen or damaged.

Permission forms and information will be sent home with students in Grades 4-8 in the first week of school related to Bring Your Own Devices. Please review the policies and sign the form and return it to your child's teacher.

2017/2018 Bell Times

The bell times are as follows:

- 9:10 a.m. Entry Bell
- 10:20-10:35 Morning Recess
- 11:55-12:20 Grades 1-8 Lunch outdoors
- 12:20-12:45 Grades 1-8 indoors
- 11:55-12:45 JK/K Lunch (supervised by staff both indoors and outdoors)
- 1:55-2:05 Afternoon Recess
- 3:30 Dismissal

Supervision on the playground begins at 8:55 a.m. Please do not drop your children into the playground before 8:55 a.m.

Lunch Procedures

All students will eat their lunches within their classroom areas. They are responsible for cleaning up their area and recycling and composting as needed.

The lunch period is scheduled is as follows:

11:55—12:45 JK and K students (supervised by staff).

11:55—12:45 Grades 1-8 students (supervised by staff) Continuing in September children in Grades 1-8 will play outdoors from **11:55—12:25** and then proceed to return to their classrooms to eat their lunches from **12:25 -12:45**.

All students who are eligible for bussing must remain on school premises throughout the lunch hour. Parents who wish their child to leave the school at lunch must pick them up and sign them out and back in at the office upon their return. Walkers are expected to leave immediately at the bell and return to school prior to 12:45.

Meet the Staff Open House

On Thursday September 19th from 5:00-7:00 p.m., you will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher/EA/ECE, have a hot dog or hamburger. The BBQ will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be given by Harvey's. *The order form is only available on School Cash Online.*

SAFETY FIRST

We wish to request the cooperation of parents when visiting the school. Parents are reminded to please NOT go directly to your child's classroom. This is contrary to our School Safety Policy. It is disruptive to teachers and students and can pose a safety threat to all students. If you have an appointment with your child's teacher, please check in at the office first, sign in and obtain a visitor's sticker. If you are delivering something for your child, please bring it to the office and office staff will see that it is delivered at an appropriate time. If you arrive to pick up your child a few minutes early, please wait in the schoolyard. Throughout the day, parents are to use only the front door for entering the school. Thank you for your support and cooperation

Student Agendas

All students from Grades 1 to 8 will receive a Student Agenda Planner for daily homework and communication. The cost of the agenda was covered by the Catholic School Council, so there is no cost to students. If a student loses his/her agenda, the replacement cost is \$5.00. All students are expected to use their agendas daily. The agenda is a tool to ensure work completion and to provide daily communication between teachers and parents. It is our hope that this practice will help all students to stay organized and to track the level of their performance. We will also use the agenda to track your child's punctuality and homework completion. Please check and sign your child's agenda daily. School policies can be found at the beginning of each agenda book. Please use this as a reference.

ALLERGIES

Within our school community there are several students who have potentially life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to foods.

We feel the best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to these students is to respectfully ask for the cooperation of the parents/guardians within this school community to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts, nuts listed in the ingredients. We are sincerely grateful for your support in this matter.

MEDICATION

If your child requires prescription medication to be given at school, or they require an inhaler or EPIPEN, your physician must complete the Administration of Medication Permission Form. Non-prescription medication requires the parent's signature on the Administration of Medication Form. Forms are available in the school office. We cannot dispense or supervise the intake of medication at school without written authorization. No child should be carrying ANY medication in his/her backpack at any time (with the exception of Epipens and/or inhalers). All existing medical forms will be sent home for updating. Please complete and send to school ASAP.

visit our Website

Visit our website regularly to view information and calendar updates.

You can visit our website at: <https://imco.hwcdsb.ca/> This year, will be paperless with our Newsletters. Beginning in October, Newsletters can only be accessed online. If this is a problem for you, please write a note to the office.

When you subscribe to receive notification, Newsletters and other important information will be emailed directly to you.

COMMUNICATION

Good communication is essential for good partnership between the school and parents.

Parents are encouraged to communicate with the school when they have questions or concerns. Keeping an open line of communication is important.

To ask about a child's daily work and/or his/her behaviour in the classroom, it is best to speak with the classroom teachers. For issues regarding school policies, it is best to speak with the Principal or Vice-Principal.



Before and After Program

Immaculate Conception Before and After Child Care is available for children between the ages of 4 and 12. The Child Care begins at 7:00 a.m. and is available after school until 6:00 p.m. For more information or to register your child, you can call 905-525-2268.

PARENT CONFERENCE 2017

The 24th Annual Parent Conference 2017 will be held at Bishop Ryan Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Rd. E. on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 7:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The theme will be "Weaving the Catholic Partnership". Parents are encouraged to register on line for this very informative and useful Conference.

Food Orders for October-December 2017

For all of our students we continue to offer food days/milk program that are compliant to both the Ministry and School Guidelines. All order forms will be posted to our school website with preferred payment made with Cash on Line.

Details are as follows:

Milk – both chocolate and white are offered each day and is delivered to the classroom at lunch time. Order deadline is Wednesday, September 20 and the fall program runs daily from October 2-December 22 (PA days and holidays excluded).

Subs– Order forms are due on Wednesday, September 20 and are delivered to classrooms on Monday at lunch time. Fall program run from Monday, October 2-Monday, December 18 (PA days and holidays excluded).

Pitas– Order forms are due on Wednesday, September 20 and are delivered to classrooms on Wednesday at lunch time. Fall program run from Wednesday, October 4-Wednesday, December 20 (PA days and holidays excluded).

Pizza– Order forms are due on Wednesday, September 20 and are delivered to classrooms on Friday at lunch time. Fall program run from Friday, October 6-Friday, December 22 (PA days and holidays excluded).

Catholic School Council will be selling popcorn and frozen yogurt twice a month. Order forms will be available through Cash on Line.