



**SEPTEMBER 2020**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**Tel: 905-523-2463**  
**<https://imco.hwcdsb.ca>**



**Mrs. S. Verrelli**  
Principal

**Mr. S. Musa**  
Vice Principal

**Mrs. P. Hormerski**  
Trustee

**Mr. M. Hucal**  
Superintendent of Education

**Mrs. D. Cino**  
Administrative Assistant

**Immaculate Conception CES is a proud feeder school for Bishop Tonnos High School.**

**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.

**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 2020-21 school year at Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School. I am very eager to open our doors to all new and returning students. Welcome to all.

I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we begin this school year. As you are already aware, we have had to re-organize our classes because of the on-line learning option for students. One of our classes was collapsed which resulted in changing of student classroom placements. At this point in time there will not be any changes to classroom placements. Please do not call or email to school to request a change for your child. Please help your child prepare for the new school year by encouraging positive attitudes and an openness to new experiences, new teachers and the making of new friends. Throughout the school year, we work very hard at building resilience in our students and developing a growth mindset. Your assistance with this is especially needed at this point in time.

I welcome several new staff members to the school. A complete 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, for all the work they have done to prepare and clean our school over the summer. I would also like to thank our clerical staff Mrs. Cino who is replacing Mrs. Petrone. Thank you to Mr. Musa our new Vice Principal for all his support.

Special thanks to all staff whose 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 Messenger, so you can receive newsletters and school information directly by email.

Mrs. Sue Verrelli, Principal

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School  
Staff List 2020-2021**

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Mrs. Sue Verrelli  | Principal                     |
| Mr. Sam Musa   | Vice-Principal                |
| Mrs. Dina Cino (temporary)   | Secretary                     |
| Mrs. Maria Commisso  | Clerical (Wednesday/Thursday) |
| Mrs. Christina Iudica  | Clerical (Tuesday)            |
| <b>STAFF</b>   |                               |
|  | <b>GRADE</b>                  |
| Mrs. Sara Yewer (L.T.O.) Ms. Marie Cartwell (Mrs. A. Romeo on leave)       | KA                            |
| Mr. Calogero Cocco/Mrs. Rosalia Clausen (D.E.C.E.)                         | KB                            |
| Mrs. Anna Carter/Mrs. Filomena Cino (D.E.C.E.)                             | KC                            |
| Mrs. Marilyn Baktawar /Mrs. Lucie Baumgrtner (D.E.C.E.)                    | KD                            |
| Mrs. Elyse Tassone   | 1A                            |
| Mrs. Karen Filice  | 1B                            |
| Mrs. Tiffany DeAngelis   | 2A                            |
| Mrs. Melissa Austin  | 2B                            |
| Mrs. Giuseppina Shea   | 2/3A                          |
| Mrs. Domenica DeLuca   | 3A                            |
| Mrs. Norine Kolaski  | 3B                            |
| Mrs. Luisa Ciccarelli  | 3/4A                          |
| Mrs. Lori Schwarz  | 4A                            |
| Mr. Grant Young (L.T.O.) (Mrs. Susan Filice-Venneri on leave)              | 4B                            |
| Mr. Joseph Perri   | 4/5A                          |
| Mrs. Manuela Mendoza   | 5A                            |
| Miss Shannon Tigani  | 5/6A                          |
| Mrs. Vlatka Bozzo  | 6A                            |
| Mrs. Teri-Lyn Unsworth   | 6B                            |
| Mrs. Donna Stampone  | 7A                            |
| Mr. Justin Couto (L.T.O.) (Mrs. Christine Buitenwerf on leave)             | 7B                            |
| Mr. David Cheeranije   | 8A                            |
| Mrs. Maria Miller  | 8B                            |
| <b>Mrs. Alisha Caiella - Special Education Resource Teacher</b>            |                               |
| <b>Educational Assistants</b>  |                               |
| Mrs. Pia Augello Ms. Tara-Lynn Black Ms. Teresa D'Onofrio                  |                               |
| Ms. Christine DiFrederico Mr. Steve Giannini Ms. Cathie Hamilton           |                               |
| Mrs. Connie Palmieri Ms. Dona Rajasekera Mrs. Ashley Woods                 |                               |
| <b>Mrs. Julie Palmese - Reading Recovery and Language Resource Teacher</b> |                               |
| <b>Mrs. Linda Morgante- French</b>   |                               |
| Mme. Melanie Giavedoni – French (a.m.) Mr. Dylan Swan – French (p.m.)      |                               |
| <b>Mr. Mark Susi - PPT</b>   |                               |
| <b>Miss Laura Smerilli - PPT</b>   |                               |
| <b>Mrs. Lois Mercanti – AIT (On-line Teacher)</b>                          |                               |
| <b>Ms. Sandra Kiss - Teacher Librarian (On-Line Teacher)</b>               |                               |
| <b>Mrs. Kathleen Sullivan - Library Clerk (Temporarily not in school)</b>  |                               |
| <b>Mr. Mark Restivo - Day Custodian</b>                                    |                               |
| <b>Mr. Michael Giannasi - Night Custodian</b>                              |                               |
| <b>Mrs. Laura Fonseca-Assistant Custodians</b>                             |                               |

## 2020-21 BELL TIMES

Our school day bell times/recess and lunch has changed.

- **8:55-9:10** FREE ENTRY
- **9:10** School begins
- **10:20-10:30** Indoor Snack time/Recess
- **11:50-12:50** Lunch time. Each class will have 20 minutes of outside time with their class cohort for a WALK AND TALK lunch break.
- **2:00-2:10** Indoor Snack time/Recess
- **3:30** School ends

\*Every day all classes will have *20 minutes of DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY /Outdoor Learning* in the AM and PM as well as all physical education classes will be outside, as much as possible.

**\*\*\*\*All students should be prepared to be outside and be properly dressed for the weather** (i.e. Rain Coats, rain boots, during winter months, warm coat, hats, mitts, boots, etc.) Students will not be allowed to stay in the school because they are not dressed properly for the weather\*\*\*\*

## SCHOOL MESSENGER

Please ensure you call in your child's absence. If you are picking your child up early, please enter it into Messenger so that our secretary can have your child ready to dismiss. Please come to the front door and buzz in. Our secretary will dismiss your child into your care. Please try to keep this to a minimum and schedule appointments after school as much as possible.

A reminder that parents are not permitted inside the school building. Parent meetings for IPRCs will be via Skype in the coming months.

## STUDENT MASKS

Please ensure your child comes to school each day with a mask and a spare. The Board/Ministry masks have arrived. Teachers are not handing these out. They are keeping them in the classes should a child forget a spare. The Junior/Intermediate masks are large but will shrink after washing and drying.

## MASKS AND PARENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Masks should be worn whenever physical distancing is not possible both inside and outside. We are requesting that parents wear masks on our school property, in our playground and especially at dismissal when physical distancing may be difficult. Thank you for your co-operation.

## PARISH NEWS

Due to the fact that we cannot gather as a school community all school masses and gatherings have been postponed. Above and beyond the regular Catholic Curriculum, we are pleased to announce that St. Ann's Parish will be sending us monthly messages via video that will be led by Father Lobsinger.

Teachers will set aside the last Thursday of every month to show a 30 minute MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM FATHER LOBSINGER during all Religion classes. The topics will follow the liturgic calendar.

October's message will be about Mary the Mother of God.

\*\*Information about sacraments will be sent to individual classes\*\*

## **ARRIVAL: FREE ENTRY**

### **THIS IS NEW THIS YEAR**

All students will enter the building and NOT GATHER in the playground prior to school.

- **FRONT ENTRANCE DOORS** for bus children ONLY. You are not permitted to drop kids off in the bus area
- **PARKING LOT/KISS AND RIDE DOORS** for all parking lot drop offs
- **KINDERGARTEN DOORS** for all kindergarten children
- **EMICK WALKWAY PLAYGROUND DOORS** for all walkers

Students are welcome to come into the school from 8:55-9:10a.m. We are requesting that you **DO NOT** drop your children off at school before 8:55. If you require BEFORE AND AFTER CARE please contact Rob Santaguida at 905 525-2268. 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.

## **FREE ENTRY/VEHICLE TRAFFIC/PARKING LOT**

We would like to remind you of some important items concerning our school parking lot. First and foremost, please know that we are now having FREE ENTRY in the morning.

We encourage all of our parents and students to walk/ride bicycles to school when possible. We have over 50 staff members who need to find parking spots in our parking lot. When parents need to drive to school please park in the designated VISITOR parking spots. They are located between the 2 front light posts in the middle of our lot and are designated VISITOR in yellow paint on the pavement. You can also park in our neighbourhood or on the street and walk to school. Please follow the signage in our lot and do not park in the laneway in front of the gate to our playground or in the Kiss and Ride.

Our Kiss and Ride is available in the morning as a drop off area only. Please do not park in this area, please do not wait for the bell to ring in this area. This area is to be used for Kiss and Ride drop off only.

The front of the school is school bus only as indicated by the signs. The laneway is to be kept clear at all times. We ask everyone's cooperation in following the safety and well being of our students and your children.

We would like to remind you that Hamilton/Ancaster is an idle free city. Please turn your engines off. (Bylaw 07-160).

Thank you.

**If our parking lot becomes a safety concern we will close our lot for any and all visitors.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Following are the locations for dismissal of students at the end of the day.

### **Kindergarten Students**

- Students will be dismissed through their area.

### **Grade 1-6 Students**

- In order to maintain social distancing and to keep students in their cohorts, we will line our classes from grade 1-5/6 out on the field.
- At 3:30 the students will be dismissed. We request that parents who are picking up children please wait in the playground and wear a mask as social distancing may be difficult.

### **Grade 7-8**

- Students will be dismissed from back doors of the school, into the playground.

### **Bus students**

- All bus students will be supervised until busses arrive.

## **BUS STUDENTS**

Students who require transportation should have received letters from the Transportation Department with bus stops and times. Parents are asked to ensure that their children arrive at least 10 minutes early at the appropriate bus stop.

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 please communicate with the classroom teacher. In the event that you require assistance from the Transportation Department Staff, please call the contact centre at 905-523-2318. Please be sure to subscribe to Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) to receive email notifications with regards to notification of late buses.

## **VISITORS IN THE SCHOOL**

At this time, only essential visitors will be allowed to enter the school and may do so only through pre-arranged appointments. Parents will not be allowed to enter schools except in case of emergency. Communication between parents and teaching staff or administration will be through phone calls or email. Visits to ensure school safety, such as inspections by fire prevention officers or by public health, will continue to take place.

Any visitors to a school will be required access the HWCDSB website and perform a self-assessment and to wear a medical mask while on school premises.

## **STUDENT AGENDAS**

All students from Grades 1 to 8 will receive a Student Agenda Planner. The cost of the agenda was covered by the Catholic School Council, so there is no cost to students. Due to Covid-19 staff will not use the agendas as a form of communication. Communication via LMS and email is preferred. The agenda can be used as a personal calendar student tool to assist with organization/homework etc.

## LUNCH PROCEDURES

### NEW THIS YEAR

#### ***BOOMERANG LUNCH, SNACKS/WASTE FREE LUNCH, SNACKS***

**A boomerang lunch** is a lunch that has every piece of it return HOME. In other words, everything in the lunch goes back home at the end of the day. No matter if it is leftover food, containers, recyclables or garbage, it all goes back.

**A waste-free lunch/snack** contains no throwaway packaging and produces no food waste. Food and drinks are packed in reusable containers within a reusable lunch bag. A boomerang lunch/snack means that any uneaten food and any waste material produced is returned home. For sanitary purposes, it is important that food and waste packaging be taken home in a resealable container or bag.

Both a waste-free and a boomerang lunch allow parents to see what their children are actually eating during the day. A significant amount of waste is made up of unopened packaged foods, uneaten fruit, full juice boxes and half eaten sandwiches.

#### ***Some Waste-Free Lunch/Snack Tips:***

- ✓ Use a reusable container for packing snacks/sandwiches (no more squished food) ...empty margarine containers work well.
- ✓ Cut fruit/vegetables into pieces so that some can be eaten at lunch and some can be saved for a snack later.
- ✓ Label reusable containers to ensure they are easy to identify if they are misplaced.
- ✓ Avoid drinks in packaging that cannot be resealed (especially for younger students) – NO glass bottles. After a few sips, drinks are often thrown out.
- ✓ The Dollar Store carries reusable container and lunch bags – great deals! \*

All students will eat their lunches within their classroom areas. They are responsible for cleaning up their area. The lunch period is scheduled is as follows:

#### ***11:50-12:50 Lunch Hour – Walk and Talk Outdoor Break Times***

| Lunch hour    | Classes Outside for 20 minutes |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 11:50-12:10pm | 7B, 7A, 6A, 3/4A, 3B, 4B       |
| 12:10-12:30pm | 2A, 1A, 1B, 2B, 2/3A, 3A, 4/5A |
| 12:30-12:50pm | 8A, 8B, 4A, 5/6A, 5A, 6B,      |

- Grades 1-8 students (supervised by staff) 11:50-12:50
- Kindergarten students (supervised by DECE), outside times TBA by classroom teacher.
- Parents who wish their child to go home for lunch must notify the teacher.

## LUNCH AND SNACKS

To the greatest extent possible, students will eat their snacks and lunch in the classroom with their cohort to ensure minimize the risk of contact and COVID-19 transmission.

- Staff and students will perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating;
- Students will have their own individual meal or snack with no common food items and no sharing of food/snacks;
- **Drop off of lunches will not be permitted, please ensure that your child is prepared with snacks, lunch, utensils and drinks for the day**
- Students will be required to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day and not shared;
- Use of water fountains is not permitted. Hydration stations will be allowed to be used to fill personal water bottles

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS DURING LUNCH

Many students stay for lunch at our school. Staying for lunch is welcome and a privilege and we do provide supervision during the lunch hour. All lunch students must follow the school rules during the lunch hour:

- ✓ *To demonstrate courtesy, respect and obedience to the directions of all staff at all times*
- ✓ *To keep the classroom neat and clean and to take all lunch and snack belongings back home*
- ✓ *To remain seated as much as possible*
- ✓ *To maintain social distancing*
- ✓ *To put their masks back on after eating lunch*

If a student is reported to the office as behaving inappropriately while eating lunch at school, or acting inappropriately on the playground, he or she will be reminded of appropriate behaviour, and parents will be notified.

**If the behavior continues then parents/guardians will need to make alternate arrangements for the child during lunch.**



**Waste-Free Lunch CHALLENGE**

**Fridge Packing Reminder**

| Yes please                                | No thanks  |
|---|--|
| REUSABLE lunch container                  | SINGLE-USE paper or plastic bags                 |
| REUSABLE containers (Tupperware, plastic) | DISPOSABLE plastic wrap, foil, wax, or styrofoam |
| REUSABLE drink bottle or thermos          | SINGLE-USE containers                            |
| CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use           | PAPER napkins                                    |
| CUTLERY/SILVERWARE to wash and re-use     | PLASTIC forks/spoons                             |
| HEALTHY snacks!                           | OVER-packaged snacks                             |

More information available at: [www.wastefreelunch.com](http://www.wastefreelunch.com)



## **PURCHASING OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL CRESTS**

Our school crests will be for sale on our SCHOOL CASH ONLINE.

The cost is \$5.00 per crest.

There is a 5-crest limit per child.

The crests will be sent home with your children after the SCHOOL CASH ON LINE purchase.

*\*\*To reduce the handling of cash, we will be using ONLY School Cash Online, no cash payments will be accepted.\*\**

## **TECHNOLOGY AND PERSONAL DEVICES AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Technological advancements have made access and availability of personal digital devices an increasing part of our society. Immaculate Conception is committed to promoting the use of these devices in a manner that promotes the educational value while teaching the Catholic responsibility of associated with these devices. To this end Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary school is committed to providing an environment that will promote responsible use of technology and the devices in our school.

Immaculate Conception's 2020-2021 B.Y.O.D. Permission Form is included in this package. Please sign and return to school by **Thursday, October 1, 2020**.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

We 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 with this newsletter. If interested, please email the form to [verrellis@hwcdsb.ca](mailto:verrellis@hwcdsb.ca) by Wednesday September 30<sup>th</sup>. If more than 10 people put their name forth, a vote will occur using Microsoft FORMS survey. Immaculate Conception's 2020-2021 interest form is attached.

## **ALLERIGIES**

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 pea-nut butter or products with peanuts, nuts listed in the ingredients. We are sincerely grateful for your support in this matter.

## **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

Visit our website regularly to view information and calendar updates. You can visit our website at: <https://imco.hwcdsb.ca>

All upcoming newsletters will be on our website.

## **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 EpiPen's and/or inhalers). All existing medical forms will be sent home for updating. Please complete and send to school ASAP.



## COVID-19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion (in absence of underlying reasons for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.)

You must screen your child for symptoms every day before they come to school. You can use the Ministry of Health's [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) for this purpose. (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>)

If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they are ill, they should not attend school. Please report your child's absence from school by contacting us at: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca) or at 1-877-409-6310.

Students who become ill during the day will be isolated and must be picked up from school as soon as possible. Symptomatic students will not be able to use student transportation. Please consult the [Ministry of Health's COVID-19 reference document](#) for symptoms for other clinical features of COVID-19 and when atypical signs and symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children.

If you suspect your child or any member of your household has been exposed to COVID-19 or has symptoms, you can use the [Ministry of Health's Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#). You will get a recommendation on what to do next.

We are working with our local Public Health Unit to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school and will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 in our school, multiple measures have been implemented. For example, enhanced cleaning and reducing the number of contacts among individuals in the school, including students, staff, and others.

The Ontario Ministry of Health advises everyone to take an active role in protecting themselves from COVID-19. Here are a few things that you and your family can do:

- ✓ wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ✓ sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- ✓ avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- ✓ avoid contact with people who are sick
- ✓ stay home and isolate if you or anyone in your household is sick

For more information on COVID-19 please visit [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus).

### **Hamilton Public Health's website.**

There are many great resources here, including a link to the McMaster Children's videos

<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/school-re-opening-plans>