



Immaculate Conception CES

470 Kitty Murray Lane
Ancaster, ON

Telephone: 905-523-2462/ Fax: 905-304-0484

Email: imco@hwcdsb.ca



Mrs. J. Townsend-Leendertse
Principal

Mr. S. Musa
Vice-Principal

Mrs. D. Cino
Office Administrator

Mrs. T. Kovach
Superintendent of Education

Mr. P. Homerski
Trustee

Father Peter Tuyen Nguyen
Pastor of St. Ann Parish

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

Dear Immaculate Conception Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for such a warm welcome this past week. It has been a pleasure to get to meet many of you at the start and end of the day.

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Immaculate Conception. It has been so exciting to return to in person learning and welcome all returning and new students.

Although, it may not be the September that we had all hoped for, it is nice to see all of the smiling faces behind the masks. I would like to thank everyone for their patience as we continue to navigate through new protocols and procedures. As we monitor what works well and what does not work as well, we will continue to modify to ensure safety of all and best practices.

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.

A special thank you goes out to all staff for all of the work they did to prepare for the arrival of students. I would also like to thank the custodial staff for all the work that was done over the summer to prepare for this September. Thank you to our clerical staff, Mrs. D. Cino and Mrs. Commisso. Lastly, thank you to Mr. S. Musa for his leadership and guidance.

Beginning next week, a weekly eblast will be sent out to families which will include important information and upcoming dates. Please review these regularly to ensure you do not miss important information. The [calendar](#) will also be updated to reflect events and activities that will be happening in the school. If you have not registered your email or are not receiving communication, please contact the office with the most up to date information.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mrs. J. Townsend-Leendertse

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School
Staff List 2021-2022**

Mrs. J. Townsend-Leendertse	Principal
Mr. S. Musa	Vice-Principal
Mrs. D. Cino	Secretary
Mrs. M. Commisso	Clerical (Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday)
Mrs. R. Tice	Clerical (Monday)

--	--

STAFF	GRADE
Mr. P. Sheehan/Mrs. A. Alaimo (D.E.C.E) (Mrs. Romeo on Leave)	KA
Mr. C. Cocco/Mrs. R. Clausen (D.E.C.E.)	KB
Mrs. M. Baktawar/Mrs. F. Cino (D.E.C.E.)	KC
Mrs. K. Agostino /Mrs. L, Baumgartner (D.E.C.E.)	KD
Mrs. E. Tassone	1A
Mrs. T. DeAngelis	1B
Mrs. K. Filice	1/2A
Mrs. M. Austin	2A
Mrs. G. Shea	2B
Mrs. D. DeLuca	3A
Ms. S. Radassao (Mrs. S. Filice on leave)	3B
Mrs. Luisa Ciccarelli	3C
Mrs. L. Schwarz	4A
Mrs. M. Mendoza	4B
Mr. J. Santos	4/5A
Mr. J. Perri	5A
Miss S. Tigani	5B
Mrs. A. Ciancone	5C
Mrs. S. Tigani	6A
Mrs. T. Unsworth	6B
Ms. J. Taiella	6/7A
Mrs. V. Bozzo	7A
Mrs K. Freeman (Mrs. Orvidas on leave)	7B
Mrs. A. Berlinger	7/8A
Mr. D. Cheeranjie	8A
Mrs. M. Miller	8B

--	--

Mrs. A. Caiella - Special Education Resource Teacher

Educational Assistants

Mrs. P. Augello	Ms. T. Blackmore	Ms. S. MacQueen
Ms. T. D'Onofrio	Ms. C. DiFrederico	Ms. C. Hamilton
Mrs. C. Palmieri	Ms. D. Rajasekera	Mrs. A. Woods

Mrs. J. Palmese	RR/LRT
Mrs. L. Morgante	French
Mme. C. Douliou	French
Mme. C. Billings	French
Mr. M. Susi	PPT
Miss L. Smerelli	PPT
Miss A. Madaleno	AIT
Mr. Mark Restivo	Day Custodian
Mr. Michael Giannasi	Night Custodian
Mrs. Laura Fonseca	Assistant Custodians

2021-2022 BELL TIMES

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

- **9:00-9:15** FREE ENTRY
- **9:15** Announcements/Day Commences
- **10:25-10:35** Indoor Snack time/Recess
- **11:55-12:55** Lunch time.
- **2:05-2:15** Indoor Snack time/Recess
- **3:35** 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

COMMUNICATION:

We encourage parents to contact their child's teacher early in the year to enhance the lines of communication between home and school. It has been our experience that ongoing communication between parents and teachers helps to alleviate problems later on in the year. Teachers will also communicate with parents to keep them informed of issues, concerns and events in the classroom. Teachers will be using LMS to communicate daily activities with students and parents.

On behalf of the staff, we wish to extend our best wishes to all our students for a very successful year at Immaculate Conception CES. We hope they are all excited to put forth their best efforts in the days and months ahead. Please visit the website and

MEDICAL CONCERNS

There are many students that may have allergies and may have to take medication for a variety of reasons. The Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic District School Board has procedures that must be followed for the proper dispensing of medication. In order to help us at the school please send a note to the teacher to get the forms that must be completed by their family doctor. All forms and medication are kept on file with the Special Education Resource Teacher. We ask that parents send the medication clearly labeled with your child's name. Medical forms are available through Mrs. Caiella. Please email imco@hwcdsb.ca if you require one.

Under NO circumstances are children to bring any kind of prescription or over the counter medication to school with them.

All medications must be delivered to the office with the proper documentation in order for it to be administered. Please help keep our school a safe learning environment for all.



Remember we are a Nut
Safe School

There are a number of students in our school who endure very severe anaphylactic reactions to sesame, milk, peanut butter, nuts of any kind, and/or peanut food products. These reactions can be caused by ingestion and/or airborne. We ask for your assistance by not sending any snacks or lunches that contain nut products. We also ask you to remind your children not to share snacks, treats or lunches at any time with others. **Parents of students with any allergies/medical concerns are asked to inform the classroom teacher and the main office immediately.** We are concerned for the health and well-being of all our students. We thank you in advance for your co-operation and support in this matter.

Friendly Reminder: All schools of the HWCDSB have in place school email addresses. The email address for Immaculate Conception CES is imco@hwcdsb.ca Parents are asked to use the school email address when emailing concerns. The school Secretary, Principal, and Vice-Principal have access and will respond to parents'/guardians' items at our earliest convenience. Please note it may not be immediate.

However, please continue to call the school directly for other brief questions, requests, appointments, and emergencies.

If you are reporting an absence, please continue to log onto our new reporting system at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>, or call 1-833-275-6703. You may also download the **School Messenger** app, which can be downloaded from google play or apple keyword *Safe Arrival* to your cell phone.

Please visit our school website imco@hwcdsb.ca regularly for up-dates, messages, news, information, up-coming events and monthly calendar. Also, please view quick access to both *School Cash* (School Cash On-line) and *Safe Arrival* on the front page of our school website.

BE SURE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING SET UP IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY:

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

The preferred method of payment for student items is on-line:

Parents now have the convenience of paying for items on-line.

After registering for **School Cash On-line**, you will receive emails notifying you of school trips, events, activities, and other items available for purchase on-line.

Visit: <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com>



Office News

The office is a very active and busy place. The phones are a necessary component of daily office procedures. As you can appreciate, lines must be kept free for incoming and outgoing calls. Students will not be allowed to use the phone for forgotten homework, after school arrangements, school supplies, or trip permission forms. It is the students' responsibility to prepare for the school day the night before. In the case of an emergency, we will contact the parent. We believe that it is important that students understand their responsibility of coming to school prepared. Please be sure to let your child know if the after school pick-up arrangements have changed before they leave home and send a note to the teacher, also to be shared with the office.

Busing

Students are reminded of the bus rules regularly. Please reinforce these rules so that the transition from home to school is smooth. **Students must ONLY ride their designated bus.** In the past, parents have sent notes giving their child permission to ride a friend's bus. This procedure is NOT allowed as the buses have a record of the students and the contact numbers in case of an emergency, including procedures we have in place because of COVID-19. When students are not taking the bus home, a written note must be sent to the school to confirm this. If your child is being picked up by another person, please notify the school with a written note. Your child's safety is important to us. Remember, the bus service is **a privilege, not a right**. Thank you for your cooperation.

ATTENDANCE, LUNCHROOM PROCEDURES and VISITORS

As you know the **safety of the children under our care is one of our most important responsibilities**. To help us keep the students safe and to help us keep track of all the students under our care, the following policies and procedures will be exercised throughout the year:

- 1) If your child is going to be absent, please continue to call our **Safe Arrival** reporting system in the morning. Students may not leave the school unless they have a note from their parents and **they are picked up by an adult at the outside front office doors**.
- 2) To allow for social distancing, students are asked to enter the building when they arrive, and are to move to their respective classroom. Staff will be on hall supervision.

- 3) Our lunch break is from 11:55 to 12:55 p.m.
- 4) Visitors and guests are **ONLY** allowed in the building for essential reasons.
- 5) If you need to drop off lunch or any item forgotten by your child, we ask that you call the school in advance. Upon arrival at the school, you will be given direction as to where to leave your item.

VOLUNTEERS

Due to COVID-19, unfortunately we are unable to accept visitors/volunteers in the school at this time. We look forward to welcoming guests in the near future. When volunteers and visitors are welcome back, please note that we will require a police check.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A STUDENT

*"Our talents are God's gift to us.
What we do with them is our gift to God."
(Leo Buscaglia)*

All students are expected to work to the best of their abilities and complete work as it is assigned. Proper behaviour in the playground and the classroom also help students find success since the focus at school is to challenge ourselves to do our best in all areas at all times.

Homework

Please reinforce with your child the importance of completing their daily assignments since it helps them find success. Daily homework based on a child's grade (approximately 10 minutes per grade) is a good way to reinforce concepts and skills. Also, daily reading is essential for good skill development. Students that regularly fail to complete assignments may lose privileges, have in school withdrawals, and further action will be taken if necessary.

LMS

Our LMS for students can be found by going to mysite.hwcdsb.ca. Students should have received a log in from their classroom teacher. If they have not, please email imco@hwcdsb.ca

To access the parent portal of LMS, please use the [Quick Reference Card \(QRC\)](#).

Daily Physical Activity (DPA)

In order to help improve the fitness level of our students and to fulfill the Ministry of Education's mandate for daily physical activity we will once again take time for students to run/walk and exercise throughout the day. Please support healthy eating and exercise at home as well so that children can work to reach their full potential.

Electronic Devices

Technology-Bring Your Own Device



To prepare our 21st century learners we will continue with the **"Bring Your Own Device"** initiative for the students of **Immaculate Conception**. Students will be allowed to bring in devices, at the teachers discretion, such as tablets and laptops for educational purposes only, (cell phones are too small to be used as a learning device, therefore are strongly discouraged). If students would like to use their device as a planner and a notebook they are welcome to do so. However, we strongly recommend the agenda (book) planner for communication between home and school. If you are allowing your child in this age group to bring an electronic device for use in the classroom. Click here to access [consent form](#).

We are very excited about how this process will help to further enhance the learning that occurs in our school. Should you have any questions, please visit our website at imco.hwcdsb.ca or do not hesitate to contact us imco@hwcdsb.ca

BYOD (Bring Your Own Devices) Classroom Rules:

Remember: Students' participation in the program is a privilege, not a right.

1. Students must have their parent's permission to bring their device to school. **(School Form)**
2. Students are allowed to bring their device on a daily basis as long as they have the parent permission form signed.
3. Each student is responsible for his/her device at all times. Other students may not use another person's device nor touch them.

4. Devices may only be used during class time with teacher supervision. Devices may not be used at recess (indoor or outdoor), or at lunch time, or on route to bus or waiting for a bus.
5. Devices are not allowed in bathrooms.
6. Students are not allowed to post any school pictures or videos they have taken on any social media. (ex. Facebook, Instagram, etc.) All video/photos will be taken with a school owned device with staff permission and supervision.
7. Staff have the right to examine or search the device if there is reason to believe that any school rules or policies have been broken.

Consequences

If a student fails to adhere to our class, school and/or board rules, he/she may lose the privilege of using an electronic device for a certain period of time. Also, the device may be confiscated and returned to the parent/guardian after the instructional day or as appropriate.

Please note, the school assumes no responsibility for any loss, stolen, or damaged items.

*Please complete and submit attached Form if interested and return by **Friday, September 23.***

Hot Lunch Days

Due to COVID hot lunch day will resume at a later date

Spirit Wear Days

We will have Spirit Wear Days throughout the year. Please check the IC calendar for more information.

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:

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.

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.

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 townsendj@hwcdsb.ca by Tuesday, September 28th. If more than 10 people put their name forth, a vote will occur using Microsoft FORMS survey. Immaculate Conception's 2021-2022 [interest form](#). Our voting meeting will take place on **Wednesday, October 3rd @ 7pm**

Community News



Parent Conference

The HWCDSB usually hosts their Annual Parent Conference in the Fall, "Weaving the Catholic Partnership". However, due to COVID-19 it is currently being discussed as to when the Conference will take place this year.

Lunch Room Supervisors Need

Bishop Tonnos, St. Ann, and Holy Name of Mary are looking for lunch supervisor. Please contact the schools for more information

COVID Information

[Click here](#) to view the parent guide.

[Click here](#) for the most up to date information from the board.

A reminder that daily screening and attestation form must be completed.

[Screening](#)

[Attestation Form](#)

- Please note the times of the celebration carefully

More information will follow on how to register for First Communion and Confirmation.

News from the Parish

On behalf of the Immaculate Conception Community, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Father Peter Nguyen. We look forward to welcoming Father into our school to work with students.

Confirmation and Communion

Dates for Confirmation and First Eucharist have been released. The dates are as follows:

First Communion:

- Wednesday, October 20 @ 6:30
- Wednesday, October 27 @ 6:30
- Wednesday, November 4 @ 6:30 (only if needed)

Confirmation

- Saturday, November 27 @ 10, 11, 12

Please note the following COVID restrictions will apply:

- ⇒ there are **5** spaces allocated for each family at the Celebrations
- ⇒ families will be seated on arrival by our Health & Safety Team
- ⇒ Masks must be worn at all time
- ⇒ All COVID sanitizing protocols will be in place
- ⇒ All ministers (lectors, cantors, musicians, eucharistic) will be provided by the church

Sunday Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass will be live streamed at 9:00 am

Saturday Mass is at 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass is at 9:00 am and 11:00

For more information, visit [St. Ann Parish website](#)

Father Peter Tuyen Nguyen

Father Peter was born in 1961 in Vietnam. He is the third of ten children and came to Canada in 1985. After studying Philosophy at Christ the King Seminary in Mission, B.C., he obtained his Master of Divinity degree at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, and his Master of Christian Studies degree at McMaster University in Hamilton.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 8, 1993, at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Hamilton.

Father Peter served as Associate Pastor in several parishes: At the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, St. Ann in Hamilton, St. Francis Xavier in Stoney Creek and St. Michael in Waterloo.

He served as Pastor of St. Clement in St. Clements; Canadian Martyrs and as Chaplain at McMaster University; Holy Rosary in Milton; St. Clement in Cambridge. In June 2021, Bishop Douglas Crosby appointed him as Pastor of St. Ann, Ancaster.

You may contact Fr. Peter Tuyen Nguyen via email at: Pnguyen@hamiltondiocese.com



