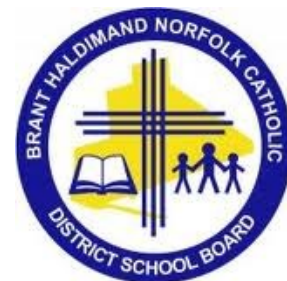




St. Theresa

Catholic Elementary School



12 Dalewood Av, Brantford, ON N3T 0M6
519.753.8953 • www.bth1.bhncdsb.ca • Zone 3

Principal: Ms. Helene McConnell • Secretary: Ms. Joanne Smith

SEPTEMBER 2025

We're Going Back To School



A message from the Principal:

Welcome to a new year at St. Theresa School! I am excited to be working with you and your children this year. Our goal will be to foster an academic, physical, social and emotional environment that is rooted in our Catholic faith. A special welcome to all of our new students and families who have arrived at St. Theresa School this year. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer; one filled with family and friends, memories, laughter, and spontaneity.

The Spiritual Theme this year is Pilgrims of Hope.

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."

We hope to journey with you as we celebrate our faith and deepen our relationship with Christ. It is our hope that as we accompany each other on the journey that you fill God's love and abundant blessings.

We would like to welcome you at the Harvest Hello on
Wednesday, September 17th 5:00— 6:00 pm

My door is always open and I look forward to working together to ensure your child(ren) reach their fullest potential to increase their personal growth, resiliency, innovation, and engagement. If there is anything I can assist you with, please let me know, I am only an email or a phone call away.

As always, please continue to communicate with your classroom teacher and myself should you have any questions. Please be sure to access our school website (www.bthe1.bhncdsb.ca) and follow us on our Twitter feed @sttcatholic to learn more about the what is happening at St. Theresa School.

Respectfully,

Helene McConnell

Student's Prayer For the 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 new year with our friends and teachers

Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh.

Amen



Mission

As a Catholic Learning Community, we provide faith formation and academic excellence, which enables our graduates to live a life of love and service in Christ.

Motto

Excellence in Learning—Living in Christ

Parish Information

Blessed Sacrament
Catholic Church
Pastor: Father Andrew Czarny
185 King Street
Burford, ON
tel: 519 449 5143
BlessedSacramentBurford@HamiltonDiocese.com



Starting Lineup

JK/SK	Miss Florio
ECE	Mrs. Winger
JK/SK	Miss Difelice
ECE	Mrs. Wieand
Gr. 1	Miss Damaren
Gr. 1/2	Miss Sziklai
Gr. 2/3	Mrs. Doneff
Gr. 3	Mrs. Bosagri-Chevarie
Gr. 4	Mrs. Caniglia
Gr. 4/5	Miss Mehlenbacher
Gr. 6/7	Miss Guernsey
Gr. 7	Miss DaCosta
Gr. 8	Miss Notarandrea
SERT	Miss Wilson
FSL	Mme Iliopoulos
PREP	Mr. Ritossa
CYW	Ms. Carmazan
CYW	Ms. Connolly
EA	Mr. Rousseau
STEM	Mr. Boeyenga
Librarian	Mr. Tavernese
Custodian	Mr. Cullen

School Bell Times



First Bell..... 9:00 am

First Break..... 10:40 am to 11:20am
(Snack @ 10:40, Outside @ 11:00)

Lunch Break 1:00 pm to 1:40 pm
(Lunch @ 1:00, Outside @ 1:20)

Dismissal Bell 3:20 pm

Outdoor Supervision

Supervision begins at 8:45 a.m. Students should not arrive before 8:45 a.m. At the end of the day, children need to go directly home and are not permitted to play on school grounds as there is no supervision.

New for 2025—2026 there will be no soft entry. Bus students and walkers will be directed to the side pavement & back field.

Students will be outside before the 9:00 a.m. bell. There will be supervision on the field and the side yard. Students will line up at the back doors to enter the school in the morning.

School Council Elections/Meeting



The Catholic School Council is an advisory committee that works with staff to assist with the goals of the school. Meetings are at least 4 times per year and may be virtual and/or in person.

We are always looking for individuals that would be willing to participate and share their talents with the school community. If you are interested in volunteering your services please plan to attend.

The first meeting of the Catholic School Council will be held on Wednesday, September 17 **following the Harvest Hello (approx. 6:00 pm)**

All are welcome to attend.

Dress Code Reminders

Modesty and common sense are the main guidelines. Schools rely upon good judgment.

Please keep in mind that:

- Clothing must reflect that we belong to a Catholic elementary school
- No t-shirts with suggestive, violent sayings or pictures. Clothing with inappropriate logos will not be allowed
- All clothing must follow the rule. 'The top must meet the bottom and the bottom must meet the top'
- No low cut tops, halter tops, tank tops or muscle shirts. Tops must have minimum 2 inch wide straps. Shirts with large arm holes (e.g. basketball jerseys) require that a shirt be worn underneath
- Shorts must be of a modest length (at least arm's length) - no spandex or bicycle shorts
- No undergarments are to be visible
- No hats, hoods, or bandanas are to be worn in school (no gang paraphernalia)
- No see-through clothing
- Flip-flops are not recommended for physical activities in the gym or outdoors because of the safety hazard they pose



We always encourage students to dress for the weather. Scent-free sunscreen and hats on days with high UV readings are also recommended.

Transportation Changes

If your child takes the school bus regularly and those plans change, it is important that we have written confirmation or a phone call from a parent to indicate the change. The school and bus drivers are accountable for the students on the bus until they get to their drop off location.

Please inform your child of an intended transportation change in the morning, before school. Please email the teacher and the secretary, josmith@bhncdsb.ca to advise changes when you know in advance. For unexpected changes, please call the

Drop Off and Pick Up Routines

When dropping off a kindergarten child in the morning, please walk them to the school front doors. The ECE teachers will be supervising kinders in the fenced kindergarten area. For a smooth transition, kiss, hug and go. Students from Grade 1 to Grade 8 **only** proceed to the main playground through the right side of the building. (when facing school) **Students only—parents/guardians/visitors are not permitted.** Supervision begins at 8:45 am. Please do not leave your children at the school any earlier as the playground will be unsupervised.

Students in Grade 1, Grade 1/2, Grade 2/3, Grade 3/4, Grade 4, Grade 4/5 and Grade 6/7 will enter the school from the back of the building. Students in Grade 7 and Grade 8 will enter the portables.

The parking lot is for staff only. There is not enough room to accommodate everyone who picks up their child, and too much traffic in the parking lot could delay our busses and/or pose a safety hazard. Only Kindergarten parents are allowed to walk their children to the kindergarten gate. All other parents are **not** allowed on the school yard.

If your child is late they must sign-in at the office prior to going to class. **If your child is absent**, please report the absence using the SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival App, the website <https://home.schoolmessenger.ca>, or call 1-844-445-4381. You must set up your account using the same email address we have on file at the school. If we do not receive notification prior to taking morning attendance, you will receive an automated phone message. If you do not respond after receiving the automated message a phone call will be made. To avoid the calls and emails, please enter your child's absence. It only takes a minute and the purpose is to ensure the safety of our students/your children.

STUDENT PUNCTUALITY

We encourage parents to model the importance of punctuality and regular attendance for children, two important elements for student success. There is a direct correlation between children who are often late or absent and reduced academic achievement. All teachers begin the day with either language or math, laying a foundation for student success. We all want our children to do well in school and in life; punctuality and consistent attendance are important to realizing those goals.

Dismissal

School dismissal is at 3:20 pm. Please ensure that you pick up your child no later than 3:30 pm. Parents of kindergarten children are asked to meet their child in front of the school. Your child will only be released to an adult who has written permission to take your child home. For the safety of your child, we require your consent in writing. Students from Grades 1–8 may be picked up from the front of the school as parents **will not** be permitted on the school yard. As well, once your child has been picked up, please try to leave in a timely manner. The parking lot may not be used to park your car at dismissal to ensure student safety when leaving school property or bus pickup area.

During the school day

If you are picking up or dropping off your child during the school day, please enter in the app ahead of time so that there is limited interruption to the class. We will do our best to have your child ready and waiting in class for pickup upon your arrival.

Lunch time can be very hectic at the office! If you are dropping off a lunch, please label it with your child's name. If you are using a delivery service (ie. Skip the Dishes) make sure your child knows what they are getting for lunch. In the past, we have had deliveries left outside without names. There will be a table and labels set up inside the front doors for lunch drop off.

Parking on Dalewood Av

In order to ensure the safety of our children, parents/guardians are asked to ***please obey traffic signs and to park on the street only where permitted.*** Due to construction of subdivision, there are road block pilons to access the area beside the school. Please do not park in that area.

Please do not park/stop in no parking zones. DO NOT STOP ON THE CROSSWALK OR MAKE U-TURNS IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL. Parking in these zones causes visibility issues for the student patrollers as well as navigation issues for incoming school buses.



Please ensure that you do not block the driveways of our neighbours—they truly appreciate your consideration.

For the safety of students, parents/guardians are asked to NOT use the school parking lot for drop offs and pickups at the beginning and end of the school day. **The parking lot is reserved for staff only**



Student Transportation Information

To view your child's transportation, including courtesy riders, please visit: **www.stsbhn.ca**
Parents can register and track their child's bus information using the Chipmunk app, as well as obtain late bus notifications.
Notifications may be sent to either a smart phone or e-mail account.

PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

If your child has a prevalent medical condition that requires support or monitoring, we request that you contact the school as soon as possible to ensure that our staff have the necessary information to ensure your child is safe while at school.

The following are medical conditions that require a **Plan of Care** as determined by Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board policy and/or provincial legislation. The **Plan of Care** will be completed in collaboration with the school administrative team:

- **Asthma** – Please complete the Asthma Plan of Care
- **Anaphylactic Reactions** – Please complete the Anaphylaxis Plan of Care
- **Diabetes** – Please complete the Diabetes Plan of Care
- **Epilepsy** – Please complete the Epilepsy Plan of Care

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 there is a record of your child having any of the above, a form was sent home in June. Please be sure to return the completed form and the necessary medication on the first day of school.

If your child no longer requires the school to monitor any previous condition, please notify the office and they will be removed from our medical information board.

Please note: It is the responsibility of parents to notify schools of any medical concerns and to update the Plans of Care on an annual basis.

For more information regarding specific School Board policies or procedures concerning specific medical conditions, please visit: <http://www.bhncdsb.ca/>.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

All schools must follow specific Board procedures for the administration of medication during school hours. If your child requires medication during the school day you are asked to contact the office and the necessary form will be sent home.

Only prescription drugs will be administered by staff. Staff are unable to administer non-prescription medication to students. You will be required to come to the school to administer non-prescription medication i.e. Tylenol, etc.

Please **DO NOT** send medication such as Tylenol for your child to take themselves.

Medic Alerts No Child Without Program is at Our School

The **No Child Without** program offers a free Medic Alert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a Medic Alert membership through this program. Your child's voice in an emergency, Medic Alert membership:

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their Medic Alert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

Medic Alert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information visit www.nochildwithout.ca.



Allergy Alert for Peanuts/Nuts

Due to student and staff allergies, St. Theresa School is a nut safe school.

Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks that are free of peanuts and tree nuts, as well as products that have the “may contain peanuts/tree nuts” warning on them. Please read labels before sending food to school. Please be aware—not all packaging is clearly labeled with the warning. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If you have caregivers, who provide your child with lunches or snacks , PLEASE share this information with them.



READ THE LABELS!

- That means there should be **NO** tree nuts & peanuts in the product.
- The item should also be made in a **TREE NUT & PEANUT FREE FACILITY**.
- The label can NOT say “May Contain Nuts” or made on equipment that also processes nuts, or anything similar.

***Please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (e.g., WOW butter etc.) is **not permitted** until further review by the Board's Anaphylaxis Committee. The rationale for this is that the peanut butter substitutes look and smell so much like peanut butter, it is difficult for staff to monitor, as well as possibly causing anxiety for students with severe peanut allergies. (use of the “Wow butter” labels, does not ensure that the product is “safe”).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- **Peanuts:** a member of the legume family and not related to tree nuts.
- **Tree Nuts:** Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Cashews, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Hickory Nuts, Macadamia Nuts, Pecans, Pine Nuts, Pistachios, Shea Nuts and Walnuts.

BACK TO SCHOOL FOOTWEAR

Each student should bring a pair of *indoor shoes* **and** a pair of *outdoor shoes* to school in September. It is important to have an additional pair of (non-scuffing) indoor runners *for gym use only*. Please remember that flip flops and Crocs are not good footwear for school because they slip on our floors and get caught under doors, providing little protection for children's toes. Running shoes are the best option.

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE (registration required)

St. Theresa School uses only SCO for all payments (trips, hot lunches, etc.) Cash and cheques are not accepted. With this being said, there may be events that will require only cash payments and you will be notified of this in the parent letter/email.

Most items are online for one to two weeks to allow ample time to pay. Please ensure you receive a receipt at the end of your transaction to confirm payment. You can also check your history tab to make sure that your orders are complete.

If you cannot meet the due date for personal reasons, PLEASE do not wait! Contact the school, or let the teacher know and arrangements can be made for payment.

Also, through SCO, you will be required to submit various forms throughout the school year. I.e. Permission forms, etc.

NOTE: A reference instruction sheet is available on our school website. If you experience any difficulties with payments or registration please contact the HELP line 1-866-961-1803

FOOD DAYS—optional

Lunch days will be offered through Lunchboxorders.com You must register for School Cash Online in order to receive notifications of lunch choices.

Note: you must order online and there will be no “extras” available.

If your child is absent on a food day you can either make arrangements to pick up the food, donate it to a student, or we can give it to a sibling. We ask that you call or email to notify the office in the morning otherwise the lunch will be given away. We do not have the capacity to store lunches in our staff fridge.

If there is a school closure, lunches will be cancelled and a credit will be issued to your account.

If you need to cancel an order, you must do so 2 days prior to the delivery date. Please see the How to Order Guide for detailed information.

FIRE DRILLS AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

We are fortunate in Canada that intruder violence or fires in schools rarely occur. However, we cannot be complacent with respect to our preparedness for such an event. As such, our staff has reviewed lockdown and fire drills and plan to conduct 3 fire drills in the fall and 3 in the spring. Teachers will be talking about lockdown procedures. Teachers will talk to the children before the drills to prepare them. Talking about the drills at home with your child can also alleviate any anxiety. Remind children to follow teacher/police/principal direction, not to use cell phones, and to remain silent during a lockdown. Also, please note that during an emergency situation at the school, we ask that you do not phone the school or your child's cell phone since a ringing phone may alert an intruder to the student's whereabouts or it may tie up phone lines that are needed to communicate with emergency personnel. We will communicate to parents via website, twitter, letter or call out system as soon as possible. Please keep all of your contact information up to date in the office so that we can reach you in case of emergency.

VOLUNTEERING AND POLICE CHECKS

In accordance with Board Policy, volunteers must provide a Criminal Background Check every three years. In years when a CBC is not required the volunteer must sign a Declaration. If there is a break in the volunteer's service of more than one year a new CBC must be provided. A CBC is required if chaperoning for class trips or to come in and read with students. The application must be completed **before** volunteering. We cannot allow a volunteer to attend a trip or work with children when the CBC is in progress. It is recommended that you apply early in the school year as sometimes it takes a while for applications to be processed. To apply, please see the school secretary to request the appropriate Vulnerability Sector Check forms. AODA training and a confidentiality agreement is also required.



CAN YOU HELP?

From time to time we get requests from families looking for before/after school care or an older student who can walk a younger student home. If you offer before/after care or have an older child willing to help out, please forward your name to the office.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Mark your calendar!

School photos :	Wednesday, October 15th, 2025
Retake photos:	Monday, November 10th, 2025
Grad/Group Photos:	TBD, 2026



TREATS AND BIRTHDAYS

Please do not send in treats for the class on your child’s birthday. Under the Ministry Policy (P/PM 150), and the BHNCD SB Nutrition Policy, the maximum number of days in the school year that may be designated as special treat days for a school is ten (10). Special treat days allow the schools to serve or sell foods or beverages that do not comply with the standards in P/PM 150 and the BHNCD SB Nutrition Policy. Special treat days include Halloween, last day before Christmas break, Valentine’s Day, Shrove Tuesday, (Pancake Day), Grade 8 Graduation and the last day of school. We reserve a couple of extra days for events that may come up. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL WEBSITE—SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS, ALERTS

All monthly newsletters will be sent via email and posted to the school website. In order to receive notifications/alerts of items posted to the website, you must subscribe.

Once you enter the school website, www.bth1.bhncdsb.ca, scroll down to the bottom of the page and you will see the SUBSCRIBE button. This is where you will register your email address to receive all of St. Theresa’s notifications, alerts, news items, upcoming events, and more!

Join Us on Twitter



See what is happening at St. Theresa School!
Follow us on twitter at @sttcatholic

REMINDERS:

- ⇒ Please pack the necessary utensils for your child’s lunch: spoon, fork, etc. **We do not provide plastic cutlery**
- ⇒ Send a refillable water bottle with your child. We do not supply cups.
- ⇒ Complete all the required forms in School Cash Online and return the signed Student Verification form by Friday, September 15th
- ⇒ Send indoor shoes for your child(ren) ASAP



IMPORTANT DATES

September 12	PA DAY (no school for students)
September 17	Harvest Hello 5 pm—6 pm
September 17	1st Parent Council Meeting after Harvest Hello
September 19	School Opening Liturgy at St. Theresa—11:30 am
September 30	Orange Shirt Day

What do you need to know about Student Accident Insurance?



Many families do not know that our school board **does not** cover accident costs!

If an accident happens, the board may be prevented from offering financial solutions to our families even if we wanted to. Student accident insurance, Insuremykids®, can mitigate your board's exposure and help you manage the loss for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extra-curricular sports.

Each year, many families are left financially unprotected when their children are injured at school, while participating in non-school activities or at home. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or their employer's health care plan. Please check with your provider regarding your coverage.

Most accident-related expenses are not fully covered under OHIP and some expenses like ambulance fees, casts, crutches, physiotherapy and emergency dental care are usually not covered at all. This leaves you, the parent/guardian, financially responsible.

To help protect your family, it is recommended that you consider obtaining student accident insurance. As a convenience to you, the Board has arranged to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids®. Participation is voluntary, but highly recommended, and the costs are to be paid by the parent/guardian. The program is available for students up to age 26.

Coverage is provided for a wide range of accidental expenses, including:

- **Dental Expenses** - includes 10 years unlimited dental benefit coverage, future dental up to \$1,650 per tooth, and injury-related orthodontia coverage up to \$2,500 per accident.
- **Total and Permanent Disability** - up to \$350,000.
- **Loss of Limb/Loss of Sight, Hearing, or Speech.**
- **Accidental Death.**
- **Ambulance Fees.**
- **And much more.**

Insuremykids® Student Accident Insurance offers three plans with 24/7 coverage at affordable rates – their most affordable plan is \$17 per year and their most popular plan is the Platinum at \$33 per year, which provides out-of-province emergency medical coverage and travel benefits. All annual plans provide **13 months of coverage** from the date of purchase. Family rates are available for three or more children in the same family, even if attending different schools. You can also save on time and premium with an optional 3-Year or 5-Year plan, available for online purchase only.

If you wish to purchase coverage, please do so directly online at **www.insuremykids.com** or call **1-800-463- 5437**. The insurance agreement is between You and the insurance underwriter, **Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada**. For more information, please visit **www.insuremykids.com**.