

Blessed Sacrament School

185 King Street West, PO Box 370, Burford, ON N0E 1A0

Phone: 519-449-2984

Principal: Mr. M. Finochio

Secretary: Mrs. S. Konkiewicz

September 2026 Newsletter

Visit: www.blessedsacramentburford.ca



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

Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome back to another fun and exciting year here at Blessed Sacrament School. I look forward to learning and growing alongside our school community.

I encourage all families to take an active role in their student(s) education and appreciate any input you may have to help make our school better. I hope to see all of you at our Meet the Teacher night September 17th.

We are always grateful for volunteers and if you are interested please see the office for details.

Best Wishes,
Mr. M. Finochio



SOME DATES TO HIGHLIGHT -

check website

www.blessedsacramentburford.ca/events-calendar

- Sept. 7—Labour Day
- Sept. 8—First Day of School
- Sept. 17—Meet the teacher night 5pm to 7pm
- Sept 18—Verification Forms are Due back
- Sept 21—25—Truth & Reconciliation week
- Sept 23— Jr & Sr soccer—John Wright Field
- Sept. 25—Picture Day
- Oct. 2—LunchBox—Pizza
- Oct. 6—PA day
- Oct. 8—School Mass
- Oct. 9—LunchBox— Alice Subs
- Oct. 12—Thanksgiving Day
- Oct 16—LunchBox Alice Chicken
- Oct. 23—LunchBox —Shawarma
- Oct 30— Alice Pasta

SCHOOL HOURS

Please note our bell times have not changed from last year and be reminded that students should **NOT** be arriving prior to 8:15am which is when supervision begins.

School Yard Supervision	8:15 – 8:30
Bell Rings for start of school	8:30 am
Instructional Block	8:30 – 10:10
Nutritional Break	10:10 – 10:50
Instructional Block	10:50 – 12:30
Nutritional Break	12:30 – 1:10
Instructional Block	1:10 – 2:50
Dismissal Bell	2:50

PLEASE NOTE: Once the buses have begun to arrive at the school, no other vehicles should approach the school for either drop off or pick up.

Blessed Sacrament NEWS**IMPORTANT****PLEASE NOTE:**

The end of the day is extremely hectic as we have 2 bus runs and a dismissal for walkers. Parents picking up their child **please stand by the bike racks** rather than in front of the door or the pen. Last year it was extremely congested and difficult for walkers to use the sidewalk. We want to ensure they are safe when walking to the crosswalk.

Also, when you have your child, please **use the sidewalk** rather than cut through the parking lot. Again, we are trying to keep all of our students safe as dismissal times. We have buses coming in and out and it can be dangerous if we cut across the sidewalk.

Blessed Sacrament NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR 2026-2027 BLESSED SACRAMENT STAFF

Kindergarten 1	Mrs. Marr
Kindergarten 2	Mrs. Thoms
ECE	Miss. Sunny
Kindergarten Prep	Mrs. Hergott
Grade 1	Mrs. Chase
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Sibbick
Grade 2	Mrs. Savard
Grade 3	Miss Purvis
Grade 3	Mrs. Green
Grade 4	Mrs. MacDonald-Kean
Grade 4/5	Mrs. Cowan
Grade 5/6	Mr. Moulton
Grade 6/7	Miss. Lombardo
Grade 7/8	Mr. Ulgiati
Grade 8	Miss McKay
SERT	Mrs. S. McIntosh
SERT	Mrs. McKenna
FSL	Mme. Rosehart
FSL/Prep	Mme. Dwyer
EA	Miss Styles
EA	Ms. Cuper-Austin
Librarian	Ms. Baker
Principal	Mr. Finocchio
Office Administrator	Mrs. Konkiewicz

FOOD ALLERGY

REMINDER: NUT/FISH ALLERGIES/LUNCHES

Please note that we are a **tree nut/peanut/sesame seed/fish** safe school. Students **are not permitted** to bring items that may contain nuts of any kind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT



Our Meet the Teacher Night will be held on September 17/26, from 5:00 – 7:00pm. More information to come.

Please watch for items on school cash on line to place your order.

You are invited to drop in at any time throughout the evening. Please make sure you have your family photograph taken for our bulletin board. This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers, students and parents who help make Blessed Sacrament such a great school community!

SCHOOL INFORMATION SHEETS

Student Verification Forms have been sent home on orange legal size paper with every student. Please complete these forms, make any necessary changes, please sign them, and return them to school by **September 18, 2026**. Freedom of Information consent forms and technology use agreement forms are also required to be completed every school year. **Please complete & sign ALL the forms and return them to school by September 18, 2026.**

SCHOOL COUNCIL

More information will be forwarded to our families about the Council as the direction becomes clearer. Stay tuned



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Please log in to find the transportation details for the school year so that any changes in service can be implemented! Please remember that parents of students in grades 1 through 8 will be responsible for checking the transportation website to determine busing for September. Students not receiving letters are required to log onto the transportation portal www.stsbhn.ca to retrieve transportation details.

Blessed Sacrament NEWS



Just a friendly reminder that we **CANNOT** pull up to the front of the school while the buses are here. We have seen an increase in parents doing this and blocking our buses from leaving.

We have also had an increase in cars driving in front of the school while the buses are still loading which obviously presents a safety concern for staff and students. If you do need to drive your child(ren) to the front of the building, please wait until the buses have completely exited the area.

For safety reasons, **Please** use the sidewalk & the crosswalk beside parent/staff parking, when walking to the school & from the school back to your vehicle. Please do not cut across the parking lot, as vehicles are coming and going from the school at the end of day.

I appreciate your help in keeping our loading zone safe.

Mr. Finocchio

LUNCH OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY



Students in grades 7 and 8 only, will be permitted to leave the school at second nutritional break and only if they bring a note signed by their parents on the given day. If a student has parental permission to leave the school at this time on a daily/regular basis, please include this on a letter addressed to myself, school principal and the classroom teacher. We will hold this letter on file for the duration of the time requested or until the end of 2025/2026 school year. Leaving the school during lunch is a privilege that may be revoked if students are returning late or not acting maturely off school property.

EARLY DISMISSAL:

Emails to your child's teacher about an early dismissal or change to bus-sing/pick up arrangements cannot always be read in time. To ensure the details are acknowledged, please copy the secretary on those emails or call the school office no later than 2:20pm. **NOTE: *If calls come in after that time, it's more difficult to reach the class to ensure message reaches your child/ren Thank-you***

**PLEASE
SIGN IN & OUT
HERE**

VISITOR PROCEDURES

Please note that all visitors to the school need to report to the office, speak with Mrs. Konkiewicz and sign in. Should you be coming into the school to pick up your child(ren) please stay at the office as Mrs. Konkiewicz will page your child(ren) from class.

Blessed Sacrament NEWS

LOOKING FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Volunteers

As we move towards reopening of schools and the reintroduction of volunteers into the school, you might wish to consider initiating/updating your police checks on record at the school. Please contact the office for more information as this procedure has changed as of this September..

School Snack Program



The school is always in need of a few volunteers to organize and keep the snack program running. These volunteers will work with "Food for Thought" to ensure that students receive a nutritious snack while at school 2-3 times per week. If this is something you may be interested in please contact Mr. Finocchio at the school.

Strong Start Reading Program

Strong start is an effective tool and requires some training so if you are looking for being a part of this program in the future and want to look into completing the training to use at any school, please inquire.



BUSSING



The start of the school year is always a challenge. So we wish to remind all families of a few points that are meant to keep everyone safe and the transitions quick and smooth.

1. **Please always use the sidewalk** as it is the safest way to navigate through the 18 buses in the AM and PM. Not to mention setting a good example to the children.
2. **Crossing from your vehicle to or from the sidewalk should only be at the painted lines crossing area.** We are looking to have patrollers at the end of the day and ALL students crossing to awaiting family, vehicles will only happen there.
3. **NOTE: Once the buses have begun to arrive at the school, no other vehicles should approach the school for either drop off or pick up.**

We are a "Transfer" school and with 19-20 busses and hundreds of students, we ask all of you for your support in keeping everyone safe. Thank-you.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE



Please use school cash on line. Go to <https://bhncdsb.schoolcashionline.com> to get started. Sign up now! **It's easy and convenient**

INDOOR

While at school **all** students are expected to wear a clean pair of shoes when indoors. We recommend white soled running shoes as they can then be used for physical education class as well.



HOT LUNCHES ARE COMING

Reminder: Hot lunches will be starting October 2nd. Please log into School Cash on line to Access LunchBox orders.

Blessed Sacrament NEWS



SAFE ARRIVAL

Student Absence Reporting

To report your child's absence:



1-844-445-4381



go.schoolmessenger.ca *



open the School Messenger APP *

* must have set up an account to use



ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL

As you know electronic devices are **not to be used** in school by students. There will be more details in a separate communication from the BHNCD SB in the near future. Thank you for your understanding on this very sensitive matter.

The new student absence reporting system will let you use a **mobile app**, a **web-site**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence in advance as well as that day. This procedure is followed to ensure the safety of your child. Your cooperation saves numerous daily phone calls by the school. **Students who arrive after the bell in the morning, should report directly to the office for an admit slip and then proceed to class**

Monthly Awards

Student of the Month – Monthly Virtue Focus

Every month, our school honours students who have demonstrated excellence in the monthly theme/virtue. The themes/virtues are listed below.

- **September:** Faith / Respect
- **October:** Empathy / Gratitude / Believer
- **November:** Conscience / Justice / Voice
- **December:** Hope / Patience
- **January:** Self-Control / Responsibility / Ideas
- **February:** Respect / Compassion / Learner for Life
- **March:** Kindness / Forgiveness / Team Player
- **April:** Love / Stewardship / Caring
- **May:** Acceptance / Tolerance / Responsibility
- **June:** Fairness / Honesty

Blessed Sacrament NEWS



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 extracurricular 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.

Blessed Sacrament NEWS

Three Whistle System Reminder

The guards will first sound the whistle with one long blast when they determine it is safe to enter the crosswalk, alerting motorists they are stepping out into the crosswalk. They will then sound two short whistle blasts indicating that pedestrians may cross the street.

School crossings

A school crossing is any pedestrian crossing where a:

- school crossing guard is present
- school crossing stop sign is displayed



How crosswalks differ from crossovers

A crosswalk is different from a crossover. A crosswalk is usually found at an intersection with traffic signals, pedestrian signals or stop signs.

A crosswalk can be:

- the portion of a road that connects sidewalks on opposite sides of the road into a continuous path, or
- the portion of a road that is indicated for pedestrian crossing by signs, lines or other markings at any location, including an intersection

At crosswalks, drivers are only required to stop and yield the entire roadway when a school crossing guard is present.

Penalties

The penalties for drivers who endanger pedestrians are as follows:

Offence	Fine	Demerits	Other penalties
Failing to yield at pedestrian crosswalks, school crossings and crossovers	Up to \$1000	4 demerit points	None