



St. Michael's Catholic School

November 2023 Newsletter

St. Michael's School is a Peanut/Tree Nut Safe School

November 2023

Principal's Message

November is here! While we have had some warmer weather, we certainly are feeling the cold of these Fall mornings. October is officially under our belts and what a success it was! Students and staff eagerly got back into old routines and learned some new ones as well. We have made new friends, formed positive relationships, and are once again counting on all our members to foster that warm and positive school environment that we have grown to expect at St. Michael's School. This aligns so well with our theme of We are **Called to Love**.

November 11th marks the day when we are given reason to pause and reflect upon the sacrifices made in the name of freedom. Freedom that we take for granted. Please take the time and explain the importance of this day to your children. We at St. Michaels will take this opportunity to talk about the significance of this day. The peace and freedom we enjoy today came at the expense of many lives lost. On November 11th please remember to stop and take time to remember.

Remembrance Day

Take time

Time to *pray*, time to *play*, time to *laugh*, time to *sing*

Time to *remember*

Time to *rebuild*, time to *restore*, time to *renew* together

Mrs. Kerri Lomax, Principal

Parish Information



St. Michael the Archangel
204 Alder Street West, Dunnville
905-774-6972
Father Manuel
All are welcome to attend:
Saturday – 5 pm
Sunday – 8:30 am or 10:30 am

Absent/Late Students



If your child will be absent or late for school, please call the office before 9:00 am at
905-774-6052

Board Website
www.bhncdsb.ca



Please view the Board's website for important information. The website includes calendars, Board policies and other useful information.



Follow us on Twitter

See what is happening at St. Michael's School
@stmccatholic

St. Michael's Catholic School

209 Alder Street W
Dunnville, ON N1A 1R3
(905) 774-6052
www.stmichaeldunnville.ca
[@stmccatholic](https://twitter.com/stmccatholic)

ZONE 2

Principal: Mrs. K. Lomax
Secretary: Mrs. M. Reidy



School Bell Times

8:50 am: School Begins
10:30-11:10 am
1st Nutrition Break
12:50-1:30 pm
2nd Nutrition Break
3:10 pm
School Dismissal

Cross Country Meet

Congratulations to our cross country runners who did an amazing job at the Haldimand Norfolk Cross Country Meet in Waterford on October 26th. A big shout out to our coach Mrs. Carnegie!

Progress Reports

Progress Reports go home with the students on Monday, November 6. This year parents will receive a link in their email where they can access their child's teacher's availability and book their own date/time for a parent/teacher conference. We look forward to discussing your child's progress report to date.

Parent-Teacher Interviews – November 16th / 17th

Parents can book their own interview times again this year using our online booking tool. A letter will go home with progress reports with a "How To" information sheet. Watch your email for the shared link. You will also receive an email reminder closer to the date of your interview.



School Photo Day – November 2nd

A reminder that our school photo day this year will be held on Thursday Nov 2nd. Please mark this date down in your calendar. Stay tuned for photo re-take day.



Crazy Sock Day – November 22nd

Students are invited to wear a pair of their craziest socks for our November themed spirit wear day.

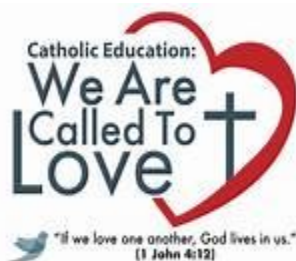


Spirit Wear Day – November 30th

Staff and students are encouraged to wear their St. Michael's spirit wear clothing on Thursday November 30th. We will display our pride to be a Hawk as we gather for our month end assembly.

Professional Development Day

Friday, November 17th is a Professional Development Day for our Elementary School Teachers. There will be no school for students on this day. Parent Teacher interviews will take place in the morning.



Parent Council News

The next meeting is scheduled for:
Monday, November 27th
at 4:30-5:30 pm



Pizza Days This Month

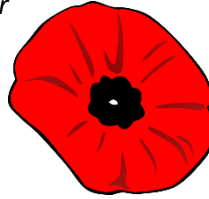
November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30



Remembrance Day Prayer Service

In order to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, we will be having a Prayer Service on Friday, November 10th at 11:15 a.m. led by Mrs. Villella's grade 3/4 class.

God of Peace, May each of us be instruments of Your peace. Help us be aware of the many opportunities we have to promote peace and justice. May we never underestimate the power of our actions. Help us to know how best to promote peace and justice. Amen.



Bullying Awareness Week – November 19th – 26th

Our board has designated the week of November 19 – 26, as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. During this week, teachers will be leading their classes in lessons appropriate for their grade and class specific issues.

November

Wednesday November 1, 2023 marked the start of Mr. Giroux's favourite month, Movember! November is Men's Health Month where many people around the world come together to fundraise money to help fight cancers that affect men and for men's mental health programs and supports.



This month as a school we are going to raise funds to help this great cause. Each classroom will be raising money as a team and competing against the other grades in the school. The class that raises the most money (1st place) will get to select the mustache style that Mr. Giroux (grade 8 teacher) will rock for the last week of this month! The class that raises the 2nd highest amount will get to select the moustache style that Mr. Martin (grade 7 teacher), will also rock for the last week of the month!

Scholastic Book Fair

The St. Michael's Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon.

Tues. Nov. 21st 12:00 pm - 3:30pm

Wed. Nov. 22nd 8:30 am - 3:30pm

Thurs. Nov. 23rd 8:30 am - 3:30pm

Fri. Nov. 24th 8:30 am - 12:00pm

Subscribe to the
School Website:

stmichaeldunnville.ca

Subscribe to the
Transportation
Website to Receive
the Latest Bus
Updates:

www.transinfobhn.ca
www.stsbhn.ca

Visitors/Volunteers:

Parents/Guardians
must sign in at the
office.
Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PA Days

November 17

January 22

April 19

June 3 & 28

School Council Meeting

November 27

Picture Day

November 2

Picture Re-Take Day

TBD

Progress Reports

November 6

Scholastic Book Fair

November 21 - 24

Dress for the Weather

The cold weather is coming. Ensure your child(ren) are prepared for outdoor free time. Send them to school with a winter coat, snow pants, boots, hat, mittens, scarf, indoor shoes, etc.

EVERY child should have a change of clothes at school.

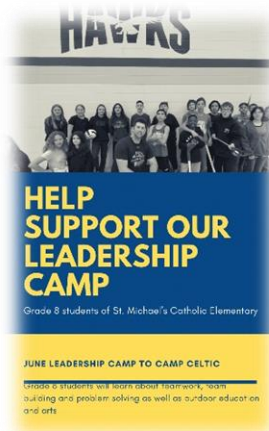


Healthy Snack Program

Our healthy snack program currently runs three days a week and is such a valued and important part of St. Michael's School. The students look forward to these days and we are grateful that we are able to provide such a variety of healthy options for all our students. We are looking for volunteers to help keep this program running for three days a week. Please contact Christine Havill (christinehavill@gmail.com) if you are able to commit any of your time to this valuable program. With a lack of volunteers, we are considering cutting back to two days a week.

Grade 8 Pizza Fundraiser – November 30th

Any families who order a pizza at Dominos at the Dunnville location on Thursday November 30th will be contributing to our Grade 8 fundraising efforts. \$5 from each pizza will be donated back to our school. Please consider a pizza dinner option for that day!



Cash Online Donations

Families have inquired about donating to the school in general or for our Healthy Snack Program. Any donations to the school can be made on our website by clicking the "Make Donation" tab. Donations can be made in General or towards the Healthy Snack Program. A tax receipt will be emailed to you for any donations given.

How to Teach Your Child About Diversity and Inclusion

- 1. Lead by example:** Children learn by observing the behavior of the adults around them. Show your child how to be respectful, open-minded, and inclusive towards people who are different from them.
- 2. Discuss differences:** Encourage your child to ask questions about differences they observe in others, and help them understand that everyone is unique and special in their own way.
- 3. Read diverse books:** Read books that showcase a variety of cultures, families, and experiences. This can help your child understand and appreciate diversity.
- 4. Teach empathy:** Encourage your child to put themselves in someone else's shoes, and to understand and respect others' feelings and perspectives.
- 5. Encourage respect for all:** Teach your child to respect all individuals, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or abilities.
- 6. Encourage self-reflection:** Encourage your child to reflect on their own experiences and biases, and to continue learning and growing in their understanding of diversity and inclusion.
- 7. Model inclusive language:** Use inclusive language and avoid language that may be offensive or hurtful to others.
- 8. Address biases and prejudices:** If your child expresses biases or prejudices, address them openly and respectfully, and help them understand the harm these attitudes can cause.

Health and Social Services
Haldimand and Norfolk

2023-2024 Student Parliament

Executive Members:

Prime Minister – Ava
Deputy Prime Minister – Caitlyn
Secretary – Maddison
Treasurer – Payton

Cabinet Members:

Media – Delaney
Athletics – Beckett
Technology – Amy
Eco Team – Brody
Community Outreach - Brooke

Class Reps:

Grade 4 – Kendra
Grade 4/5 – Anna
Grade 5/6 – Angelica
Grade 6 – Casey
Grade 7 – Emily
Grade 8 – Josh

Congratulations to this year's elected Student Parliament.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM THIS AMAZING GROUP!



Information for Parents/Guardians about Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week November 19 to 25, 2023

Ontario schools should be places where students, staff, parents/guardians and the community feel welcome. Providing a safe learning environment is critical to ensuring student success.

All bullying and cyberbullying in every form, is considered a serious issue that can affect students' learning, sense of safety and overall well-being.

Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week

Ontario has designated the week of November 19 to 25 as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. This week is dedicated to promoting safer schools and positive learning environments.

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, students, staff, and parents/guardians are encouraged to learn more about bullying and cyberbullying. In addition to understanding how bullying impacts student learning and well-being, there will be opportunities to learn about preventing bullying.

What is Cyberbullying?

Bullying by electronic means or cyberbullying can take many forms, such as using email, text messages, apps or through social media. It can also include:

- Sending hurtful and sometimes threatening emails, pictures, or text messages.
- Spreading gossip, secrets or rumours about another person that will damage that person's reputation, sense of safety and well-being.
- Hacking into an email account or creating an anonymous account and sending/posting hurtful materials to others under an assumed identity.
- Creating polling websites where visitors are asked to rate individuals' attributes in a negative manner.
- Taking embarrassing photo of someone and sharing it with others.
- Hacking someone's online profile to impersonate them or posting sexual, racist, and other content that may be offensive.
- Deliberately excluding others from or in gaming sessions, group chats or social media accounts.

I BELONG... CAN I PLAY?

Michael Jacques, the author of *I Belong... Can I Play?* has been invited to speak to our students from Grades 1 to 8.

Michael's book will be shared with the students helping them better understand his message and the importance of inclusion.

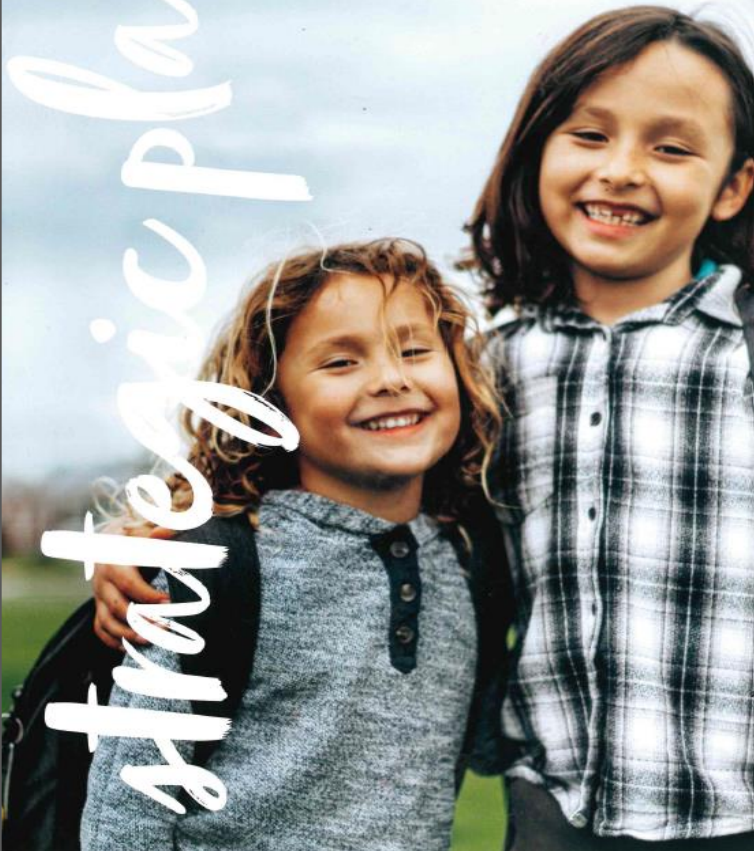
Michael is a person living with AUTISM. To acknowledge this important week, Michael will visit the school on November 16th to share his life story. He will discuss how it felt growing up for a person with autism, including the various ways he managed to overcome many challenges over the years.



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board

2023-27 | STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan



2023-27 | STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Vision

Our faith-based communities inspire life-long learning and service to others.



Our Motto

Excellence in Learning – Living in Christ.

Our Values

Cultivating healthy, respectful, faith-filled Catholic learning and teaching environments.

We cultivate healthy, respectful, faith-filled environments for all by:

- nurturing ongoing faith formation and personal relationships with Jesus to develop a Catholic worldview.
- recognizing the possibility within all learners and responding with personalization and precision.
- advocating through a Catholic lens and ensuring everyone feels supported, seen, and heard.

Building support through collaboration, partnerships, and connected communities.

We build support for all by:

- engaging active partnerships with all including students, staff, families, parishes, and community partners.
- working in solidarity with partners to build strong, authentic, resilient communities that support all individuals.
- building a culture of collaboration and connectedness through relationships.

Inspiring and nurturing curiosity, development, success, and stewardship.

We inspire and nurture all by:

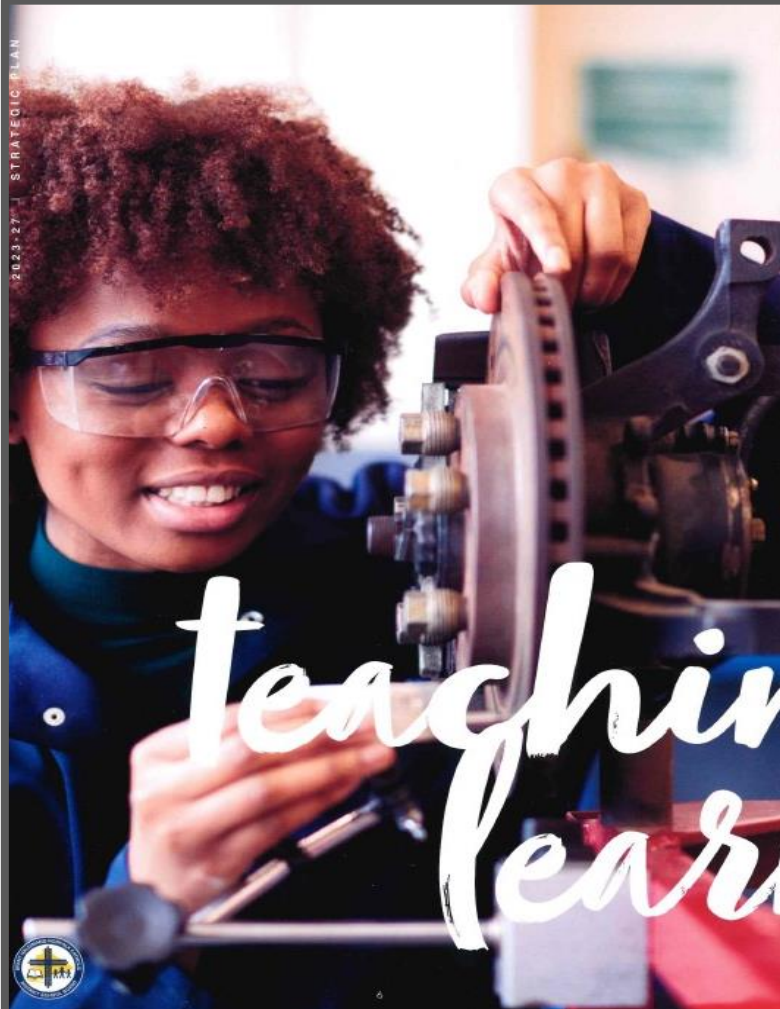
- pursuing innovative and evidence-based practices in teaching, learning, and faith formation.
- developing learners as local and global citizens who embrace their responsibility for the wellbeing of our common home.
- recognizing the possibility within all learners and responding with personalization and precision.

Reaching every individual and honouring their contributions, values, and goals.

We reach all by:

- through our faith, advocating for equity, inclusion, and social justice.
- honouring the voices of staff and students through acknowledgement, response, and action.
- recognizing the importance of our integrated experience in the promotion of prioritizing wellbeing.

2023-27 | STRATEGIC PLAN



Teaching & Learning



COMMITMENT

Offering innovative, collaborative, and responsive teaching and learning environments for all.

GOALS

Students

- Provide experiential learning opportunities and support the exploration of all learners.
- Promote the meaningful and responsible use of social media.
- Support the development of critical thinking, problem solving, and inquiry to promote life-long learning, faith formation and transferable skills.

Staff

- Allow for academic, social, and emotional learning for all students.
- Understand and celebrate individual needs - meeting students where they are.
- Welcome the use of innovative, integrated technology as a teaching and learning tool.

Community

- Connect community partners and support agencies with students and families in need.
- Utilize the skills and talents of community support agencies as partners in our Catholic learning community.
- Provide opportunities for community partners to be included in student and staff learning.

