



June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that the last few days of school are upon us! It is not lost on me that I am writing this letter with the summer equinox one week away. June is a fantastic and busy month with many events organized to celebrate student successes and their many achievements they have experienced throughout the year. It is also a time when we ask each other about our plans for the summer. It is during these conversations that we discover some families are moving away and therefore are leaving our community. We also discover that new families are eagerly anticipating joining our school in September.

It is in these conversations we learn of changes on staff. We say goodbye to some longstanding staff members who gave much of their career to the students in our school. Their dedication and passion will not be forgotten and their memories will last in our hearts. At the same time, we welcome new staff with a joy and excitement of sharing the warmth and generosity of our family with them as they embark on new career paths. It is that time where we celebrate what we had and anticipate what new adventures lie ahead.

In that spirit, we have already begun preparing for next year. As we look to next year, there are a few items that we believe to be of an important note to returning and new families.

**1. School Calendar**

For our 2017-2018 school year, we will once again only be using the Google Calendar in our school. We ask families to go to our website to view our calendar that is updated regularly. The process of entering new events is currently underway and we hope that by September we will have all the major events of the year planned. You can also add our calendar to your own Google calendar. You can find it under our “School Life” tab.

**2. Office Hours**

Our office will be open until Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. The office will re-open again on Monday August 28<sup>th</sup>. During the first week of July and the last week of August the office will be open from 9am to 3:30pm. The office will be closed from noon – 1pm for lunch.

**3. Uniforms**

2017-2018 will mark the first year the school will be fully transferred to the new uniform. Students will only be allowed to wear the uniform issued by Cambridge Uniforms. Any other clothing will not be permitted. Please visit Cambridge Uniforms or login to their website to place an order.

**4. Stingers Activity Club**

We are very excited to have Ms. Sheila Vader return as our coordinator along with Ms. Karen Dimou and Ms. Therese Borba who help run the Stingers Activity Club. Each year we have seen exponential growth of registrants and next year is no different. The stingers club is open to all students of St. Bernadette’s and it offers fun activities and learning opportunities beyond the classroom. For more information, please contact the office.



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**5. Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast**

The Knights of Columbus are on again hosting our annual Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast from 9:00am – 10:00am on the first day of school, Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. We are very excited for this event as it will allow families to come back together and catch up, and it adds another event that builds community within our school. We are thankful to the Knights for their donation of the food and time for this event. Everyone is invited to attend. Immediately following the breakfast we will have a flag raising ceremony lead by Fr. Paul.

**6. Waste Free Lunches**

Our Waste Free Lunch program has been very successful this year. Starting in September, children will once again be required to pack in and pack out their lunches. Students will bring their leftovers and wrappers back home. A benefit of this program is that parents will have a much clearer idea of what their child is eating on a daily basis. We also know that if families pack lunches in containers, the impact to the environment greatly reduces.

Once again I would like to thank you for a wonderful year. I would like to wish you and your family a safe and blessed summer. I look forward to seeing you in September and hearing all about your summer adventures!

Yours in Christ,

Michael van der Pauw  
Principal