

Learning in the Light



The Mission
of Beacon Christian Schools
is to equip students to impact communities
by serving Christ.

Beacon Christian Schools
300 Scott St.
St. Catharines, ON L2N 1J3
ES Phone: 905.937.7411
SS Phone: 905.937.7411
Website: www.beaconchristian.org

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2009-2010
ES - Elementary School, SS - Secondary School

AUGUST

17 Regular office hours begin
 25 Board meeting

SEPTEMBER

1, 2, 3 **ES SS** Professional Development Days
 3 **ES** New Parent Information Evening
 8 **ES SS** First Day of School
 10 **ES** Picture Day
 11 Welcome BBQ
 17 **ES** Let's Talk—Parents Info. Meeting
 26 Beacon Fall Classic Golf Tournament
 29 **ES** Soccer Tournament; grade 6 (at BCS)
 30-Oct. 2 **ES** Grade 8 class trip to Fair Glen

OCTOBER

1,2 **ES** Last two days of Fair Glen trip
 6 **ES** Soccer Tourn. grade 7/8 (at Jarvis)
 9 **ES SS** P.D. Day (No school)
 12 Thanksgiving Day
 16 **ES** Cross Country (at Dundas)
 27,28 **ES** Parent Teacher Conferences
 29,30 **ES SS** OCSTA Teachers' Con. (No School)
SS Boys/Girls B-Ball Tourn.

NOVEMBER

27 **ES SS** P.D. Day (No School)
 28 Bazaar

DECEMBER

4 **ES** Progress Reports
 5 **ES** Girls' V-Ball Tournament
 11 **ES** Christmas Program
 12 **ES** Boys' V-Ball Tournament
 18 **ES SS** noon dismissal
 21 -Jan. 1 Christmas Holidays (+ Jan. 4: PD Day)

JANUARY

4 **ES SS** PD Day (No school)
 5 **ES SS** School Resumes
 14 **ES** Optional PT Conferences

FEBRUARY

5 **ES** Hockey Tournament
 12 **ES** Professional Development Day
 15 Ontario Family Day (No school)
 20 **ES** Boys B-Ball Tournament
 27 **ES** Girl's B-Ball Tournament

MARCH

15-19 Mid-Winter Break
 26 **ES** Progress Reports
 30,31 **ES** Parent Teacher Student Conferences
 April 1 (during the day)

APRIL

1 **ES** No school (PTS Conferences; PD)
 2 Good Friday (No school)
 5 Easter Monday (No school)
 24 Spring Auction

MAY

3 - 7 Christian Education Week
 7 Grandparents'/Friends' Day
 8 Tuition Reduction Plant Sale
 19 **ES** Track & Field Day (Raindate May 20)
 21 **ES** PD Day (No school)
 24 Victoria Day

JUNE

4 **ES** Master Track & Field, Ancaster
 8 **ES** Baseball Tourn.
 25 **ES** Graduation
 25 **ES** last school day, dismissal at 12:00 p.m.
SS Graduation
 28 - 30 **ES** P.D. & Staff Activity Days

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

ES - Elementary School

Thursday, September 3rd

Orientation Evening: All parents who are new to the elementary school are strongly encouraged to attend our orientation evening. The meeting will be held in the elementary school library at 8 p.m. We hope to see you all there!

Tuesday, September 8th

The elementary school begins at 8:30 a.m. There will be a short assembly of praise and thanksgiving to begin our new school year together. We are asking that all students go first of all to their classrooms while the adults enjoy a cup of coffee in the foyer. At about 8:45 a.m. students, teachers, parents, and guests will gather in the gym. Please note that we encourage students to ride the bus that first morning so that we can avoid confusion for the bus drivers.

Thursday, September 10th

Class and individual pictures

More information will be sent home the first week of school.

Friday, September 11th

Back to School Bar-B-Q at 6:00 p.m. for all staff, students, parents and friends of the Association. Please join us in celebrating the beginning of a new school year. We ask that you bring your own lawn chairs, and that **each family brings a salad to share.**

Saturday, September 26th

Beacon Christian Schools 14th Annual Classic Golf Tournament

We will again be playing at Lochness Links to raise money for Christian education. Please join us by contacting Kevin Henderson for more information @ 905-937-2127, kevin.henderson@mtsallstream.com.

Thursday, September 17

Let's Talk—All Parent Information Evening (ES) at 7:15 p.m. in the elementary school. **Our goal is to have at least one parent from each family attend this important evening.** There will be several classroom sessions during which time teachers will go over curriculum overviews and expectations, and answer any questions you may have. We will schedule the evening in such a way that parents can hopefully participate in all necessary sessions. We look forward to this time of mutual sharing that will enhance the partnerships between home and school. More specific information will follow during the first week of school. Please plan to attend!



OUR STAFF 2009-2010

Elementary Staff

JK, a.m.	Mrs. Joanne Thiessen
SK, a.m.	Mrs. Irene Bootsma
Grade 1	Mrs. Wilma Harris
Grade 2	Mrs. Lisa VanderKuip
Grade 3	Mrs. Annette Dykstra
Grade 4	Mrs. Diane Koole
Grade 5	Mrs. Grace Ritzema
Grade 6	Mrs. Andrea Fraser/Mrs. Kit Garden
Grade 6	Mr. Albert Kok
Grade 7	Mr. Ralph Pot
Grade 8	Mrs. Lindsay Campbell
Grade 8	Mr. Ron VandenBurg
Middle School PE.....	Mrs. Genille Kroeker
Grade 6 Band	Mrs. Kit Garden
Music/Middle School Band/French	Mr. Leonard Turnevicius
Resource/Special Education	Mrs. Brenda Boks
Principal	Mrs. Karen Gerritsma
Vice-Principal	Mr. Ralph Pot
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Judy Dykstra
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Marlene Dykstra
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Marlene Teeuwsen
Educational Assistant	Ms. Jackie Potac
Educational Assistant, ESL	Mrs. Linda Lensink

Finance/Support Staff

Tina Kuipery	Custodian
Yvonne Terpstra	Custodian
Suzanna Kuipery	Custodian
Yvonne Weaver	Financial Administrator

OUR NEW FAMILIES

We want to extend a hearty welcome to the families who will be sending a child to Beacon Christian Schools for the first time.

Our new families this year are:

Al & Gina Burgio— Andrew, Tyler & Matthew
 Michael & Deborah Dyckson— Toby & Zach
 Chris & Wanita May— Mikayla
 David & Renee McFadden— Jackson
 John & Joanne McKee— Joshua & Jonathan
 Park—Dennis & Jina
 Budd & Wendy Rung—Bradley
 Sean & Melanie Schat— Benjamin, Brin & Aydan
 Anthony & Vanessa Schultz—Avery & Julia
 Scott & Stephanie Vanderwal—Mackenna
 Nico & Christa vanRensburg— Jaco & Marisa
 David & Andrea Wiersma—Connor

It is our prayer that both you and your families will experience the blessing of Christian education as you become part of the Beacon family.

JK & SK KINDERGARTEN

Both of our Kindergarten classes this year will be a.m. classes. Classes begin at 8:30 and go until 11:30 a.m. Transportation at that 11:30 is a parental responsibility. If anyone is still experiencing difficulties making arrangements, please give the school a call and we will try to help. The JK students will have staggered first days; Mrs. Thiessen will be sending you a letter stating if your child will begin on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Parents, please be prompt when picking up students at 11:30. The students will be ready to meet you at the doors by that time. If you will be delayed, please notify the school. Thank you for your cooperation. **If there are any parents who would like to help regularly in either of these classes, please contact Joanne or Irene, or the school.**

Thank you! If you are in need of day care for the afternoon, we have the Sonbeams program available to meet your needs. Please call Stephanie Groot at 905-646-0352 for more information .

NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Beacon Christian Schools is a nut free environment. Please be sure to read all labels carefully before sending items to school. Thank you!

MUSIC LESSONS ON CAMPUS

This year we are excited to announce that the Beacon Music School will not only include piano and voice, **but also violin instruments.** All of these lessons will be offered during the school day. Mrs. Jeanne teSlighte will be offering piano lessons, and Mrs. Marie Vanderwal will offer voice and strings instruction. Please see the enclosed information and registration form and complete by September 8 if you are interested.

NEW



SCHOOL DAY DETAILS

Daily Schedule

Starting bell	8:30 a.m.
PLEASE BE PROMPT!	
Classes:	8:30—10:45 a.m.
Morning Break	10:45—11:20 a.m.
Classes:	11:20—1:20 p.m.
Afternoon Break	1:20—1:55 p.m.
Afternoon classes:	1:55—3:15 p.m.
Dismissal bell:	3:15 p.m.
Busses depart:	3:25 p.m.

Early Arrivals and Late Pick-ups

There is no supervision on the playground before 8:15 and we ask that you do not bring your children to school before that time. After school, supervision ends at 3:30. If there are students who have not been picked up by that time, they will be brought into the school to phone their parents. We now have the before and after school child care in place, so if bringing early or picking up late is a regular necessity, we ask that you use that service.

Late Arrivals

The doors will be locked at 8:35 a.m. (see note above) and students who arrive after 8:35 a.m. will need to enter the main door and be "buzzed in"; please report to the office. If students leave for appointments, etc., they or their parents should notify the office on the way out and in. Students not in the classroom by 8:35 a.m. may be asked to remain outside the classroom until devotions are finished, since students interrupting this special time is very disruptive to the class. Devotions are a critical part of the school day, so please ensure your children don't miss out because of tardiness! If students are consistently late, the parents will be asked to have a meeting with Mrs. Gerritsma to try to improve the situation.

Absenteeism

If your child is absent for any reason such as illness or an appointment, please call the school before 9:00 a.m. We want to be sure that your child is either at home or at school, and not somewhere in between. This procedure is followed not for convenience, but for the safety of your child!

Family Vacations

Parents, please plan your vacations during the school year to coordinate with school holidays as much as possible. Every day much learning takes place in the classroom that may be impossible to make up, and teachers cannot be responsible for repeating all of these missed lessons when the student returns. If your child must be absent due to vacation plans, please contact the school well in advance. Parental cooperation is essential when students return to ensure that missed work is completed so there is as little instructional disruption as possible. Please be aware that it is often difficult or impossible to give work in advance, that it requires much time on the part of the teacher, and that missed work may very well be reflected in the student's evaluation. Any assignments or assessments missed during vacation time must be made up as soon as possible after the student returns, or they may result in a zero.

SAFETY ISSUES AND THE SCHOOL

How do we enter the School?

This year we will continue security measures to ensure the safety and well being of our students and staff. All outside doors will be locked at all times, requiring any visitors (parents included) to use the buzzer and intercom system by the main entrance, after which you will be "buzzed in". **Please report to the office at that point to get a visitor tag.**

Bicycles

We love to encourage riding bikes to school! However, all bikes must be parked in the school bike racks, not in the school. Students should walk their bikes while on school property, but may ride them if they use the laneway. Please also ensure that everyone wears a bike helmet!

Bussing

The busses will drop off and pick up the students along the north laneway in front of the school. **We ask that parent drivers drop off and pick up along the straight edge of the west laneway, but not north of the play equipment where the curves begin.** The traffic will go from south to north from 8:15 to 8:45 and from 3:00 to 3:30. For those parents preferring to use the Maranatha Church parking lot, we have a crossing guard on Scott Street. Again, we need everyone's cooperation to ensure the safety of the students.



COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

Updated Parent Handbook

We are in the process of updating our webpage in many ways, including having a secure, password protected section for parents. The updated parent handbook, along with applicable policies, will be on that part of the website soon. The teachers' web pages will also be in the password protected section.

The Newsroom

We value the importance of regular contact between the home and the school. We send

an e-mail reminder every Tuesday with a direct link to our updated *Newsroom*, our e-newsletter. **Please inform us of any changes to your email address** to ensure you receive this on a regular basis! The teachers also update their web pages weekly, so be sure to check those as well. This is a crucial contact for us to foster and maintain since it will contain information you will want to know about homework, special events, etc. You may want to make the Beacon web page one of your "favourites".

If you do not have access to the web, please notify your child's teacher and we will send home a hard copy.

Parent Teacher Conferences and Progress Reports

These conferences are another important aspect of our home and school communication and we urge every parent to participate! This year we are trying a different schedule for our conferences. Please see the school calendar for details. Our first set of conferences is at the end of October and our second set will be after the March progress reports. There will be an opportunity for optional conferences in January. We have also attempted to schedule our PD days in a more "user friendly" way i.e. often before or after holidays. If you ever have any concerns about your child, please communicate those concerns at any time; don't feel you need to wait until the conferences!

Assemblies/Chapels

Our monthly chapels are based on a theme and this year's theme is "Cracked Pots", based on scriptural characters who were used by the Lord in spite of their brokenness. Periodically throughout the year we also have assemblies/chapels for special occasions. Parents are welcome any time, but parents of students in the participating classes have a special invitation. This will be noted in the weekly *Newsroom*.

Current Information

During the first week of school, you will receive a print out of the information we currently have on file for your family. Please make any changes and return by September 18. Even if there are no changes, please initial and return so we know we have current info on all our families. Throughout the year if any of this information changes, please inform the school. It is crucial that we have updated information! The more information we have on file, the better able we will be to reach you if necessary! Be assured that this, and all

other confidential information we receive, is kept in accordance with all privacy legislation and our PIPEDA policy.

Phone Calls Home/Electronic Equipment

Students must have their teacher's permission to use the school phone to call home. These phone calls should only be made in cases of emergency, however, and not for social planning. We discourage having cell phones or other electronic equipment at school but if parents desire their children to have these devices, these devices must be kept in the student's backpack at all times while on school property.

Medic Alerts and Medications

If your child has a medical condition (severe allergic reactions, diabetes, etc.) please fill out the attached form **annually** (include a recent photo) and have it to the office during the first week of school. This form will then be posted where all staff have access to it. **This form is not meant as a permission form** for the administration of daily doses of medication prescribed by a physician.

If your child is on **daily medication**, please notify the teacher immediately to make appropriate arrangements and to complete the necessary forms for that situation. If medical situations change throughout the year, please call to ensure we always have the most current information for the safety of your child.



If due to an illness, a child needs to take medication for a short period of time at school, please notify the teacher and fill in the appropriate form.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Classroom Volunteers

Throughout the year, the teachers will be asking for parental involvement for class trips, special events, baking, etc. Your participation in these activities strengthens your awareness of the school's program and your child will appreciate it as well! **Please be aware that our policy calls for anyone who has contact with children in the school to have a police check, including those driving for class trips. Please contact the office for details. Also, if you are driving for a class trip, you must now have \$2 million liability insurance coverage** (previously it was \$1 million). The PTA will also be arranging for "room parents" to coordinate some of these and other events. If you would like to volunteer for this role, please call Mrs. Rita Langendoen @ 905-562-1764.

Son Beams, before and after school care

Son Beams before and after school child care is again available on site under the wonderful leadership of Stephanie Groot. If you are interested, please call Stephanie @ 905.937.4836 or the school @ 905.937.6302 before August 28th. Please see the form on our website.

Lifestyle and Clothing

Students are expected to reflect a Christian life style in their dress and appearance. Modesty, simplicity and neatness in the context of Christian stewardship are helpful guidelines when selecting clothing and accessories. Please review our Dress Code Policy in the parent handbook. We appreciate cooperation between the home and school in helping our children discern and develop a creative and responsible attitude toward their clothing. If inappropriate clothing is worn, it will be replaced with substitute clothing and/or parents

will be called. Hats are to be removed upon entering the school. Also, shoes with inserted wheels ("heelys") are not to be worn in school due to safety concerns. Any weapons, authentic or pretend, are prohibited.

Electronic Equipment

Portable electronic equipment (eg. CD players, MP3 players, iPods, walkmans) is discouraged on school property, but if taken, must remain in a backpack at all times. Cameras may only be used with teacher permission. **Any pictures taken of students at school by parents or other students may not be place on the web without the express permission of that student's parent.**

Pediculosis

...better known as the pesky critters called lice. If you notice an infestation in your child's hair, please call the school. We then check the students in that child's classroom, and those of any siblings. We also have a nit free policy which means that even if the children have been treated, they may not return to school until all the nits are removed. This is the system we have used for many years and have not a serious problem up to this point -- but we need everyone's cooperation to make this work! Thank you!

Band

All grade 6, 7 & 8 students participate in our band program. To receive maximum benefit from this curriculum, **it is very important that all band students practice regularly on their instruments at home.** These instruments are provided free of charge, but if they are damaged, compensation may be required. If you have any questions about our band program, please call Mr. Turnevicius, or Mrs. Garden (grade 6).

Gym Clothing

All students in grades 1 - 8, **including the 7/8 students**, will need a blue Beacon gym shirt and gym (indoor) shoes. You may purchase these shirts from the office for \$6.00 each. Please ensure that the gym shoes do not leave black marks on the floor.

Bus Transportation

The bus routes will be on the web page soon. New families will also be contacted by the Transportation Committee prior to school opening. If you have any questions, or would like to begin using our busses, please call Yvonne Weaver, our Director of Finance, or Dick Ormel, Board rep. If at any time you desire to cancel transportation for your children, billing will be pro-rated from the time official notice is given to Yvonne Weaver.

Please have your children at the bus pickup location a little early on the first day of school.

If occasionally a student needs to ride the bus who does not normally do so, a written note from his/her parent must be signed by a school official and given to the bus driver.

Birthday Parties

We ask that you be sensitive to the feelings of your child's classmates when inviting to a birthday party. The class lists are included in this document and in the parent handbook for your convenience. It has happened, for example, that only one or two boys or girls in the class were not invited to a given party and that can cause hurt feelings. If you are unable to invite all the boys or all the girls in the class, please do not hand out the invitations at school. For all parents of invitees, do not assume that the parents of the birthday child will be providing transportation to and from the event. That is often too time consuming an activity! If transportation is an issue, you may want to involve the classmates' parents to lend a helping hand.

Note to new parents: On the child's birthday it is part of our "school culture" that each brings a small treat for classmates. All birthday kids also get a birthday pencil from Mrs. Gerritsma!

Ice Skating

If the weather cooperates, we do our best to provide an ice skating rink for the students' enjoyment. **ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR HELMETS WHILE ON THE ICE.** Bike helmets are sufficient, but hockey helmets and facial shields are strongly encouraged. The students are always supervised while on the ice, however accidents do happen. (High sticking is strictly monitored and offenders will have appropriate consequences.) Skate guards are also helpful and required for skates being transported on busses. Please remember to label all items!

Grandparents'/Grandfriends' Day

This is one of the most special days of the year! This year it will be on Friday, May 7, 2010, and we encourage you to invite all grandparents and grandfriends to attend!

Bibles

All grade 3 students will receive an NIV Bible if they didn't receive one last year. These are the students' personal Bibles. They will be kept at school over the summer in most classes.

School Insurance

A school insurance brochure is sent home for your **voluntary** participation. **If your present insurance does not cover injuries outside of Canada, you may want to look into purchasing this.** (The "Super Plus Plan" includes out of country coverage.)

Pizza and Sub Days

Wednesdays are Pizza Days at Beacon! The pizza lunches are a fundraiser for GROW SMART, an Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools fund to enable the development of Christian curriculum. Periodically throughout the year subs are made available to the students. The sub lunches raise funds for our PTA. Enjoy!

Garbage" Rule—a GREENER CAMPUS!

We continue to have a "no garbage rule" outside. This can cause some concern since it limits the variety of snacks that may be taken outside, but the playground has much less litter! We would again like to encourage everyone to do their best to abide by these guidelines so that we are able to model good stewardship on our campus. If occasional exceptions need to be made, please include a note to your child's teacher. We are also going to be more intentional about our recycling efforts within the school. Reminder to parents and students: **No gum chewing on the campus please.**

Questions?

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please give the school a call or set up an appointment to discuss them. This is always the first step in addressing any concerns you may have. If you ever feel that further discussion is desired, communication with the appropriate committee and/or board is always open to parents. Your input is appreciated and welcomed!

We want to especially thank all of the volunteers who have been giving so much time over the summer. This includes our Board and its committees, our grandparent grass cutters and gardeners, and parents and supporters who have simply offered their help in many ways. Thank you, too, to those who continue to bring your paper recycling to our bins! This is truly a Christian community at work for the Lord. Thank you all!

Prayer Support

We covet your prayers for our school community. Please encourage your children to pray for our schools, the teachers and the students. Last year we again had a group of parents meeting weekly to pray for the needs of the school, teachers and students. We hope to continue that group this year **and encourage others to join.** Watch for further details in the Tuesday *e-Flash*.

Also, on our regular monthly calendar, we will be placing a family name per day. When your name is on the calendar, please use your family devotions that day as an opportunity to pray in a special way for the needs of the students, teachers and school community. Discussion with, and participation of, your children during this activity is also encouraged.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND NECESSITIES

(May need to be replenished periodically)

Supplies Needed	K	1 - 3	4 - 6	7-8
* Gym clothes and gym bag (simple drawstring cloth bag), Indoor (gym) shoes, blue shirt	✓ (shoes)	✓	✓	✓
Knapsack	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pencil case		✓	✓	✓
Markers (preferably Crayola)		✓	✓	✓
Pencil crayons (preferably Laurentian) sharpened and with name		✓	✓	✓
Glue sticks (similar to UHU) - need to be replenished regularly		✓	✓	✓
Pencil sharpener		✓	✓	✓
Shoe box (one in Sept., one in Dec.) Non waxed		✓		
Kleenex tissue	✓	✓	✓	
Scissors			✓	✓
Pencils - wooded pencils, no paper covered ones			✓	✓
Pens (blue ball-point)				✓
Highlighters			✓	✓
Erasers (not pink; white vinyl such as "Stanford's Speed Erase")			✓	✓
Ruler (30 cm with mm markings)				✓
* Bibles (provided by school in grade 3)			✓	✓
Geometry set (with a good compass)				✓
Paper - 3 holed, lined				✓
Binders (3 or 4 - 2" binders rather than one large binder)				✓
Calculator - Scientific T1-30 (for example)				✓

* Gym Shirts for Grades 1 - 8 can be purchased from the office @ \$6.00 to \$8.00 each
Students may not have "white out" in school!

Forms to Print Out and Complete
Please return by Friday, September 11

Forms included in this website package:

- **Annual Consent Form** for all campus activities – **ALL** parents complete
- **Transportation Code of Conduct** – **ALL** parents/students complete
- **Photo Permission Form** – **NEW FORM FOR ALL FAMILIES**
- **Computer Use Policy** – **ALL** parent/students complete
- **Emergency Response Plan** – **ONLY** for those students with severe allergies
- **Beacon Music School** – for all interested in private music lessons (**by September 8**)
- **Sonbeams** registration form—for those interested in before and after school child care for Beacon students