

"The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it". Psalm 24:1



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

Beacon Christian School
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St. Catharines, ON L2N 1J3
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SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014-2015

AUGUST

25-27 Teacher Meetings
26 New Parent Orientation—7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

2 First Day of School
4 Picture Day
5 Parent Open House/Beacon BBQ
6 Beacon Fall Golf Classic
24-26 Fair Glen Grade 8 Trip

OCTOBER

4 AppleFest
7-9 Parent/Teacher Conferences
10 PA Day—No school
13 Thanksgiving Day (No school)
23,24 OCSTA Teachers' Con. (No School)

NOVEMBER

21 PD Day—No School
25 Fall Membership Meeting
28 First term reports

DECEMBER

19 Noon Dismissal—Christmas Break Begins

JANUARY

5 School Resumes
26 Open House
27-29 Parent/Teacher Conferences
30 PA Day—No school

FEBRUARY

13 PD Day No School
16 Family Day—No School

MARCH

12 Second Term Reports
13-20 March Break

APRIL

3 Good Friday (no school)
6 Easter Monday (no school)
25 Spring Auction

MAY

4-8 Christian Education Week
18 Victoria Day (no school)
22 Field Day
29 JK/SK/Gr. 1 Visiting Day

JUNE

19 SK Graduation
19 Last Day of Classes—Noon Dismissal
22 Graduation

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday, August 26th

Orientation Evening: All parents who are new to the school are strongly encouraged to attend our orientation evening. The meeting will be held in the school library at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see you all there.

Tuesday, September 2nd—First Day of School

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 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 4th—Picture Day

Friday, September 5th

Open House/BBQ/Soccer Game

At 5 p.m. come to visit your child's classroom and meet the teacher. At 6 p.m. join staff, students, parents, and friends of Beacon for a BBQ. 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 or dessert to share.** We will be having our annual parent vs. grade 8 soccer game at our opening barbecue at 6:30. All soccer playing parents are invited to join in the fun.

Saturday, September 6th

Beacon Christian Schools 19th Annual Classic Golf Tournament

We will again be playing at Hunters Pointe formerly known as Lochness Links to raise money for Christian education. Please join us by emailing:

davidwiersma@willowbrooknurseries.com
kevinhenderson@sympatico.ca



OUR STAFF 2014-2015

Elementary Staff

JK, a.m.	Mrs. Joanne Thiessen
SK, a.m.	Mrs. Irene Bootsma
JK/SK p.m.	Mrs. Renee McFadden
Grade 1	Mrs. Wilma Harris
Grade 2	Mrs. Lisa VanderKuip*
Grade 3	Mrs. Annette Dykstra
Grade 4	Mr. Jeff Brooks
Grade 5	Mrs. Grace Ritzema
Grade 6	Mrs. Kathryn Sinopoli
Grade 7	Mrs. Lindsay Campbell/ Mrs. Heather Wiersma
Grade 8/Vice Principal	Mr. Albert Kok
Music/French	Mr. Leonard Turnevicius
Resource	Mrs. Brenda Boks
Principal	Mr. Ralph Pot
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Judy Dykstra
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Marlene Dykstra
Educational Assistant/Bus Driver	Ms. Jackie Potac
Custodian	Mrs. Yvonne Terpstra
Financial Administrator	Mr. David Dion
Bus Driver	Mr. Paul Thomson
Site & Facilities Manager	Mr. John Vanderveen

** Due to our incoming grade 2 class over the summer, we are in the process of hiring an additional part time grade 2 teacher. Further details will be provided to all grade 2 families next week.*

OUR NEW STUDENTS

We want to extend a hearty welcome to all of our new students and families.

Our new families this year are:

Agrette, Michael & Ilana—Charlize (4), Mclean (2), Darian (SK)
Bailey, Emanuel & Anna—Makai (JK)
Bezuyen, Chad & Hilary—Joshua (JK)
Braun, Travis & Alicia—Carter (JK)
Boucher, Mike & Karen—Rhyan (6), Elliot (3)
Corrales, Lester & Iris—Eliana (JK)
Dorah, Nicholas & Jolie—Victoria (5), Rachel (2)
Greczkowski, Stephen & Kathryn—David (7)
Hessels, Robert & Rebecca—Madison (JK)
Mukanda, Claude—Rebecca (1), Joseph (6)
Oommen, Roy & Kari—Amahna (2), Blythe (4)
Postma, William & Nicole—Sophia (JK)
Robinson, Richard & Jaclyn—McLean (JK)
Uwaifo, Victor & Queen—Nosa (SK), Osasu (2)

Existing families with new students:

deBlicke, Maurice & Carolyn—Gavin (JK)
Froese, Jeremy & Michelle—Peter (JK)
Hoogendam, Darryl & Teresa—Carter (JK)
Janzen, Trevor & Nancy—Noah (JK)
Koole, Brandon & Allison—Avery (JK)
May, Chris & Wanita—Kaitlyn (JK)
Thom, Darren & Andrea—Iain (JK)
Vernon, Scott & Alissa—Daniel (JK)
Woodland, James & Jill—Marah (JK)
Phillpott, Cathy—Erin (JK)

NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Beacon Christian School is a nut free environment. Please be sure to read all labels carefully before sending items to school. Thank you! **A number of our students have severe nut allergies so we ask for everyone's full cooperation in providing a safe environment for all students.**

MUSIC LESSONS ON CAMPUS

Lessons will be offered during the school day. If interested, please see the Forms package for a registration form.

Starting bell 8:30 a.m.

DAILY SCHEDULE

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

SCHOOL DAY DETAILS

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.

Smithville Christian School Bus Exception

If you have older children attending SDCH that are taking the bus to Smithville, and you would like to bring your elementary children to school at the same time, please notify the school so that we can make proper plans for your child's supervision.

Late Arrivals

The doors will be locked at 8:35 a.m. Students who arrive after 8:35 a.m. will need to enter the main door and report to the office. If students leave for appointments, etc., they or their parents should notify the office on the way out and in.

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 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 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. Please be aware that it is often difficult or impossible to give work in advance, 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.

How do we enter the School?

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". **If you are staying.....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. Students need to wear a bike helmet.

School—Home Communication

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. We also have regular updates of interest on Facebook and Blogger (www.beaconchristianschool.blogspot.com).

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. We have a crossing guard on Scott Street. We need everyone's cooperation to ensure the safety of the students.



Parent Teacher Conferences and Progress Reports

Conferences are another important aspect of our home and school communication and we urge every parent to participate. We will have a formal communication with you every 6 or 7 weeks. Our first conferences will be held in early October. See the school calendar for the specifics. If you ever have any concerns about your child, please communicate those concerns at any time; do not feel you need to wait until the conferences. Teachers check their email and voicemail on a daily basis.

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 14. 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. 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

Students must have their teacher's permission to use a school phone to call home. These phone calls should only be made in cases of emergency, however, and not for social planning.

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.

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. **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. Contact the office for details. Also, if you are driving for a class trip, you must have \$2 million liability insurance coverage.** The PTA will also be arranging for "room parents" to coordinate some events. If you would like to volunteer for this role, please contact the office.

Beacon School Uniform Policy

The Beacon School Uniform Policy is enclosed. School uniforms, purchased at RJ McCarthy, are to be worn to school each day. Hats are to be removed upon entering the school. All students should have an indoor pair of running shoes and an outdoor pair of running shoes. Sandals and flip flops are not at be considered suitable footwear for an active school day. Socks should be worn at all times. Any weapons, authentic or pretend, are prohibited.

Electronic Equipment

Cell phones, Ipods, Ipads, laptops, MP3 players, cameras etc. should be kept in the student's backpack at all times while on school property unless special permission is given by a teacher related to school work or transportation issues. Electronics used without teacher permission will be confiscated and available for pick-up in the school office the following day. Parents will be notified if an item is confiscated, as well as an explanation regarding the reason for the

confiscation. **Any pictures taken of students at school by parents or other students may not be placed on the internet without the expressed 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.

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 will be required. If you have any questions about our band program, please contact Mr. Turnevicius.

Gym Clothing

All students in grades 1 - 8 will need a blue Beacon gym shirt and gym (indoor) shoes. You can purchase the shirt from RJ McCarthy. Please ensure that the gym shoes do not leave black marks on the floor.

Bus Transportation

All bus families will be contacted prior to school opening. If you have any questions, or would like to inquire about using our

busses, please call the school office. Please have your children at the bus pickup location a little early on the first day of school. If your child does not normally take the bus, but needs to go to the home of a student who does, a written note from you 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. 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.

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. Skate guards are also helpful and required for skates being transported on busses.

Bibles

All grade 3 students will receive an NIV Bible. These are the students' personal Bibles. They will be kept at school over the summer in most classes. All new students in Grades 3-8 will be given a Bible for use at school.

School Insurance

A school insurance brochure will be 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

Wednesdays are Pizza Days at Beacon. Forms and fees for the pizza lunches will be sent home with your child in October.

students, teachers, and the school. It would be great if this group included moms and dads from out school community. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact the principal.

“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. We are also going to be more intentional about our recycling efforts within the school.

Gum chewing is not permitted at school.

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, 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.

Prayer Support

We covet your prayers for our school community. Please encourage your children to pray for our schools, the teachers and the students. We also hope to establish a “praying parents” group that will meet weekly at the school to pray for the needs of the

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND NECESSITIES

(May need to be replenished periodically)

Supplies Needed	K	1 - 3	4 - 6	7-8
* Gym bag (simple drawstring cloth bag), Indoor (athletic) shoes, blue Beacon gym shirt, shorts and/or pants	✓ (shoes only)	✓	✓	✓
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			✓	✓
Kleenex box	✓	✓	✓	T
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)			Gr. 6 only	✓
Labelled Headphones	T	T	T	✓
Indoor Shoes	T	T	T	✓

Forms to Print Out and Complete
Please return by Friday, September 6

Forms which require a signature included in this package:

- **Annual Consent Form** for all campus activities – **ALL** parents complete
- **Transportation Code of Conduct** – **ALL** parents/students complete
- **Computer Use Policy** – **ALL** parent/students complete
- **Beacon Music Studio**– upon request for all interested in private music lessons
- **Media Waiver and Release Form**
- **Emergency Response Plan** – **ONLY** for those students with severe allergies

Plus

- **Dress Code Policy**
- **Beacon Rewards Info and Order Form**
- **Back to School BBQ Invite**