



Blessed Sacrament **SCHOOL**

185 King Street, P.O. Box 370, Burford, Ontario, N0E 1A0
Tel. 519-449-2984 <http://www.blessedsacramentburford.ca/>

"The ability to speak and understand French allows students to communicate with French-speaking people in Canada and around the world, to understand and appreciate the history and evolution of their cultures, and to benefit and develop a competitive advantage in the work force."

The Ontario Curriculum, French as a Second Language Curriculum, 2013

Dear Parents,

It is mandatory in the province of Ontario, that every child in elementary school receive 200 minutes of Core French instruction per week, beginning in Grade 4 and continuing every year until Grade 8. Studies have shown that learning a second language strengthens first language skills and can enhance reasoning and cognitive development as well as critical thinking and communication skills. Learning French in Canada promotes cultural diversity and allows students to be full participants in today's bilingual and multicultural Canada and throughout the world.

We are pleased to announce that beginning in September 2017, every child in grades 1, 2 and 3 at your child's school will be receiving 200 minutes of French instruction per week. We are excited for the opportunity to provide French instruction in the primary grades at your child's school and are confident that he/she will thoroughly enjoy learning a new language at a young age. The purpose of teaching French in the primary grades is to provide children, through music, drama and the arts, with new opportunities to engage in a variety of rich and enjoyable oral language experiences and expose them to an exciting new culture so that they learn to appreciate and enjoy the language and culture of one of Canada's official languages.

We hope that you share in our excitement of this opportunity for our young learners and promote this enthusiasm at home by discussing the importance and enjoyment of learning a new language. We are very much looking forward to beginning this program in September. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie Telfer at 519-756-6505 ext. 237.

Sincerely,

Leslie Telfer
Superintendent of Education