

St Joseph Phoenix

September 2025

September Reflection

Jesus doesn't just know your name. He calls you by it! In Matthew 28:19, Jesus tells us to "go and make disciples of all nations." But, He doesn't send us out as strangers. He calls each of us by name. He asks us to join this great mission. Just like Jesus called Simon by name and made him Peter, He calls you by your name too. He sees the special gifts you have. You aren't just another face in the crowd. You are called by name to help others follow Jesus right where you are. As we start this school year, let's listen for Jesus calling our name and answer Him in love!

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome Back! It is good to be back and see the school ready for another great year. I can tell you that the amazing staff here at St. Joseph School feel the same way. We are rested and recharged and ready to take on our roles in growing your child(ren) in mind, body & spirit.

We do have some new faces in the school this year. We welcome Mr. Paul Mascio our grade 5 teacher; Mr. Dean Jessome and Mrs. Christine Dionne our music teachers; Ms. Kate Elliott, Ms. Tara McDonald and Ms. Ali Proracki our PTM teachers; Ms. Amanda Roy our CYW and Mr. Louie Stranges our Librarian. All are welcome additions to our wonderful staff.

We will have lots going on again this year. I look forward to working with our incredible Catholic School Council to plan fundraising and special events. We are always looking for new members on our Catholic School Council so please consider joining. Our first meeting and elections is on Monday, September 8 at 6:00 pm.

On the topic of special events I want to close with something we are going to be starting right from day one. As you know, I am a big supporter of the Terry Fox Walk and I like to make it a big



day here at St. Joseph. See below for full details on the Terry Fox Walk and we look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday. Have a wonderful Labour Day weekend.

Mr. Tim Atkinson

Bell Times



08:45-09:00 Am - Supervision

09:00-09:10 AM - Entry Bell

11:10-11:50 AM - 1st Nutrition/Movement Break

01:10-01:50 PM - 2nd Nutrition/Movement Break

03:20 PM - Dismissal

*All recesses/lunches, students will be going downhill, weather permitting, so please send extra clothing, footwear/rain boots when needed. Children are NOT to arrive prior to 8:45 AM as there is no supervision prior to this time.

St. Joseph Staff 2025-2026

KA - Ms. Zanon

KB - Mrs. Wall

1-2A - Mrs. Filice

1-2B - Mrs. Baldasaro

2-3A - Mrs. McIntosh

3-4A - Mrs. Sorgini

5A - Mr. Mascio

6A - Mrs. Furbacher

7A - Mrs. Vanaselja

8A - Mrs. Morrison

ERT - Mrs. Penner

FSL - Mme. Worster

Primary Team Members - Miss Barlow, Ms. Elliott, Ms. McDonald, Miss Proracki

Itinerant Arts - Mrs. Dionne, Mr. Jessome

Educational Assistants - Mrs. Caron, Mrs. Dell, Miss Littler, Mrs. Sliwka

Child Youth Worker - Ms. Roy

Library Assistant - Mr. Stranges

Custodial Staff - Ms. Sumner, Mr. Beechey

Secretary - Mrs. Humphreys

Principal - Mr. Atkinson



Terry Fox Walk Fundraiser



As many of you know, I take the Terry Fox Walk very seriously and I like to make it a big day here at St. Joseph School. I lost my sister to brain cancer 10 years ago, so I like to do whatever I can do to support cancer research. Each year, we have a lofty fundraising goal, and you always meet this goal and then I have my head shaved in front of the whole school J...it makes for a perfect day.

As most of you probably know, we lost two members of St. Joseph's family these last couple of months. Most recently, we lost a mom/wife who lost her long battle with cancer. I would bet there isn't a family out there that hasn't lost someone they love to cancer. This is why this year I want to blow the roof off our goal! I checked with the Terry Fox Foundation and last year, our fund-

raising total ranked 74th out of 956 schools which was also the highest of our Niagara schools and puts us in the top 10%! I would love for us, in light of recent events, and on the 45th Anniversary of the Terry Fox Walk, to shoot for a goal of \$10,000!

This may seem like an unreachable amount, but if we can focus on each family raising, not donating, \$100 each, we would reach our goal. I will be talking with the children about finding 10 family members and family friends that would donate \$10 each. If we break it down like this, I believe we will make it. Then, we will have a huge celebration here at the school! Details to follow on that, but it will be more than a simple head shave! Stay tuned, and God bless.

Mr. T. Atkinson

Terry Fox Foundation Donation Link

Absence Reporting

Choose *one of these three options* for using the SchoolMessenger app:

1. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the Google Play Store
2. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store
3. Open your browser and go to go.schoolmessenger.ca

Sign Up for an account and Log In



Please remember to report your child(ren)'s absence **prior to 9:00 AM**. If children are leaving during school hours, parents and/or guardians are to ring the bell and we will call your child(ren) to the front entry and bring them out to you. If someone other than a parent/guardian is picking them up, make sure to call and tell the office. If your child(ren) is going on vacation or an extended leave, please be sure to advise the office if it is more than 5 school days of absence.

SAFE ARRIVAL

School Cash Online

Each family will require School Cash Online to pay for school activities, trips, milk program, etc. Please go to > <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> < to set up an account and add your child(ren) to the account.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

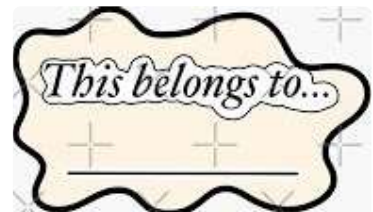
St. Joseph Phoenix Spiritwear

Our school SpiritWear is available to purchase through Front Row Sports > <https://stores.inksoft.com/stjosephcatholic/shop/home>

SPIRIT WEAR

Labelling Items

Please be sure to label your child's items such as clothing and even shoes. The Lost & Found bin is constantly overflowing and If items are labelled we can easily return them to the owner. Thank you for your cooperation.



Indoor Shoes

Every child is required to have indoor shoes that can be left at school. These should be labeled with the child's name. Indoor shoes will be worn every day inside the classrooms. This provides for the comfort, safety and well being of our students and the cleanliness of the school.

Visitor Sign-In

In compliance with the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training "Safe Schools Act", all schools are mandated to have in effect a Visitor Sign-In procedure. All visitors must sign in at the front entry upon entering the school. If you are dropping something off, please be sure to label the item as we do receive multiple items at times.



We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation.



School Lunches

We will be starting up Tuesday lunches and the milk program as soon as possible. We will be offering Pizza every other week, and rotating through Subway and A&W on the off weeks. You will receive an email with details once those items are available to purchase in School Cash. Our school lunches are not mandatory, it is your choice to order if you wish to have your child participate. Our lunches are also a fundraiser for the school which we use to purchase needed items such as Chromebooks/technology, physical equipment and classroom resources.

Niagara Nutrition Partners Snack Program

St. Joseph Catholic School has a snack program which is supported by the Niagara Nutrition Partners and funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

This program grant provides all of our students with the opportunity to have access to nutritious and delicious snacks during the school day. Teachers will be encouraging students to eat their snacks from home first.

The program runs each school day, beginning mid September.

Medication at School

If your child requires the administration of over the counter or prescription medications on a short term or regular basis at school please contact the office to obtain an Administration of Medication Form which needs to be completed and signed by your physician, prior to any administration of medication at school.



Fire Drills & Lockdown Procedures

One of our major focuses at school is SAFETY. In order to ensure the safety of all, staff and students will begin preparing for both our fire and lockdown practice drills. Throughout the course of the school year, we are expected to conduct 6 fire drills and 2 lockdown drills. We will be sending home communication when lockdown drills will be practiced. Teacher's will be discussing and practicing with all our students. We encourage you to discuss this with your children to help alleviate any fears when we do lockdown practice drills.

Cell Phone Rules in Ontario Schools - Reminder

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, we would like to remind you of the regulations regarding cell phone use that were implemented in Ontario schools last year.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



Nutrition and Anaphylaxis Policies



Niagara Catholic's Nutrition Policy was adopted in June 2005. It states: The Niagara Catholic District School Board is committed to supporting a healthy school environment for the proper growth and development of students. Good nutrition is vital to the health and well-being of each student and his/her potential to learn. In accordance with the Church's teachings, it is the policy of the Board to provide in all its operations an educational environment which supports and enables diversity within its Catholic community. The Board supports students and parents/guardians in

making healthy food and beverage choices on a regular basis.

It is important to note that we are to avoid offering food or beverages as a reward or an incentive for good behaviour, achievement, or participation. With this in mind, please do not send in food items to school for your child(ren)'s birthday. Food items will not be accepted or distributed for birthdays. If you would like to send something to school in honor of your child's birthday, a book for the classroom or non-food items such as pencils, erasers or stickers will be accepted and distributed.

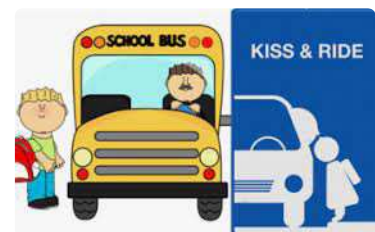
There are exemptions to the Nutrition Policy (a maximum of 10 per school year) for school wide special events that will be granted throughout the school for holidays, such as; Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day and school events like the Fun Fair. Classroom teachers will provide information to parents regarding what to bring in for classroom parties. Please keep in mind that all food items brought in for classroom parties must be and be labelled **peanut/nut free**. Both the Nutrition Policy and Anaphylaxis Policy go hand in hand. The Anaphylaxis Policy (adopted in 1998) states that school staff are to: encourage students not to share lunches, food implements or trade snacks, choose alternatives to using food as a reward and establish procedures to encourage the anaphylactic student to eat only what he/she brings from home. There are students at St. Joseph who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts and we need to continue to ensure their safety at school. For this reason, we require that students bring peanut/tree nut free lunches and snacks to school. Read all labels when grocery shopping to ensure that the food you send to school with your child(ren) is peanut/tree nut free. You may send in 'nut free' butters such as WOW Butter as long as they are clearly labeled so that school staff are certain it is nut free. Please check with your child's teacher for any additional allergies in their classroom of which you will need to be aware. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kiss & Ride

Here are a few reminders to ensure smooth drop-offs and pick-ups for both new and returning families:

The Bus Lane begins at the Kindergarten play area and ends at the gates that lead out to Doran Avenue. Visitors may park in the designated spots located across from the front entrance of the school or in any free spot in our parking lot. When the school parking lot is full, I encourage visitors to park in the Municipal Lot located on Ontario Street across from Doran Avenue. Parking and stopping in signed no parking zones on Robinson Street should be avoided so that your vehicle is not ticketed.

The Kiss & Ride that is outside of the Kindergarten play area is a functioning Kiss & Ride and parents/guardians are reminded that these are not parking spots. Drivers are not to exit their



vehicles in the Kiss & Ride Lanes. School staff will assist students in and out of vehicles and ensure that students enter the playground safely. The parents/guardians of our Kindergarten students are asked to continue to use this Kiss & Ride when dropping off in the morning and picking up at the end of the day. If you have a kinder to drop off and then another child in grade 1-8 you will have to go through both Kiss & Ride lanes. At end of day dismissal we will direct the older sibling(s) to the Kinder Kiss & Ride for one pick up. This process is quick and is efficient. All students and cars are through in less than 5 minutes. We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation.

The exit to Doran Avenue continues to be one way and at no time are vehicles to enter onto school property from Doran Avenue. There is no parking at the top of Doran Avenue and it is only to be used for exiting school property. The exit gates to Doran Avenue will only be unlocked during bus arrival and departure times.

In order to ensure an efficient and organized steady flow of vehicles and to give access to emergency vehicles in a timely fashion, at no time is a driver allowed to park or exit their vehicle in the Kiss & Ride/Fire Lane.

When dropping off in the morning, school staff will be at the Kiss & Ride Lanes assisting students and will ensure that students will enter into the playground area safely. Students only to exit the vehicle at the top of the Kiss & Ride Lane where staff is present as we do not want students walking between the buses.

When picking up at the end of the day, parents/guardians line up in their vehicles single file in the Kiss & Ride Lane. If you are the first vehicle in the Kiss N Ride Lane, please be sure to pull up to the front of the line. Parents/Guardians are to wait in their vehicle and school staff will ensure children safely enter the vehicles.

Please ensure that everyone who picks up and drops off your child/children is aware of the Kiss & Ride procedures.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we all work together to ensure the safe arrival and departure of our students.



Holly Humphreys

Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters