



Loretto Catholic Elementary School

February 2026



School Information

Ms. L. Spadafora - Principal

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/lorettocatholic/>

Location: [6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada](#)

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Principal Message

Dear Families, Staff, and Students,

The month of February is known as the month of Love. Although we know very little about Saint Valentine except that he was a Roman Priest who was put to death for refusing to give up his faith as a Christian. It is very easy to understand why this man's love for Christ has been associated with love and is remembered on February 14th - St. Valentine's Day. One of the immutable laws of the universe is that the more we love, the more we will be loved. The very essence of love demands that we give it away.

"Do you think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired." Saint Theresa of Calcutta



As we begin to prepare to move into our Lenten season, we will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday February 17th with a pancake snack from **IHOP Fallview**. Students will each receive pancakes which are donated by the school.

We will celebrate **Ash Wednesday February 18th at 10:15** ——— Ashes will be distributed at school. Unfortunately we were unable to coordinate our times to have a school wide liturgy.

As Ash Wednesday starts our Lenten season of Prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we will be celebrating our Valentine's Day on Thursday February 12th. We ask that you please send in all cards on that day. We will distribute our Valentine's day candy lollipops on this day as well. Please be mindful that we follow the nutrition policy and have many allergies throughout our school, please do not send in treats to share with the class.

We thank you for your kindness in regards to Valentine's for the class. Unfortunately, due to the number and type of allergies in the school we were unable to distribute the treats. As was mentioned in our February newsletter, **"Please be mindful that we follow the nutrition policy and have many allergies throughout our school, please do not send in treats to share with the class."** We need to ensure the safety of students and we as a school go to great lengths to ensure that all items that are provided at school meet the allergy needs of our students as vetted through their parents and guardians, and are following the protocols outlined in the Niagara Catholic food and nutrition policy.

The February newsletter is at the bottom

Respectful Communication

Loretto Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.

Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated. While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

Be apart of Our Hive

We continue to focus on "Bee-ing part of our Loretto Catholic Hive", we all play a role in order for our Hive to be successful. We can Be Kind, Be Caring, Be successful, Be Nurturing, Be workers, Be Faithful...

As we work through this year students and staff will work on the importance of Team work and how our Hive is a collective group that helps to make each one of us better and stronger spiritually, emotionally and intellectually.



Parking Lot Safety

Just wanted to take a moment to thank all our families who are following the **Kiss'n Ride process both before and after school**.

Kiss n' Ride at the front of the school is for Kinder- Gr 3. All students from Grades 4-8 are asked to use the Kalar Soccer parking lot on the KSD side of the bulding for pick up.

We are asking parents to only use the front area designated as a Kiss'n 'Ride- to not park and leave your car or exit your car in this area. Student(s) exit the car only with their belongings and cross with the supervisor to the school property.

We also ask that parents do not park in front of the stop signs along the exit path as this blocks traffic and flow and the entry of the afternoon busses.

Parents/Guardians we ask that you not block the entrance way at the end of the day as the busses are struggling to get into our parking lot or to have to try and maneuver around cars.

We have supervision staff who are helping students so they can walk to their entrances both at the front and back of the school **before 8:45 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the front doors.

We ask that cars proceed **slowly** as we have had a few very close calls with students. Cars need to **STOP** and check that the crosswalk is clear where students and families are walking to cross.

Should parents want to park- then please use the side entrance at the KSD side and enter through the back gates after 8:35.

Families are asked not to park on the side of Loretto Catholic where the gate and portables are at any time as this is an Emergency Lane, as well we have been asked not to use the Avondale Parking lot as a pick up zone.

Your support and assistance in ensuring our students' safety are very important to all of us.

Thank you to our Student Council for preparing our Christmas activities listed on the calendar as well as their amazing communication and hosting skills on our Progress Report Card Interview Night!!



Term #1 Report Cards

Our Term 1 Provincial report cards will be available the **week of February 9th** through the Parent Portal. Please discuss your child's achievements with them as they have been working hard with their teachers to continue to build on their success.

Should you like an interview to discuss your child's success please contact your child's teacher.

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Through Cash online we will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts by the dozen for \$14.00. Orders are open from **Feb 10th-24th** through school cash online. This fundraiser will be supporting the continued purchase of Smart TV's for our classrooms and to support our Grade 8 graduation. Orders will be sent home with students on March 5th.



Large orders can be picked up on March 4th after school in the Starlight chamber area.

Black History Month

The 2026 theme for Black History Month is: **"30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations -- From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries."** This theme celebrates three decades of Black History Month in Canada and recognizes the enduring legacy of Black Canadians, whose leadership, creativity, innovation and resilience have shaped our past, continue to influence our present, and will inspire future generations. We invite everyone to learn more about Black Canadian communities, and how they continue to help shape Canada.

Our students will be recognizing Black History Month through various lessons and activities. Sharing the many stories of success, sacrifice, and triumph of people like Viola Desmond helps inspire Canadians to build a more equitable society that leaves no one behind. Viola Desmond was a great part of making our country more inclusive, and we are better because of inspirational individuals like her.

Kids Helping Kids

Niagara Catholic's 25th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 10-21, 2025. This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Creative Hair Day, BINGO, and Colour Wars. Kids Helping Kids is open to students attending in-school and students in our virtual schools. Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online. For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: Niagara Children's Centre

Reminder with Electronics Kinder to Gr 8

Families we are asking for your support with electronics in the form of watches. Many students received a variety of watches: **Apple watches, Garmon watches etc. that have access to data, texting, games etc.**

Please understand that we have a policy on electronics. Students should not be wearing or using these to school that are to be used even at recess times.

Our Intermediate students place their electrons away in locked cabinets and only use if their teachers allow access for school work if needed. We continuous are purchasing Chromebooks for our school so students have access in all classes.

We appreciate your support with this matter

Thank you

Catholic School Council - Spring Raffle

Although it's still clearly winter, our Loretto Catholic School Council is already thinking about the Spring Raffle. In order to prepare for this, we are asking our Loretto families to consider donating a gift card/certificate or a monetary donation that would be used to create prizes for our raffle.

Perhaps you own or work for a business that would like to donate. This would be a great way to advertise while helping our school.

Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact the school at loretto.catholic@ncdsb.com if you would like to donate or if you have any questions.



We will be sending out more information in the upcoming months.

Thank you

Mrs. Griffiths

Knights of Columbus "Keeping Christ in Christmas" Poster contest

We would like to congratulate all our students who participated in the Poster contest of " Keeping Christ in Christmas".

Thank you the Grand Knight at Thomas More Council 17273 at St Thomas More Parish for providing this opportunity. Father Luke, our associate pastor at St Thomas More has judged the entries at the council level and selected winners.

We would like to congratulate: Celeste I and Harper L as well as our winner Celeste I who received a monetary prize and her poster has moved on to the next level of competition.



Indigenous Corner

Afro-Indigenous / BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) is a term used to recognize individuals and communities who identify with both African and Indigenous ancestry, as well as those who belong to racially and ethnically marginalized groups. In the Canadian context, this includes First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as well as Black Canadians and other racialized communities.

This terminology acknowledges the distinct and intersecting histories, cultures, and experiences of these groups, particularly regarding colonialism, slavery, systemic racism, and ongoing social inequities. Recognizing and respecting these identities is essential in fostering inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive learning environments.

Balance Day schedule

A Balanced School Day is a modified elementary school schedule designed to enhance learning, foster healthy habits, and encourage daily physical activity.

A typical Monday to Friday Balanced School Day at Loretto Catholic would be:

- **845- 8:55 a.m. -Bell rings/Announcements & Attendance**
- **8:55–10:55 a.m. – 120 instructional minutes**
- **10:55-11:35 a.m. – 40 minutes nutrition break (20 mins eating/20 mins physical activity break)**
- **11:35-12:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes**
- **12:55–1:35 p.m. – 40 minutes nutrition/physical activity break**
- **1:35–2:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes**
- **2:55-3:05 p.m. - Prayers/Announcements & Dismissal**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Playground Safety

Parents, we have noticed lots of excessive physical play during our outdoor and after school times. Often, it is a simple misunderstanding or because feelings were hurt. Students are saying very unkind words over a loss of a game or showing poor sportsmanship. We are asking for your support as we continue to work with our students on being kind to each other, walking away, going to a teacher for help, asking the other student to stop. These are some of strategies we are using. Our students can communicate their feelings afterward and are always remorseful and willing to work through to a solution and restore the relationship. We will continue to develop and work on students regulating their emotions with the Zones of Regulations.

We thank you in advance for addressing this at home as a family as well.

Brrrr...its cold outside!

Colder weather is here again! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots, labeled with their names. As well as having indoor shoes to change into.

In colder weather we often receive requests to allow children to remain indoors when students have a cold, flu, etc. Please note that we cannot comply, as we have neither the facilities, nor the staff to supervise these students. If you feel your child is not well enough to go outside, it would be best for you to keep your child home. Health officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial, as long as students are dressed appropriately. On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time that students spend out of doors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow Board guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, it is our expectation that all children will go out for recess.

Winter Playground

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. With the number of students at our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form.

Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season: No throwing of snowballs, no kicking or throwing snow or snowing other students. We are also mindful that we share our playground and therefore our creations may be used, altered or may melt. The snow belongs to us all.

Big Bear Spirit Wear

Families are able to purchase Spirit Wear through Big Bear Spiritwear - **please visit the website by clicking on the banner above with their name.**

Our new **FRESH** Loretto Catholic Logo for our Spirit Wear.

Students may continue to wear existing spirit wear. Just a reminder that Spirit Wear T-shirts are not part of the daily dress code as collar shirts must be worn.
Please see the items below that are available throughout the year to purchase.

****To order- Link to Big Bear website- click schools- click Niagara Falls - click on Loretto Catholic**

School dress code is in effect. Collared shirt is either blue or white- no logos. Pants, skirts, shorts are blue. Denim is dark denim and in good repair, not faded or with holes.

All sweaters are blue unless they are Loretto Catholic Spirit wear which are blue and/or grey and have our school logo on it.

Grad hoodies are reserved for our students in Grade 8 only. As well s St. Michael's current spirit wear on Wednesdays.

In the **winter months students**, please have students layer and wear **blue dress code sweaters**.
Please be mindful that running shoes are necessary for gym classes and for outside play.

Thank you for your continued support.

Electronics

The Electronic communication Systems Policy states that cell phones or smart phones, tablets, laptops , audio or video recording devices are eligible for use by students in all Niagara Catholic Elementary schools (Grades 6-8) **as approved only by staff for instructional or co- instructional purposes**. The expectation is that students will use NCDSB's electronic communication systems for educational purposes, to enhance learning through responsible access to global information and communication. Students who carry cell phones when travelling to and from school, for safety reasons, are reminded they are not allowed to use their cell phones to call or text home once they are on school property or during the school day/recess/lunch.

All cell phone must **remain off/silent** and **put away** during the school day unless noted by the school staff.

Students are asked to use the school student phone located in the office if they need to call home or are not feeling well.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring students stay safe from social media during the school day.

School Cash online

Payment for School Activities- School Cash Online

Parents/Guardians are asked to sign up for our convenient payment program - SCHOOLCASHONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities/lunches without sending in money to school.

To register, please go to:



SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome

Why Use SchoolCash Online? Convenient Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home Easy To Use Online shopping with various payment methods Safe Your child won't be carrying cash or checks to and from school Saves Time Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place

🔗 schoolcashonline.com

Lynx Water Bottles

We will continue to sell our Loretto Lynx 24- ounce reusable Sports Water bottles with our Loretto Lynx logo on it as well as a spot to write your child's name on it. Water bottles are BPA-free sports bottles that are made with a polyethylene (PET) material that's phthalate-free, non-toxic and lead-free. It features a twist-on lid with push/pull drinking spout. Its translucent bottle colour matches its lid color. Bottles can be purchased through School **Cash Online** for **\$8.00 each or 2 for \$14.00. We will begin selling as of mid September until late May.**



Reusable Water Bottles & Utensils

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle. This will not only help keep our children hydrated but will also help our environment. We ask that if your child needs a fork or spoon to eat their snacks or lunch that you please place one in their lunch pails.

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for all their support this year. Each class has a bin and tongs filled with delicious and nutritious food items such as yogurt tubes, fruits, fruit bars, and individually baked goods. These items vary from day to day. All students are welcome to pick a snack to compliment their own snacks.



We also want to thank our families for donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain it throughout the year.

Please continue to help by donating through School Cash Online.

Items Left At School

We know it is the season when we have many student belongings at school like hats, mittens, sweaters, coats, indoor/outdoor shoes and boots at school. Often items are not labelled and it is hard to know who they belong to. We do have a lost and found for students to check in the vestibule in the main entrance to the school. Unfortunately, should items go missing and/or are lost when students have left them at school a reminder that we, the school, are not responsible for any lost items or items left at the school. We will do our best to help our students find their items. We ask that items are all labelled as many items are similar or from the same stores.

Toys at School

We remind all our students and parents that although toys are fun to play with during recess times, it is difficult to keep track of whose toys belong to whom. Often students bring and play with their toys during class time. We ask that you please consider not sending toys or labelling the toys and speaking to your child about when is an appropriate time to use them.

Although students are encouraged **not to trade** playing cards of any kind i.e. Pokémon, we are not responsible for traded, lost or misplaced cards.

Thank you for your support

Pets on School Property

Parents, we kindly ask that your pets do not come on to school property at arrival and dismissal. Many of our areas are already congested with families at pick up and some of our families and students are a little uncomfortable.

We appreciate your support.

Niagara Public Health Updates

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter January 2026

AODA note - hyperlink addresses are in the [Link Destinations](#) section of this document.

Access and Update Your Child's Immunization Record

Niagara Region Public Health reminds parents and guardians to keep their children's immunization record up to date. This can be completed by using [Immunization Connect](#) (Link #1).

Immunization Connect is a confidential and secure system where you can access your child's vaccination record and report vaccines.

Report every time your child receives a vaccine directly to Public Health with Immunization Connect. Health care providers do not do this for you.

Visit niagararegion.ca/vaccines for other ways to report vaccination information to Public Health.

Wintertime Well Being

As the weather changes and days get shorter, many people, including children and youth, may feel more anxious, depressed, or tired. It's essential to be mindful of our emotional well-being. Beat the winter blues and check out these simple activities to boost your and your child's mood.

- [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](#) (Link #2)
- [Easy and Fun Mental Health Activities for Home](#) (Link #3)
- [Active Play ideas - Active4Life](#) (Link #4)

Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. Gear Up: Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.
2. Choose Safe Hills: Pick tobogganing hills that are marked as a safe place and free from objects such as trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. Follow Etiquette: Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. Think Safety: Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.
5. Stay Visible: If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.

Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland!

Link Destinations

1. [Immunization Connect](https://nrph.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome) (<https://nrph.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome>)
2. [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-info/8-feel-good-tips-boost-your-mood/) (<https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-info/8-feel-good-tips-boost-your-mood/>)
3. [Easy and Fun Mental Health Activities for Home](https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/) (<https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>)
4. [Active Play ideas - Active4Life](https://activeforlife.com/activities-games/) (<https://activeforlife.com/activities-games/>)

We are a proud member of the Saint Michael Highschool Family of Schools

February Calendar



Ms. Spadafora

