



Mary Ward Catholic School

February 2025

School Information

Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone **Superintendent of Education:** Mr. D. Massi

Parish: Our Lady of the Scapular Church

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Schmidt **Associate Pastor:** Fr. Ronnie Tagnines

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

Location: 2999 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2Z9

Phone: 905-354-9221

Principal's Message

"Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:8)

February is a month synonymous with love, friendship, compassion and giving. Throughout the month of February, let us remember not only to fall in love with Jesus, but remain in love with Him seeking to know more about Him each and every day.

This month we celebrate the virtue of Love. Christian love is rooted in a committed friendship with God. We can express our love for God by being of service to our fellow human beings. Sometimes this virtue is called charity. Jesus' greatest act of love for us is His supreme sacrifice in dying on the cross to bear our sins.

As Christians we are invited to 'Let all that you do be done in love' (1 Cor. 16:14). We practice love when... we are helpful to a classmate, a family member or an animal in need; notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend; take time to show we care; forgive others when they make

mistakes; and reach out in the broader community to share our gifts and talents. As we journey through this month of February, may we practice the virtue of love with all we meet in our daily lives.

As expressions of our love for others, all schools within Niagara Catholic will participate in the 27th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser from Monday, February 10 to Friday, February 21, 202.

Funds raised will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre and the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. A. Cardamone
Principal

Monthly Reflection

"Come, follow me!" These words of Jesus are an invitation for each and every one of us. How can each of us better follow Jesus right where we are today? How can we become missionaries encouraging each other to look up from the table, let go of our sins and see the finger of Jesus pointing at each of us personally beckoning us to hear the command call?: "Come, follow me!"

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish News

Mary Ward Family Mass

Join us for our monthly mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish. Each month, two classes and our Faith In Action Team are invited to mass to deepen our faith and strengthen our triad connection - school, parish and home. This month, Mrs. Jakovljevic and Ms. Marinelli's classes and our FIAT team are hosting the mass on Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. A reminder that attending mass is a fundamental aspect of Catholic life and as Catholics, we are asked to attend mass weekly and on holidays.



Kindergarten Registration and Open House

Our Kindergarten Open House will take place on Wednesday, February 5 from 9 am - 6 pm. The Classroom Teachers, Early Childhood Educators and Education Resource Teacher will provide an overview of the Kindergarten program at Mary Ward Catholic School and give future Tigers a tour of the learning areas of the school. We look forward to meeting all of our future Tigers.



If you have a child that was born in 2021, they are eligible to begin school in September 2025. Click on the link to register your child and have them join the Tiger Family! At Mary Ward, we nurture hearts, minds and souls to grow and lead with truth, justice and love.

Register online at www.niagaracatholic.ca

Black History Month

Every February, we participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians past and present. Staff and students of Mary Ward will engage in a number of

activities in honour of Black History Month. Teachers have planned activities that include learning about Black Saints, Activists, Athletes, Artists, Musicians, and Inventors. Also, teachers and students will discuss important topics like anti-racism and black resilience. We are very excited to have Rochelle Bush visit the Grades 4-8 students where they will step back in time and trace the journey of Harriet Tubman from the United States to Canada while learning about the American Fugitive Slave Laws and Canada's important role in the 19th century Anti-Slavery Movement.

Term 1 Provincial Reports

Term 1 Reports for students will be posted on the Parent Portal on February 11, 2025. Although no formal interviews are scheduled, as always, teachers and parents may request an interview at an agreeable date/time to celebrate the many successes over the course of the term.

Kids Helping Kids Week at Mary Ward

Niagara Catholic's 27th 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 Wacky Hair Day, PJ Day and Colour Challenge Day.

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: niagarachildrenscentre.com



Kids Helping Kids Fundraiser



Please Donate on School Cash Online

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10	11	12	13	14
Wacky Hair Day (uniform top/bottom) 100th Day Of School		Spirit Wear Wednesday (uniform bottoms)	Valentine's Dance Pink, White and Red Day	PA Day No school for students
17	18	19	20	21
Family Day No School for Staff and Students	Wacky Socks Day! (uniform top/ bottom)	Spirit Wear Wednesday (uniform bottoms)	Pyjama Day (Alternate Dress Day)	Colour Challenge Kinder - Blue Primary - Green Junior - Red Intermediate - Yellow

Valentine's Day

On Thursday, February 13, students of Mary Ward Catholic School will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Students are invited to wear red, pink and white, as it will be an alternate dress code day.

As per our Nutrition Policy and Anaphylaxis Policy, parents are asked not to send any treats for the class, as they cannot be shared with other students.



As well, on February 13, students in K-8 will participate in a Valentine's Day fundraiser dance for Niagara Nutrition Partners. Donations can be made on School Cash Online. All monies collected will go toward our Snack Program.

Bus Cancellations

On days when there are bus cancellations, parents/ guardians of students who normally ride the bus are to report, using the electronic Safe Arrival program, their child(ren) as absent if they are not sending them to school. It is only if schools are closed, by the Director of Education, due to inclement weather or any other reason that student absences do not need to be reported. Teachers are to mark any student absent who is not in class as they normally would.

The system will then contact parents/guardians who have not reported their child as absent. Please ensure if you do bring your child to school that arrangements are made for dismissal. Students should know the plan for the end of the day. Thank you for your support.



The poster features a vertical stack of five colorful bingo balls on the left side, each containing a letter: 'B' (orange), 'I' (red), 'N' (blue), 'G' (green), and 'O' (purple). To the right, the text 'MARY WARD' is displayed in large, bold, orange and white letters. Below this, 'BINGO NIGHT' is written in white inside a black-bordered box, followed by the date 'Tuesday February 25, 2025'. A list of event details is provided, and an orange box at the bottom contains the venue information.

MARY WARD

BINGO NIGHT

Tuesday February 25, 2025

- Doors open at 6:00 PM
- Regular Bingo begins at 7:00 PM sharp
- Tickets - \$25 includes 3 strip booklet, bingo dabber, and small popcorn
- Additional games can be purchased at Delta Bingo
- 18 years and older to attend
- Proceeds benefit Mary Ward Catholic Elementary School
- Tickets can be purchased through School Cash Online

Delta Gaming & Bingo
4735 Drummond Road
Niagara Falls, ON

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day will take place on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Our 2025 Pink Shirt Day theme is all about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to school. It all starts with small gestures - a kind word, an offer of support or understanding. If we plant enough, pretty soon, more will be sprouting up all around us! By sprinkling these seeds of empathy and compassion, we can work towards a world without bullying and "Let Kindness Grow" through all of our kindness community gardens. The Pink Shirt Day campaign recognizes the importance of unity, inclusivity, and diversity of all people. Remember to wear your pink shirt on the 26th to show your support.

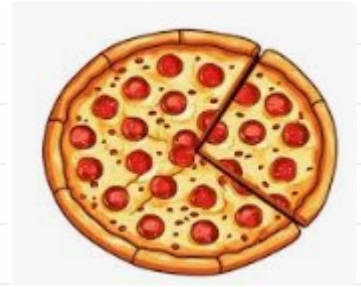


Pink Shirt Day "Let Kindness Grow" shirts can be bought online through Maddalena until February 7th, and will be delivered to the school by February 21, 2025. Please visit the following link to purchase your shirts.

<https://www.maddalena-uniforms.com/collections/mary-ward-catholic-elementary-spirit-wear?page=1>

Alternate Lunch Days/Milk Program

Alternate lunch days and the milk program will continue in February!
Milk will be available on every Tuesday and Thursday.



There will be 2 alternate lunch days in February.

- ☒ February 13th - Pasta Day from Pasta Fresca
- ☒ February 25th - Pizza Day from Carmine's Pizzeria

You can participate and place your orders using School Cash Online.

Eco-School News

Bundle up!

National Sweater Day is on Tuesday, February 4th. We are turning the heat down by a couple of degrees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and all students are encouraged to dress up in their most fabulous sweaters.

Step into the snow!

February 7th is Winter Walk Day. Plan to walk to school and show that sometimes staying warm is as simple as getting moving on the way to and from school! Together we can reduce the danger of traffic and toxic emissions near our school and this will also provide an opportunity for physical activity that can help students arrive alert and ready to learn in the morning! If you live too far to walk, you can DRIVE TO 5. Drive to 5 is an active transportation initiative where parents can drop-off their children at designated locations that are a safe and accessible 5-minute walk to school. Parents can either park and walk with their children or drop them off. Let's make every step count this February!

Waste Free Lunch Wednesdays

The goal is to reduce the amount of garbage our school produces. Please bring lunches and snacks in reusable containers every Wednesday.



Yearbook Pre-orders

As the 2024-2025 school year progresses, the memories created throughout the year will be celebrated and remembered in the Mary Ward Catholic School yearbook. This wonderful keepsake, is available to all students to pre-order and purchase via School Cash Online. It will be completed and delivered during the first week of school in September 2025 to each student who has pre-ordered and purchased one. The cost of the yearbook is \$20.00. All yearbook orders and payments are due by Friday May 24, 2024 through School Cash Online.

Spirit Wear Wednesdays

Wednesday's are spirit wear days at Mary Ward Catholic School. To order spirit wear please go to Maddalena's website <https://www.maddalena-uniforms.com/> Winter toques are available at this time as well!

Emergency Instructors

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that qualified teachers are teaching in our classrooms at all times. From time to time, in extenuating circumstances, this may not be possible. A Board registered Emergency Instructor may be called upon, as a casual worker, to cover a classroom in the absence of the classroom teacher for a part or a full day. Careful consideration is given to the selection of people to fulfill these roles, and the Emergency Instructor is given training in school procedures and is subject to a Criminal Background Check/ Vulnerable Sector Screening before entering the classroom. If there are any questions, please contact the principal of the school.

Niagara Region Public Health

Welcome to Kindergarten

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community.



Check out our [School Health webpage](#) for some important links and supports:

- [Childhood illnesses of diseases and public health significance](#)
- [Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods](#)
- [Dental Screening](#)
- [School-aged vaccines](#)
 - Parents and legal guardians of junior and senior kindergarten registrants and students new to Ontario are asked to report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#).

Is Your Child Due for Vaccines?

Go to [Immunization Connect](#) to review your child's immunization history and check the Immunizations Needed section for missing vaccines.

If your child is missing any vaccines, book an appointment to get them vaccinated. Vaccines are available at healthcare providers' offices, walk-in clinics or Public Health vaccination clinics.

Bring your yellow card or immunization record print out from [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](#) to each vaccine visit. This will help you and your health care provider keep an up-to-date record of which vaccines have been received.

Can't find any immunization records? Here are some [tips](#) to help you.

- **Previous healthcare providers** will keep records for a limited time. Also check with local health units, your pharmacist, and any urgent care clinics, as well as hospital emergency departments.
- **At home** – Close family members such as parents or guardians may have copies of your childhood immunizations in old papers, including baby books and school or camp forms.
- **Schools, colleges, universities or other post-secondary institutions** may still have records for you or your child.
- **Previous employers**, including the military, may still have records from your employment. If your family is having trouble with locating or transferring immunization records, please [contact the Vaccine Team](#) and a nurse will discuss what needs to be done. Translation services are also provided.



Family Day

Family Day is coming up on Monday, February 17th and it's a great chance to spend time with loved ones. Whether it's starting a new tradition like a family hike, playing outdoors, trying a nutritious recipe, or enjoying a fun board game together, this Family Day can be all about building lasting memories and promoting a healthy lifestyle.



To support you in making Family Day a meaningful occasion, we invite you to explore local programs and events to make the most of the day and keep your family active, engaged, and healthy!

- Explore an EarlyON centre, providing free, high-quality drop-in programs for children from birth to six years of age. Click [here](#) to access their family day calendar!
- The local Performing Arts Centre has a full day of exciting events for all ages. Check out their [schedule](#) and enjoy a variety of activities happening throughout the day.
- Visit the Merriton Community Centre on February 15th for their annual Family Fun Day
- Find a new adventure spot in a [regional walking or hiking trail](#)
- Check your [local public library](#) for free family day activities

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From February 1st to 7th 2025 join the National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) and eating disorder groups nationwide that come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre "Transform the Narrative" Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)



Mr. A. Cardamone

Principal

