

St Augustine Catholic Elementary School



Phone: 905 734 4659

March 2025

"We are proud to be part of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools"

Principal: Mr. Paul Moccia

Superintendent: Mrs. Kim Kinney

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Liturgy of the Eucharist: The Last Supper

We are into the season of Lent. During this time, it is important for us to refocus and think about what brings us together as a Catholic community. Throughout Lent, each classroom has been asked to emphasize almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Parents are asked to continue this focus in their homes. Remember, the Lenten season of sacrifice leads to the promise of Easter, a season of hope and renewal. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

As a staff we continue to reflect upon ways in which we can strengthen the ties to St. Mary's Catholic Church.

March is also a time for reflecting upon our academic work and readjusting our goals for the year. These next steps are part of our partnership where we work together "to foster academic, social and spiritual growth according to the teachings of Jesus Christ."

"Children very soon learn about life. They watch and imitate the behaviour of adults. They rapidly learn love and respect for others, but they also quickly absorb the poison of violence and hatred. Family experiences strongly condition the attitudes that children will assume as adults. Consequently, if the family is the place where children first encounter the world, the family must be for children the first school of peace."

Pope John Paul II from his reflection, "The First School of Peace."

Let us Pray:
Merciful Lord,
You call us to follow Your wonderful ways,
and to live in the light of Your peace.
May we always listen
for the sound of Your voice,
and pay attention to the love You give.
All that You make and do is good!
May we live according to the nature You gave us,
and do the good You intend us to do.
We ask this through Your Son, our Light and Peace,
Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen

KIDS HELPING KIDS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

NIAGARA CHILDREN'S CENTR

During the week **Feb 10-Feb 21**, our school participated in the Kids Helping Kids Campaign, where the students and staff participated in a week of fun activities while donating money to support the Niagara Children's Centre. Our school community raised a total of **\$290** in support of the Niagara Children's Centre and we would like to thank everyone that donated towards this worthwhile cause! Way to go

MARCH BREAK - MARCH 10-14

March break will take place from **Mon, March 10-Fri, March 14th**. The first day back for students will be on **Monday, March 17th**.

UPCOMING PASTA LUNCH

Our next Pasta lunch is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, March 19th**.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

With the growing availability of electronic devices (cellphones, I pods, I pads, laptops, cameras) it is necessary to remind students of their responsibilities while at school and on school property. Students are not permitted to use these electronic devices, nor transmit text messages, take pictures or access at any time during the school day.

Please visit the Niagara Catholic District School Board website policy section for further information.

ECO SCHOOL NEWS

The Eco Team is continuously working hard to ensure that all our students are reducing, reusing, and recycling. We hope you remember to turn off your lights when not being used and that you remember to not leave the water running while you are brushing your teeth!

EARTH HOUR 2025 – SAT, MARCH 22ND

Earth hour started on March 3, 2007 in Australia to conserve energy and electricity. Now more than 100 countries participate to conserve energy and electricity. Even if you turn your lights off for 1 hour, it saves a lot of energy. Last year, Earth hour was celebrated by over 135 countries, with millions joining forces to take action against global warming. All over the world, lots of people are joining in by shutting down their electronics for Earth hour. Here are suggestions of what you can do during Earth hour: You can go for a walk, play a board game, you can read a book by candlelight, tell stories with your family.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time is **Sunday, March 9th, 2025**. Don't forget to move your clocks **ahead** Saturday night before you go to bed.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Our Catholic School Council met on **Tuesday, January 21st at 3:30 p.m.** I would like to thank those who were able to attend. To view the items on the agenda, please visit www.niagaracatholic.ca, **elementary schools, St. Augustine, Catholic School Council** and then click **agendas**. Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, April 15th at 3:30 p.m.** All are welcome to attend.

MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH

Fruits and veggies are not only absolutely delicious but they are nature's fast food! Ready to eat and most come in their own "to-go" packages, produce makes the perfect snack for kids to grab and go. They need minimal to no preparation and buying ones in season means you can save some money and shop smarter.

Think you can't get much produce on a tight budget? Here are some tips to make shopping for produce easier and more affordable:

- Don't shop when you're hungry and carry a list. You'll be more likely to stick to your budget and nutritious food choices.
- Look for washed and bagged salads, baby carrots, celery hearts, broccoli and cauliflower crowns, cherry tomatoes, and shredded cabbage in your grocery store
- Buy fresh produce, like peaches or bananas, in varying degrees of ripeness to allow for some ripening towards the end of the week
- Canned and frozen vegetables can be convenient choices
- Spend most of your time in the produce, bread, meat and dairy sections
- Use store flyers to help you find specials
- See more at:
<http://www.halfyourplate.ca/produce-is-affordable>

TIPS – WINTER SAFETY

Wear the Gear!

- Proper helmets are required for snowboarding and skating and is recommended for tobogganing.

Snow Safety

- Children should not play on snow banks near the road.
- Snow plough drivers may not see them.
- Snow tunnels and forts can be dangerous—roof might collapse

Ice Safety

- Check with local weather authorities for information about ice thickness
- Ice should be at least 10cm thick (3.5 “)
- Avoid walking on ice near moving water such as rivers or creeks

Proper Indoor Clothing

- All students are asked to bring a pair of shoes or rubber soled slippers that will be used for indoor use only. Wet shoes and winter boots cannot be worn in the classroom and stocking feet are neither healthy nor safe. May we remind you that under fire and safety regulations, students are required to wear shoes indoors. We don't, as a rule, have fire drills during bad weather, but if the fire alarm goes off for any reason we must evacuate the building immediately.

We must then wait for the fire chief to let us back into the building. Thank you for assisting us in this matter

PINK SHIRT DAY

Bullying can come in many forms (such as physical, verbal and cyber) and sometimes be hard to see. Signs that a student might be a target of bullying can include:

- Low attendance at school or at other activities.
- Feelings of anxiousness, fearfulness, irritability or unhappiness.
- Low interest in activities and poor performance at school.
- Loses things, needs money or reports being hungry.

On **Wednesday, February 26th** students at St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School raised awareness of bullying by wearing a pink shirt to school.

INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

Internet Safety Tips:

1. Don't give out personal information such as name, address, phone number
2. Never agree to meet someone you met on the Internet
3. Don't send anyone pictures of yourself
4. Be aware of the dangers of a web cam. Webcams can be turned on remotely.
5. Don't respond to messages that make you feel uncomfortable
6. Don't get hooked on the internet.

TELEPHONE CALLS AND CLASS INTERRUPTIONS

Please make sure that any special transportation/ luncheon arrangements are discussed with your child before he/she leaves for school in the morning. We are trying to keep unnecessary and non-emergency calls home to a minimum. We strive to cut down on unnecessary class time interruptions. As we try to keep our lines free for emergency calls, we may not always be able to allow students to call