



November 2024



St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School

Proud member of the Dennis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools

D. Smolders, Principal

L. Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Schools

33 Woodrow St., St. Catharines, ON, L2P 2A1



COME FOLLOW ME (MATTHEW 4:19)

What does it mean when we “follow” someone on social media? When we do this we are saying we want to know more about them, to see how they live, how they act, what they say. But what we see on social media isn’t always reality. It’s often hidden behind filters, edits, and multiple takes. What if instead of “following” in this way, we choose to follow someone who only shows us what is real and what is true? Jesus is calling us to follow Him, to live our lives according to the Gospel and to share His love with those around us. So the question is, who will you choose to follow today?

D. Smolders
Principal

MONTHLY PRAYER

This month’s prayer will be the Guardian Angel Prayer. It will be part of our morning announcements and you are encouraged to make this prayer part of your daily routine with your family.

Angel of God, my guardian dear, To whom God’s love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side, To light and guard, Rule and guide.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 10:00 am

Pastor: Reverend Chad Grennan



If you are considering having your child baptized or would like them to make any other missed sacraments, please call the parish main office at: 905-687-6971

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11 at 9:30 am, we will hold our Remembrance Day liturgy. This celebration of freedom and peace will also help us mark the sacrifices and accomplishments of so many that helped ensure our way of life.

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields*

John McCrae



A LOOK AHEAD

- 4 - Taekwondo Lunch program begins (Each Monday of November)
- Catholic School Council Meeting
- 5 - Gr 7 Vaccinations
- 6 - Dental Screening (Kindergarten)
- 7 - Pizza Day
- 10 - Remembrance Day
- 11 - Remembrance Day Liturgy
- 12 - Progress Reports available
Picture Retakes
- 13 - Junior Girls Tripleball
- 14 - Junior Boys Tripleball



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19 - Parent/Student/Teacher Progress Conferences
21 - Gr. 2 @ St. John's Conservation Centre
Happy Meal Day
22 - Gr 5 @ St. John's Conservation Centre
29 - PA Day (No School)

PROGRESS REPORTS & CONFERENCES

Progress reports will be available electronically via the parent portal after November 12, 2023. Additionally, we will send home a paper copy as well.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences are taking place on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 from 3:30-6:30 for grade 1 to 8. Teachers and families are expected to meet to discuss their child's progress and next steps. To facilitate the creation of conference times that work best for families, we will be using an electronic appointment system that will allow you to select the time(s). The website will open on Wednesday, November 6 at 12:00pm. Please click here: st.christopher.schoolappointments.com. More information will be sent separately but to create your account, click [HERE](#)

Communication and cooperation between home and school positively influences student achievement and this is a great time for us to connect to discuss how best to continue moving forward.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We held our first meeting of this year's Catholic School Council on October 2, 2023. Congratulations to Mr. Ramanauskas who will be Chair of this year's council.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 4, 2023 at 6:00 at the school. The purpose of a school council is, through the active participation of parents, to improve student achievement. Any parent of a child enrolled at our school is invited to join and become a member of the council. Please consider joining us for this or any/all future meetings.

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

In responding to the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action, beginning in 2016, the Ontario government designated the first full week of November as Treaties Recognition Week.

Treaties Recognition Week is a time to recognize the importance of treaties as legal documents that are shared between sovereign nations. While we typically think of treaties as land claims between the Canadian government and Indigenous people, or between countries as a way of establishing peace, treaties have been a part of native culture for thousands of years and were legal agreements among the many Indigenous nations who shared this land before European contact.

Treaties are not a thing of the past. Even today, there are ongoing treaties in the Niagara Region and Niagara Peninsula that impact our staff and students who are of Indigenous heritage. For example, the 1492 Land Back Lane claim on Six Nations, the Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt in Shorthills, or the Mi'kmaq Lobster Fishermen on the east coast are recent international headlines.

BULLYING AWARENESS & PREVENTION WEEK

This year, bullying prevention and awareness week will take place the week of November 19. We at Our Lady of Mount Carmel have key messages that we will focus on during this week and throughout the school year.

Monday- "Together we can make St. Christopher a Bully Free Zone."
Tuesday- "Take a Stand, Lend a Hand"
Wednesday - "Stomp Out Bullying"
Thursday- "Keep Calm and Stop Bullying"
Friday- "Only You Can Prevent Bullying"

Throughout the week students will hear announcements around Bullying Awareness and Prevention tips.

What can we do at school to help students not bully?

Be nice to each other
Include others
Stand up for each other
Be kind
Don't be shy
Never give up
Ask for help

SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS

Big Bear Spirit Wear, a board approved supplier for spirit wear items, offers a wide range of dress-code approved items through their online store at: <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/>. Students are allowed to wear the spirit wear items to school and these are a worthwhile purchase as the cooler weather approaches. **Please label all clothing items that come to school so that we can return all misplaced items to the correct person.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER

With wet winter weather fast approaching, parents are reminded that students must bring indoor shoes to school for health and safety reasons. As well, it is a good idea to bring a change of clothes, especially pants and socks, that students can change into if they get wet. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the dropping temperatures and label all of your child(ren)'s clothes.

As the winter months approach, we would like to remind parents that if bus transportation is **cancelled** in the morning, it also will be cancelled for the entire day. Children will not be picked up by bus at the end of



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the day. If you drive your child to school on a day that transportation is cancelled, it will be your responsibility to pick them up at the end of the day. **Any child staying home when transportation is cancelled will need to be reported to the Safe Arrival system.**

Please follow @niagaracatholic on twitter, instagram or facebook for weather related cancellation.

ANAPHYLAXIS

St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School promotes a healthy, allergy aware environment for the safety of our children. Parents are requested to not pack any foods that contain or may contain nut or peanut products in their children's lunch. Please give our children with anaphylaxis the same consideration that you would wish for your child's protection.

If you have a child with anaphylaxis to any allergens, please contact the office immediately so that we can work together to keep your child(ren) safe.

Additionally, at no time are students allowed to share food amongst themselves. This includes during special event days, such as birthdays and Halloween. We respect and want to adhere to the dietary choices each family makes for their own child/ren. If your child comes to school with food items to distribute to classmates, they will be held in the office and sent back home with your child at the end of the day. We greatly support your cooperation with this.

MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL

Parents should be aware of the strict guidelines established by the Niagara Catholic District School Board for medication in schools.

1. The medication must be in the container prepared by the pharmacist and the label must include: the name of the doctor, student and the name and strength of the medication.
2. The school must have a written request from the physician indicating the frequency and dosage of the prescribed medication (this form is available at the school).
3. Deliver prescribed medication directly to the school office. Please do not send them with the child.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School can be found on Instagram @st.christopherces. Please follow us to see what fun and exciting things your children are getting up to while at school.

We take student safety and privacy very seriously and only images of students for whom parents have given consent will be used on our social media account. If you would like to update your consent, please click [here](#) or contact the school to inquire about your current consent status.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please drive with caution in the parking lot and near the school. We have many students who are being dropped off and picked up at the same time. They are all at varying places on their learning journey and may not always remember to look both ways before stepping out into traffic. Please exercise extra caution when driving in the school parking lot.

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your child arrives at school on time each day and staff are on duty at 8:20 am.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

The Niagara Catholic District School Board recognizes concussions as a serious injury which requires appropriate follow-up measures to reduce the risk of potential additional injury. Concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management are a priority for the Board. The implementation of the Board's Concussion Administrative Operational Procedures is another important step in creating healthier schools in the Niagara Catholic District School Board

If staff, in communication with the school principal, suspects head trauma or a concussion might be possible based on signs and symptoms reported by the student, they are required to complete the appropriate documentation, call home and send home a copy of the documentation.

Medical doctors and nurse practitioners are the only healthcare professionals in Canada with licensed training and expertise to diagnose a concussion; therefore, all students with suspected concussions should undergo evaluation by one of these professionals.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

St. Christopher continues to move forward using the School Cash Online System and we require all families to make online payments for their children when paying for things like pizza days, field trips, etc. If you have not already done so, please register for an account at: <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and guardians who would like to make a financial donation to support the many learning and extra curricular activities happening each day at St. Christopher Catholic elementary school are able to do so at any time through <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. Once logged in, you will see a button in the top menu that says Make a Donation. By clicking here, you are able to select the donation amount and the Destination (St. Christopher CES). Once submitted, you will be immediately sent an official receipt for tax purposes.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION - VOLUNTARY SELF IDENTIFICATION

Under Ontario's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) Education Policy Framework, Niagara Catholic encourages all Indigenous students to



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self-identify as part of a VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL process. Niagara Catholic uses information gathered from the self-identification process to support Indigenous students through:

- Accessing culturally relevant materials and programs in schools, allowing Indigenous students to see themselves reflected in the learning materials.
- Gathering academic information to support the unique learning needs of Indigenous students within our schools.
- Accessing cultural events offered to Indigenous students throughout the school year.
- Hosting special events at our schools, allowing our Indigenous students to share their unique cultural identity with non-Indigenous students.
- Sharing information about career and educational funding opportunities that are specific to Indigenous students.

If you would like to voluntarily identify your child(ren) as Indigenous to ensure that he/she is supported, please visit:

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/indigenous-education/>



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