



May 2025



St. Theresa Tribune

Sowing the Seeds of Faith, Blossoming in Knowledge
St. Theresa Catholic Elementary

58 Seymour, St. Catharines, Ontario L2P 1A7 Phone: 905-682-0244
Principal: Mr. Dan Trainor B.A., M.Ed

Secretary: Mrs. Read st.theresa@ncdsb.com
www.niagaracatholic.ca



Principal's Message

"Then Jesus took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

Mark 10:16

Once again, I am awed by the passage of time. The month of May has arrived and this school year is nearing an end. As time goes by we need to pause and reflect on the words found in St. Mark's Gospel. Jesus has blessed all our children and we need to remind ourselves of the blessing each child is to us on a daily basis, even on those days when they are more challenging and spirited!

Our St. Theresa Catholic School environment is renewed daily by the spirit, vigor and energy of each student. Our faith formation and daily religious activities renew our connection to our environment and teach our students important lessons about our "footprint." I am so proud of all our students and staff.

Thank you to every student for offering your best and contributing to our Catholic community. Please allow your peers to be themselves and feel safe and confident as young people in our school. We all have the right to be safe, secure and happy as we develop our own blessed personality each day at our Catholic elementary school.

I thank my staff for creating and regenerating our school's Catholic culture and identity. Our daily teaching/learning journey is a rich experience for our students that models modern day living with Jesus.

Catholic Education Week will be May 4th to May 9th and this year's theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." We look forward to celebrating this theme with our students and grounding our daily work in teaching and in learning.

The month of May is devoted to Mother Mary. We will pray the "Hail Mary" each morning and we will teach the Rosary to all our classes during this month. We extend a joyous Mothers' Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers, God-mothers and Aunts. Mothers, make sure May 11th is your day!

Yours in Catholic Education,

D. Trainor
PRINCIPAL

Kindergarten Open House - May 22nd

Our Kindergarten Open House has been scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd at 6:30 pm. During this visit we will share the typical kindergarten day, visit our classrooms, library and gym. Parents will receive a "save the date" for our August School Visit for students and along with the list of school items that can be labeled for school. Welcome to our newest and youngest students!



Prayer for Moms

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gifts you gave me in my mom.

As children, we are taught to help one another, no greater teacher is there than my mom, who taught me to walk, talk, run, laugh, play, cry, smile and love.

As children we are taught to forgive one another. No greater example of forgiveness is seen than in a mother's eyes. As children we are taught to protect and nurture each other, no greater example is seen than in my mother's

caring and loving ways. As children we are taught to take risks, no greater example is seen than my mom who takes on so many jobs and tasks for our family.

Thank you Jesus for giving me my Mom - she is the only Mom I'd pick for me. Amen



Prayers for our First Communion and Confirmation Candidates

On Sunday May 4th, at 2:00 p.m., at St. Alfred Church our students from grade 2, 4 and 6 will receive their First Communion. They will have a practice for First Communion on Friday, May 2nd at 11:30 at St. Alfred Church.

On Thursday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m., at St. Alfred Church our Grade 8 students will confirm their Baptisms at the Confirmation Mass.

Thank you Monsignor Hugh Gibson for your spiritual guidance. All families are invited to join us for these sacraments. Please keep our students receiving sacraments in your prayers.

Yearbook Orders

Yearbook orders (online only) will be available to purchase beginning May 12th for \$26.00 ea. Sale ends Monday, May 26th. This is a hard deadline as we will be placing the order based on the online purchases. Grade 8 students will automatically receive a yearbook as part of their Graduation package.

St. Theresa Instagram Account

The account is [St_Theresa_Merritton](https://www.instagram.com/St_Theresa_Merritton)

The account is one way we model and teach our children how to use social media platforms as a way to showcase and highlight positive content. The account is private and will not allow for comments. When you "follow" us on Instagram you will make the request and we will confirm. This extra setting will allow us to keep our followers limited to members of our school community. You have received an email from Permission Click and need to indicate confirmation that pictures of your children can be posted.



Classroom Spotlight Grade Seven

In Grade 7, our students prepared for the Stations of the Cross, where they reflected on an important tradition in our Catholic faith and its significance.

In addition, students have been diving into exciting new topics across all subjects. In Math, students just completed a unit on fractions and integers, and will be focusing on financial literacy next. As well, the class has studied infographics, which is based on their Science unit, Heat and the Environment. Meanwhile, our literature unit has students reading and examining various writing forms, in order to enhance their comprehension and writing skills. Our history lessons have taken us on a journey through the Ontario history curriculum, examining the impact of early Indigenous cultures, the arrival of European explorers, and the development of early settlements in Canada. This exploration helps them connect past events to the present and understand the diverse cultural heritage of our nation. In gym class, our students are showcasing their teamwork and creativity through group fitness presentations. They are developing their own fitness routines, which promotes not only physical health but also collaboration and public speaking skills.

We are proud of their hard work and enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing their achievements!

Catholic Education Week "Pilgrims of Hope!"

May 4th to May 9th, is a week to celebrate the gifts of Catholic Education. We will make the week about teaching and learning. Our prayers and liturgies will be focused on the theme "We are Pilgrims of Hope!" Students will experience this year's theme through prayer and scripture readings. All students have already created a "Hope Cross" that has been placed in our trophy case.

Our daily sub-themes will include:

Monday, May 5th— By honouring human dignity—We will begin this day with a liturgy. Grade 4,6 and 7 attend tennis lessons.

Tuesday, May 6th - By Caring for creation —Our morning liturgy will be extended by lessons on "How does our faith give us hope?". Grades 6, 7 and 8 attend tennis lessons. Gr. 5 students attend DM for their Science day. This evening we celebrate Bethany M., who is our "Catch the Spirit" recipient for 2025.

Wednesday, May 7th — By responding to the poverties in our world - We will begin the day with a liturgy. We ask all students to bring in boxes of raisins as part of our support of the North of 60 work of St. Vincent de Paul. Our student senators attend the Student Leadership Symposium.

Thursday, May 8th - By Serving in solidarity - Parent and Grandparent Open house!!! Please join us at 1:30 pm for our afternoon liturgy, then for our Math/Book Buddy time followed by an art gallery tour in the gym. Grade 8 Confirmation at 7:00 pm at St. Alfred Church.

Friday, May 9th - By living as peacemakers —This day students will gather in the library to pray the rosary. Students will have an extended recess to continue peaceful play and enjoy God's gift of nature in the school yard.

Parent Open House Invitation

We invite all parents and grandparents to school on **Thursday, May 8th, from 1:30 to 2:40 p.m.**, to see our Math/Book Buddies in action. We invite you to join in the reading and math games with our students. Please sign in at the main office when you arrive. Join us in the gym for our liturgy, then you will be captivated by the joy of children learning. We are so excited to welcome our parents and grandparents to school!

Intermediate Homework Club

Our Intermediate Homework Club is a happening place to be! The club runs weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 2:50 to 4:15 p.m. in the library. We have many students accessing this opportunity and we encourage other intermediate students to join us. Information letters and permission forms are available in the office.



Anaphylaxis Awareness and Action Plans

All classrooms at St. Theresa are **peanut, tree nut and milk safe classrooms**. **No peanuts, peanut products, or tree nuts are allowed at any time.** We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and peanut products.

Please do not send in any food items for class

distribution. We also have a student with dairy allergies and must ensure we handle all dairy food items carefully.

Students who share the classroom with our student with a dairy allergy have been informed and know that they are to wash their hands after lunches and snacks that contain dairy items. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or dairy products for breakfast/lunch at home. We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safety of all students.

Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.



EQAO Grade 3 and Grade 6

The provincial test of Grade 3 and 6 Reading, Writing and Mathematics skills and problem solving will occur on the following days:

Grade 6 students will complete the assessment on Tuesday, May 20th, Wednesday, May 21st, and Thursday, May 22nd.

Grade 3 students will complete the assessment Monday May 26th, Tuesday May 27th, and Wednesday May 28th.

Parents, we ask you to make sure your children are well rested and start their day with a healthy breakfast during EQAO days. **Students must be on time each day for the assessment.** All students will support our Grade 3 and 6 students by working quietly during these assessment days. The assessment will be completely online for both Grade 3 and 6 with students showing their thinking and understanding on paper before they submit their responses. We know they are well prepared and will showcase their best work. The results will be shared in the fall.

St. Vincent de Paul North of 60 Project

St. Vincent de Paul Society is collecting food for residents of Nauyasat Nunavut. All Niagara Catholic Schools have been assigned a food item to collect. St. Theresa will be collecting boxes of raisins. Please send in boxes of raisins during the month of May. Thank you for your support.

Junior Students - National Ballot School

Our Junior students will have weekly ballot lessons on line starting May 7th with the NBS. We are excited for this new experience.

"Catch the Spirit" Award

Congratulations to **Bethany M.**, our grade 8 student who is the recipient of our Board's "Catch the Spirit" Award. This recognition goes to a student who has demonstrated qualities in the following areas:



- Catholic Leadership
- Catholic Faith and Catholic School Philosophy
- Family Commitment
- School Community Relations
- Involvement in School Affairs and Activities
- Involvement in Community Activities
- Commitment to a Difficult Task or Situation
- High Degree of Academic Excellence

Bethany will be recognized by the N.C.D.S.B. at the Catch the Spirit Ceremony on May 6th at 7:00 p.m., along with other recipients from all NC schools. This award will also be presented at our Grade 8 Graduation. Congratulations Bethany!

Track & Field - Grades 4 to 8

Our school event will be **Thursday May 29th** in the morning, rain date will be May 30th. The Board Meet will be at Niagara Olympic Club on June 2nd. We will prepare for track and field in our gym classes so all students can challenge themselves in each event over a series of days. All students are encouraged to participate. Please remember how important it is to have sunscreen, hats and water bottles.



Year End Trips

We have finalized our plans for all year end trips fulfilling all requirements found in the Niagara Catholic Policy for school trips. In an effort to help all families budget for these extra expenses we have planned trips that range in costs. The trips range from a very low cost, low cost, moderate cost to high cost.

Please note the following dates:

June 5th - Gr. 6 and 7 - Blue Jays and Ripleys Aquarium

June 17th - Gr. 4 and Gr. 5 - Brock PALs

June 18th-19th - Gr. 8 Blue Mountain over night

June 20th - K to 3 - Safari Niagara

Only students in the grades identified for the trip will be allowed to attend. Older and younger children will not be allowed to join other grade level trips. Thank you in advance.

St. Theresa Catholic

Elementary School Newsletter & Website

We will send home a paper copy of the school calendar each month. The newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website. This will generally happen on the last Thursday of the current month. Watch for your newsletter as it contains much information regarding school activities. All information is sent home with the youngest or only child in a family. Newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website! Please visit this exciting showcase of our great school.

Cell Phone Use for Students

The Ministry of Education has directed schools and school boards to not allow elementary students to have cell phones on them during the school day. To fairly manage this mandate along with parenting decisions made for each of our students; we thank you for respecting the following compromise. If you are providing your child(ren) with a cell phone as part of their communication and safety tools as they transit from home to school and back, be advised that all cellphones will be placed in the classroom "cell garage" or in each student's backpack for the instructional day. If you are texting your child during the day, please expect them to only get the message at dismissal time 2:50 p.m. **All communication must go through the main office during the school day.** If students are using their cells as a personal device for research, teachers will direct them to access their cell phones. If students are required to bring a device for a specific purpose, the teacher will send a message in their digital platforms, such as the "NCVLE-classroom, School Messenger" so parents are aware of the request. Thank you for your support.

Catholic School Council

Our next meeting will be on **May 14th at 6:00 p.m.**

We welcome all parents to our meetings.

Prayers and Thanks...

Thank you to our tremendous St. Theresa community! Your support and commitment to our school is felt each day!

We continue to keep Mrs. Sartor, Educational Resource Teacher, Mrs. Rogers, Grade 8, Ms. Johnston, Custodian and Mrs. McDonald, Grade 3, in our prayers.

Mrs. McDonald continues to recover and is increasing her time at school as she progresses. Mrs. Rogers' anticipated return date is now May 12th. Mrs. Sartor's anticipated return date is now May 20th. Ms. Johnston's return to work date has not been determined but will not be this school year.

We thank Ms. Nardilli who is filling in for Mrs. Sartor. Thank you for all your hard work for our students in Kindergarten to grade 8.

Thank you so much to Mrs. Robertson, who has come out of retirement for our intermediate students! We love having you back with us. We appreciate all your dedication to our grade 7 and 8 students as they refine their skills and develop more advanced concepts.

Thank you, Mrs. Scott, custodian who is working tirelessly to keep our school spotless as she works with many daily supply cleaners while Ms. Johnston is off.