



SEPTEMBER 2025



St. Theresa Tribune

Sowing Seeds of Faith, Blossoming in Knowledge:

St. Theresa Guides Us

St. Theresa Catholic Elementary

58 Seymour, St. Catharines, Ontario L2P 1A7 Phone: 905-682-0244

Principal: Mr. Dan Trainor B.A., M.Ed

st.theresa@ncdsb.com

Secretary: Mrs. Read

www.niagaracatholic.ca



Dear Jesus, you have blessed us with children who are here to teach each other, their parents and teachers. Continue to bless us all with the wisdom to teach our children, the fortitude to gently re-direct, the patience to let them problem solve and reason, and the love to see the gifts all children are from your creation. Lord, we teach in reverence.



Principal's Message

Another school year is here for all to begin together with fresh goals and open minds.

Welcome back to all of our returning families! It is wonderful to begin a new and exciting school year with everyone. We offer a very special welcome to our new students and their families. We extend greetings to our new students and families who have become part of our Catholic community this school year.

It is an honour to serve this community as your Principal. Principal is defined as the primary-teacher of the school. This is the definition I live by in my vocation, as I lead professional learning, and teach and learn from and with my students. I look forward to another school year with your children, spending time in their classrooms and also teaching your children. These past three years here have been the most rewarding school years and I am profoundly proud to be part of St. Theresa Catholic School community.

Thank you to all parents for your work preparing your child(ren) for returning to school by establishing routines to support learning (regular bedtimes, checking home-school communications, dialoguing about the school day and the learning).

Special thanks to all staff for preparing our school for our students. We are ready for an exciting school year, focused on improving all students' achievement (spiritual, academic, social and emotional). As we fulfill our vocational callings, we will support and nurture our students socially and emotionally while providing them with a solid academic foundation and experience.

A very special thank you to Mrs. Scott and Mr. Lambert for all your hard work this summer cleaning our learning spaces!

May God bless us all as we begin the 2025-2026 school year.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Dan Trainor

Mr. D. Trainor,
Principal



Bell Times

School Begins: 8:30 a.m.

Nutrition/Physical Break #1 10:40 to 11:20

Nutrition/Physical Break #2 12:40 to 1:20

Dismissal: 2:50 p.m.

(morning supervision begins at 8:20 a.m.)

St. Theresa Teaching and Support Staff 2025-2026

Classroom Teachers:

Kindergarten - Mrs. DiTillio (OCT) Mrs. Ricci (DECE)

Kindergarten - Mrs. Switzer (OCT)

Grade 1 - Mrs. Szalai

Grade 1/2 - Ms. Colavecchia-Wills

Grade 2/3 - Mrs. McDonald

Grade 3/4 - Mrs. Stephens

Grade 5 - Mr. Inman

Grade 6 - Mr. Dikic

Grade 7 - Ms. Deluca

Grade 8 - Mrs. Rogers

Educational Resource Teacher (1.0) - Mrs. Sartor

English as a Second Language Teacher (0.33) - Mr. Worden

Junior and Intermediate FSL Teachers

TBA (Gr. 4/5) Mme. Afonso (Gr. 3/4, Gr. 6),

Mme. Howe (Gr. 7, Gr. 8)

Primary Team Members:

Mrs. Kinney (JK/SK), Mr. Young (Gr. 1, 1/2, 2/3)

Music Itinerant Teacher:

Mrs. Pietrangelo

Support Staff:

E.A. - Ms. Dawson (Hall)

E.A. - Ms. Minnitti

E.A. - Ms. Spiering

Child/Youth Worker - Ms. Gacnik

Library Technician - Ms. Byng

Custodian - Mr. Lambert

Custodian - Mrs. Scott

Administration:

Secretary - Mrs. Read

Principal - Mr. Trainor

Superintendent - Mrs. L.A. Forsyth-Sells

Clergy

Parish Priest - Fr. Bevan (St. Patrick)

Pastoral Leader - Monsignor Hugh Gibson (St. Alfred)

***School organization is subject to changes in September and is being reviewed by senior staff with Mr. Trainor**

Parking Lot Safety

Parents are cautioned when driving in and out of the school parking lot. Students who walk to school may be crossing the driveway to get to the sidewalk. Student safety is our first priority and we ask that drivers please be vigilant.



If you are picking your child(ren) up at our "Kiss and Ride" we ask that everyone keep the traffic flowing in this space at a slow speed to ensure students are safe. It is preferred that you park your vehicle in the parking lot and escort your child(ren) to the front of the school during morning drop off and repeat the same procedure at the end of the day by meeting your child(ren) at the exit gates. Parents are **not** to park in the "Kiss and Ride" lane and hold up traffic attempting to enter the parking lot. If your child can not independently exit the passenger side of your vehicle you must park in a spot. The parking lot has been extended along the gym, staff will be directed to park in that area to provide more parking spaces for parents dropping off children.

Our bus loading zone will be on Autumn Place behind the school yard to assist in student safety and traffic flow. We are so happy with our new paved walk way in the back yard! Thank you, safety of our children is our first priority.

Terry Fox Walk-A-Thon



On **Friday, September 26th** students in grades K-8 will walk in the annual Terry Fox Walk-a-Thon. Our Kindergarten classes will walk within the school yard. Their walk will begin at 11:30 p.m. Grades One to Three classes will walk in our school neighbourhood, departing at 11:30 a.m. Grade Four to Eight students will be walking a longer distance in our school neighbourhood, departing at 1:30p.m. Teachers will communicate their route in their digital platforms. Students are encouraged to wear **red and white** during their walk. Donations may be made to school cash online. We are hoping each student could donate \$2.00 to Terry Fox.

Welcome to our School



We are excited to welcome back Ms. Phillips who will be teaching Gr. 7 while Ms. DeLuca is on her leave for the first term. We welcome Mr. Young to our school. He will be part of our primary division teaching Grades 1,2, and 3 students Physical Education, Health, and Science. We welcome Mr. Lambert, our new head Custodian. We are pleased to have Ms. Minnitti, Educational Assistant join our staff this year. We welcome back Ms. Spiering, Educational Assistant who has returned to our wonderful school after many years. Mrs. Pietrangelo will be our Itinerant Arts teacher and will teach vocal and instrumental music to all our children. Ms. Gacnik joins our staff as our CYW. Mrs. Pietrangelo and Ms. Gacnik also have two other schools that they work at during the school week.

Best Wishes and Prayers

We wish Mrs. Gustyn great happiness at Alexander Kuska CES. Thank you, Mrs. Gustyn for the joy you shared with our students in your three years here at St. Theresa. We bid farewell to Ms. Skeoch who will be an Educational Assistant at Sacred Heart CES. We hope you enjoy your days there and thank you for the care you gave our students. Mr. Rosano is returning to his childhood school St. Mary (NF) as a long-term Educational Assistant. We are so grateful for his commitment and dedication to our students the past year and half. God bless you all, take your Timberwolves spirit with you!

Emergency Practices

Throughout September and October your child(ren) will be participating in two fire-drills and one lock-down drill. Students will be taught their exit routes prior to the fire-drills. There will be notice to all parents/guardians prior to the lock-down drill.

Fire Drill #1 - Sept. 11th
Lockdown Drill - Sept 18th
Fire Drill #2 - Sept. 25th

It is wise for families to talk about the drills and why we must practice at school and at home. Thank you for your support.



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. Please visit this exciting showcase of our great school.

Catholic School Council

Our first Catholic School Council meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 25th at 6:00 p.m.** We are excited to continue the great work that we have been doing over the last few years. We welcome back our previous members and wish to invite all parents to join us. Our meetings are approximately every 6 to 8 weeks and usually run about 45 minutes. Come out, share your ideas and meet fellow parents. Elections will be held during this meeting for a new chair/co-chair. Nomination forms are in the office and posted online. Please return completed forms by **3:00 on Monday, September 22nd, 2025.**

Safe Arrival

Remember to report your child's absence using our safe arrival system. Phone **1-844-287-6287** or visit **<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>** to access a Parent Portal where an account can be set up to report absences via web or smart phone. The free App called "SchoolMessenger" is available through the App Store or Google Play. Absences may be reported up to 5 days. If your child will be away longer than 5 days, please contact the school. Safe Arrival absence reporting will be accepted until **8:40 a.m.** each morning for the current day. After that time, please phone the school to report. Instructions for registering for SchoolMessenger is available in the school office.



Cell Phone use for Students

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Meet the Staff - Family Night

We invite all families to join us on **Wednesday, September 10th, 2025** for our Family Night. We have made contacts with food truck companies for families to buy supper or a treat as you meet our staff and tour our school. We do need one more food truck, if you know of any please call the office. We invite you to join us from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The food trucks will be accepting cash, debit and credit for any items you purchase. More information will be forthcoming as we confirm the food trucks.

Medication

For safety reasons, no child is to bring any form of medication to school. If medication is necessary, there is a form that must be filled out by your doctor to indicate dosage, instructions, etc., and the prescription container clearly labeled with names (child, parent, doctor), phone numbers and must be left at the office. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.



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**. We must ensure that 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.

Emergency Information



Student Information/Emergency forms will be sent home the first week of school. Please update the form and return it to the school as soon as possible. It is very important that we have the correct information as to where we can reach you or who you wish us to contact if you are not available during school hours.

It is imperative that we have a contact number on file and that there is someone available to pick your child(ren) up when called. Please check with the emergency contact to make sure these arrangements are suitable.

Remember to update your email addresses with the school. The parent portals require you use the same email address we have on file. You can email any changes to the school secretary at Kristine.read@ncdsb.com.

Daily Student List of materials

- Waterbottle(s)
- Sweater (AC works really well) *dress code navy
- Book(s) for silent reading time
- Sunscreen for outdoor activity
- Hat
- In-door shoes
- Extra socks and pants for when the puddles jump up on them
- Belief in themselves!
- Positive attitude!
- Smiles!



Orange Shirt Day

Join us in celebrating Orange Shirt Day on **Tuesday, September 30th, 2025**. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Information for ordering shirts and the significance of the day will be communicated via School Messenger.

Hot Lunch Days



We will be offering Hot lunch days beginning the last week of September. We will be planning these lunch days for Thursdays. All orders will be posted on school cash online.

St. Theresa Spirit Wear

We will be offering St. Theresa Spirit wear for all students this year, including GRAD hoodies for our grade 8 students.

Orders can be placed directly on the Exclusive Imprint website.

St Theresa Merritton (Instagram Account)

We will continue using our Instagram account for our school community as an additional communication tool. The main communication will continue to be School Messenger, School Newsletter, calendar, permission notes, personal phone calls, and emails. Staff will post about student learning, spirit days, liturgies, Masses, sports events, and clubs. **St_Theresa_Merritton** will be 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.

All families must use "Permission Click" to give consent for pictures to be used on social media and school communications. You will receive an email from "Permission Click" this coming week. Please ensure that you have completed the form for each of your children, thank you.

St. Theresa Facility Improvements

Our new look is in progress! We are still waiting for the canopies to be installed and glass in the new front doors! The cladding on the front of the building will be completed in the next weeks. The parking lot extension has been completed but we can not access it until the canopies are installed. While we wait for the front of the school to be finished we will be using the primary entrance as the main entrance. There is a door bell and camera at the door now. I will keep our community updated on the progression of the project.

Our new walking path from Autumn Place Drive is the envy of all schools! There will be a new set of gates installed at the back entrance for our students as well.

More exciting news ... we will be getting a new Kindergarten play area over this school year to be ready for September 2026.

