

ST. THÉRÈSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

February 2024

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Saxton - Secretary

Website - <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/st-therese/>

Address - [530 Killaly Street East, Port Colborne, ON](#)

Phone - 905-835-8082

Instagram - @st.thereseperc

Email - st.therese@ncdsb.com



Principal's Message

Dear Families,

February is always an exciting time of year for us as we have a month full of activities for our students surrounding Black History, Kids Helping Kids, Saint Valentine, Family Day, Pink Shirt Day and celebrating your children's accomplishments in their Term 1 Report Card.

All this month we are promoting Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year. Please continue to spread the good news about St. Thérèse so our school community can welcome the next generation of Titans! Our New Kindergarten Open House will take place on Tuesday, February 4th from 9:00-6:00pm.

During this special month, let us take time to show affection to bring a little more meaning into everyday actions. By taking the time to show affection to others through words and deeds, we will demonstrate our love for God. Our students will find many opportunities to serve one another during Pink Shirt Day and our Kids Helping Kids campaign.

Yours in Catholic education,

Mrs. Turcotte

Theological Theme - Called By Name - Come Follow Me

Our 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!”



What Our Students Are Involved in This Month!

February is FILLED with many opportunities for our students to enrich their school life! Here is a quick overview of some of the activities our students are involved in!

- Student Council
- Eco Warriors
- Healthy Heroes
- Spirit Squad
- Faith Ambassadors
- Eastside Fresh Market
- Kids Helping Kids
- Junior & Intermediate Girls and Boys Basketball
- Dance Team
- Chess Club
- Crochet Club
- PALS (our older students run games and activities for our younger students at recess)

Safe Arrival - Reporting Your Child's Attendance - Very Important

Thank you to all of our parents and guardians for consistently reporting your child's absence. We appreciate your vigilance in this manner as every school day we work quickly to ensure the whereabouts of all of our children.

To report your child absent, please use one of the 3 methods listed below:

1. Use the SafeArrival website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address on file with the school. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the School Messenger App (blue logo) from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device, please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app.

3. The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Does your child need the sacrament of Baptism?

Father Daniele is running the Christian Rite of Initiation for Children (RCIC) to help children prepare for the sacrament of Baptism. Please reach out to Father Daniele at the parish at (905) 835-4645 if you are interested.

If your child is in Grade 2 and would like to receive the sacrament of First Communion, it is possible for them to be Baptised and still receive First Communion with their classmates this year in May.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Open House

Our Kindergarten Open House is taking place from **9:00-6:00pm** on **Tuesday, February 4th**. Any child born in 2021 is welcome to register for Kindergarten at St. Thérèse for the 2025-2026 school year.

We are looking forward to connecting with the next generation of Titans and cannot wait to show off our Kindergarten Classrooms and Kindergarten outdoor space. If you or someone you know has a child starting Junior Kindergarten with us this September, please be sure to register them as

soon as possible. This will ensure they are invited to our open house and help us ensure our school is properly staffed for September.

Please spread the word of our open house! You can call the school or email us at St.Therese@ncdsb.com to let us know you are attending our Kindergarten Open House on Tuesday, February 4th.

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION
ANNUAL BENEFIT
Gala
WITH HONOURARY GUEST
MOST REVEREND GERARD BERGIE, D.D.
and presentation of the
Niagara Catholic Education
AWARD OF DISTINCTION
SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED AND PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS
\$100 Per Person - Thursday March 21, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Club Roma Event & Conference Centre
Payment can be made [online here](#) or by cheque using the form below.
Cheques payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE)
Payment must be received by March 13, 2024
• \$30 tax receipt available upon request •

Name _____ #Attending _____ Payment \$ _____
Email _____ Phone _____
Dietary Requests _____
Table Assignment Request - Please list the names or groups _____
Please send cheque and form to: Anna Pisano, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Rd., Welland, ON L3C 7C1

   For further information
call 905.734.0240 ext. 214
or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com

Supporting Niagara Catholic District School Board students in need and scholarships

Thursday, March 27, 2025, **Club Roma Event Centre**, 6:00 pm.
Tickets \$100/person

Online payment at www.niagaracatholic.ca or by cheque payable to the
Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education

Mailing address: 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON L3C 7C1 -- Attention Anna Pisano
Please make payment by **March 18, 2025** (\$30 tax receipt upon request)

Individual tickets available or tables of eight or ten.

For further information (905) 735-0240, ext. 214 or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com



Follow us on
Instagram

@St.TheresePC

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 10 - 21, 2025

Please make your donation through the
Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online



KIDS HELPING KIDS











Niagara Catholic's 27th Annual Kids Helping Kids Fundraiser is taking place from *Monday, February 10th - Friday, February 21st*. Funds raised will jointly support the **Niagara Children's Centre** and the **Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education**. This is a super fun two weeks for our students and staff!

Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Silly Sock Day. Our students will be

attending a Kick Off Assembly on Friday, February 7th run by our Student Council to learn more about who we are supporting and how kids can help kids!

Donations to the **Kids Helping Kids Fundraiser** can be made in **School Cash Online**. You can also support our fundraiser by participating in our extra food days: **Chicken Finger Day** on February 11 and **Waffle Day** on February 18th. Once again we are selling **Smencils** - fun smelly pencils for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 - we only have 200 this year so they will be available on a first come, first serve basis! We will also have a special **Strawberry and Vanilla Ice Cream Day** along with a celebration **Dance Party** on Friday, February 21st to end our campaign!

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: Niagara Children's Centre

Monday, February 10	Jersey Day 100th Day of School	
Tuesday, February 11	Beach Day Chicken Finger Lunch Day	
Wednesday, February 12	Silly Sock Day	
Thursday, February 13	Red, White and Pink day Hand out <u>Candygrams</u>	
Friday, February 14	PD Day	
Monday, February 17	Family Day!	
Tuesday, February 18	Rainbow Day (dress in rainbow colours) Waffle Lunch Day	
Wednesday, February 19	Hat Day	
Thursday, February 20	Funky Hair Day	
Friday, February 21	PJs and Joggers Day! Dance Party Strawberry & Vanilla Ice Cream Day	

Term 1 Report Cards

Report Cards for Term 1 will be made available in the **Niagara Catholic Parent Portal** the week of February 10th. You can assess your child(ren)'s report card by using the email address you have on file with the school. **Click Here:** <https://niagaracatholic.ca/reportcards/> If you have any issues viewing your child's report card - please call the school so we can assist you. All of your child's report cards (even from previous years) are available here!

Please be advised that parent-teacher conferences for this term will be at the request of the teacher and/or parent(s). Teachers will be making a request to the parents of students for whom they feel an interview would be necessary.

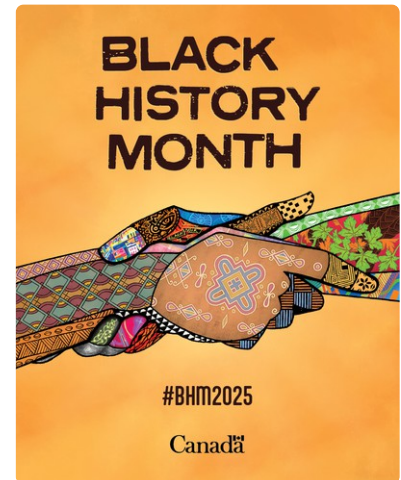
After the **Report Cards** are made available, parents may also request an interview by contacting the classroom teacher to arrange a convenient time.

Black History Month

The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: “**Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations.**” This theme acknowledges the diversity of Black Canadians, the importance of Black leadership and the legacy being built for future generations. Black communities are diverse at many levels. Those with a long history in this country have established a legacy for the newer communities. The theme underscores that Black Canadians have a rightful place in the nation's narrative, with over 400 years of historical presence on these Indigenous lands, deserving acknowledgment and celebration.

We invite everyone to learn more about Black Canadian communities, and how they continue to help shape Canada.

Our students will be recognizing Black History Month through various lessons and activities. Sharing the many stories of success, sacrifice, and triumph of people like Viola Desmond helps inspire Canadians to build a more equitable society that leaves no one behind. Viola Desmond was a great part of making our country more inclusive, and we are better because of inspirational individuals like her.



COBS Bread - Fundraiser Success

Thank you to all of our families who supported our COBS Bread Fundraiser!

This year we sold 91 cards and raised \$1137.50!



Valentine's Day

As part of our **Kids Helping Kids** campaign, we invite all students to dress in red, pink and/or white on **February 13th**. Distribution of our Candygrams (available to purchase through School Cash Online this week) will also be distributed this day. All theme-based



activities in individual classrooms will continue to align with all of the health and safety guidelines mandated by Public Health.

Students are welcome to bring in Valentine's Day cards for their classmates on February 13th but there is to be **no distribution of snacks or treats**. **If any food items are sent to school, please be aware they will be returned home and not distributed.**

Thank you for your understanding.

NEW THIS YEAR - SMENCILS during Kids Helping Kids

Exciting news!!! **Smencils** are back!! *What are smencils you ask?*

Well, they are the best smelly pencils you will ever smell! Not only are they made out of recycled paper and good for the environment but they have long lasting delicious smells such as jolly rancher, bubble gum, orange sherbert, strawberry and watermelon to name a few.



Our Spirit Squad will have 10 different flavours for students to pick from. They will be \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Please pay for them through Cash Online. Be sure to purchase your Smencils right away so you are not disappointed as we only have 200 pencils to sell and they are first come first serve!



Eastside Fresh Market

It's back!! In conjunction with Niagara Public Health and Nurse Sara - the Eastside Fresh Market is coming in February!

THANK YOU to Mrs. Loeffen's Grade 6/7 class and our Public Health Nurse Sara for planning, researching and organizing our market. We are so thankful to have additional support from Niagara Public Health to ensure our market runs smoothly. Once all of our orders are in, our Grade 6/7 students will work with Mrs. Loeffen and Nurse Sara to get the best deal on produce for our school community. On the day of the market - students who have purchased a bag will be invited down to our market to fill up their

reusable bag with the items our students have selected!

Many families have already started to purchase their \$5 bags! We appreciate all of your support for this Healthy School Initiative!

We look forward to first market on February 11th! Don't forget to send your child with a reusable bag!

Grade Graduation - Save the Date - Thursday, June 19th, 2025 at 6pm

PINK SHIRT DAY

Niagara Catholic continues to demonstrate a commitment to bullying awareness, prevention and intervention in our schools, our communities, and online through the participation in **Pink Shirt Day** on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025**.



We believe everyone has the power to create change! This **Pink Shirt Day**, let's do what we can to elevate the voices of all, and take a stand against bullying. We can show others that we advocate for kindness and inclusivity by wearing pink.

Information for families and schools about [Bullying - We Can All Stop It](#) is available from the Ministry of Education.

Catholic School Council Update

The **St. Thérèse Catholic School Council (CSC)** will be meeting for the third time this year on **Tuesday, February 25th at 6pm** in our school library. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

We are looking forward to planning many exciting events for our school community!



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

St. Thérèse SPIRIT WEAR

St. Thérèse Spirit Wear is available for purchase year round! Items are shipped directly to the school with your child's name on the package for easy delivery!

Please check out [Big Bear Spiritwear's website](#) for more information - Click on Schools to find our shopping link!



We are a proud member of the Lakeshore Catholic Family of Schools

Grade 8 Open House - Thursday, February 13th 6pm - Grade 7 & 8 Students welcome!

Standardized Dress Code

Reminder that students are expected to follow dress code expectations daily. We have provided a graphic below as a reminder of the colour and items of clothing that students can wear to school. Our Grade 8 Students are also able to wear their GRAD Hoodies!

All students can also wear St. Therese Spirit Wear or Lakeshore Catholic Spirit Wear!

Thank you for your continued support.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC Standardized Elementary Dress Code

Niagara Catholic has a standardized dress code for students in all of our Catholic elementary schools. All students wear navy blue bottoms and navy blue or white shirts.

OUR DRESS CODE COLOURS

Tops

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy or white Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy or white collared shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School-designed spirit wear

The elementary standardized dress code shirt must be plain (no logos or advertising) and buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.



Bottoms

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy sweat pants (Kindergarten - Grade 3) or;
- Navy pants (capri, cargo, denim, kobe or corduroy) or;
- Navy skirts, skirts or dresses or;
- Navy walking shorts.

Only knee-length shorts, skirts or dresses are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants.



Shoes

For health and safety reasons, running shoes with a full back and closed toe are the recommended footwear. Parents/guardians should provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear. Socks must be worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds

Morning Drop Off

Please remember - staff supervision begins at **8:40 a.m.** each morning. Students should not be dropped off or arriving to school earlier than this time.

Starting at 8:40 a.m. we have supervision staff who are helping students so they can walk to their entrances both at the front and back of the school **before 8:55 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the front doors of the school.

Inclement Weather Cancellation Information for Families

Inclement Weather Procedure

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to review the inclement weather procedure:

1. When transportation is cancelled **BEFORE** school begins - notification will be sent out through our Niagara Catholic social media pages, School Messenger and be announced on local radio stations.

In this situation schools are **OPEN** for staff and students and it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to attend school and to

provide transportation.

If your child is not coming to school, please report their absence using the Safe Arrival System.

2. In the rare occasion when transportation is cancelled AFTER school begins - the school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The option you, as a parent, have chosen on the **Emergency School Form** will apply to all emergency dismissals.

In case of inclement weather check Niagara Catholic District School Board website at:
www.niagaracatholic.ca

Winter Playground

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. With the number of students at our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form.

Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season: No throwing of snowballs, no kicking or throwing snow or snowing other students. We are also mindful that we share our playground and therefore our creations may be used, altered or may melt. The snow belongs to us all.

Reusable Water Bottles & Utensils

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle. This will not only help keep our children hydrated but will also help our environment. We ask that if your child needs a fork or spoon to eat their snacks or lunch that you please place one in their lunch pails. As we continue our Eco Schools Initiatives we will be moving away from single-use plastics and want to educate our students about sustainable actions they can take as stewards of our earth.

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for all their support this year. Each class has a bin and tongs filled with delicious and nutritious food items such as yogurt tubes, fruits, fruit bars, and individually baked goods. These items vary from day to day. All students are welcome to pick a snack to compliment their own snacks.



Toys at School

We remind all our students and parents that although toys are fun to play with during recess times, it is difficult to keep track of whose toys belong to whom. Often students bring and play with their toys during class time. We ask that you please consider not sending toys or labelling the toys and speaking to your child about when is an appropriate time to use them.

Please do not send Pokémon cards to school as students are not permitted **to trade** playing cards of any kind.

Thank you for your support!



Melissa Turcotte

Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters