



November 29, 2023

Dear St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School families,

I am writing this letter to share important news about construction at St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School.

When the project began, contractors planned to tear down our school after the new joint-use school opens in September. But the new building is being built very close to the current school. The contractor now recommends tearing down St. Elizabeth in the spring. This will allow them to safely demolish the existing school without possibly damaging the new one, and will allow them to finish the parking, bus lanes and entrances required for the new facility. This inconvenience will pay off as staff will be able to prepare the school during the summer to welcome students from William E. Brown Public School, Winger Public School, and St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School.

The health, safety, and well-being of our school community is my top priority. It is also the top priority of all senior staff, the Facilities Services team, and the Board of Trustees.

Last night, the Board of Trustees approved a plan to close St. Elizabeth school as we begin the March Break. On March 18, our students will move over to William E. Brown School until the end of the year.

Facilities Services looked into moving St. Elizabeth students to schools in Port Colborne or Welland. That would have meant longer travel times for some students. This option means St. Elizabeth students who ride the bus will have a similar bus ride to school.

We appreciate the District School Board of Niagara offering this space to our school community. It is a sign of our true partnership in this project.

St. Elizabeth students will attend school in portables provided by the DSBN. We will share common areas and services with William E. Brown students and staff.

This news may disappoint some families, especially our Grade 8s looked forward to finishing final year at our little school. But this truly is the best option to complete the new school safely and efficiently.

This building has served Catholic students in Wainfleet well for 70 years. But a school is only four walls. The heart and soul of the building comes from those within it, and that will travel with us to William E. Brown and then back to the new St. Elizabeth in September.

I expect that you have questions about this transition. There are a number of details yet to be worked out. I will continue to provide updates to families after the Christmas break and throughout the early part of the winter to ensure that you have all the information you need prior to our move across the road.

God bless,

J. Mangiacasale
Principal

J. Zaroda
Superintendent