

ST. MARY CATHOLIC WELCOME BACK

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



SEPTEMBER 2023

Home of the CHARGERS & St. Paul Catholic High School

Family of Schools

Join us on Instagram @stmarycatholic

📍 5719 Morrison Street, NF, On, ...

✉️ st.mary.nf@ncdsb.com

☎️ 905.354.7744

🌐 schools.niagaracatholic.ca/st...

Follow Us: Instagram

School Secretary: Ms. Linda McQueen

School Principal: Mrs. Maria Solomon

Superintendent: Mr. Domenic Massi



WELCOME BACK!!!

Dear Lord,

As we begin this new school year, we gather once again as a community of believers. We thank you for the energy and spirit that you renewed in us through the summer months. We thank you for the time we shared with our family and friends to reflect on what is important in our lives. Let this year be filled with enthusiasm, mercy and love so that we may continue to grow in our faith. Help us to fulfill your hope for us with honest intentions and seeds of faith. Let us be gentle and have patience with ourselves so we can bring laughter, joy and love to others. Amen

Welcome new and returning students and families!! I am blessed to be part of St. Mary Catholic Elementary School and the school community to serve you as a servant and humble leader. ! Thank you to our vocational staff for their commitment, compassion and working as a community for all students to be treated with warmth, respect and love.

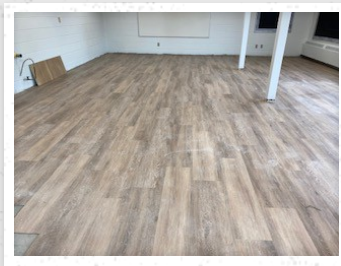
Looking forward to another amazing school year.

Mrs. Solomon

WHILE YOU WERE AWAY!!!



**KINDER
RENOS**

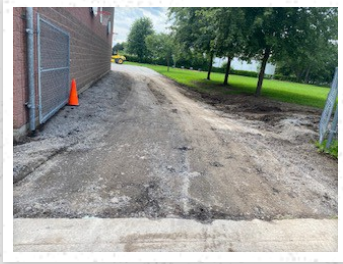


NEW FLOORS



**WE ARE
READY!!**





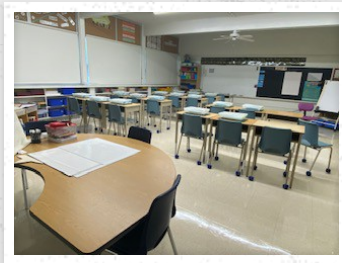
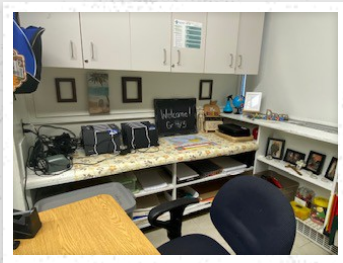
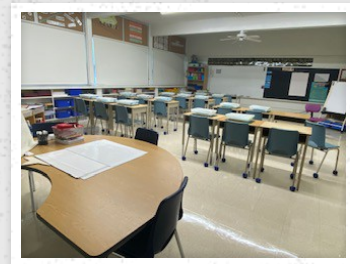
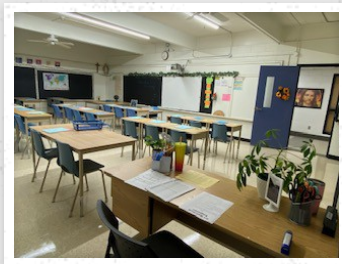
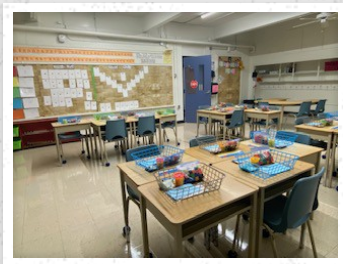
**PAVEMENT
REPLACED**



**NEW PLAY
AREA**



**NEW WALK
WAY &
ENTRY GATE**



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC'
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
THEOLOGICAL THEME:
CALLED BY NAME**

**Called by Name: "Hear My Voice"
2023-2024**

Reflection

What does it mean when we say that God calls us by name? Just as each and every one of us belongs to a particular family, so we belong to God's family. There are billions of people in the world who are called by name.

John referred to Jesus as the gatekeeper of the sheepfold when he said, "The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." (John 10:3). Let us not forget the importance of calling a person by name, of listening attentively to their story, of realizing that God dwells within them.

ST. MARY BELL TIMES

8:35 am Supervision Begins

8:45 Announcements

10:15-10:30 Recess

11:30-12:10 Lunch (indoor/outdoor)

1:10-1:25 Recess

2:55 Dismissal

2023-2024 STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Please be advised that changes have taken place to our staffing due to enrolment of students. Class lists may be tentative and subject to change due to new registrations and the Board's reallocation. More information will follow in the upcoming weeks.

Kindergarten:

Mrs. A.M. Humeniuk, Ms. P. Bukator (ECE), Ms. J D'Amico and Mrs. S. Irakoze (ECE)

Grade 1/2 Mrs. P. Maia

Grade 1/2 Mrs. M. Lavey

Grade 3 Mr. J. Russell

Grade 3/4 Mr. M. Cicchino

Grade 4/5 Mrs. M. Rogers

Grade 5/6 Mrs. J. DeProphetis

Grade 7 Mr. J. Forte

Grade 8 Mrs. K Shewfelt

Educational Assistants: Mrs. L. Phelps and Mrs. D Landry

Educational Resource Teacher: Mrs. J. Alaimo

FSL & P&P: J. Bonadie French (4-8)

Primary Team Members: Mrs. D. Scobe & Mrs. S. Murray

Itinerant Arts Teacher: Ms.L Paraskevopoulos

Library Technician: Ms. D. O'Rourke

Child Youth Worker: TBD

ESL/ELL Teacher:

Caretakers: Mr. K Maloney & Mr. D. Santin pm caretaker

Secretary: Ms. L. McQueen



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

First Day of School Drop-off. In order to facilitate an efficient and safe drop-off, staff will be outside on the first day of school. To avoid larger gatherings, we ask that parents who are escorting their child(ren) on to school grounds, do so efficiently. Staff will be easily identifiable. Once your child is in the care of a staff member, please exit the area.

We ask that you do not park in the Staff Parking Lot or the St. Andrew Kiss 'N' Ride Parking Lot. The Staff Parking Lot is also used to safely transition our students to the Kiss 'N' Ride. Please park along Law Street or Oakes Park and not on Morrison Street. We also ask that you do not make any U-Turns on Morrison Street to keep our school community safe.

KISS 'N' RIDE DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

When dropping off/picking up your child(ren) at St. Andrew Church Parking Lot Kiss 'N' Ride that is adjacent to the school, please place your car in park, and staff will be present to welcome them and escort them on to the walkway safely. Please do not get out of your vehicle or park in this designated area. We ask for your patience. If you would like to escort your child to and from school please use Law Street and Oakes Park. There is a crossing guard on Morrison Street for safety.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL -- SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 FIRST IMPORTANT MEETING

The purpose of the Catholic School Council is to foster communication between the school and parents to improve the quality of the education experience for St. Mary students and their parents/guardians and to enhance and nurture the Catholic identity of our school and board. The Council members will serve as liaisons, reflecting the views of all parents to the administration and communicate with parents about the goals and plans of St. Mary Catholic Elementary School. The Council seeks enthusiastic parents/guardians of

current students who are willing to support the mission of the Council. Parents/Guardians can be self-nominated or nominated by other parents/guardians of the St. Mary Catholic Elementary School Community. Nominations are reviewed and approved at the September Catholic School Council Meeting to be held on Monday, September 18 at 6:00 pm in the school library.

Parents/Guardians seeking election to the Catholic School Council must submit this completed form to the school on or before September 15, 2023 and must be in attendance at the first meeting on September 18, 2023. Please send electronically to maria.solomon@ncdsb.com

If you would like to be a part of the St. Mary Catholic Elementary School Council or wish to nominate a parent/guardian, please complete and submit the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Why do you feel you would be an effective Catholic School Council Member?

I agree that I shall be nominated for membership to the St. Mary Catholic Elementary School Council.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Forms are due to the school no later than Friday, September 15, 2023

Catholic School Council Meeting September 18, 2023 6:00-7:00 School Library

NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC)

Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee CALL FOR NOMINATIONS The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is a regional body of representative stakeholders that

supports the Mission of Catholic Education and the Mission of the Niagara Catholic District School board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees. For more information, about the NCPIC please visit the NCDSB website.

IMPORTANT DATES TO DIARIZE FOR OCTOBER 2022

- Sept. 27 Meet the Teacher Night 4:30-6:00
- Oct. 6 - Elementary PA Day - no school for students
- Oct. 9 - Thanksgiving Day
- Oct. 12 -Guest Speaker Unstoppable Tracy
- Oct. 16 - Picture Day

KINDERGARTEN HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Please ensure a consistent pick-up routine is in place for your child. If there is every a change in that routine, please communicate with your child's teacher

Please bring a change of clothing (shirt, pants, socks and undergarment) on the first day of school. At your earliest convenience also bring in a **Velcro pair of running shoes to be kept at school; please do not bring in footwear with laces unless your child can independently tie them.**



WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES!!



STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS

A copy of your child's confidential Student Information Form will be sent home this week. Please update, sign and return the form as soon as possible. It is very important that we have the correct information as to where we may reach you or who you wish us to contact if you are unavailable during the school hours. Should there be any changes during the school year,

please keep us well informed. It is imperative that we have accurate and complete information on file.

THE TERRY FOX RUN/WALK SEPT. 22/23 MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

WHEN

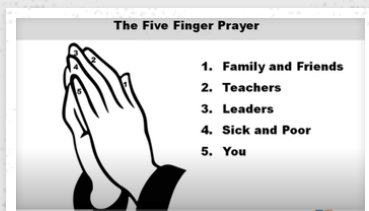
FRIDAY, SEP. 22ND, 12:30-2:30PM

WHERE

OAKES PARK, NIAGARA FALLS, ON

MORE INFORMATION

Sept. 22/23 staff and students will walk in solidarity to support the annual Terry Fox Walk. All monies raised will go to the Terry Fox Foundation. More information to follow. It will be an OUT OF DRESS CODE DAY!! - You are encouraged to wear red and white in honour of Terry Fox.



SEPT.19, 2023 OPENING SCHOOL MASS @ 10:00 AM ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Opening School Mass will be at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Students in Grades 1 to 8 will be attending. All are welcome!

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH - MASS TIMES

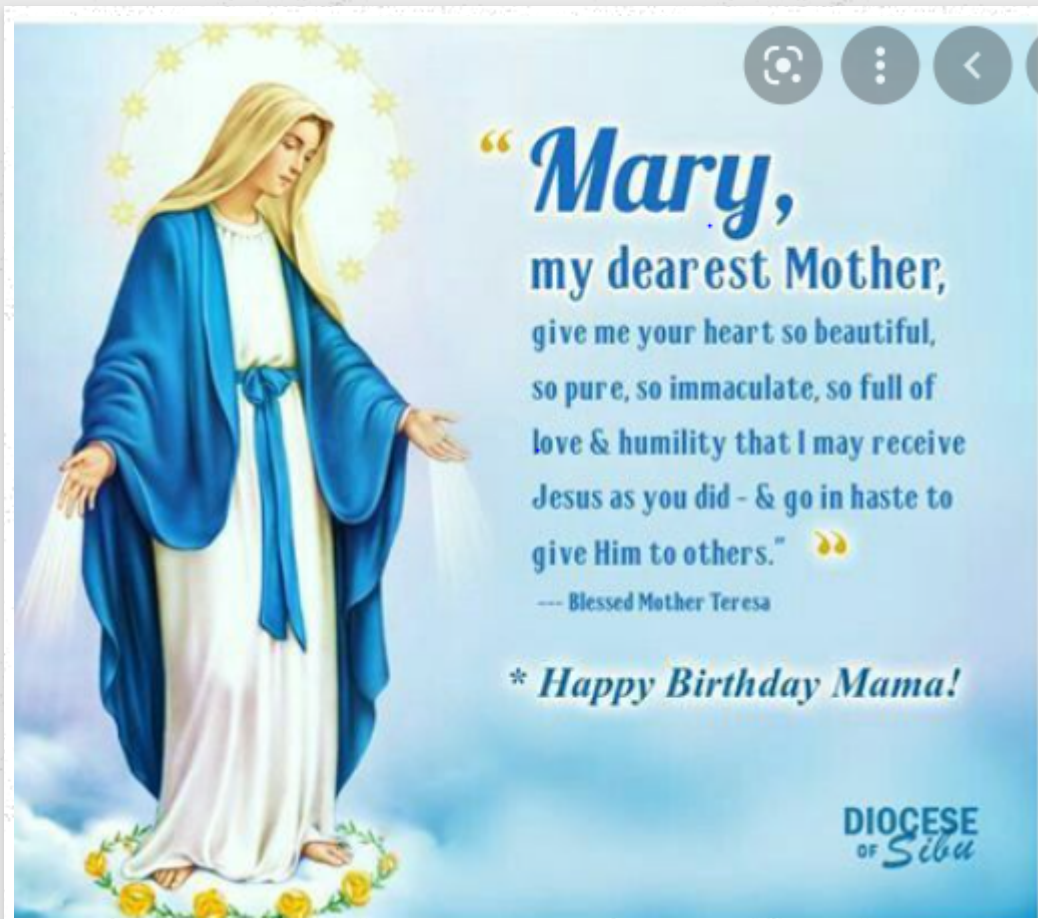
Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m

9:30 am is the Children's Mass - hope to see you there!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOTHER MARY -
SEPTEMBER 8**



SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

SchoolCash Online

Register today! Fast, safe and a convenient way to pay for school activities (i.e. hot lunches, field trips...).

Here is all you need to do:

1. Create your profile

Go to: <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

and click on "Get Started Today".

2. Confirm Your Email:

Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details. Stay connected by selecting "Yes" to email notifications about upcoming fees.

3. Add a Student:

Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

Which payment methods are accepted?

Credit Card: pay with Visa or Master Card on School Cash Online.

eCheque: an electronic version of a paper cheque used to make payments online. Anyone with a chequing or savings account can pay by eCheque on School Cash Online.

A FRIENDLY VISIT FROM OUR NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Thank you for helping our St. Mary Catholic Community by providing us with new backpacks for our students!!!



BUS SAFETY

At the Stop Be 5 to 10 minutes early, and stand on the inside of the sidewalk/ shoulder away from the roadway. When the Bus Arrives Line up in a straight line, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open, and never touch the outside of the bus.

Getting on the Bus Get on the bus one at a time, hold the handrail as you climb the stairs, and go directly to your seat and get settled. Riding on the Bus Sit with your back to back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap, and use your quiet speaking voice so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving.

Getting off the Bus Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop, only get off the bus at your school or at your bus stop, look for your parent/ guardian before you get off the bus if that is your routine, and always tell the bus driver if you do not see your parent/ guardian at the bus stop waiting for you if that is your routine or if you missed the stop.

Crossing in Front of the Bus Watch and wait for the bus driver to signal to you to cross the road once it is safe to do so.

Crossing Guard Safety Please ensure that you wait to cross the street ONLY after the Crossing Guard sounds her whistle 2 times. When the Crossing Guard sounds her whistle 1 time it means for everyone to stop



ELECTRONICS

The Electronic Communications Systems Policy states that phones, tablets, laptops, audio or video recording devices are eligible for use by students in all Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary school classrooms as only approved by staff for instructional or co-instructional purposes. The expectation is that students will use NCDSB's electronic communications systems for educational purposes, to enhance learning through responsible access to global information and communication. **Students who carry cell phones when travelling to and from school, for safety reasons, are reminded they are not allowed to use their cell phones to call home or text message once they are on school property. All cell phones must remain off and put away during the school day unless noted by the classroom teacher! Students are asked to please use the student phone in the office if they are not feeling well or wish to contact home.**

NSTS BUSSING INFORMATION 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Please monitor the NSTS website for up-to-date transportation instructions, and the parent portal for specific transportation arrangements and the Opt-In to Transportation form if required. If a family has questions, please ask them to call the regular NSTS telephone number (905-357-6787) and our remote telephone support service will answer on our behalf. Families can also email general@nsts.ca.

Please download the BusPlanner Delays app to receive notifications directly to your mobile device notifications.

1. Download the free BusPlanner Delays app via the Apple or Android app stores.
2. Choose either your school board or transportation authority: • Niagara CDSB • Niagara STS
• OR enter a Quick code NSTS
3. Select "Specific Schools and all related Bus Routes"
4. Select the school(s) from the list. You will receive notifications for every bus run to the school(s) selected, including all AM and PM runs. <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/busplanner-delays/id1217589960> https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.busplanner.delaysu0026hl=en_CAU0026gl=USu0026pli=1

You are encouraged to subscribe for direct delay email notifications or to download the BP Delays app to their phone for direct notification. More information is available on the NSTS website <https://www.nsts.ca/policy-service/busplanner-web-user-instructions>

Families have been asked to complete the Opt-In to Transportation form in the parent portal to notify NSTS if they intend to have their child(ren) ride the bus this school year. If they Opted-In for the 2022-23 school year, they are automatically Opted-In for the 2023-24 school year. The same form includes Opt-Out of Transportation. Families are asked to complete this form if they do not intend to have their child(ren) ride the bus. We have not set a deadline before back to school to Opt-In. NSTS will work with bus drivers and schools to identify students not riding the bus in September to remove these students from the passenger manifest.



CROSSING GUARD INFORMATION

Welcome back to another school year! We hope you enjoyed your summer. Our School Crossing program would like to share with you the link to our City of Niagara Falls' webpage which has our listing of all school crossing locations and service shift times for School Crossing Guards. This will help to assist with planning a safe and active route to school for your child. Please check the site often for changes in services such as shift time changes, additions or removals of locations, and service interruptions due to inclement weather or staff shortages. We will always try to post changes in services by no later than 7:30am and 2:00pm, but sometimes last-minute issues arise, so check and check often!

<https://niagarafalls.ca/city-hall/transportation-services/school-crossing-guards.aspx>

[School Crossing Guard Information | City of Niagara Falls, Canada - City of Niagara Falls](#)

School Crossing Guard information including locations and scheduled times.

niagarafalls.ca

Thank you for your support of our program and have a great start to the school year!

Julie Ellis | School Crossing Guard Coordinator | Municipal Works | City of Niagara Falls

8208 Heartland Forest Road | Niagara Falls, ON L2H 0L7 | (905) 356-7521 ext 5212 | Fax 905-356-5576 | jellis@niagarafalls.ca

