



CANADIAN MARTYRS NEWS



DECEMBER 2023



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

December is upon us and the hustle and bustle has begun. We begin to feel the warmth of the season of Advent. During this very special month of December, this most sacred season of Advent, we embark on a time of waiting. This season comes with the struggle between the busyness of the season and the holiness that leads us to our most precious day, the birth of Jesus. How will you prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent season? Let us all remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the spirit of giving.

Let us pray during Advent....

O Lord, the Advent candles, with their familiar, glowing light, help us to turn to you. May we stay alert in these weeks, anticipating the joyful celebration of your Son's arrival into the world. As the Advent lights keep darkness at bay, may they also keep us from wondering from your ways. Help us to stay ever watchful, like the gatekeeper, and hold your mercy in our heart as we prepare for the coming of our infant Saviour. Amen. (taken from Living Faith Advent Daily Catholic Devotions, 2020)

Thank you for your continued support of Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School and we wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas! When we return in the New Year, we hope we will all be well rested, feel revived and rejuvenated.

*Yours in Catholic Education,
Mrs. L. Incaviglia, Principal
Ms. W. Wilson, Vice Principal*

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
And open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
And good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which
Christ brings
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us
Happy to be thy children
And Christmas evening bring us
To our beds with grateful thoughts
Forgiving and forgiven
For Jesus' sake, Amen.
- Robert Louis Stevenson

PREPARING THE WAY FOR CHRISTMAS

Our Advent School Mass will be taking place on **Monday, December 4th at 10:15am at St. Alfred Church. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend.**

Reflection

God invites us to hear His voice. But, how do we go about hearing it? How do we learn to recognize it? God has blessed us with a priceless gift: the Bible. St. Jerome famously wrote that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." We recognize our loved ones' voices because of the many hours we've spent together. Should we expect it to be any different with Jesus? When we read the Gospels, we learn His ways and we hear His voice. Do you have a Bible that has been collecting dust? This is the sign you've been waiting for to pick it up, open up the Gospels, and give them a read. Jesus is waiting for you.



DISMISSAL REMINDERS

Out of much care for the safety of students and their parents, we would like to provide a friendly reminder with respect to the dismissal procedure. Parents picking up their child(ren) will continue to meet their child(ren) at the **East field** during dismissal. Please know that parking spaces in our parking lot are limited; therefore, parents are encouraged to arrive early and park at the Church that is next door to the school as there is ample space there.

Parents are reminded to please **use the sidewalk** when walking to and from the East field, regardless of whether they parked their vehicle at the school or Church next door. Please know that walking across the parking lot, especially with children, is not advised as this presents a great concern for safety with vehicles coming in and out. In addition, once the snow arrives and the parking lot is plowed, there will be snowbanks along the edge where the East field and parking lot meet. Again, we remind families to please be safe and utilize the sidewalk. We thank everyone for their continued support and flexibility and for working with the school as we endeavour to keep everyone safe. Please know that we will communicate with families via School Messenger should the dismissal procedure need to be adjusted in any way to account for the challenges of winter.

We are proud to be a part of the Holy Cross Family of Schools.





CANADIAN MARTYRS
Second Annual
Christmas Market & Mingle

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH 2023
5:00PM - 7:00PM



**Hot Chocolate, Cookie Decorating, Crafts,
Food Trucks, (Smoke & Moonshine,
and BeaverTails), local artisans & a visit
from Santa Claus!**

ALL ARE WELCOME

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

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



1. If bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, it means that the children will not be picked up at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is then your responsibility to pick your child up at the end of the day.

When transportation services are cancelled, only the school remains open, and it is the responsibility of the parent to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to attend school.

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

2. Procedures Relating to Inclement Weather AFTER the School Day starts in this case either:

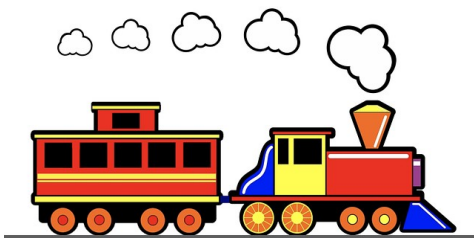
- a) Transportation is cancelled and school is kept open.
- b) Transportation is cancelled and the school is closed.

The safety of our children is our primary concern; the school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary after children have arrived at school. 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. If this form has yet to be completed, please be sure to do so and send it to your child's teacher

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER CHECK Niagara Catholic District School Board website at www.niagaracatholic.ca.

One Toy at a Time

This Christmas season, the Canadian Martyrs Student Council is excited to collaborate with **Community Care for our Advent Toy Drive**. We will be collecting **new, unwrapped toys until Thursday, December 14th**. You are welcome to bring as many donations as your family wishes to contribute.



French Immersion 2024-2025

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. The French Immersion Program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an optional program. The entry point for September 2024 is Kindergarten Year 1 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines.

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2.

French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2024 is Monday, January 15th, 2024 at 7:30 a.m. through to Friday, February 2nd, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Pre-registrations outside of this window will not be considered. There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program. An account must be created first through Edsembli to access pre-registration forms. Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp. Please visit www.niagaracatholic.ca and click the French Immersion banner or "Register Now" then, click the French Immersion tab for information about the program. Additional pre-registration details will be posted on this site as they become available. Please check the site before the pre-registration window opens.

**Ontario Active
School Travel**



Benefits of active school travel:

Walking and biking to school has many great benefits for children including a healthy brain development, improved academic performance, reduced stress, depression, and anxiety, improved cardiovascular health and overall improved happiness! Help set your kids up for a great day by walking or biking to school!