

St. Martin Catholic Elementary

January 2024



School Information

Mr. J. Tornabuono - Principal
Mrs. Y. Leheta - Vice Principal

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/stmartin/>
Location: 18 Streamside Drive Smithville, ON L0R 2A0
Phone: 905-957-3032

Follow us on Twitter [@MustangsMartin](https://twitter.com/MustangsMartin)

Principal's Message

Happy New Year, and welcome back to all students, staff, and families. I sincerely hope that the Christmas season was a blessed and peaceful one spent with family and friends. As the new calendar year begins, I welcome back staff and students and pray for the welfare of our St. Martin School Community.

As we begin 2024 we will continue to support our students as they set new year resolutions and help them achieve excellence in all that they do.

I wish to extend my gratitude to our parents, students and staff who generously donated to our Christmas Advent Angel Program. All toys were distributed to children throughout West Lincoln by West Lincoln Community Care. On behalf of our entire St Martin Staff, I would like to thank our students and parents for your beautiful gifts, cards and prayerful wishes at Christmas.

In 2024, we will continue to work together to build a Catholic, caring community where respect flourishes and Jesus Christ is our role model in all that we do. May He bring joy to your heart; and may He watch over and bless all our students and families. May Jesus' love light your way in 2024.

J. Tornabuono

Christmas Advent Angel Gifts

Thank you to all of our families that donated toys to our West Lincoln Community Care Angel Toy Drive. As you can see we received an abundance of toys that were delivered to children in our community.



Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Thursday, January 11, 2024 - Bus Safety Presentations
- Friday, January 19, 2024 - P.A. Day
- Tuesday January 23rd, Catholic School Council Meeting



Indoor Shoes

Please ensure that your child(ren) have a pair of indoor shoes at school. Students are expected to change their footwear when they enter their classroom. This will not only keep the floors dry but also clean. Winter boots will not be permitted inside the classroom..

Catholic School Council

Thank you to our Catholic School Council for organizing our Jingleathon. It was a fun and exciting Christmas event for the students.

Our next Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 23rd at 6 pm in the School Library. All St. Martin parent(s) are welcome to attend.





Kindergarten Open House - September 2024

Kindergarten Open House Our Kindergarten Open House will be held on Tuesday February 6th, 2024 from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Regardless if you have already completed a registration, you are welcome and encouraged to attend our Open House. If you have a

child born in 2020 they are eligible for Year I Kindergarten here at St. Martin Catholic School for the 2024-2025 school year. Registrations can be completed online at

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/registration/> This will help us better prepare for September 2024.

Parents are asked to scan and submit the following documents electronically: · Copy of child's Birth Certificate or Birth Registration Form Copy of Baptismal Certificate (Parent's Certificate is acceptable) Proof of full address if you live in bounds (e.g. bank statement, utility bill, or similar documentation) Any relevant custody order documents Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to St. Martin. In addition, we will also have an in-person orientation at the beginning of June.

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. ABC creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone that wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

Standardized Dress Code

A reminder that students are expected to adhere to Niagara Catholic's Standardized Dress Code. An additional copy of the Dress Code is attached below. According to the Standardized Dress Code, the following items are **not permitted**:

- Black Pants
- T-shirts of any kind (spiritwear exempt)
- Faded or torn Jeans. (Jeans must be dark blue and in good condition)
- Please ensure that sweaters are navy blue, white or spiritwear

Your cooperation is important and appreciated.

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.

Blessed Trinity News

We, the staff at Blessed Trinity hope that all of our Family of Schools had a very enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

At Blessed Trinity, January marks the last 2 weeks of our Semester 1 and final exams for our students. The focus for January will be wrapping up the semester and preparing for those exams.



For the grade 8's, at our Family of Schools, it will mean getting to actually choose the courses they will taking next year in Grade 9 at Blessed Trinity. The process began back in December with an information presentation to all grade 8 students on the compulsory and elective courses they will be choosing from. On January 18th, that process will continue with our Grade 8 Open House at Blessed Trinity starting at 7:00 pm. All grade 8 students and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend and experience what BT Thunder is all about!

The last step in the process will have a representative from Blessed Trinity visit Grade 8 classrooms to help students actually choose and submit their courses through MyBlueprint from January 22nd to February 9th.

The deadline for selecting courses, submitting registration form and payment of Grade 9 Registration Fee of \$55 is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH.

Please contact Blessed Trinity – Mr. John Cino – 905-945-6706 Ext. 2330 or Mrs. Rose Bianco Ext. 2312, if any Grade 8 parent has any questions.

From Niagara Public Health

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

January 2024

Grade 7 Vaccines Catch Up

Niagara Region Public Health has completed all fall school-based immunization clinics for the following publicly funded [routine school vaccinations](#):

- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Grade 7 students who missed their school immunization clinic can receive these vaccines through the following options:

- **Niagara Region Public Health vaccination clinics** – book an appointment at a community clinic by calling the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 ext. 7425
- **Family doctor or Nurse Practitioner**– Contact your health care provider to discuss vaccine availability. If you do not have one, you can check with a local walk-in clinic.

Wintertime Well-Being

As the weather changes and days get shorter, many people, including children and youth, may feel more anxious, depressed, or tired. It's essential to be mindful of our emotional well-being. Beat the winter blues and check out these simple activities to boost your and your child's mood.

- [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](#)
- [100 Fun Activities to Boost Your Mood](#)
- [Stress relief activities for kids](#)

Help Keep the Classroom Germ Free – Stay Home When Sick

Respiratory viruses like the flu and COVID-19 are spreading in our community. Since these viruses can have similar symptoms, it can be hard to tell what you are infected with based on just symptoms alone.

If your child is sick, they should stay home from school until:

- They have no fever, without the use of fever reducing medication **and**
- Their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours or 48 hours if they have nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea **and**
- They don't develop any new symptoms

By keeping your child home when sick, you help prevent them from spreading whatever infection they have to others.

Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. **Gear Up:** Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.
2. **Choose Safe Hills:** Opt for designated tobogganing hills that are free from obstacles like trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. **Follow Etiquette:** Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. **Think Safety:** Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.
5. **Stay Visible:** If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.

Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland!

Visit [Niagara Families](#) for places your child can toboggan.

Educational Resources

Mindfulness Awareness Stabilization Training

As teachers wrap up their final lessons amidst the excitement of the holiday season, holiday preparation becomes a hectic task. In the midst of this hustle, focusing on the present moment can be challenging. Unity Health Toronto presents [Mindful Awareness Stabilization Training \(MAST\)](#), a program designed to teach emotion regulation skills through psychoeducation and mindfulness practices. With easily accessible handouts and a collection of brief audio tracks, MAST aims to enhance mindfulness not only in individual educators but also within the classroom environment.

Jack.org's Mental Health Promotion

Introduce Mental Health Promotion to the Classroom with [Jack.org's Educator Hub \(edHUB\)](#) resource. This comprehensive and free resource library equips educators with teaching materials to integrate mental health promotion programming into their classrooms. Featuring curriculum-aligned activities, lessons, and a unit plan, this program supports educators by offering safe, youth-friendly, and evidence-informed mental health resources. It empowers educators to enhance their students' mental health literacy within a learning environment that fosters growth and well-being.

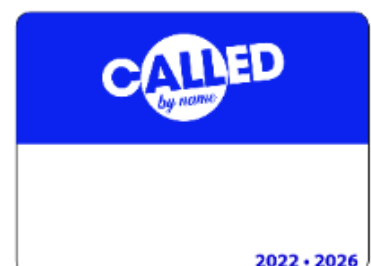
Called By Name

Our Niagara Catholic's new theological theme for 2022-2026 will be "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples



Let us focus on this thought - Jesus knows my name. And Jesus calls me by name. He doesn't just say, "Hey, you!" but He knows me. And he calls out to me by name. You aren't just a faceless name in a crowd of humanity. Jesus recognizes you. And you're precious to him. You matter so much to

Jesus that he calls you by name, beckoning you to walk closer to him. To trust him more and to live and move and have your being in his unconditional love for you.

International Day of Education

Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed January 24th as [International Day of Education](#), in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind.

Today, 244 million children and youth are out of school, and 771 million adults are illiterate. There is a crisis in foundational learning, literacy and numeracy skills among young learners. 617 million children and adolescents cannot read and do basic math; less than 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school and some four million children and youth refugees are out of school. Their right to education is being violated and it is unacceptable. It's time to transform education.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE and SAFE ARRIVAL

St. Martin Catholic School and all schools throughout Niagara Catholic use the Safe Arrival program to manage student attendance reporting. The Safe Arrival program reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance by making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences. The Safe Arrival program allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

- 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. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.
- 2) Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). 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. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.
- 3) The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

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