

St. Thérèse Catholic School

January 2024

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Saxton - Secretary

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

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Principal's Message

Happy New Year!!! Welcome to 2024!!

As 2024 begins, the staff at St. Thérèse Catholic School would like to welcome everyone back for another year full of learning, friendship and fun. Our hope and prayer for all our families is to continue to live in the light of Christ, to have good health, much happiness and the love of our family and friends.

With the new year comes New Year's resolutions. We make these resolutions with the intent to change something in our lives for the better. Throughout the month of January we focus on the Catholic Graduate Expectation being **A Discerning Believer**.

On behalf of the entire staff at St. Thérèse Catholic School, I wish you all the best in the year 2024.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Turcotte

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

Theological Theme - Called By Name - Hear My Voice

Our Monthly Reflection

Our theme this school year is "Called by Name: Hear My Voice." And while our theme is about God's call to us, it should also serve as a reminder of our call to Him. Each day God says to us, "let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet" (Song of Solomon 2:14). God doesn't want to talk at us; He wants to have a conversation with us. Have you given Him the pleasure of hearing your voice yet today?



Eastside Market - January 31st

As part of our Healthy Schools Certification Plan and in partnership with our Niagara Public Health Nurse, our Grade 7 students will be organizing our own "Eastside Market". Mrs. Loeffen's Grade 7 class is responsible for planning and organizing our monthly farmer's market taking place in our gymnasium. More information will be sent home closer to our first market on Wednesday, January 31st. Families will be able to purchase a package of fresh food items selected by our Grade 7 students ahead of time through school cash online. On the day of our market, students will be able to come to the Eastside Market in our gymnasium to select their food items!

We are looking forward to bringing this new exciting initiative to our school community and are excited to see what our Grade 7 students come up with!



Coming Soon

Be sure to spread the word about our wonderful school community as we continue to grow!

Parents and guardians can register children born in 2020 by going to

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/registration/elementary/>



Kindergarten Registration

Term 1 Report Cards

Report Cards for Term 1 will be made available in the Niagara Catholic Parent Portal the week of February 13th. 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. A report card specific email will be sent out in February.

Bell Let's Talk Day

Bell "Let's Talk" Day is on January 24, 2024. The Bell "Let's Talk Day" helps to promote awareness and action with a strategy built on 4 key pillars: fighting stigma, improving access to mental health care, supporting world-class research, and leading by example in workplace mental health.

For students, "Let's Talk Day" is a good starting point for important discussions about viewing mental health in the same way we view physical health. Students will be exposed to messages and activities in class to promote mental health awareness.

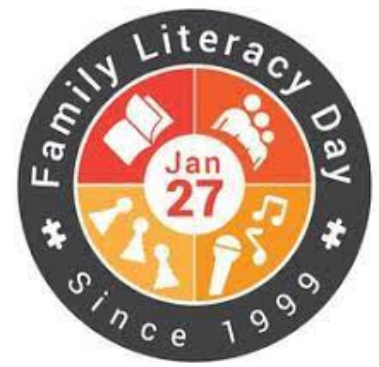


Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day Family Literacy Day takes place every **January 27** to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. The theme for this year is '**Let's Have A Family Party**'. Celebrate 25 years of Family Literacy Day and learning together as a family by having a party! Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless – and it's fun when you do it together.

Check out the ABC Life Literacy Canada website for resources...

<https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/>



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!

COBS BREAD FUNDRAISER

Coming in January.... our COBS BREAD FUNDRAISER to raise money for student activities and an audio-visual system for our gymnasium. Bread cards will be available for purchase for \$25 and are worth 12 loaves of AMAZING bread. Please start letting friends and family know to anticipate this great fundraiser coming in January!

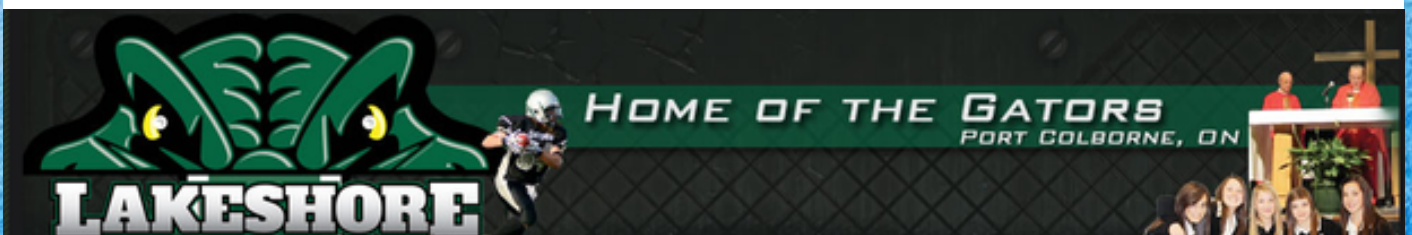


Although COBS bread is located in St. Catharines, our fundraiser last year was very successful raising \$1000! Remember you can advertise for this fundraiser on your social media accounts - graphics will be provided again this year!

Graduation Save the Date

Our Grade 8 Graduation will take place on **Thursday, June 20th, 2024** at Lakeshore Catholic.

We will begin with our Graduation ceremony in the auditorium followed by a graduation party for the students and staff!



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

Grade 8 - Advanced Placement Prep Program - Lakeshore Catholic

Just a reminder: this **Thursday, January 11** from **6-7pm** in the **LCHS Auditorium**, Mr. Markovich and the Lakeshore Catholic Student Services team will be hosting Grade 8 parents and their children who are interested in the Advanced Placement Prep Program. Many of our students have already signed up for APP- while others may be interested once they learn more about it.

1. <https://www.lakeshorecatholic.ca/pdfs/LCHS-2023AP-PPT.pdf> (this will be updated and developed for Thursday's presentation with more information)
2. <https://forms.gle/kKdvEtLgcJxLQyVD7>

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

School Bell Times

8:40-8:55- Student Arrival

8:55 -9:05 - Entry Bell - Prayers, Announcements, Attendance

10:25-10:40 -Recess

11:40 -12:20 Lunch

1:20-1:35- Recess

2:55 - Prayers, Announcements

3:05 - Dismissal Bell

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 winter is upon us, 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

Safe Arrival - Reporting Your Child's Attendance

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.

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

