

St. Thérèse Catholic School

February 2024

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Saxton - Secretary

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

Address - [530 Killaly Street East, Port Colborne, ON](#)

Phone - 905-835-8082

Instagram - @st.thereseperc

Email - st.therese@ncdsb.com



Principal's Message

Dear Families,

February is always an exciting time of year for us as we have a month full of activities for our students surrounding Black History, Kids Helping Kids, Saint Valentine, Family Day, and celebrating your children's accomplishments in their Term 1 Report Card.

All this month we are promoting Kindergarten Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year. Please continue to spread the good news about St. Thérèse so our school community can welcome the next generation of Titans! Our New Kindergarten Open House will take place on Wednesday, February 7th from 9:30-6:00pm.

We will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes for all staff and students provided by the school from McDonalds. We will then enter the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday with a mass with Father Danielle. All families are welcome to join us at Mass on Wednesday at 10am to receive ashes. We look forward to the Lenten season and time to focus on the three main practices of Lent.

Fasting - allowing us to make room in our hearts for Jesus (this doesn't just have to be about food, you could fast from screens, videos games etc.)

Prayer - try adding more prayer to your day, who needs your prayers in their life?

Almsgiving - this isn't just about giving money! This is about being generous with our time, possessions and love.

During this special month, let us take time to show affection to bring a little more meaning into everyday actions. By taking the time to show affection to others through words and deeds, we will demonstrate our love for God. Our students will find many opportunities to serve one another during Pink Shirt Day and our Kids Helping Kids campaign.

Yours in Catholic ducation,

Mrs. Turcotte

A Prayer for our Families

God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support.

Instill in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other.

Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace.

May the mutual love and affection of our parents and guardians set a good example.

Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature independence.

May the mutual affection and respect of families be a sign of Christian life here and hereafter, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

St. Thérèse, pray for us.

Amen.



Theological Theme - Called By Name - Hear God's Voice

Our Monthly Reflection

"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) Throughout her life, Mary reflected on the words of Jesus, pondering them in her heart. Mary's heart was and is full of love for Jesus. The words that He spoke to her were not passing things, quickly forgotten. They were opportunities for her to marvel at the Son of God. Mary's example invites us to make time to reflect on the words of Jesus. A simple way of doing this is by praying the rosary. In the rosary, Mary takes us by the hand and leads us closer to Jesus. We learn about the heart of Jesus through the heart of Mary, who pondered His words in her heart.





Kindergarten

Registration

Kindergarten Open House

Our Kindergarten Open House is taking place from **9:30-6:00pm** on **Wednesday, February 7th**. Any child born in 2020 is welcome to register for Kindergarten at St. Thérèse for the 2024-2025 school year.

We are looking forward to connecting with the next generation of Titans and cannot wait to show off our Kindergarten Classrooms and Kindergarten outdoor space. If you or someone you know has a child starting Junior Kindergarten with us this September, please be sure to register them as soon as possible. This will ensure they are invited to our open house and help us ensure our school is properly staffed for September.

Please spread the word of our open house! You can call the school or email us at St.Therease@ncdsb.com to let us know you are attending our Kindergarten Open House on Wednesday, February 7th.

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION
ANNUAL BENEFIT

Gala

WITH HONOURARY GUEST
MOST REVEREND GERARD BERGIE, O.D.
and presentation of the
Niagara Catholic Education
AWARD OF DISTINCTION

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED AND PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS

\$100 Per Person - Thursday March 21, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Club Roma Event & Conference Centre

Payment can be made [online here](#) or by cheque using the form below.
Cheques payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE)
Payment must be received by March 13, 2024
• \$30 tax receipt available upon request •

Name _____	#Attending _____	Payment \$ _____
Email _____	Phone _____	
Dietary Requests _____		
Table Assignment Request - Please list the names or groups _____		
Please send cheque and form to: Anna Pisano, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Rd., Welland, ON L3C 7C1		





For further information
call 905.734.0240 ext. 214
or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA WITH HONOURARY GUEST BISHOP GERARD BERGIE

Supporting Niagara Catholic District School Board students in need and scholarships

Thursday, March 21, 2024, **Club Roma Event Centre**, 6:00 pm.

Tickets \$100/person

Online payment at www.niagaracatholic.ca or by cheque payable to the
Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education

Mailing address: 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON L3C 7C1 -- Attention Anna Pisano
Please make payment by **March 13, 2024** (\$30 tax receipt upon request)

Individual tickets available or tables of eight or ten.

For further information (905) 735-0240, ext. 214 or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com



Follow us on
Instagram

@St.ThereasePC

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 12-23, 2024

Support Kids Helping Kids. Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids Link at School Cash Online.









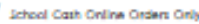



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Niagara Catholic's 26th Annual Kids Helping Kids Fundraiser from *Monday, February 12th - Friday, February 23rd*. Funds raised will jointly support the **Niagara Children's Centre** and the **Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education**.

Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Silly Sock Day. Our students will be attending a Kick Off Assembly on Monday, February 12th to learn more about who we are supporting and how kids can help kids!

Donations to the **Kids Helping Kids Fundraiser** can be made in **School Cash Online**.

For further information about the **Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education**, please contact **Jim Marino**, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: [Niagara Children's Centre](#)

Monday, February 12	Silly Sock Day Kick Off Assembly	
Tuesday, February 13	Beach Day & Valentine's Day card exchange Shrove Tuesday	
Wednesday, February 14	Red, White and Pink day Ash Wednesday	
Thursday, February 15	Jersey Day	
Friday, February 16	PD Day	
Monday, February 19	Family Day!	
Tuesday, February 20	Rainbow Day (dress in rainbow colours) Strawberry or Vanilla Ice Cream Day	
Wednesday, February 21	Hat Day	
Thursday, February 22	Wacky Hair Day	
Friday, February 23	Dress Down - Wear your favourite outfit! Eastside Market (am) Dance Party (pm) Popcorn & Frozen Yogurt	

Term 1 Report Cards

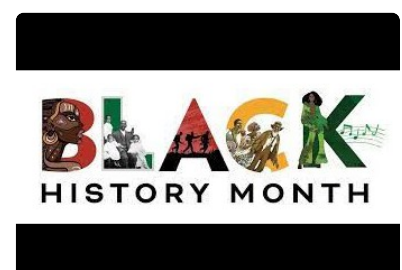
Report Cards for Term 1 will be made available in the **Niagara Catholic Parent Portal** the week of February 12th. You can assess your child(ren)'s report card by using the email address you have on file with the school. **Click Here:** <https://niagaracatholic.ca/reportcards/>

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.

Black History Month

Throughout the month of February, Canada will mark the 29th official Black History Month, and this year's theme is "Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build". Our students will be recognizing Black History Month through various lessons and activities. Sharing the many stories of success, sacrifice, and triumph of people like Viola Desmond helps inspire Canadians to build a more equitable society that leaves no one behind. Viola Desmond was a great part of making our country more inclusive, and we are better because of inspirational individuals like him.



COBS Bread - Fundraiser Success

Thank you to all of our families who supported our COBS Bread Fundraiser!

This year we sold 74 cards and raised \$925!

Then COBS Bread donated \$275 making our total fundraising \$1200!!



Valentine's Day

As part of our **Kids Helping Kids** campaign, we invite all students to dress in red, pink and/or white on **February 14th**. As this is also Ash Wednesday, all **Valentine's Day** activities will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 13th along with Shrove Tuesday pancakes and the distribution of our Candygrams (available to purchase through School Cash Online soon!). All theme-based activities in individual classrooms will continue to align with all of the health and safety guidelines mandated by Public Health.



Students are welcome to bring in Valentine's Day cards for their classmates on February 13th but there is to be **no distribution of snacks or treats**. If any food items are sent to school, please be aware they will be returned home and not distributed.

Thank you for your understanding.

NEW THIS YEAR - SMENCILS during Kids Helping Kids

We have very exciting news!!! **Smencils** will be arriving and being sold at St. Thérèse beginning **Monday, February 12th**. *What are smencils you ask?*

Well, they are the best smelly pencils you will ever smell! Not only are they made out of recycled paper and good for the environment but they have long lasting delicious smells such as jolly rancher, bubble gum, orange sherbert, strawberry and watermelon to name a few.



Our Spirit Squad will have 10 different flavours for students to pick from. They will be \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Please pay for them through Cash Online when they become available on February 12. Be sure to purchase your Smencils right away so you are not disappointed as we have only ordered 500 pencils to sell and they are first come first serve!

Monthly Family Math Moments

Did you try our January Family Math Moment? If so - be sure to send us your picture of your family in action! We'll enter your family name in a draw for a FREE SPECIAL lunch for your children (taking place on a different day - not a regular food day!)

Thank you to the families who have already submitted! The draw will be taking place on Friday, February 2nd so be sure to get your pictures in!

Are you ready for our FEBRUARY Monthly Family Math Moment? This information will be emailed home later this week as well but here is a sneak peak of this month's math moment!

February

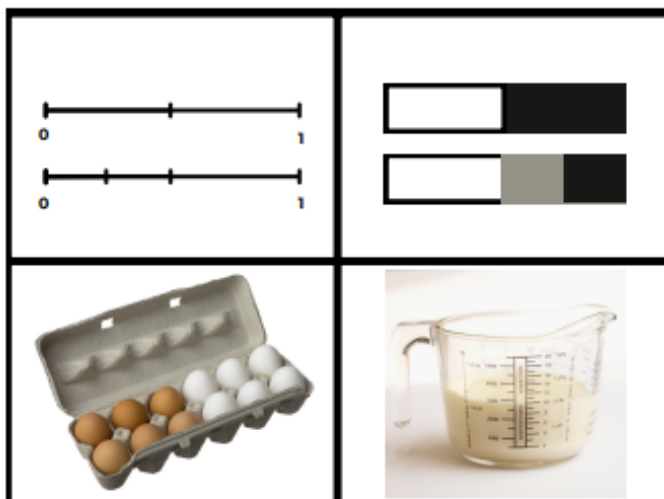
Primary: Baking

Connection to the Ontario Math Curriculum:

- Recognize that one half and two fourths of the same whole are equal.

Minds On:

- Which One Doesn't Belong?
- Have a discussion with your child about which image doesn't belong and why. This is a conversation to build their understanding of one half and different ways to represent fractions.



Activity:

Bake your favourite recipe! Use either only your quarter cup or half cup to measure out the ingredients. How many quarter cups or half cups will you need for each ingredient?

Extension:

- If you doubled the recipe, about how many quarter cups would you need for the largest amount? How do you know?

February

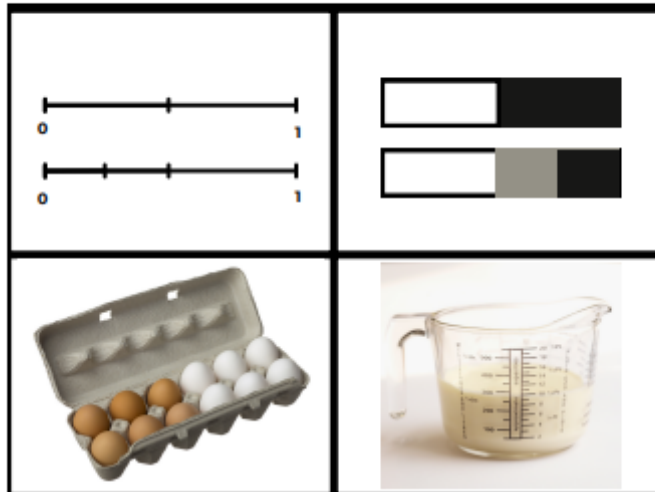
Junior & Intermediate: Baking

Connection to the Ontario Math Curriculum:

- Describe relationships and show equivalence among fractions

Minds On:

- Which One Doesn't Belong?
- Have a discussion with your child about which image doesn't belong and why. This is a conversation to build their understanding of equivalent fractions using various models.



Activity:

Bake your favourite recipe! Use only your quarter cup to measure out the ingredients. How many quarter cups will you need for each ingredient?

Extension:

- What would your measurements be if you had to triple your recipe? Can you create a model to represent your thinking?

Eastside Market

WOW! What a huge success our first Eastside Market was!

THANK YOU to Mrs. Loeffen's Grade 7 class and our Public Health Nurse Oliva for planning, researching and organizing our market. We were so thankful to have additional support from United Way and Niagara Public Health to ensure our market ran smoothly.

Our families generously purchased 50 food produce bags for their home AND donated 50 produce bags to Pay it Forward! We are truly blessed in our school community. We are so thankful for your generosity. So many of our students went home with bags of fresh produce for their families.

We look forward to our next market on Friday, February 23rd!



Our Gr. 1/2 Class had a blast!



Check out this teamwork!

Happy Shopping in Grade 4/5



Check out our veggies!



We are ready to serve



Unloading the produce

PINK SHIRT DAY

Niagara Catholic continues to demonstrate a commitment to bullying awareness, prevention and intervention in our schools, our communities, and online through the participation in **Pink Shirt Day** on **Wednesday, February 28, 2024**.



We believe everyone has the power to create change! This **Pink Shirt Day**, let's do what we can to elevate the voices of all, and take a stand against bullying. We can show others that we advocate for kindness and inclusivity by wearing pink.

Information for families and schools about [Bullying - We Can All Stop It](#) is available from the Ministry of Education.

Catholic School Council Update

The **St. Thérèse Catholic School Council (CSC)** will be meeting for the third time this year on **Tuesday, February 27th at 6pm** in our school library. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

We are looking forward to planning many exciting events for our school community!



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!



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

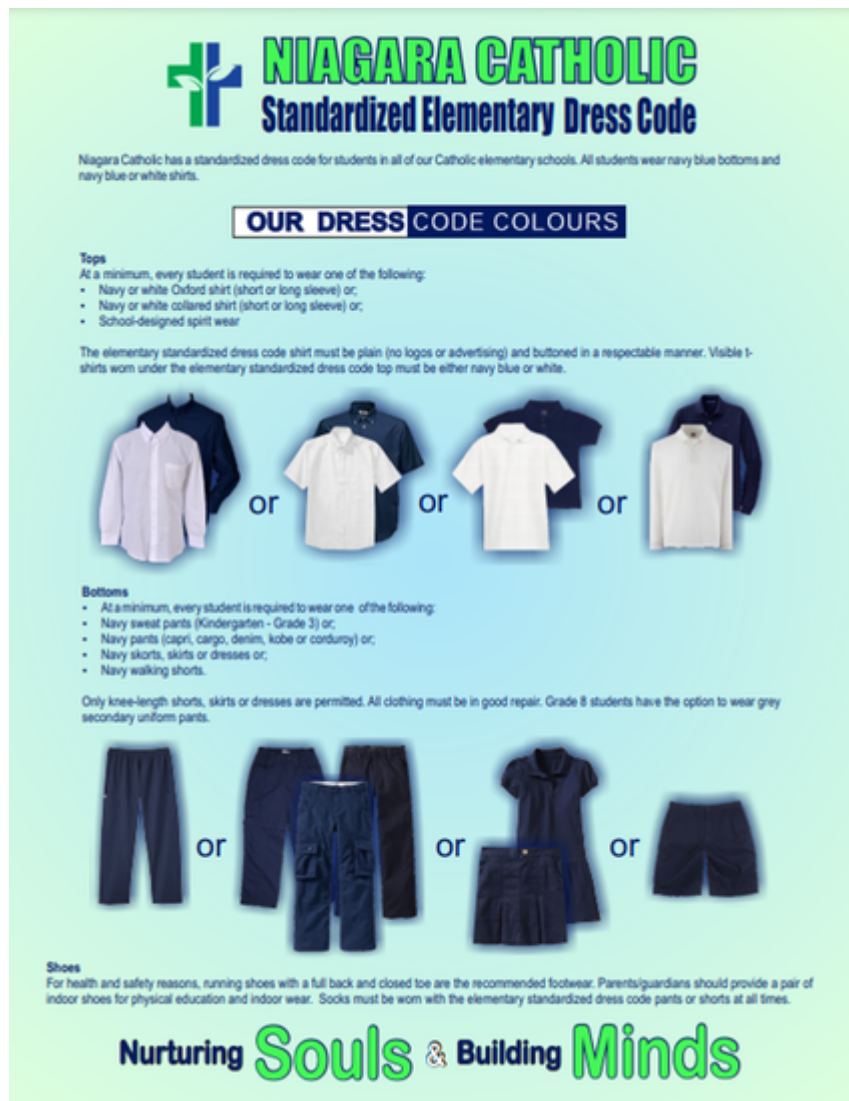
Information From the Niagara Public Health Team

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

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 the winter months approach, 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

