

St. Martin Catholic Elementary

APRIL 2024



School Information

Mr. J. Tornabuono - Principal

Mr. 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

Simple But Important Gifts

Many of the most remembered and cherished gifts cost little but mean alot. They're gifts from the heart...

The Gift of Attention...Give a person your full attention when they are speaking to you. Listen!

The Gift of a Compliment...can be given at any time and can lift the spirits of those who help us everyday, A simple "Thank you for your good service" can do wonders for the spirit.

The Gift of a Visit...to a distant relative, shut-in or someone that is going through a rough time. Your presence is powerful.

The Gift of a Smile...when delivered with honesty, lifts the spirit of another person immediately.

J. Tornabuono



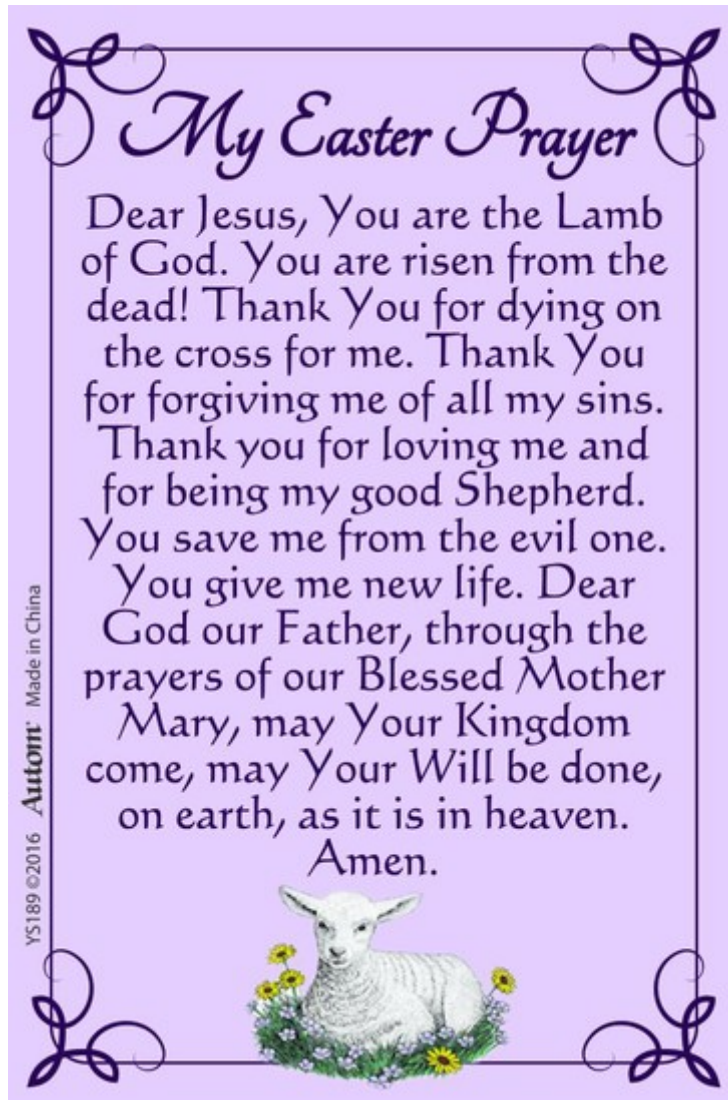
Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Monday April 1- Easter Monday
- Tuesday April 2 - World Autism Day

- Monday April 8, PA Day - No School for Students
- Tuesday, April 9 - CSC Meeting 6 pm
- April 9-23 - Krispy Kreme Campaign
- Thursday April 11, - Parent Involvement evening at Holy Cross Secondary
- Thursday April 25, Gr. 7 Vaccinations
- Friday April 26, First Reconciliation (Smith-Riddle & Szabo)
- Saturday April 29 - First Communion - (Smith-Riddle & Szabo) 11 am
- Tuesday April 30 - Spring Book Fair

Easter Prayer



First Communion

The Grade Two students are excited about celebrating the Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion) this year. This Sacrament will be celebrated at St Martin of Tours Catholic Church on April 27 (Mrs. Smith-Riddle & Mrs. Szabo) and May 04 (Mrs. DiPasquale). The celebration will begin at 11 am.



Catholic School Council Meeting

Our next CSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 9th at 6 pm. All St. Martin parent(s) are welcome to attend.

Next
meeting

Toronto Maple Leafs Jersey

WIN A FRAMED TML HOCKEY JERSEY!

Just in time for the playoff season to begin.... we have a Toronto Maple Leafs Jersey that we are going to raffle off to one lucky winner in our St Martin CES community!

This jersey has been signed by many of the Toronto Maple Leafs Alumni, and will be framed and include the letter of authenticity



Details:

- Raffle tickets will be available through School Cash Online from March 25th through April 5th
- Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5
- purchased tickets will be sent home from school with students
- the draw will be held at St Martin on Wednesday, April 10th
- The framed jersey will be on display in the school office if you'd like to take a peek!

Buy your raffle tickets now for your chance to win this awesome piece of NHL history!

Krispy Kreme - April 9-23

Krispy Kreme Donuts are back! We are raising money to purchase additional technology for the school (ie. Chromebooks) as well as some additional outdoor items for the playground! With this fundraiser, 50% of the donut sales will come back to the school. Details are as follows:

Fundraiser Dates: April 9, 2024 – April 23, 2024

How To Order: School Cash Online – simply submit orders on behalf of your friends, family and yourself via your School Cash Online account. Collect payment from your customers either before or after you place your order.

Price: \$12 per dozen

Pick Up/Delivery: May 2nd at St. Martin, 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Parents are welcome and are encouraged to come and pick up their orders (especially for students in younger grades and for those students with larger orders). If you are unable to make this time, have a friend pickup your order for you or contact Catholic School Council.

Special Considerations: – Order as many dozen as you would like. However, orders are on a first come, first served basis until we are sold out. Emails/notifications will be sent out periodically to

keep everyone updated on the status of the fundraiser (ie. Now 50% sold out, etc.).



Eco Schools April

Earth Day is on April 22, 2024. The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Invest in Our Planet" which is a continuation of the 2022 theme and encourages ALL to do their part- everyone accounted for, everyone accountable. For more information visit earthday.ca



Join students, teachers, workplaces, and families across the country on the first Thursday in April to celebrate **National GOOS Paper Day**.

On this day of action, get creative as you learn about responsible paper use and promote effective ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper.

What is GOOS paper?

GOOS stands for **Good On One Side**. GOOS paper is paper that has been used on one side, but is still blank and usable on the other side. Using GOOS paper means ensuring both sides of a piece of paper are used before it is recycled.



World Autism Day 2023

World Autism Awareness Day will be held at St. Martin on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. All students and staff are invited and encouraged to wear blue shirts as part of their attire. This effort can help to raise awareness in support of initiatives being

developed locally or provincially to increase the understanding and acceptance of people with autism around the world. World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day. What's more, World Autism Awareness Day goes one step further to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these skills deserve through community events around the globe.

Food Days

A special thank you to Mrs. Hutton and all of our parent volunteers that assist with our food and milk days. Your generosity is appreciated.

Here are our food days for April:

- Pita - April 3
- Pizza - April 10
- Hot Dogs - April 17
- Pasta - April 24



Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

You're Invited!

Family Faith, and Learning WORKSHOPS

Thursday, April 11, 2024

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
460 LINWELL RD., ST. CATHARINES

Choose two workshops presented by Niagara Region Public Health
Click on the icons for further details

**RAISING
COMPETENT,
CONFIDENT KIDS**

**YOUTH
CONNECTEDNESS:
HELPING
STUDENTS THRIVE**

**ADOLESCENT
BRAIN AND
SUBSTANCE USE
PREVENTION**

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)

5:00 pm Light Refreshments • 5:30 pm Fr. Paul MacNeil Family Prayer
6:00 pm Breakout Session 1 • 7:00 pm Breakout Session 2

Childcare Available (school age children up to 12 years of age) • Workshop Raffles

ACCOUNTABILITY • COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • FAITHFULNESS • INTEGRITY • JUSTICE • STEWARDSHIP

Niagara Catholic Accessibility; An Evening Event in Support of Accessibility Awareness

The Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Accessibility Planning Committee are pleased to invite parents, guardians, staff and community partners to a motivational evening featuring Niagara Catholic graduate, public speaker, and activist, Michael Jacques and disability advocate Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation. Public speaker, activist, and author Michael Jaques, has written and self-published his book *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book* using speech-to-text technology. Michael is diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability and shares his life experiences to help audiences understand accepting and belonging. Disability advocate, Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation will discuss how to speak and interact inclusively. Students with disabilities will share their perspectives on building a culture of acceptance through taped video interviews. The words we use carry meaning and power. . This exciting free event will take place on Monday, April 15th from 6:00- 8:00 pm at The Holiday inn and

Conference Centre (327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines) and includes light snacks, refreshments and door prizes. Please click [here](#) for event and registration details.

Registration for this event will be due no later than April 10, 2024



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC
Accessibility**

**FREE
EVENT!**

All Niagara Catholic parents, guardians, staff
and community partners are invited to attend!

**DOOR
PRIZES!**

Light snacks and refreshments provided

Limited Space! **REGISTER HERE** Before April 10!



MICHAEL JACQUES

Public speaker, activist, and author Michael Jaques, has written and self-published his book Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book using speech-to-text technology. Michael is diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability and shares his life experiences to help audiences understand accepting and belonging.

RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION

The words we use carry meaning and power. Disability advocate, Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation will discuss how to speak and interact inclusively. Students with disabilities will share their perspectives on building a culture of acceptance through taped video interviews.



APRIL 15, 2024 • 6:00PM – 8:00PM

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE • 327 ONTARIO ST. ST. CATHARINES



From Niagara Public Health

Connecting the Curriculum to Home

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the

[Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- **Watch here:** [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions

Niagara Ontario Health Team – Events Calendar

The [Niagara Ontario Health Team](#) created an events calendar tool to highlight the diverse activities happening in our region. This initiative highlights the importance of health and wellness. It also serves as a valuable link connecting community members to resources available in Niagara.

The [calendar](#) makes it easier to find and explore new things to do. It also helps create meaningful connections in our community. Visit today to learn more about what is going on near you!

Benefits of Risky Play

Did you know that letting kids [play freely outdoors](#), even if it involves a bit of risk, is super important for their growth and well-being? Learn about the benefits of exciting play that might seem a little risky, and how it can help kids develop better physically, mentally, and socially. Let's rethink how we see risks and explore how adventurous play can actually help kids stay healthier and happier in the long run. Join us in creating a world where every child has the chance to thrive! For more information on what it is meant by risky play, check out [Active For Life webpage](#).

Happy Oral Health Month!

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program offers FREE dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara.

Appointments are available for children in:

- Niagara Falls on Tuesdays
- Thorold on Mondays (afternoon and evening) and Wednesdays
- Welland on Thursdays

[Niagara's Mobile Dental Clinic](#) also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment [contact the Dental Program](#) or [book a dental assessment online](#).

Blessed Trinity Corner



April Update

Our Blessed Trinity staff and students earned a well-deserved March Break, and both are back refreshed and energized to tackle the rest of Semester 2. Our spring sports are getting revved up with tryouts and signups for boys' and girls' soccer, girls' rugby, boys' baseball, girls' softball, track and field and much more. For the first time ever Blessed Trinity will have a Girls Lacrosse team, proving again that there is something for everyone at BT. A reminder to our incoming Thunder to get involved once you get here.

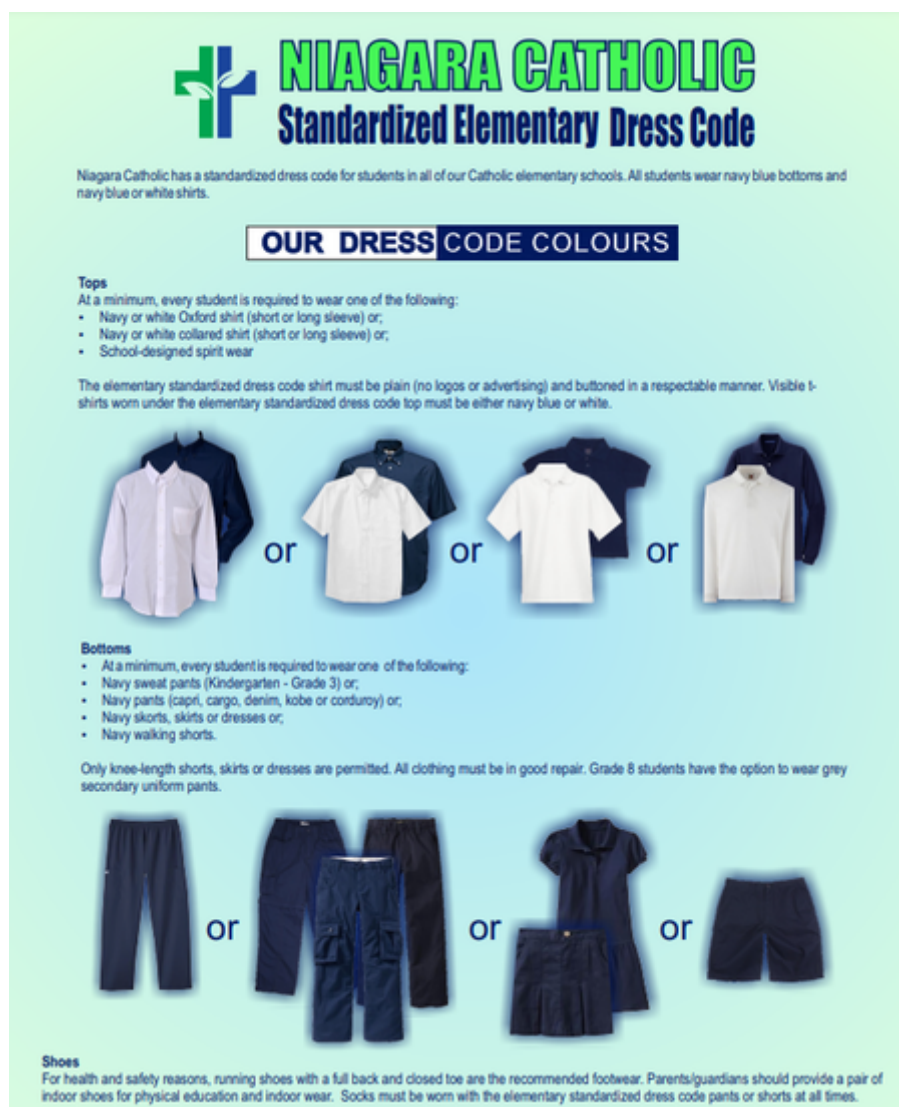
April is another busy month at Blessed Trinity. Here are just a few of the events that will be taking place in April:

- Celebrating Holy Week with a school Mass
- Junior Formal for students in Grade 9 and 10
- All students will be participating in the University of Waterloo Compass Survey
- We will officially reach the middle of Semester 2 and parents will be invited to make appointments for Parent/Teacher Conference night on April 25th
- Members of our Thunderstruck-Link Crew Leadership group will be attending the Global Student Leadership Summit in Collingwood

Lastly, throughout the month of April, a member from our Student Services Department will be visiting the Grade 8 students with Course Verification forms to ensure students have selected the courses they want for Grade 9. This will be an opportunity for students to make any changes to their course selection.

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.

Standardized Dress Code



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.

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.

Signing Students In & Out

Parents are to ensure their child(ren) are at school by 9:00 a.m. Notification will be required for all students leaving school during the day for an appointment. All parents must sign out their child before leaving the school. The sign-in and out book is located just inside the main front door. If you are picking up your child for an appointment, parents are asked to wait in the vestibule or just outside the front door and a staff member will escort your child to you. When possible, parents are asked to please make appointments outside of the school day.

To help minimize the risk of infection to students and staff, access to the building will be limited to staff and essential service workers only.

REMINDER- No single serve plastics available

Parents are reminded to ensure that their child(ren) have the required utensils needed to eat their snacks/lunches as well as a reusable water bottle they can fill at the hydration stations. We are no longer permitted to distribute plastic/styrofoam spoons, forks or cups to students that do not have them.



School Cash Online

Please ensure that use of School Cash online for the purchase/payment of food days, field trips, donations etc. This is a safe and easy-to-use online program that allows you to make convenient and secure payments from the comfort of your own home. To register, please click [here](#)



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters