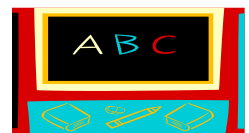




April 2024



# St. Theresa Tribune

Sowing the Seeds of Faith, Blossoming in Knowledge  
St. Theresa Catholic Elementary

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Principal: Mr. Dan Trainor B.A., M.Ed

[st.theresa@ncdsb.com](mailto:st.theresa@ncdsb.com)

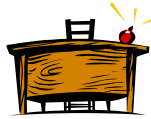
Secretary: Mrs. Read

[www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca)



*“Then Jesus took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”*

*Mark 10:16*



The students of St. Theresa Catholic Elementary have demonstrated their many blessings during these seven months of this school year. During the weeks of Lent we have celebrated the Stations of the Cross in our gym each week. Our students were reflective during the Stations. Thank you to our classes who led the stations for all grades. Thank you to our parents who support the spiritual teaching of our Faith by reinforcing the message and meaning behind our prayer services, liturgical celebrations and Masses.

At this time in the academic year, the focus is on the refinement of skills, strategies and work habits for each grade. Students need to continue putting forth their best effort. Parents, thank you for your continued support with homework help and monitoring. Students, please continue to arrive on time (**8:40 am**) and have your learning materials organized.

I wish to extend special praise to St. Theresa staff. Your time and dedication to our students within the classroom and also for your leadership in creating a safe and respectful climate and culture are greatly appreciated.

Students, our school culture is a peaceful and respectful place. You all continue to be respectful of each other and allow for each person to be themselves, created and born in God’s image as unique beings. Please continue to use the strategies taught at school and at home to show respect for everyone. Together we make St. Theresa the amazing school it is; we all must do our part to make school life peaceful and productive for everyone.

Yours in Catholic Education,

*D. Trainor*

Dan Trainor, PRINCIPAL

## St. Theresa Instagram Account

We remind families about our Instagram account for our school community. We use Instagram as an additional communication tool. The main communication will continue to be School Messenger, School Newsletter, Calendar, permission notes, personal phone calls, and emails. We are adding Instagram to our communication tools to share quick highlights of the amazing things that happen inside our wonderful school. Staff will post about student learning, spirit days, liturgies, Masses, sports events, and clubs. The account is **St\_Theresa\_Merripton**.

Thank you to Mrs. Robertson for managing our account and showcasing our school on this platform.

## Lenten Journey...



The liturgical season of Lent began February 14th.

During the forty days of Lent, we journey towards Easter. Traditional practices during Lent include attending Mass, praying the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Ash Wednesday was celebrated this year with a Mass in our gym on Wednesday, February 14th.

This Lenten season, we are extending our students’ faith formation by celebrating the Stations of the Cross each week.

We are encouraged to practice charity and perform Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy during Lent. Each student is encouraged to travel his/her own personal journey through Lent, reflecting on the life of Jesus, and making an effort to become closer to Jesus through prayer, penance and sacrifice. We are asked to reflect on the wealth of our lifestyle and to give thanks for our blessings and to share generously with those in need.

### In the Way of the Cross

Almighty God,  
Whose most dear Son  
went not up to joy  
but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory  
before he was crucified:  
Mercifully grant that we,  
walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and  
peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen



## Lenten Attendance Challenge

As parents and teachers of young children we are called to find tasks and actions during Lent that allow children to see the connection to Jesus’ sacrifice that He made for all of us. We remind all students of our attendance challenge for the 40 days of Lent. We have the final days of tracking each class’ **attendance and late arrivals from Wednesday 14th(Ash Wednesday) until March 28th (Holy Thursday)**. The class with the best attendance will win a French Fry treat on Friday April 12th. Great work motivating each other to be at school, on time and ready to learn. Students your job at home continues to be helping out and be ready for departure times each day as we take on our Lenten Attendance Challenge.



## Classroom Spotlight Grade Seven

We are pleased to provide you with an update on the remarkable progress and achievements of our Grade seven students. They are demonstrating exceptional growth in their proportional reasoning skills and their ability to create equivalent ratios using a variety of strategies. In the realm of language arts, they have successfully completed their reading of the novel "The Outsiders," marking an important milestone in their literary exploration. Currently, they are in the final stages of preparing their Sacramento group presentation for religion and are also diligently getting ready for their upcoming presentation in the Stations of the Cross Mass next week. In the field of science, our students are actively engaged in exploring the concept of pure substances and mixtures, as well as their practical applications in the real world. Moreover, their history studies have led them to delve into the historical perspectives of indigenous peoples in Canada during the 1800s.

## Spring Kindergarten Registration 2024

Registration is always on-going for our newest students for next year. Online registration forms are available at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca). A "Welcome to Kindergarten Evening" is being planned for May 2023 along with a Kindergarten Open House for the new students in August. More information for these two events will be shared with the community next month. Please remember to scan your child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate [if your child has not been baptized, please send Mom or Dad's], and proof of residency to [st.theresa@ncdsb.com](mailto:st.theresa@ncdsb.com). Questions? Please call St. Theresa Catholic School at 905-682-0244.

## Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) - Members 2024-25

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board. The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets the on first Thursday of the month on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed. **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES** The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2024-2025 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

## Intermediate Homework Club

Our Intermediate Homework Club is a happening place to be! The club runs weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:50 to 4:30 p.m. in the library. We have many students accessing this opportunity and encourage other intermediate students to join us; information letters and permission forms are available in the office. Mrs. Robertson and Mr. Trainor are the moderators for this club.

## Celebrating Earth Day 2024

As we approach Earth Day on April 22nd, 2024, we are reminded of the importance of caring for our planet and the incredible gift of creation we have been entrusted with. At St. Theresa Catholic School, we are committed to fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among our students and staff.

This Earth Day, we invite all members of our school community to join us in celebrating and honoring our planet. Whether it's through learning about recycling, planting trees, reducing waste, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the beauty of nature. Every small action can make a big difference.

Take a moment to reflect on how we can be better caretakers of the Earth, not just on April 22nd, but every day. Together, we can create a more sustainable and thriving future for generations to come.



## Anaphylaxis Awareness and Action Plans

All classrooms at St. Theresa are **peanut, tree nut and milk safe classrooms**. **No peanuts, peanut products, or tree nuts are allowed at any time.** We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and peanut products. **Please do not send in any food items for class distribution.**

We also have a student with dairy allergies and must ensure we handle all dairy food items carefully.

Students who share the classroom with our student with a dairy allergy have been informed and know that they are to wash their hands after lunches and snacks that contain dairy items. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or dairy products for breakfast/lunch at home.

We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safety of all students.

Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.

## Catholic School Council

Our last meeting was on February 8th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. We finalized our Shrove Tuesday plans and learned more about our school improvement plan. Our next meeting is on Thursday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to our meetings.

## Safe Arrival

Remember to report your child's absence using our safe arrival system. Phone **1-844-287-6287** or visit <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> to access a Parent Portal where an account can be set up to report absences via web or smart phone. The free App called "SchoolMessenger" is available through the App Store or Google Play. Absences may be reported up to 5 days. If your child will be away longer than 5 days, please contact the school. Safe Arrival absence reporting will be accepted until **8:40 a.m.**, each morning for the current day. After that time, please phone the school to report. Instructions for registering for SchoolMessenger is available in the school office.

## World Autism Awareness Day Tuesday, April 2, 2024

The theme for World Autism Day this year is **"WE STAND TOGETHER TO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE"**



St. Theresa Catholic Elementary, along with all Niagara Catholic schools, will be celebrating Autism Awareness Day on **Tuesday, April 2nd** by wearing **shades of blue**.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disorder characterized by behaviour and communication challenges that impact a person's ability to navigate social interactions, and also causes repetitive and restricted behaviour.

World Autism Awareness Day celebrates the resilience of those affected by the disorder and supports causes that promote awareness of it. Children in schools are educated about autism and encouraged to be accepting of it. It is very important for children with Autism to have peers who are tolerant and inclusive of them. People with autism spectrum disorders can help to make a change in the world! Just take people like Greta Thunberg, Tim Burton, Charles Darwin, Bill Gates, and Albert Einstein as a example.

So, St. Theresa on April 2nd, wear your **shades of blue** for all our family and friends who have Autism.

## World Down Syndrome Day - March 21st

The date for WDS (03/21), was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

Our students wore colourful socks along with blue and yellow clothing to celebrate WDS. Watch for the pictures of the colourful feet in our school yearbook that will be published in June 2024!

## St. Theresa Catholic Newsletter

We will send home a paper copy of the school calendar each month. The newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website. This will generally happen on the last Thursday of the current month. Watch for your newsletter as it contains much information regarding school activities. All information is sent home with the youngest or only child in a family. Newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website! Please visit this exciting showcase of our great school.

## Cell Phone use for Students

The Ministry of Education has directed schools and school boards to not allow elementary students to have cell phones on them during the school day. To fairly manage this mandate along with parenting decisions made for each of our students; we thank you for respecting the following compromise. If you are providing your child(ren) with a cell phone as part of their communication and safety tools as they transit from home to school and back, be advised that all cellphones will be placed in the classroom "cell garage" or in each student's backpack for the instructional day. If you are texting your child during the day, please expect them to only get the message at dismissal time 2:50 p.m. **All communication must go through the main office during the school day.** If students are using their cells as a personal device for research, teachers will direct them to access their cell phones. If students are required to bring a device for a specific purpose, the teacher will send a message in their digital platforms, such as the "NCVLE-classroom, School Messenger" so parents are aware of the request. Thank you for your support.

## Chess Club

Students from Grades 4-8 have been testing their mettle with this ancient game of strategy, thereby giving them a common experience with countless generations from every corner of the globe. Soon our very best players will represent St. Theresa at the board tournament on Tuesday, April 16th at St. Mary Catholic Elementary in Niagara Falls. Everyone is welcome to take part in our club as we will be practising skills for all members and then lead into grade level competitions to determine our Junior and Intermediate Teams. Thank you Ms.Colavecchia-Wills for your time coaching the chess club.

## Niagara Catholic Accessibility; 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.