



Mary Ward Catholic School



Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone

Superintendent of Education: Mr. D. Massi

Parish: Our Lady of the Scapular Church **Pastor:** Fr. M. Basque and Fr. D. Corso



Monthly Reflection

A big part of friendship involves sharing words with one other. Thoughts, ideas, feelings. All of these things, when shared, help a friendship to grow. But sometimes friendship consists of simply being with one another. Though no words are shared, it is still quality time spent with someone we care about. In our friendship with God it is the same. Sometimes in prayer we don't know what to say. In those moments, we can simply be with God and recognize His presence with us. We can learn from the words of a simple peasant who explained his prayer to his parish priest, St. Jean Vianney: "I look at Him and He looks at me."

Social Media

Follow us on social media to get the latest updates:



@marywardniagara



Principal's Message

As we enter into the first full month of spring, may we focus on being witnesses of faith through our stewardship of God's gifts. Caring for the environment is the first thing God asks of humanity. As we focus on continued hope for the world, may we be mindful not only of our responsibility to care for and protect the environment, but also our responsibility to share that hope with those around us.

With the changing seasons and the spiritual celebration of Easter upon us, may each family of Mary Ward, share a hopeful spirit and the joy of Jesus' resurrection with family and friends.

Have a Blessed Easter Season!

A. Cardamone



Congratulations Mrs. Kelly

Congratulations to Mrs. Kelly on her promotion as Vice Principal. Our Director of Education, Mr. Cipriano, has appointed Mrs. Kelly, Vice Principal at Loretto Catholic, beginning September 2024. Mrs. Kelly, thank you for your exemplary leadership, compassion and genuine care for all students of Mary Ward. Your dedication to the Tiger community over the last 20 years is to be commended. We will definitely miss you however, we will continue to see you around these hallways until the end of June!

Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission

We are a Christ-centred Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.



April 2024



Happenings

Alternate Lunch Days & Milk Program

Milk will continue to be available every Tuesday and Thursday. There will be 2 alternate lunch days in April.

Friday, April 12th - Garrison Subs **Tuesday, April 23rd** - Carmine's Pizza

Orders can be placed using **School Cash Online**. Thank you in advance for your participation.



Lenten Easter Food Drive

Thank you for the generous food donations during this Lenten season. The proceeds were donated to Our Lady of the Scapular Church. Food donations were placed in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and distributed to families in need. Your continuous support and generosity is appreciated.



Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic Book fair will be coming to Mary Ward School library Tuesday, April 16th - 19th.

What better way to promote reading to our students than by supporting this important literary event.

Your support is a key part of helping us obtain new books and resources for our library.

The book fair will be held on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (closed for lunch from 11:25 -11:55) and on Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.



Parents are invited to attend with their children. Each student will receive a flyer to take home that provides a preview of only a FEW of the many books available to purchase at our fair. For your convenience, CREDIT CARDS, DEBIT CARDS and CASH will be accepted. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Book Fair.

Looking ahead - 2024/2025 - Class Placements

During the month of May, staff will meet to discuss and create student groupings for next year. Students will be placed with others whom will be most successful. A great deal of time and effort is spent determining the composition of classes. When organizing class groupings, attention and diligence is required by the classroom teachers, resource teacher and principal. A variety of factors are seriously considered when establishing classes. Creating a successful learning environment for all students is a goal we aim to achieve.

Some of the criteria considered include: ability, individual needs, behaviour, work habits, age, learning styles, and class size. At this time we are accepting friend requests limited to 1 or 2 friends. Any parent requests, must be submitted in an email to mary.ward@ncdsb.com titled, "Friend Request 2024-2025, to the attention of Mr. Cardamone, no later than Friday, April 26, 2024.

Please note that requests for specific classroom teachers will not be considered.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP? Talk positively to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students, please discuss relationship building and new friendships.



April 2024



HAPPENINGS



World Autism Awareness Day on is Tuesday, April 2, 2024. We will be flying a special Autism flag to show our support. Students and staff are invited to [wear blue](#) to show their belief that the world can be a more inclusive place for all.

~ Earth Day School Ground Clean Up ~



School grounds and community clean up events make a difference. These actions, although small, have significant positive impacts on the environment and demonstrate the power of working together. Mary Ward students will be participating in a School Grounds Clean Up campaign on April 22nd to demonstrate our commitment to creating a healthy and sustainable world. Teachers will take their students outdoors to pick up litter on the school grounds. Students will be provided with gloves and bags. Students will be informed of safe and proper procedures for collecting and disposing of litter.

[NCPIC Faith Formation / Parent Engagement](#)

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is pleased to invite **ALL Niagara Catholic parents/guardians** to a Faith Formation/Parent Engagement event on **Thursday, April 11, 2024** at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. Fr. Paul MacNeil will open the evening with Faith Formation for parents with the topic of Family Prayer. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to participate in two workshops presented by Niagara Region Public Health: **Adolescent Brain and Substance Use Prevention, Raising Competent, Confident Kids, or Youth Connectedness-Helping Student Thrive**. Parents/guardians are asked to register for this event using the [link](#) provided in the attached invitation no later than Friday, April 5, 2024. Childcare will be provided for school age children up to 12

[Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement \(NCPIC\) Membership 2024-2025](#)

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee acts as an advisory committee to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board and school levels in order to build strong Catholic identity and community, nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic Education, and improve student achievement and well-being for all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three community representatives and to fill the available parent/guardian positions on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for the 2024-2025 school year. Please click the following [link](#) for membership details.



April 2024



HAPPENINGS

School Fundraising - Delta Bingo & Gaming

Mary Ward Catholic School would like to extend a big thank you to **Delta Bingo & Gaming on Drummond Rd.** for their contributions to our school fundraising initiatives. This could not be possible without the help of parent volunteers from our community.



Kindergarten Registration

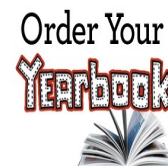
Register online at niagaracatholic.ca

If you have a child that was born in 2020, they are eligible to begin school in September 2024.

Click on the link above to register your child and have them join the Mary Ward Family!

Yearbook Pre-Orders

As the 2023-2024 school progresses, the memories created throughout the year will be celebrated and remembered in the Mary Ward Catholic School yearbook. This wonderful keepsake, is available to all students to pre-order and purchase via School Cash Online. It will be completed and delivered during the first week of school in September 2024 to each student who has pre-ordered and purchased one. The cost of the yearbook is \$20.00. **All yearbook orders and payments are due by Friday, May 24.**



Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for your children, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program - SCHOOL CASH ONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>



Emergency Medical Protocols

At Mary Ward we work cooperatively with families in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy educational environment for all students. We recognize that students who are at risk because of medical concerns such as **allergic reactions, diabetes, epilepsy, intolerances, asthma and/or seizures** require an intervention plan for their needs to be met and to reach their full potential at school.

If your child requires a specific plan of care, please contact the school at your earliest convenience so we can ensure his or her safety during the school day.



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

April 2024

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.

Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting The Curriculum to Home

(Parents of Elementary aged students)

With our School Health Nurses

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](#).



Educational Resources

Opportunities for Every Student with Play for All



To ensure a thriving intramural program, prioritize student safety and inclusivity. Tailor activities to student preferences, communicate goals clearly, and offer flexibility for participation. Cultivating student leadership is key for long-term success.

Explore ophea.net/play-all to discover additional resources, including planning tools and activity suggestions to enhance your students' physical activity throughout the day.

Student Mental Health Ontario: [Wayfinder](#)

Unlock the power of mental health promotion and literacy in your classroom with confidence and ease! [School Mental Health Ontario Wayfinder](#) provides a clear framework for mental health learning in the classroom. Empower your classroom with mental health promotion and literacy tools perfectly aligned with the Ontario curriculum, fostering an inclusive space for students to support each other's mental well-being.

[Wayfinder](#) provides:

- A digital guide of lessons and activities with easy-to-follow instructions
- Ready-to-use communication materials to foster home-school connections
- Regular email messages to offer you tips, support and new classroom resources