



ST. JOHN JAGUAR NEWS



May 2024



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

May is the Month of Mary; the month that is especially dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. During this month, we as a Catholic Faith Community offer up to Mary our hearts through prayer and ongoing reflection.

As we look to the past and learn from history, Pope Leo XIII reminded us that the soul of the Church and all of the activity and service of the members of the Church, begin with the supreme participation of the Blessed Mother.

Thus, it is no surprise that we celebrate and recognize motherhood during the month of the May. The celebration of the Mother's Day is important in our culture, as it is in our faith. As a Catholic family, we recognize the importance of putting our faith into action. This can take the shape of doing something charitable for our mother or a mother in the community, to recognize and thank God for the gift of life and to engage with the Blessed Virgin Mother.

As we continue through the month of May, let us not forget that we continue to prepare for Pentecost Sunday. This is when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Virgin Mary, allowing them to speak the Word of God in different languages to be spread to the ends of the Earth.

We are reminded every day of our spiritual connection to the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother Mary, in all that we do and say, in both our daily work and play. As we pray together faithfully, let us remember our grateful love to Mary and our acceptance of Christ.

Happy Mother's Day!

Mr. D. Forte
Principal

MAY - A MISSION OF PEACE

*"Peace begins with a smile."
- St. Teresa of Calcutta*

This month, we focus on being disciples rooted in peace. Peace can be found in all of God's creation, but most importantly, it can be found within ourselves. This month, we also recognize Mental Health week. Peace and mental wellness go hand in hand. St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that "peace begins with a smile." We may not be able to calm the storm around us, but if we pray for peace in our hearts, God will grant it to us. May we pray for peace first within ourselves so that we can truly smile with the light of Christ and share peace with those around us!

A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Lord, thank you for all mothers.

For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with infants in arms.

For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of home and family life.

For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children.

For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage with their pre-teens.

For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect with their mini-adults.

For the mother aunts, who step in to cradle and care for nieces and nephews.

For all grandmas, who love and support their precious grandchildren.

For the foster mums that are called to gather and cover the fragile ones.

For the Sunday mums who care for our children and lead them in faith.

For the mums who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love.

Thank you Lord for all our beautiful mothers. Help us to support them and keep them in our prayers. May you bless them now on this their special day.

Amen.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online registration is open through [edsemlj](#). If your child is presently attending St. John, there is no need to re-register.

When you register, please remember to submit your child's Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate, and Proof of Address (current utility bill) in order to complete the registration.

In addition, please check the [Transportation Eligibility](#) section of the Niagara Student Transportation Services website to ensure that St. John is your child's home school, based on your current home address.

SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

Supervision: 9:10 am
Entry: 9:20 am
Lunch: 12:05 - 12:45 pm
Dismissal: 3:30 pm

Families are invited to visit the ['Bell Times' section of the St. John Google Website](#) to access a full breakdown of our bell times for this school year.

We are proud to be a part of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools



HAVE YOU MOVED OR ARE YOU MOVING?

To any families who have recently moved or will be moving in the near future, please confirm that St. John is your home school at portal.nsts.ca/eligibility. In keeping with Niagara Catholic's home school focus, we encourage all families to ensure that children are enrolled in their home school. This will allow students to establish and maintain meaningful relationships with other students who live in the heart of their community.

MAY LONG WEEKEND

Please be advised that there will be no school on **Victoria Day (Monday, May 20)**. We wish everyone all of God's blessings over the long weekend. Enjoy the time safely with your loved ones! **Classes will resume on Tuesday, May 21.**

EQAO DIGITALIZED ASSESSMENTS

EQAO assessments are required under the Education Quality and Accountability Office Act, 1996. The EQAO Assessments in Reading, Writing, and Math are for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students participating in in-person learning. All students who are accessing the Ontario Curriculum are expected to participate in the assessments. Please know that the assessments will take place digitally, using school devices from **May 21 - 24 (Grade 3 students)** and **May 27 - 31 (Grade 6 students)**. It is essential that students are not absent or late during this time. Parents are asked to please try and co-ordinate any appointments for their child around EQAO testing periods. Parents are invited to connect with their child's classroom teacher or our Educational Resource Teacher, Mrs. Cagnelli, if they have any questions regarding the EQAO assessments.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Families are asked to please see our monthly calendar for information and details regarding daily Masses at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. In addition, further information regarding St. Joseph Parish, can be found by visiting the '[St. Joseph Catholic Parish Information Section](#)' of our [St. John Google Website](#).

The school also invites families to visit the [St. Joseph Catholic Parish Website](#) for additional information and details pertaining to the parish.

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION

On Saturday, April 6, many of our Grade 8 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Our Most Reverend Gerard Paul Bergie was present on this very special evening to minister the Sacrament. We are so proud of our Grade 8 confirmandi, as this is a visible sign of their acceptance of our faith as full members of the Roman Catholic Church. We wish them the wisdom to always walk in God's light. Thank you to Father Rico, Mr. Natale, Mr. Apa, Ms. Nardilli, and Mme Wiens for helping the students prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday, April 28, many of our Grade 2 students, as well as students in other grades received the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist at St. Joseph Catholic Church. First Communion is considered one of the holiest and most important occasions in a Roman Catholic's life. It means that person has received the Sacrament of the Eucharist through the body and blood of Jesus Christ. We are so proud of these individuals as this is a momentous occasion as they continue on their faith journey. We wish them all of God's blessings as they learn to spread God's love in their daily lives. Thank you to Father Rico, Mr. Natale, Mrs. Bennie, Mme Swindley, Ms. McDonald, Mme Walsh, and Mrs. Di Tomasso for helping the students prepare for this most holy Sacrament.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

We look forward to the last two months of the school year as our Grade 8 students approach the end of their final year at St. John Catholic School. On **Thursday, June 20**, our Grade 8 students will enjoy their Graduation ceremony at St. Joseph Catholic Church beginning at **5:00 pm**, followed by a dinner and dance at Galileo Gardens Banquet Hall. We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with our graduates!

**GRIMSBY BENEVOLENT FUND
LENTEN & EASTER FOOD DRIVE**

Once again, we had an overwhelming response for yet another food drive here at St. John! Together, as a school community, a significant quantity of non-perishable items were donated to support those in need in our community! On behalf of the Grimsby Benevolent Fund, thank you for your generous contributions. You have acted as Christ by going out of your way to serve others in need without ever expecting any kind of reward in return for your efforts. THIS is what it means to serve as living witnesses of Christ in your daily lives! You are all amazing! Thank you!

SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM

To report your child absent, please use any one of the methods listed below:

1. **SafeArrival Website:** Visit the website at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create an account using your email address. After logging in, select the **Attendance** tab to report an absence.
2. **Personal Mobile Device:** Download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store, 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 directly to your mobile device, please enable **Push Notifications** in the **Settings** section of the app. The document titled, [SchoolMessenger App Parent & Student User Guide](#) provides instructions for using the app.
3. **Standard Telephone:** The toll-free number **1-844-287-6287** will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

STUDENT ABSENCES & LATE ARRIVALS

It is essential that all student absences and late arrivals are called into the [Safe Arrival Program](#) by **8:30 am** via phone (1-844-287-6287), website or app. These are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You are also able to input future absences in advance if you are aware of an upcoming appointment or vacation. **Board and Ministry policy dictates that we must investigate any unreported absences. This can involve calls to places of employment, the emergency numbers provided to the school and, in some cases, the police.**



INFORMATION FROM NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

Families are encouraged to visit the ['Niagara Region Information'](#) section of the St. John Google Website for the most up-to-date information from Niagara Region Public Health, including monthly newsletters.



VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

School visitors continue to be restricted out of an abundance of care and consideration for the health, safety, and privacy of students and school staff. Essential items that must be dropped off are to be labelled clearly and can be placed on the cart to be retrieved by a designated staff member. On behalf of school staff, students, and families, thank you everyone for their ongoing cooperation with this very important matter.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS

If a student becomes sick while at school, the identified emergency contact(s) on file will be called for immediate pick up. Parents and guardians of ill children are encouraged to contact Niagara Public Health and follow their advice. *Anyone who is sick should stay at home until their symptoms have resolved for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).* We thank everyone for their ongoing cooperation regarding this very important health and safety matter.

ANAPHYLAXIS

The entire school community is working hard to prevent accidental exposure to products that trigger life-threatening reactions. As a result, we continue to maintain a **PEANUT & NUT SAFE environment**. We would appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep St. John Catholic School safe, by making sure your children do not bring foods to school that may contain any traces of **peanuts or nuts**.



PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If your child has a prevalent medical condition that the school should be aware of and plan for, it is necessary to read the letter to families, and complete and/or update the applicable Plan of Care forms. All documents can be accessed in the ['Prevalent Medical Conditions' section of the St. John Google Website](#). Please click on the link to access the site and the necessary documents that pertain to your child's prevalent medical condition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

REMINDERS FOR ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Kiss n' Ride Drop-Off: In an effort to keep our students and staff members safe, families are reminded that when using the Kiss n' Ride drop-off, *drivers are asked to please remain in their vehicle* and have child(ren) exit the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk when it is safe to do so. Supervising staff will be present in the parking lot at 9:10 am. Parents are kindly asked to please drop their child(ren) off *between 9:10 and 9:20 am*. We thank you for your support as we strive to welcome our students onto school property in an efficient, yet safe manner.

Kiss n' Ride Pick-Up:

To reduce congestion in the Kiss n' Ride line and along King Street, Kiss n' Ride students will be dismissed from their classrooms at *3:15 pm*. Parents are asked to please be at the school in a timely manner so students can be dismissed efficiently and without causing disruption to the flow of traffic on King Street.

Park & Pick-Up/Drop-Off:

Families of children in car seats who need to park their vehicles and walk their children to the school sidewalk are asked to please be mindful of oncoming traffic, which includes busses and Kiss n' Ride vehicles. For their own safety, families are reminded of the importance of utilizing designated walkways to access the sidewalks. To avoid congestion in the parking lot and to prevent a back-up of vehicles onto King Street, Park & Pick-Up students will be dismissed from their classes at *3:15 pm*.

INDOOR & OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR

Parents are reminded to please consider sending their child to school with a pair of indoor shoes. This will help to maintain everyone's health and safety by reducing potential for slipping hazards in our school. In addition, having a pair of indoor shoes for students to change into allows for cleanliness to be maintained in our building and for caretaking staff to focus on sanitization of surfaces and touchpoints. We thank everyone for their cooperation with this health and safety matter.

KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ORIENTATION EVENING WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 FROM 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

New families with a student registered to start in our Kindergarten program in September for the 2024-2025 school year are invited to participate in our [Kindergarten Family Orientation Evening](#). The orientation will be led by our Kindergarten teaching staff on *Wednesday, May 22 from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm* and will take place in the Kindergarten classrooms right here at the school.

Families are encouraged to take time to preview our [St. John Kindergarten Family Orientation Slideshow](#) and prepare any questions they may have for school staff while at the event. The slideshow contains essential information on our Kindergarten Program and can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink. Parents can navigate the slideshow at their own pace by clicking, tapping, or swiping each slide. Please know that the slideshow presentation will be playing throughout the evening on the screens in both Kindergarten classrooms. Families will have the opportunity to interact with Kindergarten and school staff while children engage in free play within the classrooms.

We look forward to seeing and meeting families of our newly registered Kindergarten students at our Kindergarten Family Orientation Evening!



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board is made up of Association representatives and Trustees whose role is to support students with diverse needs and their families. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board with regards to matters relating to educational programs and services to be implemented in schools for our students who meet this criteria. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings and learn about different programs and supports that are available in special education.

Meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are unable to attend the meetings and you wish further information, please visit our website at www.niagaracatholic.ca under Special Education, Special Education Advisory Committee or contact your school Principal who will provide you with a list of representatives and their contact information.

SEAC continuously strives to ensure that the rights of students with diverse learning needs are being met both at the elementary and the secondary level as well as serving as a resource for parents of these children. For further information there are two links:

- The Special Education Advisory Committee website: www.seac-learning.ca; and
- the Ministry of Education Special Education website: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html.

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has developed the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) to support children and youth who have a diagnosis of ASD confirmed by a qualified professional.

Services available through the OAP include:

- ✓ *Funding to purchase approved goods and services;*
- ✓ *Access to supports and programs for children and their families.*

Children and youth receive services and supports until the age of 18.

For further information, please visit the following website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program>

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Educational Resource Teacher. Members of the Applied Behaviour Analysis Team from the Student Support Services Department are available to provide additional information.

'SchoolCash' ONLINE

The school encourages online payment for all fees and activities for students. It is our goal to be cashless.

As part of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, we are committed to providing a safe and efficient online environment in order to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. Online payment users benefit from knowing students are not carrying cash to school which can be easily forgotten, misplaced or not handed in on time for important school activities and events. 'SchoolCash' Online is a secure and safe payment portal and is PCI compliant. Please join the many parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying online. It takes less than five minutes to register. Please follow the online step-by-step instructions at <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com> to begin receiving email notifications for events involving your child(ren).

Some of the added benefits enjoyed by using School Cash Online include:

- Having online access to digital receipts and a complete list of paid and unpaid items;
- The ability to pay by credit cards, including Visa, Mastercard, Visa Debit, and Mastercard Debit;
- The ability to preload funds into the School Cash Online wallet for future use;
- Receiving reminder emails, so payment due dates are not missed;
- One-time registration - students will automatically be moved between schools within our Board;
- Use of Google Translate in over 100 languages;
- Make an online donation and receive your tax receipt by email for donations \$20 or more;
- Parent Help Desk Support is available 24/7.

HAND WASHING GUIDELINES

1. Clean your hands to prevent the spread of germs and reduce your risk of getting sick. Wash your hands after:
 - coughing or sneezing
 - blowing your nose
 - using the washroom
 - playing with pets
 - playing outdoors
 - before preparing meals and eating
2. Use warm water and soap; lather and scrub for at least 20 seconds. Have children sing the ABC song, so they scrub for long enough. Alcohol-based sanitizers are safe for children and can be used when no dirt is present on their hands.



GOVERNANCE POLICY VETTING AND TRACKING

In keeping with Niagara Catholic's commitment to openness and transparency, the Board has established an extensive vetting process for its Governance Policies.

As part of the vetting process, Niagara Catholic students, parents, guardians, staff, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC), Diocese of St. Catharines, and members of the Niagara Catholic community are invited to submit their feedback.

Please visit the [Governance Policies, By-Laws, Administrative Operational Procedures, Protocols And Procedures](#) section of the Niagara Catholic website for specific information on how to submit feedback for policies that are currently being vetted.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Parents and students requiring technical assistance are encouraged to access the following support portal: <https://help.niagaracatholic.ca>. Niagara Catholic launched this platform for students and parents in an effort to provide technical support for issues relating to the Niagara Catholic Virtual Learning Environment (NCVLE), Niagara Catholic Parent Portal, Safe Arrival System, and more.

CLASS ORGANIZATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Parents are asked to please trust the professional judgment of our staff to make good pedagogically sound decisions regarding your child's class placement for September 2024.

Parents are encouraged to talk positively and hopefully to their child about next school year. If a child is with a different group of students, parents would find it beneficial to discuss the value of new friendships and fresh starts.

Please know that careful thought is always given to student placement in the various classes. Guidelines that we consider may be one, some, or all of the following:

- ✓ *Learning style*
- ✓ *Social needs*
- ✓ *Work habits*
- ✓ *Special program needs*
- ✓ *Behaviour*
- ✓ *Gender balance*

In all class situations, present and receiving teachers (if possible) meet with the Principal and Education Resource Teacher to make the final decision.

We are looking forward to another wonderful school year with the support of our wonderful parent community.

ST. JOHN GOOGLE WEBSITE

Families are invited to visit the St. John Google Website for daily information items. Please know that the school will send out a SchoolMessenger notification any time there are pertinent updates made to the site. Monthly newsletters and calendars will be embedded into the website as well, once finalized. The links will be shared in the SchoolMessenger notification that goes out to inform families.

Link to St. John Google site:
[St. John Catholic School Google Website.](#)

CATHOLIC EDUCATION & MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: MAY 6 - 10

Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools will be participating in Catholic Education Week with the theme of **"We are Called to Love"**, in conjunction with Mental Health Week, from Monday, May 6 to Friday, May 10. This is an opportunity to highlight the connection between our Catholic faith and mental health with our students.

This week draws attention to the special role that Catholic schools have as faith communities. All community members - parents, students, teachers, administrative and support staff, pastors, and parish staff - have been called by name through their Baptism to grow and walk joyfully in our faith that is nurtured by the local parish, the home and the school.

Throughout Catholic Education & Mental Health Week, students and staff will participate in prayer services and special activities. Further details regarding Catholic Education & Mental Health Week activities are outlined in a letter addressed to all families, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Niagara Catholic District School Board presents an annual award to students at each of its elementary and secondary schools, the *"Catch the Spirit Award of Excellence"*. This recognition goes to those students who continually demonstrate qualities in the following areas:

- ✓ *Catholic Leadership*
- ✓ *Catholic Faith and Catholic School Philosophy*
- ✓ *Family Commitment*
- ✓ *School Community Relations (rapport with teachers and other students)*
- ✓ *Involvement in School Affairs and Activities*
- ✓ *Involvement in Community Activities*
- ✓ *Commitment to do Difficult Situation or Task*
- ✓ *High Degree of Academic Excellence*

This year's recipient from St. John Catholic School is **Daniel Crosta**. Daniel is a Grade 8 student in Mme Wiens' class. We are very proud and thank him for consistently showcasing his exemplary Catholic faith and leadership. Daniel will receive this award at a special celebration on the evening of Wednesday, May 8 at Brock University. Congratulations, Daniel!



ONTARIO SPEECH & HEARING AWARENESS MONTH

Throughout the day you talk to family, friends, and colleagues. You use your hearing and speech all the time. You probably take them for granted. Imagine not being able to communicate simple thoughts like "Thank you" or "Tell me a story." For many Canadians with speech and language disorders, this is reality and a daily struggle. For them, words don't come easily. But when is the last time you really thought about it? **May is Ontario Speech & Hearing Awareness Month**, the perfect time to communicate some important information about hearing and speech.

Ontario Speech & Hearing Awareness Month is celebrated each May to raise public awareness of speech and language disorders that affect many Canadians. Speech and language disorders can take many forms and can limit academic achievement, social adjustment, and career advancement. An individual may be born with a speech or language disorder, or it may be caused by accidental injury or illness.

One in 10 Canadians has a hearing, speech, or language problem--a condition that makes it difficult to communicate with others. Anyone, of any age, can have or develop an impairment of the ability to hear, speak, or understand effectively. At any time, illness or accidental injury can impair your ability to hear and talk. Treatment to eliminate or minimize communication problems is available.

The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs. Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life. Please visit www.identifythesigns.org for more information.

If you suspect a hearing, speech, or language problem, contact a communication specialist such as a Speech-Language Pathologist, or Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing this May, Ontario Speech & Hearing Awareness Month.

For more information on speech & hearing awareness, families are encouraged to visit www.speechandhearing.ca.

APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY - MAY 14

Apraxia of speech is a neurological motor speech disorder in which a child has difficulty rapidly, accurately and consistently producing and timing the movement sequences needed to produce speech. This is not due to weak muscles or paralysis. The child will know what he or she wants to say, but his or her brain has difficulty coordinating the muscle movements necessary to produce the words. In the province of Ontario, Apraxia Awareness Day has been proclaimed on May 14 of each year in an effort to help to raise awareness for this motor speech disorder. For more information regarding Apraxia of speech, please visit the [Speech & Hearing Apraxia Awareness Day Website](http://www.speechandhearing.ca).



CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

On **Sunday, May 19**, we celebrate the **Feast of Pentecost** as a Catholic community. In recognition of this very significant day in our Catholic faith, all students and staff at St. John are encouraged to come to school on **Friday, May 17** wearing **red, orange, and yellow** clothing. Classroom teachers will be exploring with our students the significance of the Feast of Pentecost, as well as the relevance of the red, orange, and yellow colours. We look forward to seeing everyone in their 'Pentecost colours' on Friday, May 17 and celebrating the Feast of Pentecost together as a school community!



SUMMER COMMUNITY GARDEN MAINTENANCE

It is that time of year when we begin planning and preparing for our Spring/Summer Community Garden. In previous years, we were able to donate over 15 loads of vegetables annually to the Grimsby Benevolent Fund on behalf of St. John families. We are hoping to be able to do the same this year. Please be advised that a 'SchoolMessenger' notification will be sent out to all families in May regarding volunteers for maintenance of our garden over the summer months. Families will be asked to complete a form indicating their availability and submit it to Mrs. Binfield by a specified due date. Please stay tuned for this communication. Any questions regarding this initiative can be directed to Mrs. Binfield at the school. Thank you!



MAY
is Speech and
Hearing Month!

www.speechandhearing.ca

#communicateawareness

ST. JOHN 'EcoSchools' INITIATIVE

At St. John Catholic School, we continue to remain active in our efforts to continue to fulfill our goals to serve as "Stewards of God's Earth". We continue to maintain our environmental efforts, nurture our students as both current and future environmental leaders, and reduce the ecological impact of our school. In the ['EcoSchools Information' section of the St. John Google Website](#), families will find any and all information pertaining to our 'EcoSchools' initiative, including monthly newsletters to promote ecological awareness in our school, homes, and community.

Families are advised of the following 'EcoSchools' events recognized throughout this month...

Waste-Free Lunch Wednesdays:

To continue with our ECO initiatives, we will promote Waste-Free Wednesday lunches. A waste-free lunch is one that contains reusable containers to pack your child's lunch and snacks. Although participation is optional, when we pack a waste-free lunch, we are helping the earth by reducing the use of plastic bags, wrappers and minimizing the amount of garbage.

Garden Beautification Day:

Our 'EcoSchools' Team will be organizing a garden beautification project here at the school on **Thursday, May 9**. Classes will participate in activities that centre on stewardship and have an opportunity to see the progress of our team's beautification project.

World Bee Day:

World Bee Day is celebrated on **May 20**. The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. At St. John, we will take time during the month of May to focus on the importance of preserving honeybees and all other pollinators and will be reminded of the significance of bees in providing for the needs of humanity. We will be working hard in our community gardens and planting a variety of pollinator-friendly plants to aid in the preservation of our declining pollinating friends.

Thank you for your continued support of our ECO initiatives!

St. John Catholic School ECO Team

**BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**

April has come and gone as quickly as the eclipse back on April 8th. We hope everyone at our Family of Schools had the opportunity to view a once in a lifetime event - the solar eclipse - and that the grades 7 and 8 students were able to make use of the glasses provided by our Science Department.

April was another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Aside from taking the day to safely observe the eclipse, our Winter sports came to an end and our Spring sports have begun. On any given day at BT you can find some or all of the following sports taking place at our school:

- ✓ Soccer
- ✓ Track and Field
- ✓ Boys and Girls Lacrosse – NEW TO BT
- ✓ Rugby
- ✓ Flag Football
- ✓ Girls Softball
- ✓ Boys Baseball

We have exciting news for our future Thunder athletes! The artificial turf field has begun to be installed! It will definitely be ready to be used in September.

Some other events that took place in April include the Junior Formal for our grades 9 and 10 students, the Waterloo Math Contest, and the school-wide annual Compass Survey. In addition, we ended the month with 24 of our grades 11 and 12 student leaders from our Link Crew attending the Global Student Learning Summit at Blue Mountain in Collingwood.

Lastly, all of the grade 8 students who will be attending Blessed Trinity in September should have received **Student and Course Verification Forms** to have one last look at to verify that they have chosen the appropriate courses for next year and that all of their biographic information is correct.

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.

