

# St. Martin Catholic Elementary

MAY 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

It is hard to believe that we have just two months left before the end of this school year. May is an exciting month. During the week of May 05 - 10, 2024 we set time aside to celebrate in a very special way our Catholic Education. We are very blessed in Ontario to continue to have our Catholic Schools where we have Christ centered in everything we do. Our faith is integrated in all subject areas and in our words and actions.

May is dedicated to our mother, Mary. We take this time to honour her in many special ways and recall our relationship with our own mothers. The Christmas and Easter stories offer glimpses into the life of Jesus as these stories were related by Mary. We hear the story of the Angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she was to give birth to Jesus. That same joy and anticipation is shared by mothers, and mothers-to-be, in our families today. Finally, it is Mary who holds her Son in her arms before He is taken to his tomb. She holds Him close, as she provides comfort for us in times of loss. The Risen Jesus ascends into Heaven to join his Father. Please know that the Blessed Virgin Mary is always there for you.

May is also the month in which we especially recognize the love and caring of all of our mothers and grandmothers. We thank God for them and ask Him to bless them wherever they are, whether they are still with us or whether He has already called them home.

J. Tornabuono



**Remember!**

## Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Book Fair May 1-8
- Krispy Kreme Pick Up - May 2
- Smile Cookies - May 3
- First Communion - (DiPasquale) - May 4
- Catholic Education Week - May 5-10
- Mental Wellness Week - May 5-10
- Book Fair Tea - May 7 & 8
- Grandparent(s) Day - May 8
- Indigenous Cultural Fair - May 9
- Happy Mother's Day - May 12
- Victoria Day Holiday - May 20
- Grade 3 EQAO - May 22-24
- Grade 4-8 Track & Field - May 24
- Kindergarten Orientation - May 28 4-6 pm
- St. Martin Talent Show - May 29
- Grade 6 EQAO - May 30-04

## May Prayer

### A Prayer For May:

**May you be happy.**

**May you stay healthy.**

**May you feel safe.**

**May you find comfort.**

**May you sense peace.**

**May you give love.**

**May you possess courage.**

**May you have faith.**

**May you spread joy.**

**May you be kind.**

## 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 Education Week

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, *"We are called to love."*

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024 was inspired by the following considerations:

- With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of *"Pilgrims of Hope."* With open hearts of love, we can continue to *"fan the flame of hope"* for a bright future.
- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, *"He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers."*
- The theme of the synod, *"Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,"* invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other's wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God's children are loved unconditionally.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

Day 1: As people of hope / Dans l'espérance

Day 2: As people of faith / Dans la foi

Day 3: As people of mercy / Avec compassion

Day 4: As people of justice / Dans la justice

Day 5: As people of joy / Dans la joie

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Called to love* together.

We hope to see many of you during our school celebrations!

## Mental Wellness Week 2024

This year, Mental Health Week is being observed May 5-10 2024. Mental Health Week is a Canadian tradition, with communities, schools and workplaces rallying to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. The core objective of Mental Health Week is to promote mental health because mental health is something we can promote and protect, not just something we can lose. The theme of this year's Mental Health Week is understanding our emotions. Recognizing, labeling and accepting our feelings are all part of protecting and promoting good mental health for everyone.



Naming, expressing and dealing with our emotions even when they're uncomfortable can make us feel better. If you or someone you love is struggling, there is hope and help:

- Please contact the Mental Health and Addiction Access Line at 1-866-550-5205. The Access line is available 24/7 and information is confidential
- Visit [www.cmha.ca/bounceback](http://www.cmha.ca/bounceback).
- Visit the Government of Canada's Wellness Together portal.



**Mental Health  
Week**



### **Catholic School Council Update**

Thank you to the St. Martin community for supporting our Krispy Kreme fundraiser. 675 dozen were purchased. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Poletto, Mrs. Forsyth, and Mrs. Wallace for driving to Mississauga to pick up the donuts and distribute them. Our next event will be the Year End Social. It will be held on

Thursday June 6th. Save the date!

# Grandparents' Day



## Grandparents' Day is May 8, 2024

### Class Placements For September 2024

We will soon begin the process of preparing class lists for September. We take great pride in knowing our students well and in recognizing their unique and individual needs when creating class lists. Many factors are considered when placing your child in a class, for example:



- balancing ability levels in the class
- accommodations for students with special needs
- gender balance in the class
- emotional, social development of students (e.g. grouping students who have a positive influence on one other, and who support each other's learning)
- number of classes per grade based on student population

**Parents who have a particular concern/request with regard to the placement of their child next school year in relation to the aforementioned reasons, are asked to place their suggestions in writing to Mr. Tornabuono before May 24th, 2024.**

We respectfully ask that concerns or requests have to do with the child's particular learning style and wellbeing only. Please avoid requesting specific teachers as our staffing will not be finalized until much later in the school year and the placement of students with particular teachers is at the discretion of the school alone.



### Rosary Prayers

During this month, our classes will pray a decade of the rosary each day. Whether at school or at home, we can show our love for Mary and for Jesus. You can assist by saying the rosary with your child at home. In doing this, you are supporting what the school is doing as we nurture the Faith in our community together.

## SAYING THE ROSARY:

- Make the sign of the Cross and say the Apostle's Creed.
- Say the Our Father.
- Say 3 Hail Marys.
- Say the Glory Be to the Father.
- Announce the First Mystery, and then say the Our Father.
- Say 10 Hail Marys while meditating the Mystery.
- Say the Glory Be to the Father.
- Announce the Second Mystery, and then say the Our Father.
- Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.



## **Catch the Spirit 2024**

Each year, The Niagara Catholic District School Board awards the Catch the Spirit Award to one student from every school who has demonstrated: outstanding Catholic leadership qualities, an active involvement in school affairs and extra-curricular activities, involvement in various community activities and a high degree of academic excellence. Although there were many deserving candidates for this honour, this year's recipient is Giselle Karaban. Giselle will be presented the award on May 8th at Brock University.

## **Education Quality and Accountability Office**



## **EQAO 2024**

Once again this year, in late May and early June, the Grade 3 and 6 students will be writing the EQAO provincial test in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The test will be spread over several days. Each session will take approximately forty minutes. The entire test will take between three and four hours. The results will be communicated to parents in the fall.

Many thanks are extended to our dedicated teachers who continue to strive for academic success in our students.

## **Kindergarten Orientation 2024**

On Tuesday May 28th, there will be a information session for all students entering Kindergarten at St. Martin School in September. Students will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and some of their classmates. In addition, parents will receive some important details about how to prepare for the first day of school. The information session will be between 4-6 pm.



## **Save the Date - June 6th**

On Thursday June 6th, St. Martin will host a year end social event from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be a foods trucks, raffles, entertainment, activities for the children and an opportunity to socialize and interact with other St. Martin families. Stay tuned for additional details.



## **Food Days**



The School Lunch Days For May include:

- Pizza - May 1
- Pita - May 8
- Hot Dogs - May 15
- A&W- May 22
- Pasta - May 29



Thank you to Mrs. Hutton and all of our parent volunteers. We couldn't have these days without your assistance. You are appreciated!



## From Niagara Public Health Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.

A yearly eye exam is FREE – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see ANY of these signs:

- Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes
- One eye that turns out or in
- Blinking often
- Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
- Turning or tilting the head to the side often
- Reporting blurry or double vision
- Covering or closing one eye
- Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain

For more information on vision screening, please visit

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.



## ParticipACTION Community Challenge

ParticipACTION Community Challenge

Partake in [ParticipACTION Community Challenge](#) June 1 – 30, 2024! Participate in the challenge this June to get moving, connect with others and help students within the Niagara community get crowned Canada's Most Active Community!

What is the Community Challenge?

The ParticipACTION Community Challenge is a national [physical activity](#) and sport initiative that encourages everyone in Canada to get active throughout June in search of Canada's Most Active Community.

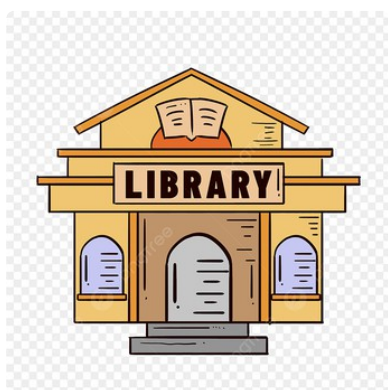
For more information visit <https://www.participaction.com/programs/community-challenge/>

### Mental Wellness Teaching Tools

Maintaining positive relationships with students within a caring school community that is safe, welcoming and inclusive contributes to students' social-emotional wellness and readiness to learn.

Visit our [school health teaching tools page](#) and check out 'Supporting mental wellness' dropdown

These evidence-based resources focus on promoting positive mental health in classrooms by providing wellness tools that work to increase protective factors and resiliency.



### Library News

Our Book Fair is coming May 1-9. This spring we are adding a Family Tea Event to our Book Fair on Tuesday May 7 and Wednesday May 8! Families are invited to join us for tea or coffee and some treats while you browse our Book Fair, or settle in to enjoy a story from our collection. Don't forget to mark the Book Fair dates on your calendar!



### Blessed Trinity Corner - May

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 grade 7's and 8's 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 practicing or beginning their spring seasons:

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

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... the Junior Formal for our grade 9 and 10 students, the Waterloo Math Contest, the schoolwide annual Compass Survey, and we ended the month with 24



of our Grade 11 and 12 leaders from our Link Crew attended the Global Student Learning Summit at Blue Mountain in Collingwood, ON.

Lastly, all of the Grade 8's who will be attending Blessed Trinity in September should have received Student and Course Verification forms to have one last look 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.

## Happy Mother's Day!

*A mother's love is like no other,  
It's unconditional and pure.  
A bond that lasts forever,  
A love that will endure.*

*Through every joy and every trial,  
She's always by your side.  
With her loving arms around you,  
She'll help you through the tide.*

*She's there to wipe away your tears,  
And celebrate your every win.  
A mother's love is a precious gift,  
And a treasure deep within.*

*So on this special day,  
Let's take a moment to say,  
Thank you, Mom, for all you do,  
And for your love that's always true.*

*Happy Mother's Day!*



**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.

## Medications & Allergies

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drugs, without written permission from the parent and a doctor. If there is a need for such medication, please contact the school to obtain the forms which must be filled out and signed by both the doctor and the parent. This record is required by School Board Regulations and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the family as soon as possible.

Please remember that St. Martin School is an Allergen Aware School. Please do not send products with nuts or nut traces with your child.



## 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



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.

### **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.



**Maria Ruggi Dietsch**

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters