St. Mark Catholic

Home of the Mountain Lions

A Member of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools

Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank You for the gift of mothers, for their love, guidance, and care. Please bless them with Your grace, strength, and wisdom as they continue to nurture and support their families. Surround them with Your love and peace, and let them know how deeply they are appreciated and cherished. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.



Catholic Education Week - May 6 - 10, 2024



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

As a Catholic Community, we see the link between our faith and mental health. This year's Catholic Education Week and Mental Health 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 and Mental Health Week:

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

Day 2: As people of faith / Dans la foi

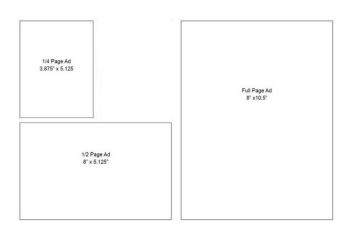
Day 3: As people of mercy / Avec compassion

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 School Mental Health Ontario's website and resources, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Called to love* together.

2023 - 2024 St. Mark School Yearbook



Advertising Space for Sale

To help offset the cost of our yearbook, we are offering advertising space for sale. There are 3 options available: 1/4 page, 1/2 page or full page. You can submit your advertising artwork to st.mark@ncdsb.com and we will upload it into our yearbook.



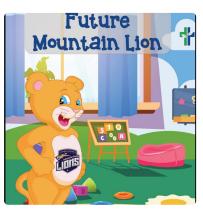
Order a Yearbook

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2023-2024 edition of our school yearbook celebrating our St. Mark Catholic school community. As you turn the pages of this book of memories, you will see the spirit of our community shining through our students, staff and parents. Staff have been working hard at completing over 75 pages that capture another fantastic year at St. Mark! **Yearbook orders can**

Ad space is available for purchase until May 17th. All artwork should be submitted to the school by that date.

be made through School Cash Online from May 1st to June 2nd. All purchased yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school in June.

Welcome to Kindergarten Evening



The St. Mark Kindergarten Team is excited to invite new Kindergarten students for the **2024-2025** school year (and their parents) to our Welcome to Kindergarten orientation evening on **Wednesday, May 15th from 5:30-7:00 pm.** Come join us for a tour and meet the Kindergarten Team.

Registration is now open for the 2024 2025 school year. If you, or someone you know, have a child eligible for Kindergarten, please go to www.niagaracatholic.ca to join our family.

Event Information

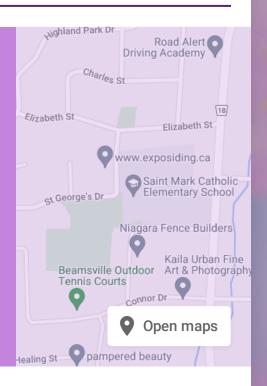
St. Mark VEX Robotics Competition

All families are invited to come and see students from across Niagara Catholic compete in the VEX Robotics Competition. Our VEX team will also be competing showing their creativity and technology skills as they complete a challenge with robots that they have built!

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 09:45 AM

Where?

Saint Mark Catholic Elementary School, Mountain Street, Beamsville, ON, Canada



St. Mark Track & Field Information

On **Wednesday, May 29th** (rain date: May 30th) students in **Grades 4 – 8** will be participating in St. Mark's Track and Field. We will be running the track events in the park behind the school and the field events at the school. Students participating in track and field events will be allowed to come out of dress code and in proper gym attire. Please see below the list of events that students can choose from. Each student must select at least two events to participate in. Their classroom teachers will meet with students to ask which events they want to choose from and students will practice during their Phys-Ed classes. <u>Students must be at school on Wednesday, May 29th to qualify for their events and possibly advance to the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools Track and <u>Field Event</u>. We have supports coming in from the board to help time track events and measure</u>

field events and they are not available on another day. Those students who qualify for events will be notified and then will move onto the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools Track and Field event on June 5th.

GRADE 4	TRACK EVENTS				FIELD EVENTS		
	50m	100m	200m	400m	BALL THROW	LONG JUMP	
GRADE 5	TRACK EVENTS				FIELD EVENTS		
	100m	200m	400m	800m	SHOT PUT	LONG JUMP	
GRADE 6	TRACK EVENTS				FIELD EVENTS		
	100m	200m	400m	800m	SHOT PUT	LONG JUMP	
GRADE 7	TRACK EVENTS				FIELD EVENTS		
	100m	200m	400m	800m	SHOT PUT	LONG JUMP	TRIPLE JUMP
GRADE 8	TRACK EVENTS				FIELD EVENTS		
	100m	200m	400m	800m	SHOT PUT	LONG JUMP	TRIPLE JUMP



Book Fair

Did you hear? The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! From **May 27th - 31st**, discover new and bestselling books coming right to our school. Every purchase supports our Library and helps to keep kids reading. Stay tuned for more details about hours and special events.

See you at the Book Fair!

Mrs. Flynn

#BooksBringUsTogether! #MountainLionsRead

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara - supports for students

Please see the attached program flyers from the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region that outlines upcoming programs being offered. These are great programs being offered to students!



Self Advocacy & Coping Skills Program

- Be in Grades 3 5 at the time of participation
- Have a diagnosed or suspected Learning Disability/ADHD
- Have an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Not be diagnosed/identified with an intellectual disability or have significant behavioural support needs.



LD Student Social

This program aims to instill confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging among the participants, while helping them to build coping and self-advocacy skills in a fun, safe, and inclusive space.



SLAM Camp - Full day Literacy Summer Camp

- Be between the ages of 6-11 at the time of participation
- Be a minimum of one year behind in their reading
- Have a diagnosed or suspected Learning Disability
- Not be diagnosed/identified with an intellectual disability or have significant behavioural support needs.

EQAO

Students in Grades 3 & 6 will participate in the Provincial
Assessment, EQAO, beginning mid May to mid June, 2023. This annual testing provides the school board and school an overview of how students are mastering skills and understanding concepts in language and math. Specific dates will be communicated out once confirmed.

EQAC

Education Quality and

Accountability Office

We continue to ask that you make every attempt to ensure that your child is at school on time, and that you do not schedule appointments or vacations during this time. A note will be going home to families of children in Grades 3 and 6 with more specific dates for when the students will be completing the assessment. Thank you for your support

Catholic Graduate Expectations:

We continue to celebrate the Catholic Graduate Expectations at St. Mark and acknowledge our wonderful students who display these qualities. The focus in April was "Caring Family Member".

Congratulations to our award winners last month!!



In April, we celebrate the theme of: "Caring Family Member":

- I love God, myself and my family
- I care about and respect my larger 'family' the one at school, at church and in my community
- A care about and respect everything in God's creation
- I believe through prayer our family stays connected to God and each other

Spread the News!

Come join us for a fun day filled with cars, food and vendors in an effort to raise money to update technology in our classrooms.



Welcome Jon Hanson - Guest Speaker for Grades 6 to 8

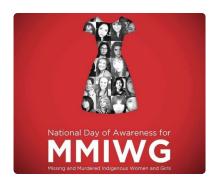
On Wednesday May 8th, Jon Hansen will be visiting and speaking to all of our Grades 6 to 8 students. Jon Hansen is an inspirational speaker, coach, and veteran teacher who has amassed over 1.3 million followers on TikTok and has been featured on CBC News, CBC Radio, The Winnipeg Sun, and Live with David Meltzer. His



videos have been viewed more than 250 MILLION times. Jon is known for his motivational messages and videos that help middle and high school students live their best lives. His ability to connect with his audience is undeniable, and his message is always one of hope and possibility. For more information on Jon please visit: Inspire Your School With Canada's Top Youth Speaker Jon Hansen (jonhansenspeaks.com)

Red T-Shirt Day

On Monday May 6, wear a red shirt in remembrance and honour of missing and murdered indigenous women. This is not an out of dress code day, so please wear navy blue bottoms.



April Events Around the School

Confirmation

We would like to congratulate all of our Grade 8 students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at St. Helen Church.

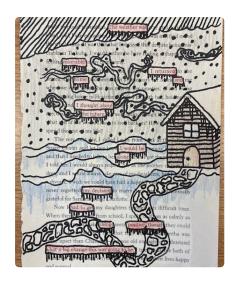




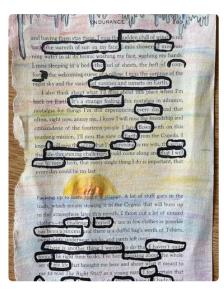




Ms. McLaughlin's Grade 7-8 Class Blackout Poetry Assignment







Grade 6 Classes

Grade 6 continues to study biodiversity and sustainable ecosystem stewardship by building a pollinator garden. We are planting native Ontario species like Wild Bergamot, Sweet Ox-eye Sunflower, Foxglove, and Milkweed to encourage places for bees, butterflies, and birds to feed and nest. We received a grant from Learning for. Sustainable Future to complete the work which includes growing plants in the classroom.







Science in Action

In Science with Mrs. Traficante, students from Mrs. Fisher's Grade 1-2 and Mrs. Melfi's Grade 2 class learned about the Total Solar Eclipse which occurred on April 8, 2024. Students made a Sun, Moon and Earth Orbiter to observe how the moon would cover the sun leaving only its corona visible. Students also made a pinhole camera to produce the image of what the sun would look like during a solar eclipse.





Earth Day - April 22, 2024

Students participated in several Earth Day activities around the school.



Mr. Moscato & Mrs. Monterroso's class did a school yard clean-up.



Our Kindergarten to grade 4 classes were asked to decorate paper shopping bags for Sobeys to put around their store and give to customers to use in support of Earth Day.



Mrs. Loutraris' class created collaborative Earth Day posters to help spread the word about saving our planet.

Dress Code Reminder

As the warm weather approaches, we just want to remind families of our dress code policy. Students are required to wear solid navy blue pants, shorts or skirts on the bottom and solid navy or white collared shirts for the top. Spirit wear purchased through Front Row Sports is allowed at all times.

Please remember that extremely short shorts, crop tops, ripped jeans, stripes, and polka dots are <u>not</u> a part of dress code.

Students will be asked to call home for proper dress code if they come to school wearing these items.

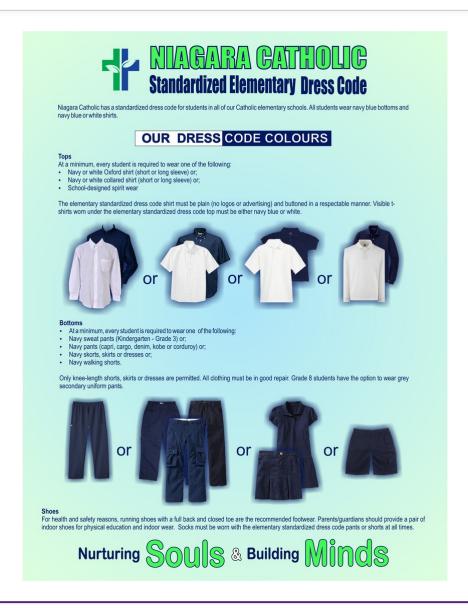
Please see the attached Niagara Catholic Policy on dress code and

the coloured flyer for additional information.

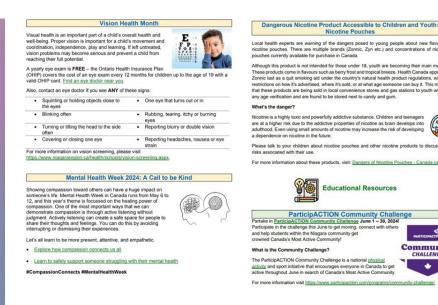
302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy AOP.pdf

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A Message from Public Health





BT Corner

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 with24 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.

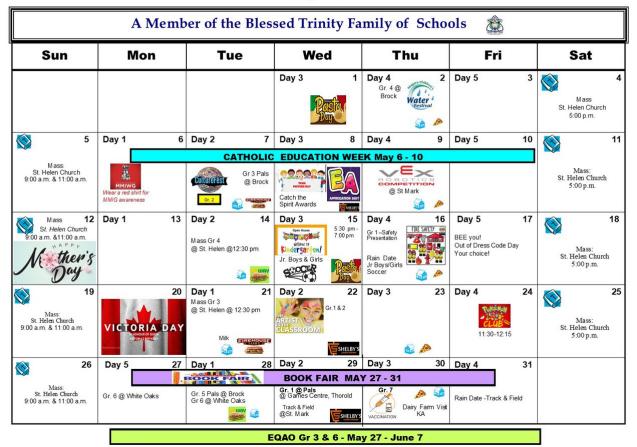
Please contact Blessed Trinity – Mr. John Cino – 905-945-6706 Ext. 2330 or Mrs. Rose Bianco Ext. 2312, if any Grade 8 parent has any questions.



St. Mark Catholic



May 2024



May 2024 Calendar (003).pdf

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