



OUR LADY OF FATIMA



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

May, 2024

439 Vine St., St Catharines, ON, L2M 3S6
Telephone: 905 935 4343 Fax No: 905 935 3943



PRINCIPALS CORNER

Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that we are about to embark on the last two months of the school year beginning with the month of May. Traditionally, May has always been one of the more busier months of the year with a variety of significant events taking place like Catholic Education Week, preparation for the EQAO Provincial Assessment, the Sacrament of Confirmation and the culmination of the last remaining sports activities. Consequently, our calendar will be significantly full with various activities being depicted in terms of dates and groups that will be involved which encourage you to access at niagaracatholic.ca under the schools tab. Our Catholic School Council is in the process of organizing a year end BBQ which you all our cordially invited. Further details will be shared through messenger as

more information becomes available. Although we never really doubted that this occurrence would materialize, our kiss and ride program has improved quite dramatically in terms of overall efficacy which is a tribute to all of us working together to ensure the safety of our children as they access and depart from school. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with all the initiatives and goals that we mutually share for our Lady of Fatima Catholic Learning Community.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Dagenais
Principal Our Lady of Fatima
Catholic Elementary School



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

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.



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- In his visit to Canada in 2022, 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.

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



WALK FOR BROCK

Brock Jordan is a 6-year-old in Grade 1 at Our Lady of Fatima who battles a genetic disease called Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Currently, there is no cure for CF. Those who are affected have an excess of mucus build up in their

body, predominantly affecting the lungs and the digestive system. The abundance of mucus also provides the perfect environment for many bacteria, including superbugs, to thrive. Kids like Brock cough a lot, tire easily, can't digest their food on their own, are typically smaller than their friends, take \$3000-5000 worth of medications a month, and are susceptible to infections. During the month of May we raise funds to help find a cure through our annual fundraiser, the Walk for CF, which takes place on the last Sunday in May. This year, the Niagara walk takes place at Safari Niagara, and any family who joins our team (WALK FOR BROCK) by following this link, and making a minimum of a \$25 donation - can spend the day at Safari Niagara for just the cost of the donation! <https://walk-cysticfibrosiscanada.crowdfunder.ca/team/walkforbrock>

If you are unable to make it on Sunday May 26th, we will also be hosting a Walk for Brock at the school on Tuesday May 21st. Donations will be made available on School Cash throughout the month of May. The kids will participate in a walk at the school, with a short speech



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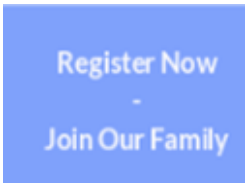
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about Cystic Fibrosis, and why we are walking for a cure!

Thank you for your support!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration can take place anytime by visiting www.niagaracatholic.ca, and clicking "Register Now".



If you have any questions about registrations for September, please contact the school.

YMCA BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

YMCA Before and After School Child Care operates in your school - your child can have fun and participate in planned indoor and outdoor activities with their friends while being in a safe, quality program. Registrations are for five-day-a-week spaces, and you can begin the process by signing up through the Region's waitlist system at: niagara.onehsn.com, or for more information about registration, please email cregistration@niagara.ymca.ca

FOOD DAYS



Pita day is Friday, May 3rd.



Sub day is Thursday, May 9th.



Antipasto day is Friday, May 17th.



Mandarin day is Thursday, May 23rd.



Pizza day will be Friday, February 23rd.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the school.



SPIRIT WEAR

It's the perfect time of year to order those spirit wear t-shirt with the warmer weather coming. All orders can be purchased directly through <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/>

At the top of the page click on Schools, Elementary Schools, then select Our Lady of Fatima.

They offer a variety of options to purchase and deliver directly to the school.



BINGO VOLUNTEERS

Our Bingo volunteers help our school to receive contributions raised from Delta Bingo. The funds received are used for so many things that benefit our students including technology, school trips, Christmas events, treats and special days.

We are looking for more dedicated volunteers who are able to donate their time for our Bingo program. Please call the school for more information.