

St. Martin Catholic Elementary

June 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

Our school year is quickly coming to an end. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the community of St. Martin.

Our students have been provided with numerous opportunities to grow spiritually, academically and socially. Improved student achievement has been our goal in all divisions. We have continued to implement the Literacy Initiatives and Math Strategies throughout the entire school.

Congratulations are extended to the partners who work together in meeting our student needs. We are grateful to Father Chris; for his spiritual guidance and for providing us with opportunities to grow in faith which exemplifies the personal commitment to Jesus.

We thank our parent community for your trust, cooperation and commitment to Catholic Education.

We thank our vibrant, energetic teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants, secretaries, custodial staff and librarian for your commitment to the students here at St. Martin Catholic School. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the Catholic School Council Chair(s), Mrs. Poletto, and Mrs. Wallace and all of the parents and volunteers in our community who have given ongoing assistance and support throughout the year.

Thank you is extended to Mr. Pizzoferrato, our Superintendent, for support and guidance in all of our endeavours. Most importantly, we wish to thank all of the students at St. Martin Catholic School who have worked with us this year to strive for academic excellence, diversity, respect and acceptance of all.

A yellow rectangular sticker with a red pushpin at the top left corner. The word "Remember!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, slanted upwards from left to right.

Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- June 5 - Track & Field
- June 6 - Year End Social 4:30 - 8:00 pm
- June 7 - PA Day - No School For Students
- June 12 - School Mass - K-3 / 11:30 am
- June 18 - School Mass - Gr. 4-8 / 11:30 am
- June 20 - Grade 8 Graduation
- June 25 - Term II Report Cards
- June 27 - Final Day of School for Students
- June 28 - PA Day

June Prayer



Year End Social

St. Martin School and Catholic School Council would like to invite all of our families to the Year End Social on Thursday June 8th between 4:30 pm and 8 pm.

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Belcastro and all of our parent volunteers for all of their hard work organizing this event. It is greatly appreciated.

It will be wonderful to be able to gather as a Catholic School Community. Please plan on attending our gathering as we end the school year and prepare for a safe, healthy and happy summer with family and friends.



Term II Report Cards

Term II Report Cards will be available in the Parent Portal on Monday June 26th by 3 pm. In addition, a hard copy will be distributed on Tuesday June 25th. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions that you may have.

Professional Activity Days

There are two PA Days in June. The first day is Friday June 7th and the second is Friday June 28th. There is no school for students on these days. The last day of school for students is Thursday June 27th.



Class Placements For September 2024

All information pertaining to class placements will not be available until late August or early September.

Combined (split) classes are a reality. We will not change a class placement because your child has been placed in a combined

class.

They are a result of having too many students for one class and not enough for two. Sometimes combined classes are chosen as the most appropriate classroom organization for program delivery. There will be combined/split classes this September. Every effort will be made to ensure that students who were in a split class this past year will not be in one next year. Please be aware that staff spend many hours compiling class lists and we do our best to ensure every child is placed in the most appropriate class. As you can appreciate, it is not an easy process. Thank you for your understanding and support. Please do not approach teachers with your requests. Students will find out who their teachers are in late August or early September. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Grade 8 Graduation

Our Grade 8 Graduation will be held on Thursday June 2th at 6 pm. The ceremony will be held at our school followed by a reception at the West Lincoln Community Center. The entire St. Martin Staff would like to wish our graduates much success and happiness as they continue their education in secondary school.



Gift Basket Raffle

Tickets for our gift basket raffle can now be purchased through cashonline. Tickets will be 25 tickets for \$10 or 75 tickets for \$20. The draw will take place at our year end Family Social on Thursday June 6th at 7 pm. You do not need to be in attendance to win.

Library News

Library News

Our Blue Spruce season has come to an end, with our primary students voting on their favourite of 10 Canadian picture books read over the last three months. Our favourite at St. Martin, and the Ontario winner was Benny the Bananasaurus Rex by Sarabeth Holden!



You can watch the full announcement ceremony at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRRkFjG0_Vk&list=PLmpsg8NfuatoyKMqleK8PAQ0h7PIO-7na&index=2&t=230s

As the school year comes to an end, we're reviewing our favourite reads and read-alouds from the year. Want to revisit a memorable author or book? Visit the West Lincoln Public Library to check it out, or try something new!

All St. Martin library materials by Friday, June 14 in preparation for year-end inventory.

Education Quality and Accountability Office



EQAO 2024

Once again this year, between May 21 and June 6, 2024, 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.

From Niagara Public Health



June 2024

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

June 2024

Check your Immunization Records and Travel Health Notice

If you are planning to travel, add these actions to your planning checklist to help make your trip a healthy one.

1. Make sure you and your children are up-to-date with vaccinations. Staying up-to-date with vaccinations is important all year round. It is especially important before travelling.
 - When travelling, you may be at risk for vaccine preventable illnesses. [Check your immunization records](#) or talk to your health care provider.
 - Learn more about [where to get vaccinated](#). Remember to report vaccinations to Public Health for children 0 – 17 years of age. Report [online](#) or call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425
1. **Review the Public Health Agency of Canada's [travel health notices](#).** These notices outline potential health risks to Canadian travelers and ways to help reduce them. Stay informed as you plan your travel.

Ticks

Ticks, mosquitos and rabid animals can be a risk as the weather warms up.

- Mosquitoes transmit the [West Nile virus](#) to humans after becoming infected by feeding on the blood of birds, which carry the virus. To learn how to protect your family, visit [Reduce the Risk of West Nile Virus - Niagara Region](#).
- The black- legged (deer) tick transmits [Lyme disease](#) to humans after becoming infected by feeding on the blood of small animals which carry the disease. To learn how to protect you and your pets, visit [Protect and Prevent Ticks - Niagara Region](#).
- [Rabies](#) is transmitted through saliva from bites and scratches, entering an open cut or wound, or from saliva contacting a mucous membrane, such as those in the mouth, nasal cavity or eyes.

For more information and [tick identification](#), individuals can contact a Duty Officer directly at 905-688-8248 ext. 7590. General tick information can be found on our [Niagara Region Public Health website](#)

Head safety – for bikes and other wheels

With warmer weather and summer break just around the corner, more kids will be outdoors taking part in activities, such as biking, skate boarding or roller blading. A [properly fitted and correct helmet](#) can cut the risk of a serious head injury by up to 85%. This means four out of five brain injuries could be prevented if every cyclist wore a helmet.

- Bike [helmets](#) should be replaced after five years **or** a crash where the cyclist has hit their head
- It's not safe to use a [second-hand helmet](#)
- Baseball hats, big hair clips and headphones should never be worn under a helmet

The human skull is just approximately one centimeter thick, so it is important to remind children to always protect their head when being active. To make sure a helmet fits right, follow the 2V1 Rule (image courtesy of [Parachute Canada](#))

Food Literacy

Want to get your kids excited about food? Food literacy is more than just what's on your plate. It's about loving everything to do with food! Picture your child confidently picking out fresh veggies, cooking healthy meals, and knowing how to keep food safe and budget-friendly.

Food isn't just about eating—it's about enjoying different kinds of food, tasting delicious flavors, and making special memories with family.

Here are some fun things you can do with your kids this summer to help them learn more about food:

- **Kitchen Adventures:** Cook together, try new recipes, and let your kids help with chopping, stirring, and tasting.
- **Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt:** Turn a trip to the grocery store into a game where you look for foods from different groups or colors.
- [Grow Your Own Garden:](#) Start a small garden and teach your kids about planting, taking care of plants, and harvesting their own veggies.
- **Food Tasting Party:** Have a party where your kids can try new fruits, veggies, cheeses, and talk about how they taste and feel.
- **Cultural Food Tours:** Explore foods from around the world through virtual or real tours, learning about new flavors and cooking styles.
- **Visit a [Local Market:](#)** Take a trip to a farmers' market, where your kids can meet the vendors and learn about where food comes from.

These activities not only teach kids about food but also make them love cooking, eating, and discovering new foods!

Educational Resources

Welcome to Kindergarten – Public Health Resources

When children are starting kindergarten it is important that that parents are aware of the following information regarding:

- Childhood [immunizations](#) and vaccines required for school
- [Oral health](#)
- [Vision health and eye exams](#)
- Hand hygiene
- Sleep
- Nutrition

This video is available with additional information for parents. [Welcome to Kindergarten video!](#)

Public Health Nurses are available to attend 'Welcome to Kindergarten' events, schools call 905-688-8248 ext. 7379 or email healthyschools@niagararegion.ca to schedule a nurse at an upcoming event.

With the beautiful weather quickly approaching [Outdoor Education Toolkit](#) was developed to enrich and promote a culture of safety-mindedness, increase teacher awareness, confidence, and preparedness to teach outdoor education safety and risk management, and increase student awareness, confidence, and preparedness about outdoor education safety and risk management.

Blue the Butterfly Pedestrian Safety

Thinking about a walk to school event with the warmer weather? Consider using the Blue the Butterfly Pedestrian Safety video to support your event. [CLICK HERE](#)

Blue's tips include:

- Walking to school reduces cars on the street which is good for safety and the environment, and walking in groups can be fun.
- Before you start walking, check the weather and dress properly.
- Walk where motorists expect to see you, like on a sidewalk or pathway.
- Stay alert, pay attention and listen for traffic.
- Use your pointer finger to express your intention to cross a street to motorists and obey the traffic signals.
- Show everyone respect while walking, including to fellow pedestrians and property.

Remember, most students who travel to school on the bus are pedestrians on their journey to the bus stop and can benefit from watching this video too! Visit [Pedestrian Safety Program for Primary Grades \(nsts.ca\)](#).



Spiritwear For September

We will be offering St. Martin Spiritwear through Front Row Sports up to June 14th. All orders that are placed in June will be delivered to the school during the first week of September.

Here is the link:

<https://stores.inksoft.com/stmartinschoolstore/shop/home>

National Indigenous Heritage Month

June is National Indigenous Heritage Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis. June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.



Blessed Trinity Corner - June

May was another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Some of the highlights in May included:

- Chicago Trip for our Social Science and Business students
- Catholic Education Week – Catch the Spirit Awards



- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Lots of Spring Sports – Flag Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Baseball, Slo-Pitch, Track and Field, Rugby
- Spring Music Concert

Teachers and students are starting to wrap up the semester and prepare for final exams. We wish all the elementary teachers and students and great end to another school year.

We are already preparing for next year. At this time, we are starting to put together timetables for all of our students, including our

newest grade 9 students. We are also preparing our Orientation Day which will be in the last week of August before school starts. More information will be sent over the summer with details. All of our current grade 8's who will be coming to BT in September should plan to be attend the Orientation Day where they will receive their schedule, locker, tour the school and have some fun with our grade 11 and 12 Thunderstruck-Link Crew leaders.

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. Martin Trivia Night - Thursday October 10th, 2024 - Save the Date

Happy Father's Day

This year, Father's Day is on Sunday June 16th.



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 Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

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.

Signing Students In & Out

Parents are to ensure their child(ren) are at school by 9:00 a.m. Notification will be required for all students leaving school during the day for an appointment. All parents must sign out their child before leaving the school. The sign-in and out book is located just inside the main front door. If you are picking up your child for an appointment, parents are asked to wait in the vestibule or just outside the front door and a staff member will escort your child to you. When possible, parents are asked to please make appointments outside of the school day.

To help minimize the risk of infection to students and staff, access to the building will be limited to staff and essential service workers only.



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.



School Cash Online

Please ensure that use of School Cash online for the purchase/payment of food days, field trips, donations etc. This is a safe and easy-to-use online program that allows you to make convenient and secure payments from the comfort of your own home. To register, please click [here](#)



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters