



Mary Ward Catholic School

October 2024

School Information

Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone **Superintendent of Education:** Mr. D. Massi

Parish: Our Lady of the Scapular Church

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Schmidt **Associate Pastor:** Fr. Ronnie Tagnines

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/maryward/>

Location: 2999 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2Z9

Phone: 905-354-9221



On Thanksgiving Day we're thankful for
Our blessings all year through.
For family we dearly love,
For good friends, old and new.
For sun to light and warm our days,
For stars that glow at night.
For trees of green and skies of blue,
And puffy clouds of white.
We're grateful for our eyes that see
This beauty all around.
For arms to hug and legs to walk,
And ears to hear each sound.
The list of all we're grateful for
Would fill a great big book.
Our thankful hearts find new delights
Everywhere we look.

AMEN

Monthly Reflection

"I have even called you by your name" (Isaiah 45:4) Do you feel left out sometimes? Lonely or sad? That's ok, because God is always with you and He knows exactly what you are going through. No matter what challenges you face, or seemingly impossible situations you get into; God will never leave you. He will make everything good for you and you can soak in His divine light. God calls each one of you by name. Jesus knows you by name! What a privilege! And what a comfort to

those of us who place our faith in Christ! God loves us more than we can imagine. He has sworn never to let us go. Do you hear Him calling you?

Principal's Message

The month of September was a busy month with students participating in our Terry Fox walk, junior soccer tournaments and training for cross country. As well, our practice fire drill and hold & secure drills were completed well. We have settled into our new routines and I compliment all of the students on their excellent behaviour, work ethic and determination to excel in all school activities. In the month of October, we strive to become greater witnesses of charity following the examples of St. Teresa of Calcutta and the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. St. Teresa of Calcutta teaches us what it means to put love into action. She knows how even the smallest acts of love and kindness can make a real difference in the world.

We can be like St. Teresa of Calcutta and the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society by helping those in need in our communities and becoming witnesses of charity! We are currently assisting Our Lady of the Scapular Parish to stock their shelves with our Food Drive items. In October, we will once again extend our prayers and our support through the Holy Childhood Walk. We are witnesses of our faith through the deeds we do daily, our prayers and our generosity! The month of October brings the holiday of Thanksgiving. This is the day we give thanks to the Lord our God for all of the things He has given us. It gives us time to reflect upon the people, relationships, talents and events for which we are thankful.

On behalf of the staff of Mary Ward Catholic School, I would like to wish the families of our community a very Blessed Thanksgiving.

A. Cardamone

Welcome

We would like to welcome Miss Marinelli, our new Grade 5/6 teacher as well as Ms. Pulido our PTM teacher. If you would like to contact them please reach out to the school.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Each year, at this time, Mary Ward Catholic School hosts a Thanksgiving Food Drive. The proceeds of this food drive will be donated to Our Lady of the Scapular Parish. From there, these donations will be distributed to families in need within our Niagara Falls community.

To date, we have received numerous donations. We are incredibly grateful for the support from our Mary Ward community! Your continued generosity is both valued and appreciated and many families in our community will benefit.

Thank you!



Procession of our Blessed Mary

You are invited to attend the procession of our Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish.

AS JESUS SAYS "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, & DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE"

Our Lady of the Scapular
Roman Catholic Church

Mother Mary Procession

Saturday October 26, 2024
@3:30pm
Mass follows @5:00pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
Especially children...
"Let the children come to me"

**Bring flowers from your gardens.
Bring personal items to be blessed!**
In coordination with all
Our Lady of the Scapular church
ministries, our 6 schools, other
parishes, and charismatic groups.

**For more information call or text
Jose @ 905-371-4704**

6557 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls, ON L2J 1B2

Terry Fox

On Friday, September 27, 2024, Tiger students and staff participated in our Annual Terry Fox Walk. Students and staff walked in our community remembering Terry's Marathon of Hope. Thus far, our Mary Ward Catholic Community raised \$710.00.

Thank you to the many families that supported cancer research through our Terry Fox Campaign.

Holy Childhood Walk

On Friday, October, 25, students and staff of Mary Ward Catholic School will be walking to support the Holy Childhood Association. The Holy Childhood Association is a mission club for elementary school children. Its motto is CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN. The purpose of the club is to encourage children to help the less fortunate in other parts of the world and to develop a better understanding of each other. The Holy Childhood Association also raises awareness and the money collected is directed towards programs which include the building of schools, providing medical assistance, agricultural programs, and teaching resources.

We will be collecting donations through School Cash On-Line. Thank you for your support!

Happy Halloween

On Thursday, October 31, 2024, the students of Mary Ward Catholic School will be celebrating Halloween. This day will be designated as an alternate dress day and students may dress in costume or wear black and orange. Students are to arrive at school dressed in costume (or black and orange) as visitors will not be permitted within the school.

We will have our annual Parade of Costumes that will begin at 9:15 a.m. Students in Grades 1-8 will walk out the front doors of the school and proceed to walk around the block starting at Casey Street and will return to the school through the walkway on Loring Crescent. Kindergarten students will walk out the front doors of the school and parade around the perimeter of the school.

As per our Nutrition and Anaphylaxis guidelines, parents are asked not to send any Halloween treats for the class, as they will not be shared with other students.

Some notes for your consideration:

- ☒ All costumes should be "student-friendly" so students can independently change
- ☒ A change of clothes could be beneficial if students want to change out of their costume part way through the day

More information will be sent home later this month.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Mary Ward Catholic School Council

The first meeting of the Mary Ward Catholic School Council took place on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. We thank all new members for taking the time to be part of this important committee. As well, a huge thank you goes to those parents who have spent many years on the Catholic School Council and have generously given their time and effort.

Elections for the first Catholic School Council meeting of the 2024-2025 school year were held. Congratulations to the following elected individuals: Robyn Pearson and Linda Bush for being elected to serve as our CSC Co-Chairs. A special thank you to all parents who joined us as parent representatives!

Items discussed included: Policy Review, Bi-Laws, Dress Code Donations, Niagara Nutrition Partner Grant and Fundraising Goals.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 26, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Eco News - International Walk to School month (IWALK)

International Walk to School Month (IWALK) is an annual mass celebration of active transportation taking place around the world every October. During the month of October, we encourage parents and students to WALK or BIKE to school. Together we can reduce the danger of traffic and toxic emissions near our school and this will also provide an opportunity for physical activity that can help students arrive alert and ready to learn in the morning! If you live too far to walk, you can DRIVE TO 5. Drive to 5 is an active transportation initiative where parents can drop-off their children at designated locations that are a safe and accessible 5-minute walk to school. Parents can either park and walk with their children or drop them Off. Let's make every step count this October!

🍂 Why walk to school?

- 1☒ Boost your health: Walking is a great way to stay active, increase energy levels, and improve mental well-being.
- 2☒ Reduce carbon footprint: Walking reduces air pollution and traffic congestion, making our communities cleaner and greener.

3 ☒ Build connections: Walking to school can be a fun social activity, a chance to chat with friends and neighbors along the way.

Waste-Free Lunch Challenge Week

October 21- 25 is Waste-Free Lunch Challenge Week. Mary Ward students are encouraged to decrease the amount of garbage produced to help our earth. Students are encouraged to bring reusable containers in their lunch during this week.

Take Me Outside Day: A Celebration of Outdoor Learning

Take Me Outside Day has always been about simply making time to head outside and learn beyond the four walls of a classroom. But this year we want to celebrate in a way like never before. On October 23, classes will head outside for learning!

Junior Soccer

Congratulations to our junior girls and boys soccer teams who participated in the St. Paul High School Family of Schools soccer tournament in late September. Both teams were competitive and demonstrated great sportmanship and teamwork. Congratulations to all!





Niagara Region Public Health

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be offering [dental screening](#) to grades JK, SK, 2, 4 and 7 on November 20th & 21st, 2024.

A registered dental hygienist will take a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized dental mirror and light. [The Healthy Smiles Ontario](#) program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care.

If you do not want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening, you MUST complete the online [School Dental Screening Opt-Out Form](#) or call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 each school year.

If your child(ren) is not in one of the grades listed above, they may have the opportunity to participate in the dental screening. If you would like your child to be screened, please complete the [School Dental Opt-In Form](#)

Grade 7 Immunization Campaign

Niagara Region Public Health's school-based vaccination clinics will begin in September for the following publicly funded [routine school vaccinations](#):

- Meningococcal
- Single dose
- [Required for school attendance](#) under the Immunization of School Pupils Act
- Hepatitis B (HB)
- 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)



- 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history

Parents/legal guardians of grade 7 students will receive an information package and instructions on how to submit their completed consent form. Parents/legal guardians must complete the consent form whether their child is receiving **all**, **some**, or **none** of the vaccines. More information will be provided through your child's school.

Kiss'n'Ride Dropoff Area

One of the challenges that we encounter here at Mary Ward is the congestion during drop off and pick up times. In order to ensure the safety of all members of our school community, we need to be reminded that patience will always be required.

A few reminders....

1. Parents who are entering the Kiss n' Ride area to drop off or pick-up their children should remain in their car at all times and be "engaged in the active operation of their motor vehicle" (taken from the Ontario Highway Traffic Act). When the traffic line wraps around onto Dorchester Road, please use the shoulder of the road and keep your car moving in line at all times.
2. Please enter the Kiss and Ride area by staying in the right-hand lane. Students should exit the vehicle as soon as they have access to the designated walking lane. Have students exit the vehicle only on the right hand side. Once students are out of the vehicle, please proceed to the left lane to exit or be patient while other vehicles in front of you ensure the safety of all prior to departing the Kiss and Ride/parking lot.
3. **NEW – For additional safety, all students entering via kiss and ride are now required to walk down the path towards the school yard. Entering the school will remain the same – Grades 4 thru 8 (front door) / Grades K thru 3 (Kinder Door).**
4. If you are choosing to park in the parking lot adjacent to the Kiss and Ride, please accompany your child/children to the **(NEW) designated walking lane where you can accompany your children down the path towards the school yard and in their designated entry door.**
5. If you are parked in the parking lot, ensure that you are reversing and not driving through the designated walking lane.
6. To limit the number of vehicles in our lot, please see attached map of surrounding streets in regards to parking a safe distance from the school and walking within 5 minute distance. It clearly shows where vehicles can be parked safely and legally. To cross Dorchester Road, please cross at the crossing guard site. Click the following link for the map [Mary Ward On-Street Parking Map \(5-min Walk\).pdf](#)
7. It is vital that the staff parking lot entrance and path be clear as this is also the entrance for emergency vehicles if ever required to enter the school.

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and patience as we work together to keep our students, your children safe.

Save the Date - Saturday December 7th Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar

On Saturday, Decemeber 7th, 2024 from 9 AM to 2 PM Mary Ward will be hosting Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar. More details to follow.



Standardized Dress Code

A friendly reminder that all schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board follow a standardized dress code. Simplified, the dress code requires students to wear a white or navy shirt with a collar and navy bottoms - pants, shorts or skirts. For specific requirements, please contact the school with any concerns. It is our goal to work with you and to support and alleviate any concerns you may have.



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.



Mr. A. Cardamone

Principal

