

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC

October 2024

Please remember that school begins at 8:25 a.m. Students learn best when on time. Thank you.



St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School

Home of the Tigers

Mission Statement: To educate each student to his/her full potential in a community formed and guided by Catholic beliefs and traditions.

Motto: "Journey Together On The Road To Discovery"

St. Nicholas Catholic is proud to be a part of the Denis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools.

Go Tigers Go!

Principal: Mrs. Jackie Watson

Secretary: Mrs. Kim Winstanley

Catholic School Council Chair: Ms. Paprzycki

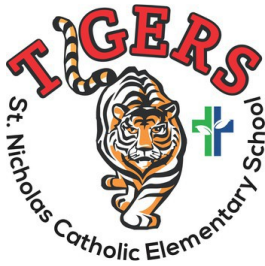
Superintendent: Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

Parish: Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Father Benjamin Weber, Father Paul Mc Donald

Email: st.nicholas@ncsb.com

Location: [149 Church St, St. Catharines, ON, Canada](#)

Phone: [905-685-7764](tel:905-685-7764)



Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you Lord,
for Autumn days,
for grateful hearts,
for psalms of praise -
Thank you Lord,
for food to share,
for family times
of faith and prayers -
Than you Lord,
for all these things,
and every joy
Thanksgiving brings.

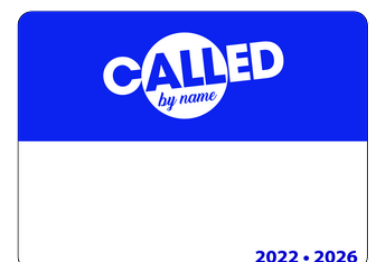
Amen



From our families to yours, have a very and blessed Happy Thanksgiving.

Reflection #2

"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?

School, Home and Parish

St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools is associated with the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Parish Priests are Father Ben Weber and Father Paul McDonald.

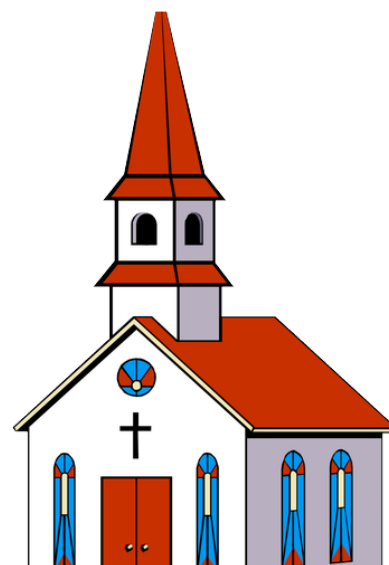
Weather pending, we walk to church once a month for mass with Father Ben, usually the third Thursday of the month for a 10:00 a.m. start. Each class is responsible for the readings and for celebrating mass along side Father.

Our current masses are as follows:

Opening Mass - October 17th, thank you to Mr. Ruberto and his 7/8 class for celebrating our opening mass with Father.

November 21st, December 6th (Feast Day of St Nicholas), January 23rd, February 20th, March 5th (Ash Wednesday), March 20th, April 17th, May 15th and June 19th.

We will also host in-school liturgies for September, Remembrance Day, Advent and Catholic Education Week. These dates and times will be posted on the monthly calendars.



All are always welcome to join in our celebrations, both at church and the school.

School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation will be in December and March/April. These will be held at school for students only.

Grade 8 Confirmation date has not been released as of yet.

Grade 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion dates have not been released as of yet.

Grade 2 and 8 parent information meeting dates will also be released shortly.

Grade 8 Graduation - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at Club Roma. Information to follow later.

Please understand that dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, the St. Nicholas Family community will be notified.

To Report Your Child Absent, Please Do Not Call the School

SafeArrival:

To report your child absent prior to the start of the school day (before 8:25 a.m. of the day being called in for), please use one of the 3 methods listed below:

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 (blue logo) 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.

Good Bye Our Friend

Well, it seems that the Boland era at St. Nicholas Catholic has come to an end and on Friday we said good bye to our dear friend, colleague and teacher, Jordan Boland.

Mr. Boland, who has been teaching at St. Nicholas Catholic for the past 18 years has accepted a teaching position at another school and will be starting Monday.

We wish Mr. Boland nothing but the best on his new journey.

Remember, in our hearts you will always be a Tiger.

Ready, set... say cheese!

Get ready for picture day on Wednesday, October 23rd. Both individual and class pictures will be taken this day.

Grade 8 graduation pictures will take place later in the school year.



Hot Lunch Fridays

Friday, October 4th - Firehouse Subs

- last day to order a sub is October 1st

Friday, October 18th - Chicken Fingers

- last day to order chicken finger is October 15th



Log into school cash online to check out options and to pay.

Please understand that we are unable to sell food the day of. All lunches are to be preordered.

Sports Corner

Thank you to all of our students and teachers who are participating in our sports to date. We have many try-outs and practices taking place during our nutrition breaks.

Sports on Deck:

October 1st - Intermediate Boys' Soccer - Young Sportsplex, Welland

October 2nd - Intermediate Girls' Soccer - Young Sportsplex, Welland

October 9th - Junior Girls' Soccer - Linlake Park, St. Catharines

October 10th - Junior Boys' Soccer - Linlake Park, St. Catharines

October 15th - Cross Country, Burgoyne Woods, St. Catharines

October 22nd, Board Cross Country, Fireman's Park, Niagara Falls



Thank you to coaches Ruberto, Marotta and Cadavid for all of your support.

Still Waiting For a Few Signed Permission Notes Off of School Cash On-Line

Dear Parents of Students in Grade 4 - 8,

This year, and every year hence forth, we are asking parents to sign off on the NCDSB Elementary Participation/Acknowledgment of risk form before any interschool sport can be played. This would include all sports and intramurals.

Intramural activities are defined as school-sponsored physical/recreation activities that occur outside the student's instructional time and are not competitions against other outside teams/groups. They may include Sports Games and Sport Imitations, Low Organization Activities, Drop-In Physical Activities, and some Special Events and Clubs.

Elements of Risk: In all physical activities there is an element of risk. Accidents/injuries may result from the nature of the activity and can occur without any fault on either the part of the student, or the school board or its employees or agents or the facility where the activity is taking place. Injuries may range from minor sprains and strains to more serious injuries (for example, concussion). Participants assume this risk but reduce the chance of an accident/injury occurring by carefully following instructions at all times during the activity.

For those who have completed and returned the paper copy forms for your child(ren) in grades 4-8, thank you. For those who have not, please find the form on-line through school cash, for completion.

Thank you

CONSENT FORM - NOTICE OF THE COLLECTION, USE AND DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

UPDATED CONSENT FORMS THAT REQUIRE THE ATTENTION OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS



Found On the Board's Website In School Cash Online (Information was sent to all parents/guardians from the Board during the first week of school).

As part of Niagara Catholic District School Board's ongoing commitment to the protection of personal information under the custody and/or control of the Board along with the right of privacy with respect to personal information that is collected, used, disclosed, and retained in the school system, parents/ guardians are asked to complete the updated form that is found in School Cash Online.

The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) requires school boards to obtain parent/guardian consent to release students' personal information to school volunteers, parishes, and the Niagara Region Public Health Unit, as well as consent to the disclosure of personal information such as creative and academic accomplishments, images/videos/audio recordings and/or accomplishments to be shared on school or Board websites, social media or with the media.

Please complete the Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information Consent Form through school cash on line by October 4, 2024.

EQAO Results

This month, Grade 3 and 6 parents and guardians will receive their child's Individual Student Report (ISR). This report contains their child's results from the Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary and Junior Divisions, administered in spring 2024. These results did not impact students' report cards last year.

EQAO results offer an independent snapshot that shows whether students are meeting literacy and math expectations from *The Ontario Curriculum*. In receiving the ISR, there is an opportunity for parents and guardians to have discussions about their child's achievement within their family or with a teacher (e.g., parent/guardian-teacher interview).

EQAO data should be considered alongside other information—such as in-class assessment results, report-card grades and teacher observations—so parents and guardians can build a fuller understanding of their child's learning.

Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) is October 6-12, 2024

Fire Prevention Week is a nationally observed week in the [United States](#) and [Canada](#) from the Sunday to Saturday in which October 9 falls.

In the United States, the first [Presidential Proclamation](#) of the week was made in 1925 by [Calvin Coolidge](#). Since then, the parent organization of the [Fire Marshals Association of North America](#) who first created the week, the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA), continues to be the international sponsor of it.

In Canada, the week is proclaimed annually by the [Governor General](#). The Saturday at the end of the week is also proclaimed as "**Fire Service Recognition Day**" to express appreciation for the many public services of the Canadian fire service.

This year's FPW campaign, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!™" strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

With support of our Fire Department, we will be conducting a fire drill on Tuesday, October 8th.



Fire Prevention Week 2024

The graphic is a rectangular poster with a white background and a red border. On the left, the words "SMOKE ALARMS" are written in large, bold, black letters, with a smoke alarm icon replacing the letter 'O' in "SMOKE". In the center, a cartoon dog wearing a yellow and red firefighter's helmet and jacket is pointing its right hand up towards a smoke alarm. Red sound waves emanate from the alarm, with the word "BEEP" written in red above them. On the right, the text "Make Them WORK For You!™" is written in bold, black letters. At the bottom left is the NFPA logo (a red square with a white flame icon) and the text "NFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™". At the bottom right is the website "fpw.org" and a small copyright notice: "©2024 National Fire Protection Association. 'Ready' is a trademark of NFPA | SAFER".



Dental Screening - November 22, 2024



Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be offering [dental screening](#) to grades JK, SK, 2, 4 and 7 on Friday, November 22, 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](#).

Kindergarten Free Fluoride

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be visiting our school on **November 22, 2024** to provide FREE fluoride varnish to JK/SK students. This service is recommended to keep teeth healthy and help prevent cavities. Your child may be eligible for dental services through [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#).

Did you know Niagara's drinking water does not have fluoride added? To learn more about the importance of fluoride, review the attached documents or visit the [Fluoride Varnish Program](#) webpage.

To provide consent for your child to receive fluoride varnish, please complete the online [Dental Program Medical History and Consent Form](#) by November 15, 2024

To speak to a public health dental professional, call 905-688-8248 ext. 7399 or [live chat](#) with the Dental Team. Translation services available.

To help us improve our services, please complete our 3 minute online [Fluoride Varnish Survey](#).



The Facts on Fluoride Varnish (1).pdf

[Download](#)

1.1 MB

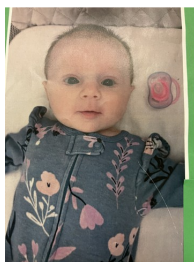
Roots of Empathy: Baby Audrey Ruth and Baby Colton Cedar

WHY ROOTS OF EMPATHY?

In Roots of Empathy, children develop empathy, which allows them to understand themselves and relate to others. Quality relationships act as a protection against negative or stressful experiences by increasing a child's resilience and sense of belonging. When children feel connected and supported, they are freed up to engage, focus, learn, grow and feel happy. Roots of Empathy supports positive mental health and well-being, and creates a safe space for children to learn and talk about their feelings. Roots of Empathy help them not only cope, but thrive.

We are so very happy to welcome our youngest Tigers and this year's Roots of Empathy babies to St. Nicholas Catholic, Baby Audrey and Baby Colton for our Grade 7/8 and Grade 1 classes respectively. The children in Miss Grant's Grade 1 class and Mr. Ruberto's 7/8 class are so very excited to meet you and to watch you grow over the next ten weeks. Thank you to Audrey's and

Colton's Moms and Dads for be so willing to participate and in sharing their children's milestones with us. And thank you to Ms. Cristelli, St. Nicholas Catholic's CYW, for all of your hard work in preparing the Roots of Empathy program for us once again.



Catholic School Council

Congratulations and thank you to all who are a part of the St. Nicholas Catholic School Council for the 2024-2025 school year:



Chair

Mrs. Paprzycki

Members

Mrs. Koch

Mrs. Melville

Community Member

Mrs. Ciancio

Father Weber

We are always looking for new members to join Catholic School Council. Come on out and share in ideas and suggestions that will help to support our students.

Our next meeting is Monday, October 21st at 5:00 p.m. here at the school.

It has been motioned that St. Nicholas CSC will hold four fundraisers for the 2024 - 2025 school year. Approvals are as follows:

Fall - COBS Bakery, Boxed Gift Cards

Spring - Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Spring Plants

All monies raised will fund technology in the classroom such as chromebooks and SMART TVs.

The following dates have been set aside for CSC meetings, 5:00 p.m. at the school:

Monday, October 21st

Monday, November 18th

Monday, February 3rd

Monday, April 14th

All are welcome to attend.

Happy Halloween. NO CANDY SENT IN PLEASE

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 are able to wear their Halloween costumes to school on Thursday, October 31st. We ask that masks, weapons and small costume pieces please remain at home. This way a part of your child's costume will not be lost, damaged or left behind at the end of the day. No masks or dangling pieces ensure that our students remain safe, with a clear line of vision throughout the day.



All Parents/Guardians are welcomed to watch our Halloween Parade starting at 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be walking a very short route around the backyard perimeter of the school. If it rains, we will be indoors.

Classes will come out of the Primary doors and walk the perimeter towards Immaculee Conception. They will walk along the fence line of North Street and will reenter the school through the Junior/Intermediate doors or Primary Doors - depending on the weather.

Our parade will begin sharply at 9:00 a.m. and will take approximately 15 minutes.

In the afternoon, our little ghosts, goblins, superheroes, princesses and everything in between, will have fun completing Halloween activities within their classroom.

We remind parents/guardians to please not send in candy/chocolate as many of our students have food intolerances and/or allergies.

As a reminder, when packing Halloween candy in lunches, please ensure all are peanut/nut free. This would include items being made in a nut-free facility.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe and secure in our peanut/nut free school.

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter Parent Information



October's Newsletter for Parents



Newsletter for families.pdf

[Download](#)
229.5 KB

Thank You To Our Community Members

We have a few thank yous to make for our many community organizations that support us throughout the year.

Thank you to Mr. Kevin Bolibruck, Manager of Castle Niagara Building and Design Centre on Highway 20, who supplied numerous cans of Dulux paint to our school. With this donation, we were able to paint our sensory room as well as add a few movement designs on our walls.

Thank you to Mr. Marko Bukovec, owner of COBs Bread on 4th Ave., who once again most graciously donated all of the hotdog and hamburger buns for our Meet and Mingle last week. So delicious!! Please stay tuned for our COBs gift card fundraiser where a \$25.00 gift card entitles you to 12 loaves of bread for free. Please note that the average price of a loaf of COBs bread is about \$5.50.

Thank you to the City of St. Catharines: to Brianne Whitty, Chief of Staff Mayor's Office, to Councillor McPherson, St. Patrick's Ward 4, to Councillor Mark Stevens, St. George's Ward 3 and to Mayor Siscoe who helped to plant all of the flowers and bushes currently seen in the courtyard and at the front of the school on Church St. On a hot summer day in late August, they all assembled to plant and help make St. Nicholas Catholic look beautiful.

Thank you to Mr. Ben Helder from Trillium Floral for donating all of the plants and bushes that we can all see. These are the flowers that were planted by the city of St. Catharines. It is through your donation that we were able to once again start our courtyard pollinating garden.

Thank you so very much to all. It takes a village to raise a community orientated school.



Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot

Please remember that you are asked not to park or get out of your car when in the Kiss 'n Ride line up. The Kiss 'n Ride is exactly that - a quick kiss as your child(ren) quickly get out of the family car. Or the quick ability for your child(ren) to get into the car and do up their own seatbelts. Please ensure that you have pulled up to the front of the line prior to your child(ren) getting out of the car. After school, staff will support students by getting them to their car safely. If you need to help your child(ren) get in and out of the car, or to assist with the seatbelt, or to help with the putting on or taking off of backpacks, we kindly ask that you park your car in a designated parking spot - away from the flow of traffic.

Our parking lot is small, however the traffic is able to flow well when expectations are followed.

We thank everyone for their cooperation when it comes to the safety of our students and staff when in the parking lot and in the Kiss 'n Ride.

PPM 128 Cell Phone Use in Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

Elementary

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.



To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Please note that all cell phones need to remain in backpacks or lockers. If your child does have a locker, it is suggested that s/he bring a lock. Cell phones are not to be kept in back pockets, in the pouch of hoodies, in desks, or anywhere visible.

If a child does have his/her cell phone out, they will be directed by the classroom teacher to go to the office where the phone will be locked in the safe. The cell phone will either be returned at the end of the day, or will be returned to the parent/guardian when they come to pick it up.

Thank you

****Update:**

Our first cell phone free month went very well. Thank you to all for embracing PPM 128. Please remember that no cell phone use also includes dismissal, while in the hallways at the end of the day.

Elementary Dress Code

NCDSB has a dress code of navy and white for all Elementary schools and their students within. Below is an excerpt from the Elementary Standardized Dress-Code Policy 302.6.10:

1.1 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☐ Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3; ☐ Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted); ☐ Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or ☐ Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts. ☐ Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers. Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

1.2 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☐ Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve); ☐ Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve); or ☐ School designed spirit wear polo shirt. The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo



or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white. In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

Please see below the policy attached in its entirety.



302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy.pdf

Download

227.6 KB

Big Bear Spiritwear

St. Nicholas Spiritwear is now being offered through Big Bear Spiritwear. Please click onto <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/st-nicholas/> to see the options available for purchase. All St. Nicholas Spiritwear can be worn throughout the year as it is an extension of the school dress code.



Orders placed through Big Bear Spiritwear can either be picked up at their Niagara Falls store or can be delivered to the school for a \$3.00 charge. Items delivered to the school will be sent home with the student in his/her backpack.

Anaphylaxis Awareness

All schools within Niagara Catholic are peanut and tree nut free. At St. Nicholas Catholic, we have students with a life threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to peanut and/or tree nut products. We ask that you please read labels carefully ensuring that all lunch products are peanut and tree nut free. That includes products that 'may contain' or are packaged in a facility that uses peanuts and/or tree nuts. For more information on anaphylaxis, visit www.anaphylaxis.ca.

Allergy Aware School



We work very hard at preventing accidental exposure. We ask that you please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed his or her hands after eating peanuts or peanut products for breakfast/lunch while at home. It is also very important that we have common rules throughout the school. The teachers will explain the importance of the following health and safety routines to the students in their classrooms:

- 1) Wash hands with soap and water/hand sanitizer before and after eating,
- 2) Do not bring in food that contains, or possibly contains peanuts/tree nuts
- 3) Do not share food with other students
- 4) Do not accept food from other students, especially if you have an allergy
- 5) Dispose of all food waste properly

If your child has an allergy or is anaphylactic, please ensure that the office is aware and that the proper medical forms have been completed. All medication signed off on by a doctor will be housed safely at the school during the duration of the school year. Please check the expiration date of all medication prior to bringing in.

Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools

Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2015 is an important step to support the health and well-being of students diagnosed with asthma in Ontario schools.



If your son/daughter has been diagnosed with asthma, please contact the office to provide information about your son/daughter's asthma medication.

You will be required to complete and submit the Niagara Catholic Student Asthma Management Plan for your student.

Any student under the age of 16 years will be permitted to carry and administer his/her asthma medication at school with your consent. A student 16 years or older is not required to have his or her parent's or guardian's permission to carry his or her asthma medication.

The Ministry of Education website has resources on asthma that can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/anaphylaxis.html>.

Please Keep us Updated

Communication thru emails:



A reminder that information and updates will be regularly sent out via email. Please ensure that your current email address is on file at the office. Likewise, monthly calendars, newsletters and on-line paraphernalia such as class trip information can be found on our school's website.

***Please understand that if we do not have your current email address, you will not receive information, nor will you be able to access information such as report cards, through the parent portal.**

Always keep us apprised of email changes.

Thank you

Respectful Interaction Framework

St. Nicholas Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.



Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated.

While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

Thank you

Friday, October 11th is a PA Day.

Monday, October 14th is Thanksgiving.
There is no school for students on these two days.



Jacqueline Watson

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

