

St. Thérèse Catholic School

October 2024

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Bais - Secretary

Website - <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/st-therese/>

Address - [530 Killaly Street East, Port Colborne, ON](#)

Phone - 905-835-8082

Instagram - @st.thereseperc

Email - st.therese@ncdsb.com



School Bell Times

8:40-8:55- Student Arrival

8:55 -9:05 - Entry Bell - Prayers, Announcements, Attendance

10:25-10:45-Break #1 - Outdoor Recess

10:45-11:05-Break #2 - Indoor Eating

1:05-1:25- Break #3 - Indoor Eating

1:25-1:45-Break #4 - Outdoor Recess

3:0- Prayers, Announcements

3:10 - Dismissal of Pick up Students

3:15 - Dismissal Bell for all walkers and bus students

Principal's Message

Thank you to our students and families for a wonderful September. I would like to thank our dedicated St. Thérèse Staff for ensuring a smooth transition back for all of our students. We would like to welcome Mr. Valovich to our school community, he will be teaching Science, Health and

Phys. Ed to our Grade 1/2 class and replaces Mrs. DeLuca who has been with our school community for the past three years. We wish her all the best in her new position. Our first month has been busy as we fall back into the routine of school and prepare for all the exciting activities taking place in our school community.

Our Junior Soccer Teams participated in our first ever Junior Soccer Tournament last week. All of our players and coaches represented the Titans well! Congratulations to our Junior Girls Soccer who placed 2nd in their tournament! We had many family members attend the tournament and support our teams - we very much appreciate your cheering! We have participated in our annual Terry Fox Walk, had amazing participation in our Orange Shirt Day for National Truth and Reconciliation Day, we walked to our parish for our opening school mass with Father Danielle, we've elected our Student Council, began the roll out of our Student Leadership Framework AND held our first Catholic School Council meeting for our parents!

While the beginning of October brings many exciting things, it is also the beginning of Mrs. Saxton's retirement. We have been so blessed to have her as an integral part of our school community. For most of our families, Mrs. Saxton is the first person they met in our school community. Her love of our children and her support of our staff will be missed. On behalf of our entire school community, we wish her a happy and healthy retirement filled with much gardening!

We have so much to be grateful for in our school community. I would like to wish you all a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

God Bless all of you,

Mrs. Turcotte



Thanksgiving Prayer

Father in Heaven, Creator of all, and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks. Thank you for all the graces and blessings you have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage, our food and shelter, our health, the love we have for one another, our family and friends. Amen

Monthly Reflection

Let's focus on this thought - Jesus knows my name! And Jesus calls me by name. He doesn't just say, "Hey, you!" but He knows me. And He calls out to me by name. We aren't just faceless names in a crowd of humanity. Jesus recognizes each one of us and we are precious to Him.

You matter so much to Jesus that He calls you by name, beckoning you to walk closer to Him, to



come and follow Him. As we begin this school year may we reflect on what it means to be known by Jesus and answer His call to come follow Him!

Is your child receiving a sacrament this year?

We invite you to attend our parent information sessions at St. Thérèse Church.

First Communion Parent Meeting - Thursday, October 3rd at 6pm

Confirmation Parent Meeting - Thursday, October 17th at 6pm

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please follow up with Father Danielle at the Church for more information.



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

St. Thérèse Spirit Wear

St. Thérèse Spirit Wear is available for purchase year round! Items are shipped directly to the school with your child's name on the package for easy delivery! We will request some same sizes of spirit wear for families to try on at the school. An email will be sent out to families when the sample sizes arrives.

Please check out [Big Bear Spiritwear's website](#) for more information - Click on Schools to find our shopping link!

SAVE THE DATE

Our Grade 8s are graduating on **Thursday, June 19th** at Lakeshore Catholic.

Families will receive more information closer to the date, but please note this date in your personal calendar. Friends and family are all welcome to attend as we have plenty of room!



Catholic School Council - Nominations and Elections

The **St. Thérèse Catholic School Council (CSC)** for the 2024-2025 School Year held it's first meeting on **Tuesday, September 26th**. The agenda and minutes for our meeting can be found on our school website - <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/st-therese/>

The **Co-Chairs of Catholic School Council** this year is Mrs. M. Cooper (Avery and Logan's Mom) and Mrs. D. Murtaugh (Dawson, recent graduate and Dakota's Mom).

Members of Catholic School Council:

Mrs. K Sneek, Mrs. K. Serniak, Mrs. S. Sherk, Mrs. J Nevar, Mrs. C O'Rourke, Mrs. S. DiBartolomeo, Mrs. B. Pendlebury, Mrs. J Easton, as well as the staff - Mrs. M. Turcotte, Mrs. S Flagg and Mrs. L DiBartolomeo.

Thank you to these parents and staff for putting their name forward to support our school community.

We hope that you will consider coming out and participating. **Parents are welcome to attend any of our future meetings taking place on:**

November 26th

February 25

May 13

Catholic School Council is looking for parents/guardians to volunteer their time for our Thanksgiving Luncheon on **Wednesday, October 9th**. We will be reaching with a separate email to see if anyone is interested! Please stay tuned for more opportunities to support our school community.

We are looking forward to many school community events, fundraisers to help the school and creating great memories together.



Traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon

Our **Traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon** for Staff and Students is happening again this year! The Thanksgiving Luncheon will take place on **Wednesday, October 9, 2024** and is organized by our **Catholic School Council**. Funds from our Pie Fundraiser and our weekly Food Days will ensure everyone will enjoy a complimentary lunch. We will gather as a school community and celebrate our Thanksgiving lunch together in our gym.

In order to bring this tradition back to life this year we have a request from our school community: Each classroom will be responsible for donating a specific food item to our luncheon.

Please have your child bring your item to school by **Monday, October 7th**.

Kindergarten: 1 package of dinner rolls (from each child)

Grade 1/2 Class: 1 box Stove Top TURKEY stuffing (from each child)

Grade 3/4 & 4/5: 1 can of Niblet corn (from each child)

Grade 6s: 1 box of Rice Krispy squares (from each child)

Grade 7 and 8: 1 package of juice boxes (from each child)

Bring Your Own Plate and Utensils!

As one of our Eco School Initiatives - we are reducing single-use plastics in our school. Please send your child to school with a plate or Tupperware container as well as utensils so they can enjoy their turkey lunch. We recommend sending these items to school as soon as possible to ensure your child is prepared for Wednesday, October 9th! Thank you for supporting one of Eco School Initiatives!

PRO TIP: send a tupperware container for your child to eat out of so leftovers can be brought home!

FEEDBACK NEEDED

Our Healthy Heroes are planing to help make our school more healthy. We would love your input as the St. Thérèse school community to help guide our focus for this school year.

By filling out this form you will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a Healthy Heroes Prize pack.

Thank you for your support in making our school a healthier place!

<https://forms.gle/xcBhyh7GzcJccacA8>

Halloween Dance-a-thon & October 31st

On **Thursday, October 31st** we will be hosting our annual **Halloween Dance-a-thon**. We will be using both Pledge Forms and School Cash Online for donations. More information will be sent home closer to the date. Last year we raised almost \$5000 through this fundraiser!

Catholic School Council (CSC) will be selling Halloween themed glow items as well as Halloween cookies and treats. All items will range from \$1.00- \$5.00.

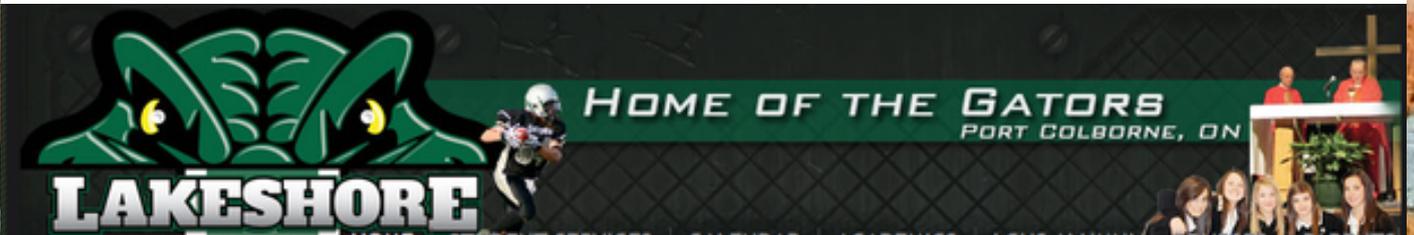
Classes will have a scheduled time to dance in the gym. Students are encouraged to gather pledges for promising to dance for the entire time their class is in the gym! Funds generated from our first fundraiser of the school year, will be used to purchase technology for our school community (e.g. Chromebooks, gym AV equipment).

October 31st will be a Dress Down Day - students are welcome to wear costumes if they have them or dress in orange and black in the spirit of Halloween. **Students are to come to school in**

their costume. As has been the case every year, costumes that are intended to scare or have blood or weapons are not allowed. Students should be dressed appropriately, (no crop tops, short shorts, no masks, gore, gruesome, weapons and or blood that may scare our younger students)

Our Student Council and Spirit Squad will be organizing the decorations and photo booth and helping with organizing and running the event along with our CSC.

There is absolutely no sharing of food items such as snacks or treats. Do not send your child with any food items for sharing with students or staff as they will not be permitted to distribute them. (All of these items will be sent home). Only non-food items, such as pencils and stickers, will be distributed. We have various food allergies and medical concerns so we appreciate your cooperation as we work to keep all our students safe.



Intermediate Class Visit from Lakeshore Catholic Principal Mr. Marcovich

This month is an exciting one for our Intermediates as they will be making many connections with Lakeshore Catholic High School. The new principal, Mr. Marcovich will be visiting after Thanksgiving to drop off spiritwear for our Grade 8s and invite all of our Intermediates to various upcoming activities.

Welcome Future Gators and Parents!

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, October 8th- FUTURE Gator Day 10-1:30pm

Monday, October 21- Wednesday, October 23rd- Welcome Visits with Principal and Guidance/2025 T-shirts

Friday, October 25th- Gatorwalk Invitation

Thursday, November 21st-Gr 8 Open House @ 6pm

Tuesday Dec 3- Transitioning To High School Night (OSSD Requirements) & APP Information Lakeshore Catholic @ 6pm ALL GRADE 8 PARENTS WELCOME

Wednesday, Dec. 4- Friday Dec. 13th-Course Selections www.onmyblueprint.com Plan with your parents ahead of time.

Safe Arrival - Reporting Your Child's Attendance

To report your child absent, 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 on file with the school. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the School Messenger App (blue logo) from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. 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.

3. The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Electronics

The **Electronic Communication Systems Policy** states that cell phones or smart phones, tablets, laptops, audio or video recording devices are eligible for use by students in all Niagara Catholic Elementary schools (Grades 6-8) **as approved only by staff for instructional or co-instructional purposes**. The expectation is that students will use NCDSB's electronic communication systems for educational purposes, to enhance learning through responsible access to global information and communication. We are blessed that all students in Grades 1-8 are assigned a laptop or Chromebook for educational purposes for the duration of the school year. Students who carry cell phones when travelling to and from school, for safety reasons, are reminded they are not allowed to use their cell phones to call or text home once they are on school property or during the school day/recess/lunch.

All cell phone must **remain off/silent** and **put away** during the school day unless noted by the school staff. Students are asked to use the school student phone located in the office if they need to call home or are not feeling well.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring students stay safe from social media during the school day.

Parking Lot Safety

Thank you for your continued support for our parking lot challenges during construction. Our morning arrival seems to be running smoothly. If you are parking on the shoulder of the road, please be sure to avoid the no parking zones as designated by city signage as we had by-law officers visiting our school twice last week. We strongly urge you to consider using the U-driveway as a Kiss n Ride in the morning where our buses pull in. Kindly pull up to where Mrs. Flagg is standing and your children can unload safely. Please DO NOT attempt to go around any other vehicles or buses when using our Kiss n Ride. Kindly wait until the vehicle in front of you drives away before proceeding.

Our end of day dismissal of Kindergarten students (and their siblings) from our east-side kiss n ride has proved to be very successful as everyone is more safe and congestion has been reduced. Our Grade 1-8 early dismissal of pick up students at 3:10 from our front lawn has also helped reduce the congestion for our walkers and bus students at 3:15.

Your support and assistance in ensuring our students' safety at arrival and dismissal is very important to all of us. We appreciate your patience and understanding during our construction.

School Cash Online

Payment for School Activities- School Cash Online

Parents/Guardians are asked to sign up for our convenient payment program - **SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities and lunches without sending in money to school. Families will receive notification through School Messenger when items become available for purchase.

There are only a handful of situations where your child would bring money to school:

- * Book Fair
- * Monthly Popcorn and Frozen Yogurt Days
- * Dance-a-thon Treats

To register or visit School Cash Online please click the orange bar link above.



Reusable Water Bottles & Utensils

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle. This will not only help keep our children hydrated but will also help our environment. We have our very own St. Thérèse water bottles that are available to purchase through School Cash Online for \$10. *(There is even a place to write their name on the back!!)*

We ask that if your child needs a fork or spoon to eat their snacks or lunch that you please place one in their lunch pails. As we continue our Eco Schools Initiatives we will be moving away from single-use plastics and want to educate our students about sustainable actions they can take as stewards of our earth.

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for all their support to start off the school year. Each class has a bin and tongs filled with delicious and nutritious food items such as yogurt tubes, fruits, fruit bars, and individually baked goods. These items vary from day to day. All students are welcome to pick a snack to compliment their own snacks. Especially as our students adjust to our new balanced day schedule.



Thank you to all of our families for donating to our Nutrition Program so we can continue to sustain and help maintain it throughout the year! **Please consider donating through School Cash Online.**

LOST & FOUND

Just friendly reminder to LABEL all of your child's items with their first or last name. Often items are not labelled and it is hard to know who they belong to, especially if it is a blue sweater! We do have a **lost and found** for students to check in the main hallway of the school.

Unfortunately, should items go missing and/or are lost when students have left them at school, a reminder that we, the school, are not responsible for any lost items or items left at the school. We will do our best to help our students find their items and will put these items on display at Parent/Teacher Interviews. Any unclaimed items will be donated to our school or Port Cares.

Toys at School

We remind all our students and parents that although toys are fun to play with during recess times, it is difficult to keep track of whose toys belong to whom. Often students bring and play with their toys during class time. We ask that you please consider not sending toys or labelling the toys and speaking to your child about when is an appropriate time to use them.

Please do not send Pokémon cards to school as students are not permitted **to trade** playing cards of any kind.

Thank you for your support!



Melissa Turcotte

Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters