

# St. Martin Catholic Elementary

November 2024



## School Information

Mr. J. Tornabuono - Principal

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

November is the month where we devote two days to the memory of the saints and also to those who have died. November 1st is the feast of ALL SAINTS. On this day we celebrate the communion of saints, the union of prayer and the love between saints on Earth and the saints in heaven.

November 2nd is the feast of ALL SOULS and is the second day of our remembrance of saints. We also pray that one day all people will share the glory of the saints. We offer prayers of intercession for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and the jobless. During the month of November we also ask God to provide enough food for the poor of the world. In addition, during November we recognize Remembrance Day. Every year on November 11, Canadians pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. The Remembrance Day celebrations and purchase of poppies are tangible ways to thank those who gave their lives or are willing to give their lives for peace and reconciliation.

J. Tornabuono

Principal



### Remembrance Day Prayer

God of love and justice,  
today we remember all men and women who died in defense of  
our country and its freedom.

Help us to honour their sacrifice  
through our prayers and actions for peace in our world.

Send your Spirit to help us to let go of misunderstandings,  
hatred and prejudice  
so that we may grow together as one family.

Guide our steps in the way of peace  
We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace.

Amen.  
Author Unknown

### Early Progress Reports & Parent/Teacher Conferences

Early Progress Reports will be published in the [Niagara Catholic Parent Portal](#) and distributed on November 12th. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in person on **Monday November 18th from 4 pm-7 pm**. To book an appointment with your child(rens) teachers, please use the online booking tool [stmartin.schoolappointments.com](http://stmartin.schoolappointments.com).



### School Appointments – Parent Instructions

1. Go to our school appointments web site for your school.  
<https://stmartin.schoolappointments.com/>
2. Register for an account by clicking the "**REGISTER**" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "**Register Now**" button.
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "**Add a Student**" button. Click the "**Insert New**" button to add more children.
4. Click the "**date**" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with and the "**View Calendars**" button. Use the "**Ctrl**" or "**Command**" key to select multiple staff to view at the same time.

5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments to make your bookings.

## Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week November 18th-22nd

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment.

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 18-22, 2024 – Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

## Plaid Friday #ProjectPlaid

Plaid Day is on Thursday, November 28th, 2024. That day we encourage you to:

- 1) Wear PLAID (you are gonna look so good)
- 2) TALK & SHARE about Mental Health, In-Person, Text/Email, or on Social.
- 3) DONATE to the campaign or buy Swag online at <https://shop.pathstonefoundation.ca/>



## St. Martin Catholic School Council

There will be a Catholic School Council Meeting on **Wednesday, November 27th at 6:00 pm** in the school library. All are welcome to attend!

## Robotics Champions

On October 29 our Robotics Team competed against ten other school teams at Mary Ward Catholic School in Niagara Falls. With some very creative coding, the team finished in 1st Place. The team consisted of Rocco F., Cole P., Matteo R. and Matthew S. a Special thank you goes to our Robotics Team coaches Mrs. Bonadio and Miss Cossitt.



## Halloween at St. Martin



## Library News

November 2 is I READ CANADIAN DAY. A national day of celebration of Canadian books for young people, this is a day dedicated to 'reading Canadian' and raising awareness of Canadian books by celebrating the richness, diversity and breadth of Canadian literature. For more information, visit [ireadcanadian.ca/](http://ireadcanadian.ca/) or follow @IReadCanadian and #IReadCanadian on social media.

## Blessed Trinity News

The month of October began with a bang. The Blessed Trinity community, and in particular our Junior Boys Football team, would like to thank the Grade 7 and 8 students and teachers from our Family of Schools for their incredible spirit and support during the October 9th game on our new turf field. It was a fun and exciting day as our future Thunder cheered our team to a victory over Notre Dame.

It was a very busy day as we also celebrated the blessing of our new turf field with special guests in attendance, including our Director and former Principals. The month started off with a Friday Night Lights White Out game on October 4th where over 1000 spectators watched our Sr. Boys Football team defeat St. Paul in a very exciting game. The month of October will end with our annual Pilgrimage to raise money and awareness for the people of Las Pajas in the Dominican Republic. This will take place on Sunday, October 27th. Grade 8's from our Family of Schools have been invited to join the Blessed Trinity community in our annual Pilgrimage. A great example of our caring spirit at Blessed Trinity and our goal to always help those less fortunate.

October also saw representatives from our Student Services Department visit all of our grade 8's in their classrooms to introduce themselves and begin the process of transitioning our grade 8's to BT next September. We also brought back recent graduates from each elementary school to speak to the grade 8's about their experience at BT so far this year and lead a fun activity called Fears, Cheers and Unclears. This gave the grade 8's an opportunity to ask and talk about what they are nervous about, what they are looking forward to and what they are unsure of when it comes to starting high school next year. We had some great questions and discussions around what to expect in high school and our grade 9's had a blast visiting their old classrooms.

What to look for next month? On November 12th at 6:30 pm BT will be hosting an AP (Advanced Placement) Information Night for all parents.

## Called By Name



Our Niagara Catholic's new theological theme for 2022-2026 will be "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples



"He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." John 10:3

Hearing our name makes an impression on us one way or another. Names convey a sense of who we are and how others relate to us. Before the Messiah came into the world, He declared, "The Lord has called Me from the womb; . . . He has made mention of My name" (Is. 49:1). That demonstrated the special relationship the Messiah had to God the Father. What is even more exciting is that this relationship extends through Jesus to us. Because of Christ, we are adopted into the family of God. When we trust Christ as our Savior and Lord, He calls us by name.

## ECO School News

November is Radon Action Month!

What is radon? Radon is a soil gas that can be found in elevated levels in certain homes. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, surpassed only by smoking. It's important that all Canadians test their homes for radon, and take action to reduce their radon level if required.

Why November? Health Canada suggests measuring radon for a minimum of three months' time, preferably during the heating season. This makes November the perfect time to order a radon test kit, and start measuring the level in your home.

Click here to purchase a [radon test kit online](#).

Click here to learn [more about radon](#).

Click here to learn more about [reducing radon in your home](#).

## From Niagara Public Health

### November 2024

#### HEAD LICE

Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

#### YOUTH VAPING PREVENTION

Caring adults have an important role to play in helping kids make decisions about their health. Vaping is harmful and addictive, so we must empower young people with the right health information and refusal skills to ensure they don't start vaping.

Vaping risks include:

- Addiction to nicotine – nicotine changes how the youth brain develops affecting learning, memory, concentration, and impulse control.
- Exposure to cancer-causing chemicals and metals
- Lung damage
- Increased stress and anxiety
- Increased likelihood of smoking cigarettes

In November, elementary schools across Niagara Region will be receiving vaping resources for grade 7 and 8 classrooms. To compliment the in-class education, we encourage parents and caregivers to learn about vaping and tips on how to talk to your kids about it. For more information, or to download the parent/caregiver Let's Talk About Vaping resource visit: [www.notanexperiment.ca/parents](http://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents)

### **EpiPen® AND AUTO-INJECTORS**

During the school day, your child will be in contact with many staff members and other children, moving around to different locations inside and outside. Remember to check if your child's EpiPen® Auto-Injectors are up to date (not expired).

Check out [Food Allergy Canada - elementary school](#) for some great tips and [resources!](#)

### **PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS THIS RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SEASON**

Infections like COVID-19, flu and RSV increase in the fall and winter months.

While anyone can get very sick, infections can be especially devastating to the most vulnerable in our community. This includes older adults and people with underlying medical conditions.

There are simple actions we can take to help protect ourselves and others. Use layers of protection:

- Stay up to date with vaccinations
- Stay home if sick
- Consider wearing a mask (for example, based on the setting, your personal risk factors, or comfort level)
- Keep up good hand hygiene – use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into the upper sleeve
- Regularly clean and disinfect high touch surfaces
- Keep indoor air fresh and circulating

Learn more on [our website](#) or [check out our downloadable resource.](#)

### **NIAGARA PARENTS**

[Niagara Parents](#) provides a variety of services to help you raise a happy and healthy family.

Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse instantly in whichever language they are most comfortable speaking.

Services offered:

- Questions or concerns about parenting, your child's health, or pregnancy.
- Parenting classes, breastfeeding support, prenatal appointments and more.
- Postpartum support
- Links to services within the community

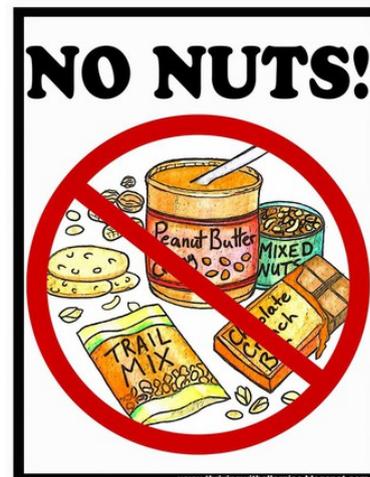
Connect with a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. through phone, live chat, video call, or email. Live chat is available in 90 different languages.

Find Niagara Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for different activities you can do with your kids, relevant resources and virtual events for parents.

## 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.



## Niagara Nutrition Partners

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Niagara Nutrition Partners (NNP) is a not-for-profit program that was established in 1998 and is a Region-wide initiative that offers support and coordination for student nutrition programs.

At St. Martin School, we offer snacks to all students throughout the school day. Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for their support each year!

Each day every class is given a bin with a variety of nutritious food items such as yogurt tubes, fruits, fruit bars, and individually baked goods. All students are welcome to pick a snack if they are hungry or to just complement their own snacks.

We are asking parents to consider donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain this program throughout the year. Please Donate through School Cash Online. This will be open on School Cash Online all year.

## 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.



**Maria Ruggi Dietsch**

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters