

St. Thérèse Catholic School

November 2024

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Bais - Secretary

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Principal's Message

We have been so blessed to have been able to enjoy such a beautiful Fall. October was filled with so many fun activities such as our Cross Country Meet, Thanksgiving Luncheon, Pumpkinville and Dance-a-thon and so much more. There has been a great deal of learning in our classrooms - we can't wait to share this with you in your child's progress report!

At the beginning of November, we remember all saints and all souls. All Saints' Day on November 1st is a feast day to remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history. All Souls' Day is marked on November 2nd and is an opportunity for us to remember and pray for the faithfully departed. Our school community will be praying for all souls and writing the names of those we have lost on hearts and displaying them in the front entrance way of the school. If you would like us to add any names to our prayer wall, please write them in your child's agenda.

During November, we also take time to offer our prayers, remembering those brave men and woman who have fought for the freedom we enjoy today in Canada. We keep in our prayers their souls and the safety of our present-day Peace Keeping troops. We will honour Remembrance Day on November 10th with a prayer service at the school.

The first full week of November is designated as Treaties Recognition Week. Treaties have been a part of native culture for thousands of years and were legal agreements among the many

Indigenous nations who shared this land long before European contact.

The week of November 18-22 is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. As a school, we will help students to understand the difference between conflict and bullying and help them to realize that while conflict is normal, bullying is not. As partners in Catholic Education, let us actively encourage your children, our students, to search for peaceful solutions to problems. Let us model for them our active and observable commitment to settling things without aggression. Let us help them learn that it is possible and very important for nations of the world to work collaboratively to find peaceful solutions.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Turcotte

Remembrance Day

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields
By John McCrae**

The Royal Canadian Legion will be bringing poppies to be offered to children and staff prior to Remembrance Day to support our veterans. Donations will be accepted in the main office or through School Cash Online and we will go into classes on Remembrance Day to distribute poppies.

St. Thérèse has also purchased a wreath from the Royal Canadian Legion to be laid at the cenotaph in Port Colborne.

Theological Theme - Called By Name - Come Follow Me

Our Monthly Reflection

What does it mean when we “follow” someone on social media? When we do this we are saying we want to know more about them, to see how they live, how they act, what they say. But what we see on social media isn’t always reality. It’s often hidden behind filters, edits, and multiple

takes. What if instead of “following” in this way, we choose to follow someone who only shows us what is real and what is true? Jesus is calling us to follow Him, to live our lives according to the Gospel and to share His love with those around us. So the question is, who will you choose to follow today?



Traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon!

Our **Traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon** was a HUGE success. Thank you to all of our parents and guardians who were able to help us with the preparations, the serving of the food and the clean up! Our students had a wonderful time and were very grateful to have a meal together in the gym!



SAVE THE DATE - Ice Dogs Family Night & Weekly Student Tickets

In partnership with the Niagara Ice Dogs, once again our school has been awarded 1/2 season passes for two tickets!

Congratulations to all of our students who have already won our draws to attend an Ice Dog Game!

Throughout November to March we will be drawing the names of interested students and calling home to confirm they are available to attend the game!

SAVE THE DATE: Our **Ice Dogs Family Night and Pre-Game Skate** is on **February 7th**. The game begins at 7:00 pm - IF we sell 100 tickets or more we will be invited to participate in the free skate before the game from 5:00-5:50. We will be sending an information email about purchasing tickets, parking and skating in January!

Little Kindness Project

“Big shoutout to our own Davis and our guests Tina and Isabella from the Little Kindness Project for educating us about Dwarfism and sharing the importance of kindness in all that we do. Learning

about different perspectives helps us grow, and we're so grateful for the chance to deepen our understanding and compassion. Thank you, Tina and Isabella, for your inspiration and commitment to making the world a kinder place! 💖🌟 #LittleKindnessProject #KindnessMatters #DwarfismAwareness #AlwaysBeKind"



SAVE THE DATE

Our 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Night will take place on **Monday, December 10th!**

More information will be sent out closer to the date!



Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be available through the [Parent Portal](#) the week of **November 11th**. This report will indicate your child's progress during the first few months of school. It is important to review this report and discuss it with your child. Please return the signed copy to your child's teacher.

Parent/Teachers Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 21st from 4 pm - 7 pm.

Gymnasium - Kinder - Gr. 8 teachers, French & PTM Teachers and Mrs. Barnes (ERT)

Parent-Teacher Interview Sign Up

We will be using **School Appointments - Online** again this school year to book our Parent/Teacher Interview time. You will need to pre-register and set up your child's account. We will open the registration portal from **November 11th to 18th**. A school messenger email will be sent home to give you more information on how to set up your appointment with your child's teacher.

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!



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

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

SAVE THE DATE

Our Grade 8 Graduation will take place on Thursday, June 19th, 2025 at Lakeshore Catholic!



Halloween Dance-a-thon - Oct. 31st

Our **Halloween Dance-a-thon** was so much fun! Classes had turns to dance in our decorated gym filled with Halloween decorations by our Student Council, glow items and special treats sold by Catholic School Council! Thank you to all of our CSC Parents who were able to help us make the day a HUGE success!

DJ Jordan was a welcomed addition to our Dance-a-thon this year! He made sure the kids were dancing and having fun!

We raised over \$4000 this year! Thank you to all of our families for your support!



101 Dalmations Staff Theme



Dance-a-thon Fun



Student Council Decorations





We are a proud member of the Lakeshore Catholic Family of Schools

Catholic School Council Update

The **St. Thérèse Catholic School Council (CSC)** will be meeting for the second time this year on **Tuesday, November 26th at 6pm** in our school library. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.



We have an exciting event coming up at the end of the month- Please save the date!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT on **Thursday, November 28th** in our school gym - details coming soon!

Project Plaid - November 28th

Welcome #ProjectPlaid the 2024 Campaign! This year's campaign will stretch far and wide across Niagara, JOIN US!

THE GOAL: To increase the conversation around mental health, combat suicide, reduce stigma, and raise funds to support mental health programs at Pathstone. This year, we aim to raise \$150K!

THE MOVEMENT: Plaid celebrated in schools on **Thursday, November 28th**



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, through School Cash online - available from November 25th - Nov 29th

Pumpkinville Day

For the 4th year in a row - we have transformed the front of our school into a pumpkin patch! Our students were delighted to arrive to school on October 30th to find our front lawn covered with pumpkins AND Halloween decorations!

We had a photo booth once again and captured some great smiles and wonderful creativity with the pumpkins! Here are a few pictures but you can check out more on our school Instagram

account!



Bullying Awareness and Prevention Weeks

During the month of November we come together and celebrate Bullying Awareness and Prevention weeks taking place from **November 13-24th**. Students will be learning about resiliency, the types of bullying which include verbal, cyber bullying and physical bullying. Our students will also be learning the difference between someone being mean and someone being a bully. They will continue to learn what to do when faced with a situation where bullying and being mean arises. Students will learn how and where to reach out for help if they find themselves in this situation.

Our student council is once again hosting a school wide assembly and we will have lessons and activities within their classrooms from their teachers and our CYWs!

We as a school community will come together to help each other to always be KIND!

Standardized Dress Code

Reminder that students are expected to follow dress code expectations daily. We have provided a graphic below as a reminder of the colour and items of clothing that students can wear to school. Our Grade 8 Students are also able to wear their GRAD Hoodies!

All students can also wear St. Therese Spirit Wear or Lakeshore Catholic Spirit Wear!

Thank you for your continued support.



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.

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds

Morning Drop Off

Please remember - staff supervision begins at **8:40 a.m.** each morning. Students should not be dropped off or arriving to school earlier than this time.

Starting at 8:40 a.m. we have supervision staff who are helping students so they can walk to their entrances both at the front and back of the school **before 8:55 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the front doors of the school.

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.

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 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 this 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.



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