

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School

Principal- Mrs. R. Araujo Vice-Principal- Mrs. M. Kish

Proud to be a part of the Blessed Trinity CSS Family of Schools



December, 2024 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs. Araujo and Mrs. Kish



We bring greetings to all of our families as we prepare for God's gift to us- Jesus. This year we continue to feel blessed with a wonderful staff and school community committed to the students of Our Lady of Fatima. We hope that this coming holiday season will bring all of you much hope, prosperity and good wishes as we prepare for 2025.

Continue to be our partners in education as we work to serve our students in Christ. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Faith Matters



In the Gospel we hear the calling of Jesus' Apostle Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector and, just like now, tax collectors weren't especially popular. But this didn't stop Jesus from calling Matthew to be His disciple. Jesus saw the potential in him and this was enough for Matthew to leave his job and immediately begin following Jesus. Jesus sees the potential in each of us, despite the mistakes we make. By choosing to follow Jesus, we are turning away from sin and striving to become the saints He calls us to be.

What is the purpose of an Advent wreath?

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. They are adorned with three purple candles and one pink candle.

The four candles represent the following: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.



Catholic School Council- Fundraising Update

Our Lady of Fatima CSC would like to thank all families for their support of our Cinnabon fundraiser. Approximately \$500.00 was raised for our school. All profits generated will be used to better your child's experience here at OLF!!!!

School and Bus Cancellations due to weather

With the winter weather upon us, please check the board website and local radio and television for updates about closures and cancellations due to weather.



BT Corner

The month of November has flown by and has given us another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Our fall sports came to an end with many great performances and memories from all of our teams. Many of our teams qualified for NCAA championship games and events, highlighted by our Senior Boys Volleyball and Junior Boys Football team winning NCAA Championships and our Novice Girls Cross Country team qualifying for OFSAA. Many of our winter clubs and co-curricular activities are now in full swing and each day is busier than the next here at BT.

Some other highlights from November included our AP Night on November 12th, parent - teacher interviews and Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Our Safe Schools team put on a number of fun activities to remind us to be kind to each other.

December will be upon us shortly and a representative from our Student Services will be visiting our grade 8 classrooms to give a presentation on the courses students will be selecting for high school next year. This begins the process of course selection and the registration of our grade 8 students into Blessed Trinity – a very exciting time for us as we look forward to our newest class at BT.

K-2 Christmas Mass and Concert

Parents with children in Grades K-2 are invited to join us for our Christmas Mass and Concert on **Monday December 16 at St. Joseph's Church starting at 5:30 pm**. Immediately following the mass students will sing four Christmas songs to get us in the spirit of the season. We will then convene in the meeting room for light refreshments. We hope you can make it.

Special Education News and Info

Agency Highlight: Niagara Children's Centre

Website: www.niagarachildrenscentre.com

What they do:

Niagara Children's Centre supports children and youth to reach their communication, developmental, physical and behavioural goals through high quality, strengths-based and family-centered services. NCC offers speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and a variety of other specialized programs, supports and services. It also offers programs for families that support skill teaching to help their child, empowerment and family-to-family support.

For more information on how to become involved in the Centre's fundraising events including "Help Kids Shine" Month (May) and the Superhero Run every fall, check out the NCC website!

Are you ready for BATTLE OF THE THREADS?

We are so excited to launch our first ever Battle of the Threads fundraiser! Details have been emailed to all families but here are the colour teams:

Kinder team- purple

Grade 1,1,½- pink

Grade 2,2 and ¾- blue

Grade 3, 3/4, 4 Giammarco- yellow

Grade 4 Debellis, 5, 5- green

Grade 6- red

Grade 7&8- orange

We've got some exciting activities planned for the week too:

Students will be able to participate in a variety of activities for the week which include the following:

Monday: School wide Kahoot

Tuesday: Just Dance Christmas

Wednesday: Classroom Christmas art (ornaments)

Thursday: Classroom musical chairs

Friday: Class Christmas Bingo

Donations- We ask every child to donate at least **\$5.00** for this week. For every \$5.00 donated, your child's name will be placed in a Grand Draw for a chance to win a brand new laptop!

Thanks for all your support!!!

NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER
December 2024

ROUTINE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATIONS



Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up to date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on schedule.

Learn more about the [vaccinations for children in school](#) and which vaccine(s) your child may need on our [website](#).

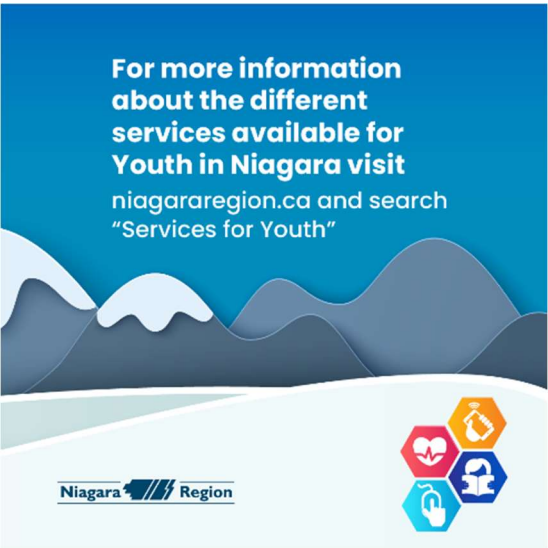
All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

*Please note, you **do not** need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.*

HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:



- 1. Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
- 2. Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
- 3. Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.

For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!



Looking for a safe and welcoming space to relax, learn, and connect? Libraries offer more than just books—they're a free resource for promoting mental wellbeing, accessing technology, and engaging with your community. Whether you're seeking a quiet spot to unwind, attending a workshop, or discovering new hobbies, your library has something for everyone. Visit your local library today!

Learn more about libraries in your area and the services they offer by visiting: [Public Libraries Niagara](#).

GIVING BACK

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for the community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara Region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:



A charitable organization affiliated with your church

[St. Vincent de Paul](#)

[Community Care](#)

[Newark Neighbours](#)

[Salvation Army Community and Family Services](#)

[Pelham Cares](#)

[The HOPE Centre](#)

[Project SHARE](#)

[Grimsby](#)

[Benevolent](#)

[Fund](#)

[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)

[Open Arms Mission](#)

[United Way Niagara](#)

[Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)

[Enjoy the Christmas Break– See you January 6, 2025.](#)