

St. Joseph Phoenix News

DECEMBER 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians.

Happy Advent Season! I love this time of year and all the wonderful things going on in our school. We have three Advent prayer services, reconciliation for grades 2 to 8, the Gingerbread Family Night on the 10th and our Advent Mass at noon on the 16th to celebrate the season. Our annual Family Advent Mass is on the 18th at 5:30 pm. This is a busy time of year, but we will make sure that our students are aware of the true meaning of Christmas as we take the next three weeks of school preparing ourselves for the coming of our Lord.

I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season! I hope you all have time to spend together with family and friends and get to share time with other family members not seen as often. Please stay well and safe over the holidays. We look forward to seeing you at our family events during this very special time of year.

Merry Christmas!

Mr. Tim Atkinson, Principal



TOY DRIVE/Hat & Mitten Tree

We are collecting new unopened toys and hats and mitts, for families in need this Christmas. The items will be picked up by December 13 by the Grimsby Benevolent Fund, to be distributed to families by Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Gingerbread House
Decorating Night*



\$16/ kit

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, SPACE IS LIMITED

Purchase on School Cash Online

Bring your family and join our school
community for a fun evening!

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 6PM
IN THE GYMNASIUM**



SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome

SchoolCash Online

📄 ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com



Wine Fundraiser

Orders due December 5

Get prepared for the Christmas season by shopping local while supporting your St. Joseph's community.

Funds raised go directly back to the school.

Pick up Thursday, December 12 8:30-3:20PM, 3:30-6PM

Please avoid picking up at school dismissal

Screenshot or send attached Order Form

Share with friends and family

Purchase on SchoolCashOnline



Winter Weather Dressing

With the arrival of December comes the colder temperatures of winter. Students are reminded that they should dress appropriately for the weather.

Students will be spending recess times outside and they should have a warm hat, gloves, scarf, snowpants and winter boots. We ask that all clothing be labeled with your child's name. Please remember that if your child is not well enough to go out for recess then they should stay home for the day. Thanks for helping to keep our school healthy!

Emergency School Closing

With the onset of winter and the approach of inclement weather, it is a good time to review the routines of school closings. Do not call the school. In the event of severe weather conditions, announcements to close the schools will be on the board website and social media accounts. Please refer to the Niagara Catholic School Board Twitter and Facebook Accounts for information regarding school closures. Please also check your email for a School Messenger message.

Bus Cancellations

On days when there are bus cancellations, parents and guardians of students who normally ride the bus are to report, using the Safe Arrival program, their child(ren) as absent if they are not sending them to school. It is only if schools are closed, by the Director of Education, due to inclement weather or any other reason, that absences do not need to be reported.

When transportation has been cancelled but the school remains open, we advise discretion when deciding whether or not your child(ren) should attend school. Parents must also provide transportation home at dismissal if they choose to send their child(ren) to school. Thank you for your support.

Niagara Region Public Health

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
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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.



Holly Humphreys

Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

