

St. Thérèse Catholic School

December 2024

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Bais - Secretary

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

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

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Principal's Message

December is upon us and the hustle and bustle has begun. We begin this Advent Season filled with hope. During this very special month, this most sacred season of Advent, we embark on a time of waiting. This season comes with the struggle between the busyness of the season and the holiness that leads us to our most precious day, the birth of Jesus. How will you prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent season? Let us all remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the spirit of giving.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Education at St. Thérèse. We wish all of you a very Happy and Holy Christmas. We look forward to the Christmas holidays so we can return in the New Year feeling rested, revived and rejuvenated.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Turcotte

Advent Prayer

O God,
bless our families and all their
members and friends;
bind us together by your love.
Give us kindness and patience
to support each other;
and wisdom in all we do.
Let the gift of your peace
come into our hearts
and remain with us.
May we rejoice in your blessings
for all our days.
St. Thérèse, pray for us.



Advent Celebrations

Advent begins on **Sunday, December 1st**. This is a time of preparing for the coming of Jesus, our Saviour. During the liturgical season of Advent, our students will be doing activities to recognize this special season. We will also be gathering together as a school community to listen to the Word of God and light our Advent wreath.

Four different classes will be leading a liturgy each week.

Families are welcome to join us on **Dec 18th** for our **Christmas**

Mass for our school community at **10:00** at **St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish**.



Theological Theme - Called By Name - Follow Me

Our Monthly Reflection

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.

First Family Movie Night

Thank you to all of our families who came out to our First Family Christmas Movie Night! We had over 85 people attend to watch "The Grinch"! We had so much fun, we want to hear what you think!



What movie should we do next?

Do you have any feedback for us about the event?

Please complete our survey to help us make our next movie night a huge success!

[Family Movie Night Survey](#)



Gingerbread House Night!

Monday, December 9th we will be hosting our annual **Family Gingerbread House Night!** Join us **anytime between 5:30-7:00** to create a Gingerbread house with friends and family. Hot chocolate and candy canes will be served, Christmas music will be playing

and we're looking forward to gathering as a school community during this Advent Season as we journey towards Christmas!

Gingerbread Houses can be purchased through **School Cash Online** until midnight Wednesday, December 4th for \$17.

We are incredibly thankful to the **Welland Zehrs** for their generous donation of a \$100 donation to help cover the costs of our hot chocolate station!

Some of our Knowledgehook 1/2 & Full Mathalon Achievers!



Niagara Ice Dogs Game

SAVE THE DATE!

Our school community will be participating in a School Ice Dogs Night in the New Year. In January, a few members of the Niagara Ice Dogs will be visiting our school to deliver an important message and participate in a ball hockey game against some of our students.

If we have enough participants we will be able to participate in the pre-skate before the game and order snacks at a discounted rate!

Please mark **February 7th, 2025** on your calendars. Tickets will go on sale in January.



Christmas Coffee House Event at Lakeshore Catholic

Our Grade 4-6 Classes have been invited to Lakeshore Catholic for their Christmas Coffee House! This event is one of our many transition activities for our students this year!

This event is also open to our school community on Wednesday, November 4th at 6pm! Please see the flyer below!

LAKESHORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUSE

WED. DEC. 4

DOORS OPEN 6PM PERFORMANCES 6:30

Drama Performances by Drama Class & Mamma Mia Cast
 Musical Performances by Jam Band, Concert Band, Choir & Drumline
 Art Show
 Craft Sale
 Bake Sale

PERFORMANCE ADMISSION
\$5
 (SCHOOL CASH OR AT DOOR)

ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF FOOD AND NEW TOYS FOR THE LCHS TOY AND FOOD DRIVE



Graduation Save the Date

Our Grade 8 Graduation will take place on **Thursday, June 19th, 2024** at Lakeshore Catholic.



Winter Playground

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. With the number of students at our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form.

Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season: No throwing of snowballs, no kicking or throwing snow or snowing other students. We are also mindful that we share our playground and therefore our creations may be used, altered or may melt. The snow belongs to us all.

Grade 9 Registration & Course Selection - for our Grade 8 Students

Grade 9 Registration - the Lakeshore Guidance staff will be visiting our grade 8 classroom this Friday on December 6. We hope you're engaging in discussions with your child about education possibilities/options, classes, programs, and high school involvement. The Lakeshore staff will work alongside Mr. Frey to aid in the registration process through MyBluePrint. Feel free to reach out to Mr. Frey and/or bring your questions to our OSSD night on **December 3** at **Lakeshore Catholic**. We will be happy to address all of your concerns. And, of course, our student services team is an email away: pina.griepsma@ncdsb.com and joanne.capretta@ncdsb.com.

Grade 8 Advanced Placement Meeting - Lakeshore

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 6pm-7pm in Lakeshore's library - we will host an evening to discuss the **Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements** as well as our internationally-recognized **Advanced Placement Program**. Our guidance staff, program teachers, and myself will address your questions by the end of the evening. I hope you can make it!

GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE - NEW DATE

Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 6pm-8pm - Grade 8 Open House at Lakeshore Catholic! We look forward to welcoming all future grade 9 students and their families to see our outstanding facility, meet our staff, and establish some goals for their new adventure. **Please save the date!**

French Immersion 2024-2025

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an optional program.

All 5 French Immersion Catholic Elementary Schools will accept registrations for Grade 1 along with Kindergarten for September 2025.

Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten
- Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Kindergarten
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Kindergarten

Transportation

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2. Designated Family of Schools French Immersion schools can be located at the following link www.niagaracatholic.ca.

French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

• On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2025: **Monday, January 13th, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. through to Friday, January 31st, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**

- Pre-registrations outside of this window will not be considered.
- There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program.
- Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp.
- Please visit www.niagaracatholic.ca and click the first thumbnail-Registration. Then, click the Let's get you registered! link at the bottom of the page.
- An account must be created first through edsembli CONNECT to access the registration forms. This account can be created ahead of time.

Selection Process

In accordance with the Board's Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy #301.1, there are a limited number of spots available for students entering the program. Eligible spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis for each elementary French Immersion school site. Applicants will receive notification by Monday, March 3rd, 2025 to inform them if their children have been placed in the French Immersion program OR if their children have been placed on the school's waitlist. Applicants who have not received notification by March 3rd, 2025 are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.

Christmas Food Drive & Kindergarten Event

Our **Advent Food Drive** for Port Cares will take place from **December 2nd - December 12th!** We will be collecting non-perishable food items to place around our Christmas Tree. Our goal is to collect at least one item for every student and staff member at St. Thérèse. Thank you for your generosity!



On **Friday, December 13th** our Kindergarten classes will once again be traveling to **Port Cares** for a Christmas Event full of crafts, activities and hot chocolate!



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! NEW ITEMS are being added in January! Stay tuned!

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



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

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**

School Bell Times

8:40-8:55- Student Arrival

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

10:25-10:45 -Outdoor Recess

10:45-11:05 - Indoor Eating Recess

1:05-1:25- Indoor Eating Recess

1:25-1:45- Outdoor Recess

3:05 - Prayers, Announcements

3:15 - Dismissal Bell

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.

Inclement Weather Procedure

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to review the inclement weather procedure:

1. When transportation is cancelled **BEFORE** school begins - notification will be sent out through our Niagara Catholic social media pages, School Messenger and be announced on local radio stations.

In this situation schools are **OPEN** for staff and students and it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to attend school and to provide transportation.

If your child is not coming to school, please report their absence using the Safe Arrival System.

2. In the rare occasion when transportation is cancelled **AFTER** school begins - the school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The option you, as a parent, have chosen on the **Emergency School Form** will apply to all emergency dismissals.

In case of inclement weather check Niagara Catholic District School Board website at:
www.niagaracatholic.ca

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.
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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

