

St. Martin Catholic Elementary

December 2024



School Information

Mr. J. Tornabuono - Principal

Mr. Y. Leheta - Vice Principal

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/stmartin/>

Location: 18 Streamside Drive Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

Phone: 905-957-3032

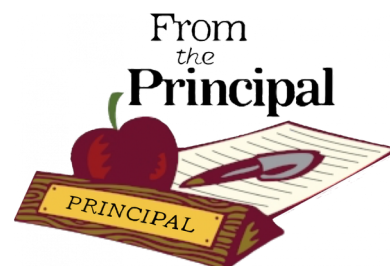
Follow us on Twitter [@MustangsMartin](https://twitter.com/MustangsMartin)

Principal's Message

Advent is a time of preparation and a time to celebrate the past, present and future. We are reminded that we must prepare for the time when we will join God in Heaven. During Advent, we celebrate the historic event of Jesus being born to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. It is a story of love and of family. For the Blessed Virgin Mary, it speaks of her great love for God the Father. When she was told by the Angel Gabriel that she would be chosen to give birth to and raise Jesus, she did not hesitate. For parents in our school community, the story of the birth of Christ reminds us of the blessing that God has given us in our own children. The story of Christmas also reminds us that a whole community celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Also, I would like to thank all the families who were able to connect with their child's teacher for our initial Parent/Teacher conference. Early communication between the classroom teacher and the parent assists in supporting the learning of children. Please note that at any time, parents can arrange to meet with the teacher to discuss the progress of their children. I highly encourage regular communication to ensure that you remain informed of progress on a regular basis.

On behalf of St. Martin School Community, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you be blessed with good health and good cheer.



J. Tornabuono



Advent Angels at St. Martin

In the foyer of the school there is a Christmas tree that has been decorated with angels. If you are interested, please have your child take an angel from the tree. The gender and age of a local child from our community has been written on the back of each angel. Then, purchase an unwrapped gift appropriate for this child. Next, return the unwrapped gift to the school with the angel attached as a gift tag. All donations will go directly to families in West Lincoln. Please have all gifts returned by Monday December 16th. Thank you for making a difference for a local child this Christmas.

Thank You

Thank you to all of the families who continue to support our charitable initiatives. Your continued generosity is valued and appreciated. Each year at this time, many of you choose to purchase a Christmas gift for your child's classroom teacher. However, this year we encourage you to take an angel from our Christmas tree and purchase a gift for a child in our community in lieu of a teacher gift. The joy of Christmas comes from helping others who are in need.



Confirmation

Congratulations to our Grade 8 students that will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, December 7th at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. Thank you to Mrs. Komar and Mr. Winslow for preparing the students to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

St. Martin of Tours

Mass Times:

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24th, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25th, 10:00 am

Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Friday, December 20, 2024 last day of school in 2024
- Monday, January 6, 2025 Classes Resume
- Friday, January 17, 2025 P.A. Day



St. Martin Christmas Concert

Carol and the Belles

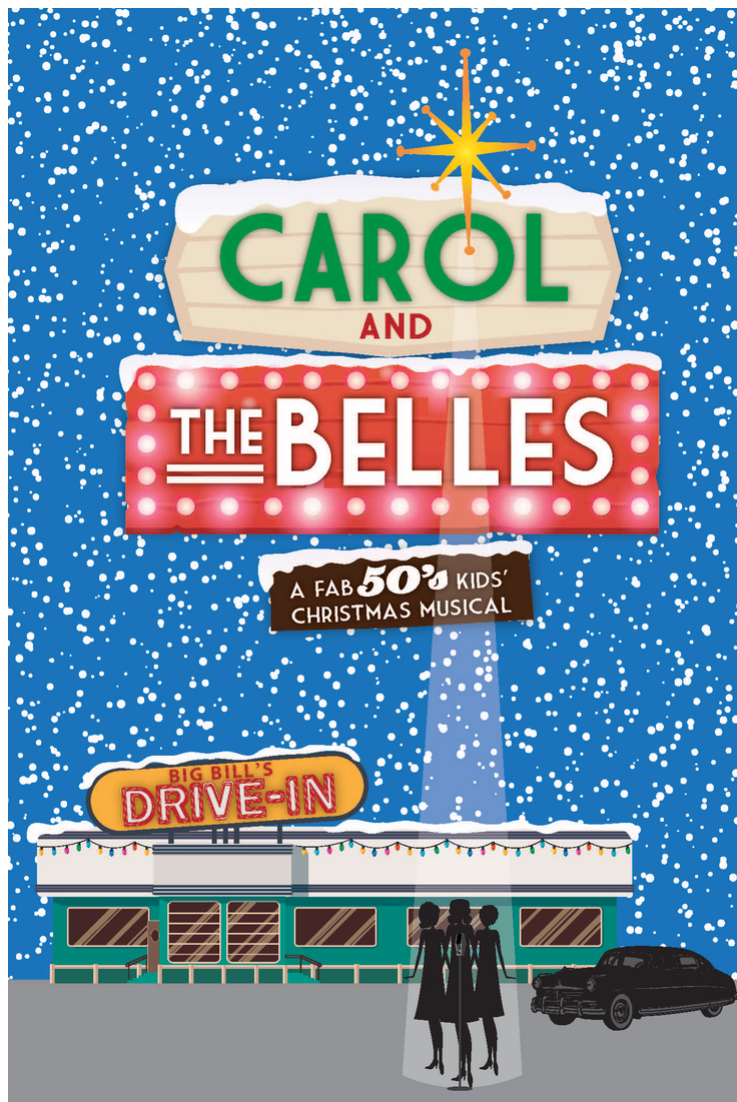
Our Christmas Play & Concert will be held on Wednesday December 18th.



It's 1954, and at Big Bill's Drive-In restaurant, where the waitstaff sings your order and the Christmas decorations stay up all year long, excitement has never been higher. They've just won the network's Christmas at the Drive-In contest and will host the live telecast of the Rock & Roll Christmas TV Special! While the staff gets the drive-in spruced up for the show, the customers don their

best leather jackets and poodle skirts, and the TV audience is adjusting the rabbit ears and popping the Jiffy Pop, everyone is about to get a big surprise. Come join us as we celebrate '50s fun and Christmas charm with our Grade 6 actors and actresses, and listen to cool tunes sung by our Kindergarten to Grade 5 students, proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ, in St. Martin's own rendition of **Carol and the Belles!**

There will be two shows. The first show is at 9:30 am and the second performance at 12:00 pm. **Both shows are exactly the same and will feature all students from Kindergarten through Grade 5 & 6.** The concert will be approximately 1 hour in length. Students are welcome and encouraged to wear Christmas themed clothing.



SPORTS REPORT

VOLLEYBALL & TRIPLE BALL TEAMS

Congratulations to our Junior Tripleball Teams and Intermediate Volleyball Teams. A special thank you goes to our coaches Mrs. Biasetti, Mrs. Pokolic, Ms. Scott, Mr. Santoro and Mr. Winslow. In addition, thank you to all of our parent volunteer drivers. We could not participate without your assistance.



Kindergarten Registration For September 2025

Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2025-2026 school year (children must be 4 years of age as of December 31, 2024). Register online at <https://niagaracatholic.ca/registration/elementary>. We

encourage all families to register by February 2025. This helps to ensure proper staffing is in place for the new school year. Please

share this information with any friends, family and/or neighbours who have a child that is ready to start in September 2025. For registration, you are reminded to bring in the child(ren)'s: ☐ Birth Certificate; ☐ Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate and/or Baptismal Certificate of the child(ren)'s parents and/or guardian (if applicable); ☐ Proof of Residence with school boundaries, for example utility bill. If applicable, original Landed Immigrant/Permanent Residence documentation, and the passport of the country of origin, indicating the date of entry into Canada.



FRENCH IMMERSION 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 2024: **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.



Library News

Our Readers are growing! Many of our primary students are beginning to explore our non-fiction section as well as investigate new fiction series. Your reader may not be able to read their library book independently yet, but has a strong interest in the subject

they've chosen. Our goal in the library is to nurture and develop a life-long love of reading and continued interest in books, regardless of reading level. Please help us support our goal by reading with, and asking your child about the book they bring home.

Blessed Trinity News

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



A vertical strip of a Christmas tree, showing green needles, warm white lights, and a small blue and white ornament.

A vertical strip of a Christmas tree, showing lights and ornaments. The lights are warm white and yellow, and the ornaments are red and gold. The background is dark green.



2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples

My friend, Jesus doesn't need any help to remember your name. Jesus called Mary Magdalene by name and he calls us by name to spread the good news of the Kingdom of God through our witness at home, at school, at work, in church, at the grocery store and even in traffic. When you are all by yourself and are looking for someone to help, Jesus will come to you and provide for all your needs. So, don't get discouraged. God, the master of the whole universe is mindful of you and all that you need in life. Just keep trusting Him and He will surely work miracles for you.

Niagara Public Health

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](#)

W



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

