



Mary Ward Catholic School

January 2025

School Information

Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone **Superintendent of Education:** Mr. D. Massi

Parish: Our Lady of the Scapular Church

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Schmidt **Associate Pastor:** Fr. Ronnie Tagnines

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

Location: 2999 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2Z9

Phone: 905-354-9221

Principal's Message

On behalf of the entire staff, I extend a warm welcome back to all students and families as we embark on a new and exciting year of learning and growth.

I hope you all had a restful and rejuvenating holiday season filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments with loved ones. As we step into this new year, I am filled with optimism and anticipation for the wonderful things we will achieve together.

At Mary Ward, we are committed to providing a nurturing and enriching environment where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. We believe in the power of faith, education, and community to shape young minds and inspire a lifelong love of learning.

This year, we will continue to focus on literacy, numeracy, the arts, fostering a strong sense of community, and promoting social-emotional learning. We will work diligently to create a vibrant

and engaging learning experience for all students, while upholding the core values of our Catholic faith.

I am truly honored to serve as principal at Mary Ward Catholic School and look forward to partnering with you to ensure a successful and rewarding year for all.

Mr. A. Cardamone
Principal

Monthly Reflection

In the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus teaching his disciples saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven" Jesus called the disciples, as He calls each of us, to follow Him by living the Beatitudes. Jesus IS the Beatitudes. Looking at Him you see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, and to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say, "Come, follow me!" He does not simply say, "Do what I say." He says, "Come, follow me!"

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish News

Confirmation

For those families who have children in Grade 8, with the intention of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this 2024-2025 school year, we will be having the first Preparation Night in January, the dates are as follows:



St. John Henry Newman - **Monday, January 6th, 2025 at 7:00pm**

Mary Ward School - **Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 7:00pm**

St. Gabriel - **Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 7:00pm**

St. Vincent de Paul School - **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

Notre Dame School - **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

All Public School/Home-schooled Catholic Children - **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

These sessions will all be held in the church.

Confirmation Enrollment Mass will take place on Saturday January 25, 2025 @ 5:00pm at Our Lady of the Scapular Church.

Mary Ward Family Mass

Join us for our monthly mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish. Each month, two classes and our Faith In Action Team are invited to mass to deepen our faith and strengthen our triad connection - school, parish and home. This month, Mrs. Quaranta's and Mrs. Zappia's classes and our FIAT team are hosting the mass on Sunday, January 19 at 9:30 a.m. A reminder that attending mass is a fundamental aspect of Catholic life and as Catholics, we are asked to attend mass weekly and on holidays.

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place every **January 27** to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. The theme for this year is 'Learn to be Green, Together'. More information can be found here:

<https://abclifeliteracy.ca/programs/family-literacy-day/>

Bell Let's Talk Day

Bell "Let's Talk" Day is on **January 22, 2025**. The Bell "Let's Talk Day" helps to promote awareness and action with a strategy built on 4 key pillars: fighting stigma, improving access to mental health care,

supporting world-class research, and leading by example in workplace mental health. For students, "Let's Talk Day" is a good starting point for important discussions about viewing mental health in the same way we view physical health. Students will be exposed to messages and activities in class to promote mental health awareness.



Bus Cancellations

On days when there are bus cancellations, parents/ guardians of students who normally ride the bus are to report, using the electronic 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 student absences do not need to be reported. Teachers are to mark any student absent who is not in class as they normally would.

The system will then contact parents/guardians who have not reported their child as absent. Please ensure if you do bring your child to school that arrangements are made for dismissal. Students should know the plan for the end of the day. Thank you for your support.

Delta Bingo & Gaming

Mary Ward Catholic School would like to extend a big thank you to **Delta Bingo & Gaming on Drummond Rd.** for their contributions to our school fundraising initiatives. This could not be possible without the help of parent volunteers from our community. If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to help at Delta Bingo & Gaming, please contact Robyn Pearson at robyndpearson@gmail.com.

French Immersion On-Line Open Pre-Registration For September 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.

Alternate Lunch Days/Milk Program

Alternate lunch days and the milk program will continue in January! Milk will be available on every Tuesday and Thursday. There will be 2 alternate lunch days in January.

- ☒ January 14 - Chinese Luncheon from Far East Restaurant
- ☒ January 28 - Pizza Lunch from Carmine's Pizzeria

You can participate and place your orders using School Cash Online.



Antica Pizzeria & Ristorante Family Night

On **Wednesday January 22, 2025** Mary Ward Families are invited to dine out at Antica Pizzeria & Ristorante located at 5785 Victoria Ave., Niagara Falls. Please tell your server you are from Mary Ward School and 10% of your purchase will go back to the school. All funds raised will go towards the purchase of additional technologies. Thank you to the Mascia Family for hosting this event. We look forward to seeing you there.

Skating Grades 4-8

On Thursday January 16 and Thursday March 27, the students in grades 4 thru 8 classes will have the opportunity to participate in our skating program. Students will be traveling by bus from Mary Ward Catholic School to the Gale Centre. This trip supports the expectations taught this year in the Health & Physical Education curriculum. There is a \$5.00 cost that will help cover the costs of buses and the arena rental. Payment may be made through School Cash Online. Mary Ward staff will assist with skates and watch students on ice. Parents are welcome to join us at the arena, skate with their son/daughter or watch their child skate from the stands. Any parent able to assist with skate tying is welcome as well.



Students not attending the skating program will remain at school and will complete activities assigned by their classroom teacher.

Students must have the following equipment to participate in the skating field trip: Their own skates (cannot share with another student) and a CSA approved hockey helmet with a chin-strap (a cage is not necessary).

Students are encouraged to bring hockey gloves/mittens/winter gloves and a separate bag in which skates, helmet and gloves can be transported, as the blades of the skates can be sharp.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship

A free throw competition will be held for all classes during gym classes. Winners from each age group will compete in the Mary Ward championship to determine who will represent Mary Ward at the Niagara Falls Knights of Columbus championship. This event will occur on Sunday, January 26th, at the McBain Centre from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Eco-School News

Keeping the Thermostat Low - Another Cozy Sweater Day!

On Monday, January 13, Mary Ward ECO team will be promoting energy efficiency by keeping thermostats at a lower temperature with Cozy Sweater Day! Students will be encouraged to wear a cozy sweater as classroom temperatures are slightly and comfortably adjusted to conserve energy for the day.



Litterless Lunch Tuesdays

Mary Ward students are encouraged to decrease the amount of garbage produced to help our earth. Students are encouraged to bring reusable containers in their lunch every Tuesday during the month of January.

Lights Out Month!

Throughout the month of January, classes are encouraged to turn off lights where it is safe to do so and where it will not adversely disrupt normal classroom teaching. This ECO team initiative helps reduce our energy footprint at Mary Ward.

Yearbook Pre-orders

As the 2024-2025 school year progresses, the memories created throughout the year will be celebrated and remembered in the Mary Ward Catholic School yearbook. This wonderful keepsake, is available to all students to pre-order and purchase via School Cash Online. It will be completed and delivered during the first week of school in September 2025 to each student who has pre-ordered and purchased one. The cost of the yearbook is \$20.00. All yearbook orders and payments are due by Friday May 24, 2024 through School Cash Online.

Spirit Wear Wednesdays

Wednesday's are spirit wear days at Mary Ward Catholic School. To order spirit wear please go to Maddalena's website <https://www.maddalena-uniforms.com/> Winter toques are available at this time as well!

Niagara Region Public Health

Access and Update Your Child's Immunization Record

Niagara Region Public Health would like to remind parents and guardians to keep their children's immunization record up to date. This can easily be completed by using [Immunization Connect](#). Immunization Connect is a quick, confidential, and secure system where you can access your child's vaccination record and report vaccines.

Report every time your child receives a vaccine directly to Public Health with Immunization Connect. Health care providers do not do this for you.

Visit niagararegion.ca/vaccines for other ways to report vaccination information to Public Health.

Wintertime Well Being

As the weather changes and days get shorter, many people, including children and youth, may feel more anxious, depressed, or tired. It's essential to be mindful of our emotional well-being. Beat the winter blues and check out these simple activities to boost your and your child's mood.

- [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](#)
- [Easy and Fun Mental Health Activities for Home](#)
- [Active Play ideas - Active4Life](#)

Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. Gear Up: Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.

2. Choose Safe Hills: Pick tobogganing hills that are marked as a safe place and free from objects such as trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. Follow Etiquette: Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. Think Safety: Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.
5. Stay Visible: If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.

Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland! Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

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