

# St. Thérèse Catholic School

January 2025

## School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Anoquot-Smith - Secretary

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

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

Phone - 905-835-8082

Instagram - @st.thereseperc

Email - [st.therese@ncdsb.com](mailto:st.therese@ncdsb.com)



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## Principal's Message

### Happy New Year!!!

On behalf of the staff of St. Thérèse, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all students and families to another year full of learning, friendship and fun. Our hope and prayer for all our families is to continue to live in the light of Christ, to have good health, much happiness and the love of our family and friends.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and cherished moments with loved ones. With the new year comes New Year's resolutions and goals, I am filled with anticipation for the wonderful things our students and staff will accomplish together this year. We will continue to focus on our literacy and numeracy goals, support our students roles in the four pillars of our Student Leadership Framework (Eco Warriors, Faith Ambassadors, Spirit Squad and Healthy Heroes) and continue to foster a strong sense of community that supports our students social-emotional learning.

While we work diligently to create a vibrant and engaging learning experience for all of our students, while upholding the core values of our Catholic faith, we hope you will continue to share the good

news of our school community with others. We are beginning to prepare for our Kindergarten Open House during the first week of February and are inviting families with a child born in 2021 to register now for September 2025.

At St. Thérèse we are committed to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for our students where everyone feels valued, respected and empowered to reach their full potential. We believe our strong connection between school, home and church will help help shape our young minds and inspire a lifelong love of learning and growth.

On behalf of the entire staff at St. Thérèse Catholic School, I wish you all the best in the year 2025.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Turcotte

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A hand is shown in the lower-left corner, reaching out towards the right. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a dense pattern of small, bright, star-like sparkles, creating a shimmering, celebratory atmosphere.

## ***NEW YEAR PRAYER:***

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

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### **Theological Theme - Called By Name - Come Follow Me**

#### **Our 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



becomforted. 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!"



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## **Our Secretary!**

Please welcome Mrs. Savannah Anquot-Smith to our St. Thérèse School Community as our new permanent Secretary. Her first day is on Monday, January 6th! Please be sure to introduce yourself when you call and let her know who your children are. Please be patient with Mrs. Anquot-Smith and I as we work together to help her transition to our school community!

When Mrs. Saxton retired at the end of September, we were very fortunate to have Mrs. Bais replace her on a temporary basis until the position could be filled in January permanently! We want to thank Mrs. Bais for all of her support and hard work the past three months, she was a welcome addition to our Titan Family! We would also like to wish Mrs. Bais all the best at her new assignment at Lakeshore Catholic, where we will be seeing often!

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## **School Bell Times**

***8:40-8:55- Student Arrival***

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

***10:25-10:40 -Recess***

***11:40-12:20- Lunch***

***1:20-1:35- Recess***

***2:55 - Prayers, Announcements***

***3:05 - Dismissal Bell***

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**Students are NOT to arrive at school before 8:40 am!**

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## 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 appropriate area **before 8:55 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the west side doors of the school.

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## Cozy Sweater Day - Dress Down Day

As part of our Eco Schools initiative, we are reminding students to dress for the weather! Keeping your thermostat at a reasonable temperature and wearing a sweater and slippers is one of the ways we can help! Sweater Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about climate change and energy conversation, and show how together - classroom by classroom - we can be part of the solution.



Staff and students are invited to dress down on Cozy Sweater Day and wear their favourite Cozy Sweater to school!

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## Coming Soon....

Be sure to spread the word about our wonderful school community as we continue to grow!

Parents and guardians can register children born in 2021 by going to <https://niagaracatholic.ca/registration/elementary/>



# Kindergarten

## Registration

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### Term 1 Report Cards

Report Cards for Term 1 will be made available in the Niagara Catholic Parent Portal **the week of February 10th**. Please be advised that parent-teacher conferences for this term will be at the request of the teacher and/or parent(s). Teachers will be making a request to the parents of students for whom they feel an interview would be necessary. After the Report Cards are made available, parents may also request an interview by contacting the classroom teacher to arrange a convenient time. A report card specific email will be sent out in February.

If you are UNABLE to log into the Parent Portal to view your child's Progress Report Card (from November 2024) please ensure you are using the email you have on file with the school, try resetting your password, then contact the school if you continue to have difficulty. The Parent Portal is where you will view your child(ren)'s report card for their entire education with Niagara Catholic, it is important we ensure you have access so you can see their progress and celebrate their successes with us!

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### 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.

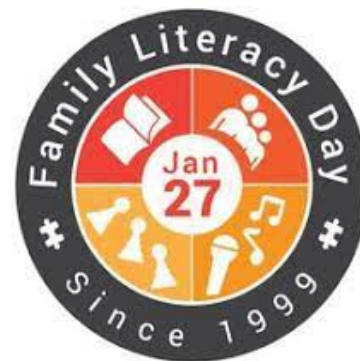
For students, "Let's Talk Day" is a good starting point for important discussions about viewing mental health in the same way we view physical health. Students will be exposed to messages and activities in class to promote mental health awareness.



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## Family Literacy Day

**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**'. Celebrate over 25 years of Family Literacy Day and learning together as a family by having a party! Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless – and it's fun when you do it together.



Check out the ABC Life Literacy Canada website for resources... <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/>

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## NEW St. Thérèse SPIRIT WEAR

Did you hear? We have some NEW options available for St. Thérèse Spirit Wear. Check out our link below to see what's new!

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!

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

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## COBS BREAD FUNDRAISER

Coming in January.... our COBS BREAD FUNDRAISER to raise money for student activities and an audio-visual system for our gymnasium. Bread cards will be available for purchase for \$25 and are worth 12 loaves of AMAZING bread. Please start letting friends and family know to anticipate this great fundraiser coming in January!



Although COBS bread is located in St. Catharines, our fundraiser last year was very successful raising \$1000! Remember you can advertise for this fundraiser on your social media accounts - graphics will be provided again this year!

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

## Grade 8 - Open House- Lakeshore Catholic

**Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 6pm-8pm - our Grade 8 Open House.** 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!

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## St. Thérèse Ice Dog Family Night

Please join us on Friday, February 7th for our Family Ice Dog Night! The Ice Dogs will be visiting our school on Monday, January 13th for their annual visit! Tickets for the game will be available for purchase from January 9th - January 23rd! Specific information regarding parking and the pre-game skate will be sent out by email!

Keep your eye out for ticket sales next week!



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## 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**

## Inclement Weather Cancellation Information for Families

### Inclement Weather Procedure

As winter is upon us, 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](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca)

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## **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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## **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.

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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.

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## 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.



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## 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