

ST. MARK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Mountain Lions

A Member of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools

Valentine's Day Prayer To Forgive

Dear Lord

This valentine's day, I pray that you
give me a forgiving heart

Help me reconcile with all those
who have hurt me in the past

Help me bring them closer to me
than before

Help us settle all our differences and
celebrate our friendship

Let this day carry with it a symbol of
reconciliation

Let the past unpleasantness be lost in
this day

Let us continue to love each other
until the day we leave this earth

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER



KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSES

Event Information

Kindergarten Registration Open House

Come and visit our Kindergarten Classrooms! You will see learning in action and how much fun we have in Kindergarten. Our Open House runs from 9:00am to 6:00pm. You can register online at www.niagaracatholic.ca or ask the office for a paper registration form. We look forward to meeting all of our new students!

When?

Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025, 09:00 AM

Black History Month

Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities.


The theme for Black History Month 2025 is **Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations**. Our Student Council members will be visiting classrooms throughout the month to educate our students and to engage in age-appropriate activities.



Kids Helping Kids 🍀

Niagara Catholic's 26th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place throughout the month of February. This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through your donations on School Cash Online. Please see the chart below for the planned activities for St. Mark School. For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: niagarachildrencentre.com.



February 7 th	February 10 th	February 13 th	February 21 st	February 28 th
<p>Twin Day</p> 	<p>Monochrome Day</p> 	<p>Red & Pink Day</p> 	<p>Inside Out Day</p> 	<p>Canada Day</p> 

Valentine's Day Activities 🍷 - On February 13th

This year, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Thursday February 13th. Throughout the day all classes will be participating in class-based Valentine's Day activities to celebrate kindness! If you are planning to send your child with Valentine's Day cards and treats, please ensure that they are individually wrapped. All Valentine's Day goodies will be exchanged during the day and students will be encouraged to open them at home. Please be mindful of food allergies within your child's classroom and all items are to be nut free. We would like everyone to be safe this Valentine's Day!



Pink Shirt Day - February 26th

Our 2025 Pink Shirt Day theme is all about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to school. It all starts with small gestures - a kind word, an offer of support or understanding. If we plant enough, pretty soon, more will be sprouting up all around us! By sprinkling these seeds of empathy and compassion, we can work towards a world without bullying and



"Let Kindness Grow" through all of our kindness community gardens. The Pink Shirt Day campaign recognizes the importance of unity, inclusivity, and diversity of all people.

INDOOR / OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR

Parents are reminded to send a pair of indoor shoes with their child to the school. Wet and muddy boots in the classroom create a safety hazard for students and staff. They increase the risk of slips and falls in the classroom, hallways, stairs, and bathrooms. Changing to indoor shoes allow our caretakers to focus on making the stairways and hallways safe once the students are back in their classrooms. Indoor shoes also eliminate the need for caretakers to clean the classroom floors multiple times a day and allow them to focus on the sanitization of surfaces and touchpoints. We thank everyone for their cooperation with this matter.



TERM 1 REPORT CARDS

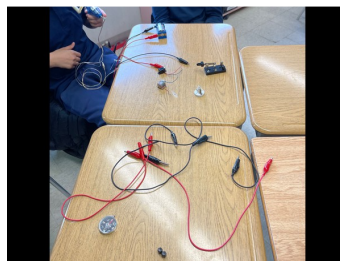
Report Cards for Term 1 will be made available in the Niagara Catholic Edsembli Parent Portal by the end of the day on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Please be advised that parent-teacher conferences for this term will be at the request of the teacher and/or parent(s). Teachers will be making a request 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 teacher to arrange a convenient time.



Around the School in January



Vex Team competing in a friendly competition St. Alex



Grade 6 learning about Electricity!



Jersey Day

Blessed Trinity Corner

We at Blessed Trinity hope all of our Family of Schools had a very enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

At Blessed Trinity, January marks the last 2 weeks of our Semester 1 and final exams for our students. The focus for January will be wrapping up the semester and preparing for those exams.

For the grade 8's at our Family of Schools it will mean getting to actually choose the courses they will be taking next year in Grade 9 at Blessed Trinity. The process began back in December and in the first two weeks of January, with an information presentation to all grade 8 students on the compulsory and elective courses they will be choosing from.

On January 16th, that process continued with our Grade 8 Open House at Blessed Trinity. We would like to thank all parents and students who attended. It was a very exciting evening that saw one of our largest turnouts ever.

The last step in the process will have a representative from Blessed Trinity visit Grade 8 classrooms to help students actually choose and submit their courses through My BluePrint from January 22nd to February 9th.

The deadline for selecting courses, submitting registration form, and payment of Grade 9 Registration Fee of \$55 is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH.

Please contact Blessed Trinity – Mr. John Cino – 905-945-6706 Ext. 2330 or Mrs. Rose Bianco Ext. 2312, if any Grade 8 parent has any questions.



A Message from Public Health

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter February 2025

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?



Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community.

Check out our [School Health webpage](#) for some important links and supports:

- [Childhood illnesses and diseases of public health significance](#)
- [Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods](#)
- [Dental Screening](#)
- [School-aged vaccines](#)
 - Parents and legal guardians of junior and senior kindergarten registrants and students new to Ontario are asked to report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#).

Is your child due for vaccines?

Go to [Immunization Connect](#) to review your child's immunization history and check the **Immunizations Needed** section for missing vaccines.

If your child is missing any vaccines, book an appointment to get them vaccinated. Vaccines are available at healthcare providers' offices, walk-in clinics or Public Health vaccination clinics.

Bring your yellow card or immunization record print out from [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](#) to each vaccine visit. This will help you and your health care provider keep an up-to-date record of which vaccines have been received.



Niagara Region

niagararegion.ca/vaccines

Can't find any immunization records? Here are some [tips](#) to help you.

- **Previous healthcare providers** will keep records for a limited time. Also check with local health units, your pharmacist, and any urgent care clinics, as well as hospital emergency departments.
- **At home** – Close family members such as parents or guardians may have copies of your childhood immunizations in old papers, including baby books and school or camp forms.

- **Schools, colleges, universities or other post-secondary institutions** may still have records for you or your child.
- **Previous employers**, including the military, may still have records from your employment.

If your family is having trouble with locating or transferring immunization records, please [contact the Vaccine Team](#) and a nurse will discuss what needs to be done. Translation services are also provided.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From **February 1st to 7th 2025** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) and eating disorder groups nationwide that come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre "Transform the Narrative" Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)

Family Day



Family Day is coming up on **Monday, February 17th** and it's a great chance to spend time with loved ones. Whether it's starting a new tradition like a family hike, playing outdoors, trying a nutritious recipe, or enjoying a fun board game together, this Family Day can be all about building lasting memories and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

To support you in making Family Day a meaningful occasion, we invite you to explore local programs and events to make the most of the day and keep your family active, engaged, and healthy!

- **Explore an EarlyON centre**, providing free, high-quality drop-in programs for children from birth to six years of age. Click [here](#) to access their family day calendar!
- **The local Performing Arts Centre** has a full day of exciting events for all ages. Check out their [schedule](#) and enjoy a variety of activities happening throughout the day.
- **Visit the Merriton Community Centre** on February 15th for their annual Family Fun Day
- **Find a new adventure spot** in a [regional walking or hiking trail](#)
- **Check your [local public library](#)** for free family day activities



Parking Lot Reminders

Thank you to all of our families as we continue to navigate creating a parking lot that is safe for our community.

Just a couple of reminders as we move through the winter months.



1. **Please do not park in the fire lanes.** This creates a bottleneck and with cars pulling in and out of the parking lot, little ones crossing the parking lot in this area may be hard to see.
2. **Please slow down.** We understand that mornings can be exceedingly difficult, but please slowdown in the parking lot. Many students walk to school, and many families are walking through the parking lot. Little ones can sometimes be hard to see, so

please slow down. We also ask that you please drive with caution through the crosswalk area on Mountain Street. There have been some calls about near misses in the crosswalk and we want to ensure all of our students arrive safely at school.

3. **Please park in the parent parking area.** All staff parking spots are numbered and dedicated to Kiss and Ride to eliminate cars parking and backing up while students are being dropped off and walking through the parking lot. Families are asked to park in the white lined spots only.

There are staff outside daily directing traffic to help with flow and efficiency in our parking lot. At times, you may experience a slight delay and we really appreciate your patience and understanding as we try to keep cars moving.

Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Gala

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ANNUAL BENEFIT

Gala

WITH HONOURARY GUEST
MOST REVEREND GERARD BERGIE, D.D.

and presentation of the
AWARD OF DISTINCTION

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED AND PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS

\$100 Per Person · Thursday March 27, 2025 · 6:00 PM
Club Roma Event & Conference Centre

Payment can be made [online here](#) or by cheque using the form below.
Cheques payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE)
Payment must be received by March 18, 2025
• \$30 tax receipt available upon request •

Name _____	#Attending _____	Payment \$ _____
Email _____	Phone _____	
Dietary Requests _____		
Table Assignment Request - Please list the names or groups _____		

Please send cheque and form to: Anna Pisano, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Rd., Welland, ON L3C 7C1

For further information
call 905.734.0240 ext. 214
or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com



St. Mark Catholic

February 2025

A Member of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools

		KIDS helping kids		BLACK HISTORY MONTH		Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.								
2 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Day 5	3	Day 1 Open House 9am-6pm Kindergarten Open House 	4	Day 2	5	Day 3 	6	Day 4	7	Out of Dress code Twin Day 	8	Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.	
9 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Day 5	10	Day 1 	11	Day 2	12	Grad Photo Day 	13	Day 3 Out of Dress code Red & Pink Day 	14		15	Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.	
16 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Day 4	17	Day 5 	18	Day 1	19	Jr. Girls Basketball @ St. Martin 	20	Day 2	21	Jr. Boys Basketball @ St. Martin 	22	Out of Dress Code 	Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.
23 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Day 4	24	Day 5 	25	Day 1	26	Pink Shirt Day Against Bullying 	27	Day 2	28	Out of Dress Code Canada Day 			



February 2025 Calendar.pdf

Download

1.6 MB



St. Mark Catholic Elementary



J. DeCoff
Principal

A. Villella
Vice-Principal