

St. Martin Catholic Elementary

APRIL 2025



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

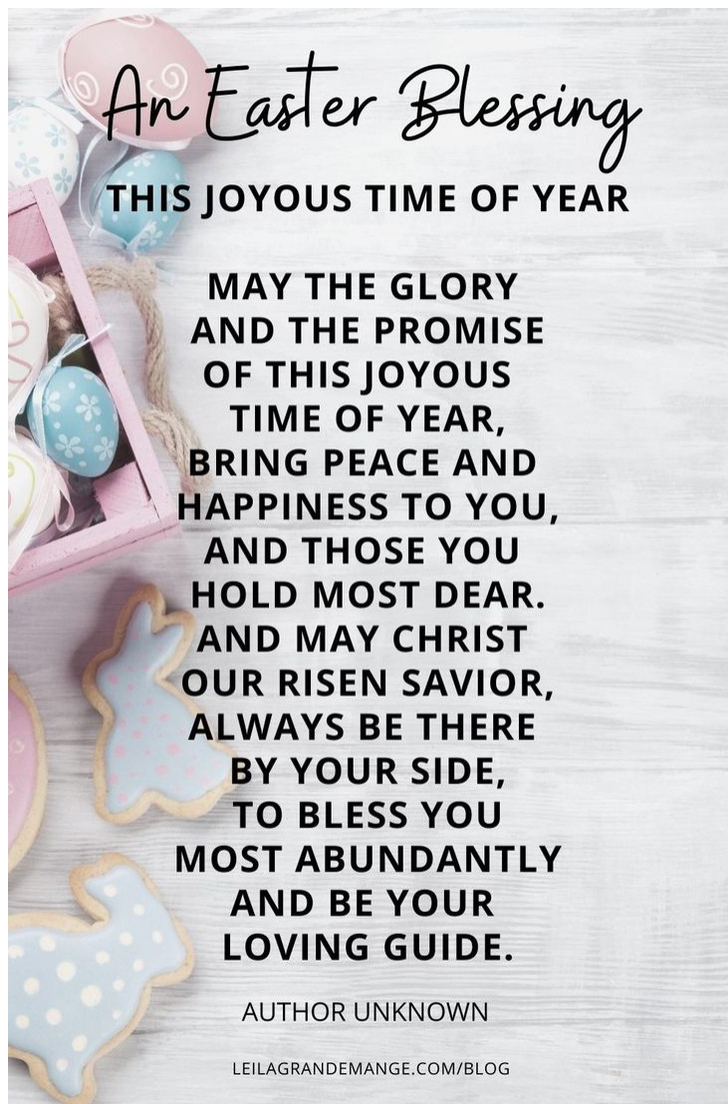
Follow us on Twitter [@MustangsMartin](https://twitter.com/MustangsMartin)

Principal's Message

Easter is the most important feast within the Catholic Church. We celebrate it with joy as it signifies our hope for eternal life. During this time of year, we are not only reminded that Easter is the foundation of our faith, but it's an invigorator of our hopes. The greatest of gifts, given to us freely by Jesus, was His death and Resurrection. During Easter, we remember that a daily encounter with Jesus will give meaning to our lives and will provide us with the comfort and strength needed to overcome any obstacle or challenge.

May we each continue to be the beacons of hope for those that we encounter in our daily lives. On behalf of the entire St. Martin Staff, we wish you and your family the peace and joy embodied in this Easter Season.

J. Tornabuono



Remember!

Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Tuesday April 1- MADD Presentation for Gr. 7 & 8
- Wednesday April 2 - World Autism Day
- Friday April 4, PA Day - No School for Students
- Wednesday, April 9 - CSC Meeting 5 pm / Internet Safety & Social Media Presentation with Jessica VanderWeir - 6 PM
- Monday April 14 - Holy Week Begins
- Friday April 18 - Good Friday - No School
- Sunday April 20 - Easter
- Monday April 21 - Easter Monday - No School
- Tuesday April 22 - Earth Day
- Saturday April 26th - First Communion 11 am (Smith-Riddle & Novakovich)
- Monday April 28 - Spring Book Fair Begins
- April 29 & 30 - Junior boys/Girls Handball Tournament
- Thursday May 1 - Grade 7 Vaccinations - Round 2 - Niagara Public Health
- Thursday May 1 - Kindergarten Fluoride with Niagara Public Health
- Thursday May 1 - Spring Book Fair Tea
- Friday May 2 - Spring Book Fair Tea
- Saturday May 3 - First Communion - 11 am (Szabo)

First Communion

The Grade Two students are excited about celebrating the Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion) this year. This Sacrament will be celebrated at St Martin of Tours Catholic Church on April 26 (Mrs. Smith-Riddle & Mrs. Novakovich) and May 03 (Mrs. Szabo). The celebration will begin at 11 am.



Catholic School Council Meeting

Our next CSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 9th at 5 pm. All St. Martin parent(s) are welcome to attend.

Internet Safety & Social Media For Parent(s)

April 9th, 2025 - 6:00 pm - St. Martin School

Join us for an insightful presentation with Jessica VanderWier, a Registered Psychotherapist, mom of 3, and founder of Nurtured First and Raising Families Therapy, a private therapy practice based in Beamsville. Jess holds a Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology and her approach to children is rooted in research on attachment as she helps families understand and respond to their children with gentleness and respect.

In her presentation, she'll explore the latest research on screen time, and social media safety. Learn practical strategies to set healthy boundaries, foster open conversations, and protect your child from potential online risks—all while supporting their emotional and mental health.

This is your chance to gain expert advice on:

- Keeping children safe online
- How to talk to children about social media and technology use
- How to set boundaries around screen time
- Tips for recognizing red flags and ensuring online safety

If time allows, there will be a Q&A at the end of the presentation for you to ask Jess about anything related to screen time, and social media safety.



Don't miss this opportunity to empower yourself and your child in today's digital world. We look forward to seeing you there!

Intermediate Robotics Team

Mustangs Robotics Team Takes First Place!

Congratulations to our Intermediate Robotics Team for their incredible victory at the Niagara Catholic Skills Competition! Competing against 22 teams from 12 different schools, our Mustangs secured first place with an impressive lead. Cole Pataran, Matthew Sourdoss, Mateo Rego, and Rocco Federico demonstrated outstanding teamwork, problem-solving skills, and dedication, earning them a spot in the Toronto Ontario Skills Competition this May.



We are so proud of their achievement—let's cheer them on as they represent Niagara Catholic on the big stage!



Eco Schools April

Earth Day is on April 22, 2025. The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Invest in Our Planet" which is a continuation of the 2022 theme and encourages ALL to do their part- everyone accounted for, everyone accountable. For more information visit earthday.ca



Join students, teachers, workplaces, and families across the country on the first Thursday in April to celebrate **National GOOS Paper Day**.

On this day of action, get creative as you learn about responsible paper use and promote effective ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper.

What is GOOS paper?

GOOS stands for **Good On One Side**. GOOS paper is paper that has been used on one side, but is still blank and usable on the other side. Using GOOS paper means ensuring both sides of a piece of paper are used before it is recycled.



World Autism Day 2025

World Autism Awareness Day will be held at St. Martin on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. This is an effort to raise awareness in support of initiatives being developed locally or provincially to increase the understanding and acceptance of people with autism

around the world. World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day. What's more, World Autism Awareness Day goes one step further to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these skills deserve through community events around the globe.

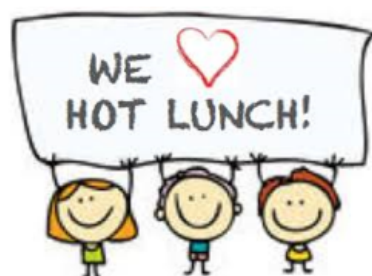
As a result, all students and staff are welcome and encouraged to wear a blue shirt on April 2nd.

Food Days

A special thank you to Mrs. Hutton and all of our parent volunteers that assist with our food and milk days. Your generosity is appreciated.

Here are our food days for April:

- Pita - April 2
- Hot Dogs - April 9
- Cheese Pizza - April 16
- A&W - April 23
- East Side Marios - April 30



From Niagara Public Health

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

April 2025

Happy Oral Health Month!

The Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program offers FREE dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara.

Appointments are available at the following locations:

Office Location Day and Time

Niagara Falls Public Health Office

7835 McLeod Rd

Mondays 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Niagara Region Headquarters

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Welland Public Health Office

200 Division Street Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Niagara's Mobile Dental Clinic also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment contact the Dental Program or book a dental assessment online.

Let's Talk Vaping

Even for elementary students, there's a good chance that kids have been exposed to vaping—whether at school, through friends, on social media, or in movies and TV shows. From one parent to another, learn the basics about vaping in just 12 minutes.

<https://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents/>

Be Safe for Niagara

It can be overwhelming to try to navigate mental health supports in Niagara. With the Be Safe app, you can get the help you need, when you need it most. Be Safe is a free mobile app that offers information and links to mental health, addiction and suicide prevention resources in Niagara. It helps support you through the process of reaching out when life feels overwhelming.

The Be Safe App in Niagara:

- Allows users to create a digital safety plan
- Informs users about mental health and addiction resources in Niagara
- Helps you be prepared if you find yourself in a crisis

For more information, please visit <https://besafeapp.ca/>

You can download the app on the App Store or Google play.

Blessed Trinity Corner



April Update

Our Blessed Trinity staff and students earned a well-deserved March Break, and both are back refreshed and energized to tackle the rest of Semester 2. Our spring sports are getting revved up with tryouts and signups for boys' and girls' soccer, girls' rugby, boys' baseball, girls' softball, track and field and much more. A reminder to our incoming Thunder to get involved once you get here. April is another busy month at Blessed Trinity. Here are just a few of the events that will be taking place in April:

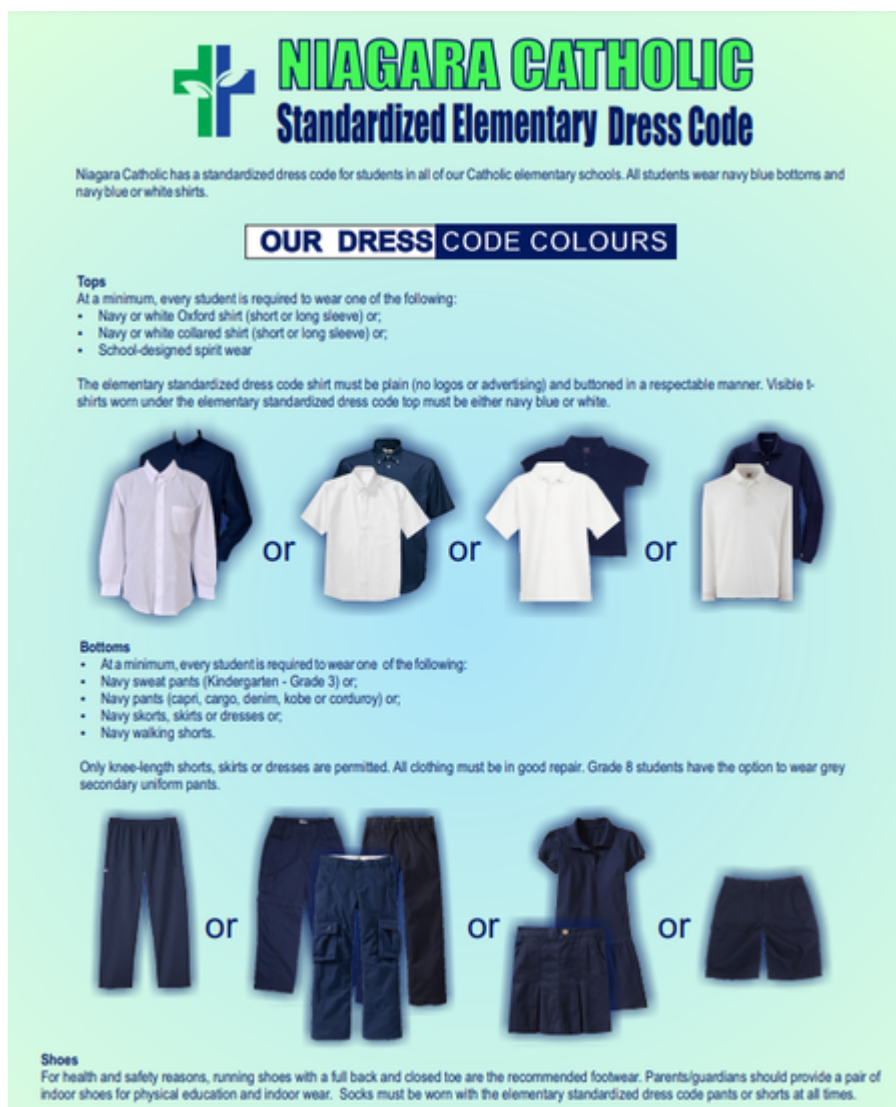
- Celebrating Holy Week with a school Mass

- All student will be participating in the University of Waterloo Compass Survey
- We will officially reach the middle of Semester 2 and parents will be invited to make appointments for Parent/Teacher Conference night on April 24th

Lastly, throughout the month of April, a member from our Student Services Department will be visiting the Grade 8 students with Course Verification forms to ensure students have selected the courses they want for Grade 9. This will be an opportunity for students to make any changes to their course selection.

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.

Standardized Dress Code



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.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE and SAFE ARRIVAL

St. Martin Catholic School and all schools throughout Niagara Catholic use the Safe Arrival program to manage student attendance reporting. The Safe Arrival program reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance by making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences. The Safe Arrival program allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

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. After logging in, select the

Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2) Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). 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. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.

3) The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Signing Students In & Out

Parents are to ensure their child(ren) are at school by 9:00 a.m. Notification will be required for all students leaving school during the day for an appointment. All parents must sign out their child before leaving the school. The sign-in and out book is located just inside the main front door. If you are picking up your child for an appointment, parents are asked to wait in the vestibule or just outside the front door and a staff member will escort your child to you. When possible, parents are asked to please make appointments outside of the school day.

To help minimize the risk of infection to students and staff, access to the building will be limited to staff and essential service workers only.

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.



School Cash Online

Please ensure that use of School Cash online for the purchase/payment of food days, field trips, donations etc. This is a safe and easy-to-use online program that allows you to make convenient and secure payments from the comfort of your own home. To register, please click [here](#)



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

