



# Loretto Catholic Elementary School

April 2025



## School Information

Ms. L. Spadafora - Principal

Mrs. M. Kelly - Vice Principal

**Website:** <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/lorettocatholic/>

**Location:** [6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada](#)

**Phone:** 905 356 4175

**Twitter:** [@LorettoFalls](#) **Instagram:** [lorettocatholicnf](#)

## Principal Message

*"God, our Father, we give thanks for the gift of Easter, a time of hope and new beginnings. May the resurrection of Jesus fill our hearts with joy and inspire us to spread your love and compassion to all. Help us to live lives that reflect the light of Christ, and may we always remember the power of hope that He has given us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."*

*Our Lady of Loretto, Pray for us*



*Wishing all our families a Blessed Easter.*

Please find the April Calendar is at the end of the newsletter.

## Communication

Loretto Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.

**Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff,** students or our community helpers will not be tolerated. While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all

staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

We continue to focus on "**Bee-ing part of our Loretto Catholic Hive**", we all play a role in order for our Hive to be successful. We can Be Kind, Be Caring, Be successful, Be Nurturing, Be workers, Be Faithful...



As we work through this year students and staff will work on the importance of Team work and how our Hive is a collective group that helps to make each one of us better and stronger spiritually, emotionally and intellectually.



### Organization 2025-2026

We will be starting to plan for the 2025- 2026 school year and the specific organization of the school is tentative dependent upon any changes to our enrolment numbers. As well, due to our enrolment numbers, we know that combined classes are a reality for many of our grades.

We will continue to follow the direction set in the past several years, **and will not be accepting requests**. As the experts in education, we will base all student placement decisions on what is in the *best interest of the entire student community at Loretto Catholic*. These decisions are made in good faith and based on, but not necessarily limited to, the following considerations: individual needs of students; academic strengths and needs; social and emotional needs of students; resource support requirements and personnel allocation; and classroom teacher strengths.

**Please continue to remember that changes to classes can and will continue to be made until the end of September.**

**Combined classes such as but not limited are Grades 3/4, 6/7 and 7/8. We have very large numbers in certain grades and combined classes will be a reality. Those classes will not be altered unless we continue to receive enough enrollment for new classes. Again that will not occur until late Septemeber.**

**\*\*\*\*We will not be making any adjustments or changes to class lists or homerooms until the end of September should enrollment increase or decrease.**

### How Parents can help with the transition to a different grade...

Talk positively to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students discuss relationships and the excitement of making new friends. Letting them know that we have many opportunities to see all their friends at recess, trips etc. That new experiences build resiliency and enhance our learnings skills like collabration, independence, initiative to name a few.



## Parking Lot Safety

Just wanted to take a moment to thank all our families who are following the **Kiss'n Ride process** both before and after school.

We are asking parents to only use the front area designated as a Kiss'n 'Ride- to not park and leave your car or exit your car in this area. Student(s) exit the car only with their belongings and cross with the supervisor to the school property. We are asking that GR 4-8 if being picked up use the KSD/Loretto side parking lot by the Soccer Turf. Students can walk out through the back blacktop.

We also ask that parents do not park in front of the stop signs along the exit path as this blocks traffic and flow and the entry of the afternoon busses.

Parents/Guardians we ask that you not block the entrance way at the end of the day as the busses are struggling to get into our parking lot or to have to try and maneuver around cars.

We have supervision staff who are helping students so they can walk to their entrances both at the front and back of the school **before 8:45 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the front doors.

We ask that cars proceed **slowly** as we have had a few very close calls with students. Cars need to **STOP** and check that the crosswalk is clear where students and families are walking to cross.

Should parents want to park- then please use the side entrance at the KSD side (Kalar Soccer Park) and enter through the back gates after 8:35 and at the end of the day after 3:05 at dismissal so KSD can dismiss.

Families are asked not to park on the side of Loretto Catholic where the gate and portables are at any time as this is an Emergency Lane, as well we have been asked not to use the Avondale Parking lot as a pick up zone.

Your support and assistance in ensuring our students' safety are very important to all of us.

## Balance Day schedule

A Balanced School Day is a modified elementary school schedule designed to enhance learning, foster healthy habits, and encourage daily physical activity.

**A typical Monday to Friday Balanced School Day at Loretto Catholic would be:**

- 845- 8:55 a.m. -Bell rings/Announcements & Attendance
- 8:55-10:55 a.m. – 120 instructional minutes



- 10:55-11:35 a.m. – 40 minutes nutrition break (20 mins eating/20 mins physical activity break)
- 11:35-12:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes
- 12:55-1:35 p.m. – 40 minutes nutrition/physical activity break
- 1:35-2:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes
- 2:55-3:05 p.m. - Prayers/Announcements & Dismissal for all students

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## Catholic School Council - Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Thank you to all our families who purchased our Krispy Kreme donuts fundraiser. We have raised \$3000 that will go towards Gr 8 graduation and technology.

Thank you to our top sellers:

1st -Matty M Gr 1 D - 40 dozens

2nd -Rory M -Gr 8M

3rd - Marco K -Gr 4P & Piper C- Gr 8M



## Loretto Catholic Yearbook

Back by popular demand, is this year's yearbook!!!

Thank you to all our families who ordered!!!

Students have been working on this year's cover page. Stay tuned on our winners.

**Thank you**

**The Yearbook Committee**

## Playground Safety

Parents, we have noticed lots of excessive physical play during our outdoor and after school times. Often, it is a simple misunderstanding or because feelings were hurt. Students are saying very unkind words over a loss of a game or showing poor sportsmanship. We are asking for your support as we continue to work with our students on being kind to each other, walking away, going to a teacher for help, asking the other student to stop. These are some of strategies we are using. Our students can communicate their feelings afterward and are always remorseful and willing to work through to a solution and restore the relationship. We will continue to develop and work on students regulating their emotions with the Zones of Regulations.

We thank you in advance for addressing this at home as a family as well.

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board. The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month, on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public, livestreamed and recorded.

#### **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2025-2026 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to **Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025.**

#### **PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES**

To be eligible for election/appointment as a parent/guardian representative to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, a person:

- must be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a school of the Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- must support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board; and
- must fully participate in the annual Commissioning Ceremony of NCPIC members.

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2025-2026 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership are as follows:

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Thorold/Merriton	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Niagara Falls	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Welland/Pelham	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form **no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025.** Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website. Please click on the link: [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](https://www.ncdsb.com/parent-involvement).

**Please send nomination forms to:** Catholic Education Centre  
427 Rice Road  
Welland, ON L3C 7C1  
Attention: Yvonne Anderson  
or by email to: [yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com](mailto:yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com)

## **Big Bear Spirit Wear**

Families are able to purchase Spirit Wear through Big Bear Spiritwear - **please visit the website by clicking on the banner above with their name.**

Our new **FRESH** Loretto Catholic Logo for our Spirit Wear.



Students may continue to wear existing spirit wear. Just a reminder that Spirit Wear T-shirts are not part of the daily dress code as collar shirts must be worn.

Please see the items below that are available throughout the year to purchase.

**\*\*To order- Link to Big Bear website- click schools- click Niagara Falls - click on Loretto Catholic**

School dress code is in effect. Collared shirt is either blue or white- no logos. Pants, skirts, shorts are blue. Denim is dark denim and in good repair, not faded or with holes.

All sweaters are blue unless they are Loretto Catholic Spirit wear which are blue and/or grey and have our school logo on it.

**Grad hoodies are reserved for our students in Grade 8 only. As well s St. Michael's current spirit wear on Wednesdays.**

In the **winter months students**, please have students layer and wear **blue dress code sweaters**.

**Please be mindful that running shoes are necessary for gym classes and for outside play.**

Thank you for your continued support.

## LORETTO LYNX 2023 SPIRITWEAR

**Gildan DryBlend 9.4 oz. 50/50 Jersey Polo**  
Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Left Chest



Youth #8800B \$18.79  
Adult #8800 \$20.49

Available Colours: Navy & White

**Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt**  
Youth #88181Y Ladies' #78181 Adult #88181



\$27.50

Available Colours: Navy & White

**50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.**  
Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Youth #18500B \$32.49  
Adult #18500 \$33.95

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

**50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.**  
Full-Size Embroidery & Appliqué Decoration on Front



Youth #18500B \$36.95  
Adult #18500 \$38.49

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

**Dynamic Heather 2-Tone Lightweight Polyester Hoodie**  
Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Youth #Y2047 \$64.95  
Adult #F2047 \$64.95

Available Colour: Charcoal Dynamic Heather/True Navy

**50/50 Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.**  
Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Left Chest



Youth #18600B \$38.95  
Adult #18600 \$42.49

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

**ATC™ Mid Profile Twill Ball Cap**  
Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo Front



100% cotton twill 6-panel Adjustable hook and loop closure

Youth Size Adjustable #Y130 \$14.49  
Adult Size Adjustable #C130 \$14.95

Coal Grey Navy

**Acrylic 12" Pom Pom Toque**  
Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



#SP15 One Size \$14.50

Dark Heather/Navy

**Acrylic Beanie-Style Winter Toque**  
Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



One Size #102 \$12.95 + tax

Charcoal Grey Navy

**Tax is NOT included in the Prices shown.**

**Order On-Line at [www.bigbearspiritwear.com](http://www.bigbearspiritwear.com)**  
No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Customized Products  
Sizing Charts available at each product online | Delivery to your School option available

**New Design!**  
**LORETTO CATHOLIC LYNX**

**BIG BEAR SPIRITWEAR**

6182 Dixon Street  
Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2G 2L6  
Ph: 905-357-7132  
[www.bigbearspiritwear.com](http://www.bigbearspiritwear.com)

# **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**

## Electronics

The Electronic communication Systems Policy states that cell phones or smart phones, tablets, laptops, audio or video recording devices are eligible for use by students in all Niagara Catholic Elementary schools (Grades 6-8) **as approved only by staff for instructional or co-instructional purposes**. The expectation is that students will use NCDSB's electronic communication systems for educational purposes, to enhance learning through responsible access to global information and communication. Students who carry cell phones when travelling to and from school, for safety reasons, are reminded they are not allowed to use their cell phones to call or text home once they are on school property or during the school day/recess/lunch.

All cell phone must **remain off/silent** and **put away** during the school day unless noted by the school staff.

Students are asked to use the school student phone located in the office if they need to call home or are not feeling well.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring students stay safe from social media during the school day.

**School Cash online**

**Payment for School Activities- School Cash Online**



Parents/Guardians are asked to sign up for our convenient payment program - SCHOOLCASHONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities/lunches without sending in money to school.

To register, please go to:



### **SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome**

Why Use SchoolCash Online? Convenient Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home Easy To Use Online shopping with various payment methods Safe Your child won't be carrying cash or checks to and from school Saves Time Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place

[schoolcashionline.com](https://schoolcashionline.com)

### **Lynx Water Bottles**

We will continue to sell our Loretto Lynx 24- ounce reusable Sports Water bottles with our Loretto Lynx logo on it as well as a spot to write your child's name on it. Water bottles are BPA-free sports bottles that are made with a polyethylene (PET) material that's phthalate-free, non-toxic and lead-free. It features a twist-on lid with push/pull drinking spout. Its translucent bottle colour matches its lid color. Bottles can be purchased through School **Cash Online for \$8.00 each or 2 for \$14.00. We will begin selling as of mid September until late May.**



### **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.

### **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.



We also want to thank our families for donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain it throughout the year.

**Please continue to help by donating through School Cash Online.**

### **Niagara Public Health - Dental Screening**

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be offering [dental screening](#) to grades JK, SK, 2, 4 and 7 on **April 24 & 25, 2025.**





A registered dental hygienist will take a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized dental mirror and light.

The [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#) program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care.

**If you do not want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening, you MUST complete the online [School Dental Screening Opt-Out Form](#) or call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 each school year.**

If your child(ren) is not in one of the grades listed above, they may have the opportunity to participate in the dental screening. If you would like your child to be screened, please complete the [School Dental Opt-In Form](#).

## Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter April 2025

### Connecting the Curriculum to Home

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the [Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

### Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting The Curriculum to Home

(Parents of Elementary aged students)

With our School Health Nurses

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- **Watch here:** [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions.

## 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](#).



## Items Left At School

We know it is the season when we have many student belongings at school like hats, mittens, sweaters, coats, indoor/outdoor shoes and boots at school. Often items are not labelled and it is hard to know who they belong to. We do have a lost and found for students to check in the vestibule in the main entrance to the school. Unfortunately, should items go missing and/or are lost when students have left them at school a reminder that we, the school, are not responsible for

any lost items or items left at the school. We will do our best to help our students find their items. We ask that items are all labelled as many items are similar or from the same stores.

## 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.

Although students are encouraged **not to trade** playing cards of any kind i.e. Pokémon, we are not responsible for traded, lost or misplaced cards.

Thank you for your support

## Pets on School Property

Parents, we kindly ask that your pets do not come on to school property at arrival and dismissal. Many of our areas are already congested with families at pick up and some of our families and students are a little uncomfortable.

We appreciate your support.



- MIND
- BODY
- SPIRIT

*We are a proud member of the Saint Michael Highschool Family of Schools*





# Loretto Catholic Elementary School

Climbing Mountains Together In Faith

April 2025



lorettocatholicncf



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>SAFE ARRIVAL Student Absent Reporting before 9:00 a.m. of the current day Please call 1-844-287-6287 or visit go.schoolmessenger.ca</div>		1 Day 4 <div>EASTER Food Drive Begins—Project Share</div> <div></div>	2 Day 5 <div></div> <div>Wear a Blue Shirt Dress Code Bottoms</div>	3 Day 1 <div>Home Depot Workshop—Kindergarten– Gr 2's Gr. 7 Vaccinations</div> <div></div>	4 <div>PA Day</div>	5 Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More <div></div>
6 Mass– 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More <div></div>	7 Day 2	8 Day 3 <div>ECO: Take Me Outside Day</div> <div></div>	9 Day 4 <div>St. Michael's DPA Gr. K-5</div>	10 Day 5 <div></div> <div>King to King Movie Gr. 1-3</div> <div></div> <div></div>	11 Day 1 <div>King to King Movie Gr. 1-3</div>	12 Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More <div></div>
13 <div>Palm Sunday</div>	14  Day 2 School Track ad Field Gr. 4-6—United Soccer Turf May Food Orders Open	15  Day 3 School Track ad Field Gr. 7-8 @ United Soccer Turf	16 Day 4 <div>St. Michael's DPA School Track and Field Rain Date</div> <div>EASTER Food Drive Ends</div>	17 Day 5 <div>Virtual Stations of the Cross Led by Gr. 6B</div> <div></div> <div></div>	18 <div></div> <div>GOOD FRIDAY</div>	19 Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More <div></div>
HOLY WEEK						
20 <div>He is RISEN</div>	21 <div>EASTER MONDAY</div> <div>No school today</div>	22 Day 1 <div>ECO: Clean the Yard Gr. 5-8</div> <div>May Food Orders Close</div>	23 Day 2 <div>Mrs. Santanna Day Administrative Professionals Day</div> <div></div> <div>THANK YOU</div> <div>St. Michael's DPA Public Library Visit 1/2M</div>	24 Day 3 <div>Dental Screening Grades Kinder, 2, 4, 7 Public Library Visit Gr. 7C, 7F</div> <div></div>	25 Day 4 <div>Public Library Visit Gr. 1F</div> <div></div> <div>Be part of our Hive—wear black and yellow Out of Dress Code</div> <div></div> <div></div>	26 Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More <div></div>
27 Mass– 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More <div></div>	28 Day 5 <div>Public Library Visit Gr.4P</div>	29 Day 1 <div>Thank You Support Staff Appreciation Day</div> <div>Gr 3/4&amp;4 Water Festival Junior Handball Tourn. Girls—a.m. Boys—p.m. Loretto Gymnasium</div>	30 Day 2 <div>EASTER MASS Led by Gr. 2/3D&amp;3/4V St. Thomas More 10:00 a.m. Families are Welcome</div>	Every Wednesday is Waste free Wednesday		<div></div>

Loretto Catholic Elementary School is proud to be a part of the St. Michael Catholic Family of Schools



Ms. Spadafora