



April 2025



St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School

Proud member of the Denis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools

D. Smolders, Acting Principal

L. Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Schools
33 Woodrow St., St. Catharines, ON, L2P 2A1



KNOWING GOD DURING LENT

Jesus doesn't need any help to remember your name. Jesus called Mary Magdalene by name and he calls us by name to spread the good news of the Kingdom of God through our witness at home, at school, at work, in church, at the grocery store and even in traffic. When you are all by yourself and are looking for someone to help, Jesus will come to you and provide for all your needs. Don't get discouraged. God, the master of the whole universe is mindful of you and all that you need in life. Just keep trusting Him and He will surely work miracles for you.

During this time of Lent, you can also work to meet God. As was outlined in the Gospel of Matthew, we are asked to do 3 things to prepare for the resurrection of Jesus: Prayer, Almsgiving, Fasting

D. Smolders
Principal

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 10:00 am

Pastor: Reverend Chad Grennan



A LOOK AHEAD

April
4: PA Day (No School)
10: Chicken Fingers and Fries Hot Lunch Day
13: Palm Sunday
18: Good Friday (No School)
20: Easter
21: Easter Monday (No School)
22: Dental Bus Visit
23: School Liturgy at St. Thomas Aquinas
24: Pizza Day
25: Out of Dress Code Day

MONTHLY PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

RECESS/LUNCH SWAP

With the warmer weather and requirement for students to wear fewer layers, we will be returning to the original lunch/recess schedule.

10:45 - 11:05: First Lunch
11:05 - 11:25: First Recess

12:45 - 1:05: Second Lunch
1:05 - 1:25: Second Recess

If you are dropping off lunch or ordering something for delivery, please note these changes.

HOT LUNCH DAYS

We have scheduled Chicken Fingers and Fries from Swiss Chalet for Thursday, April 10. We will also have our next pizza day on Thursday, April 24. Orders will be made through <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. No cash orders or late orders will be accepted.

We cannot provide any refunds for students who are away on the hot lunch day.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER

Parents and community members with students who were born in 2021 and looking to begin Kindergarten in September are reminded to register their child(ren) online at: niagaracatholic.ca/registration

UPCOMING RENOVATIONS

Our school will be undergoing some renovations and updates to the 6 classrooms on the south side of our school over the next few months.

The planning for these updates has been on-going for many months to minimize the disruption to student learning and to maximize student safety. Beginning on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, crews will begin construction on the three classrooms that look out to the school yard (Ms. Caughlin, Mr. Marfisi, Ms. Allard). These three classrooms will be relocated to the library (Ms. Caughlin) and the gymnasium (Ms. Allard, Mr. Marfisi) for the remainder of the school year.

Work on the other three classrooms should begin during the summer months with little disruption during the school year.

We are very excited for the opportunity that this renovation will afford our students and the community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the main office.

WORLD AUTISM DAY

Each April, people from across Ontario come together to show their support for people with autism. Celebrate the Spectrum on World Autism Day on April 2 and throughout the month of April.

DELTA BINGO

Once again we want to take this opportunity to thank Delta Bingo, school staff, and community members who volunteer their time during a two hour shift each month this year. We have started to receive our revenue share disbursement. As of now, over \$6000 has been donated to St. Christopher CES. Much of this money will be used in the upcoming months to offset the cost of field trips. We continue to thank Delta Bingo and the Ontario Charitable Gaming Association for their generous support of our school community.

If you would like to support our school by volunteering 2 hours of your time during our school's block, please contact the office for more information.

EARTH DAY 2025

This year, we will celebrate Earth Day on Tuesday, April 22. The school eco-team has a number of activities planned throughout the month of April. Additionally, below are some simple ways you can do your part at home.

1. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
2. Volunteer. Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed, too.
3. Educate. When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
4. Conserve water. The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.
5. Shop wisely. Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.

6. Use long-lasting light bulbs. Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!
7. Plant a tree. Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
8. Don't send chemicals into our waterways. Choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and office.
9. Bike more. Drive less.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please drive with caution in the parking lot and near the school. We have many students who are being dropped off and picked up at the same time. They are all at varying places on their learning journey and may not always remember to look both ways before stepping out into traffic. Please exercise extra caution when driving in the school parking lot.

ON TIME ARRIVAL

This is a reminder that school begins at **8:35 am** each day. We have noticed a number of students who are regularly late. The opening routines and morning lessons are an important part of setting the tone for students for the remainder of the day.

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your child arrives at school on time each day and staff are on duty at 8:20 am.

EXTRA CLOTHES

It is always a good idea for students in all grades to have an extra set of clothes in their backpack/cubby/locker in the event of a spill or an accident. In the winter months students tend to play much more on their hands and knees or may step in a small puddle of water when transitioning from outdoor to indoor footwear.

SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS

Big Bear Spirit Wear, a board approved supplier for spirit wear items, offers a wide range of dress-code approved items through their online store at: <https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/>. Students are allowed to wear the spirit wear items to school and these are a worthwhile purchase to show off your school pride. **Please label all clothing items that come to school so that we can return all misplaced items to the correct person.**

ANAPHYLAXIS

St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School promotes a healthy, allergy aware environment for the safety of our children. Parents are requested to not pack any foods that contain or may contain nut or peanut products in their children's lunch. Please give our children with anaphylaxis the same consideration that you would wish for your child's protection.

If you have a child with anaphylaxis to any allergens, please contact the office immediately so that we can work together to keep your child(ren) safe.

Additionally, at no time are students allowed to share food amongst themselves. This includes during special event days, such as birthdays and Halloween. We respect and want to adhere to the dietary choices each family makes for their own child/ren. If your child comes to school with food items to distribute to classmates, they will be held in the office and sent back home with your child at the end of the day. We greatly support your cooperation with this.

MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL

Parents should be aware of the strict guidelines established by the Niagara Catholic District School Board for medication in schools.

1. The medication must be in the container prepared by the pharmacist and the label must include: the name of the doctor, student and the name and strength of the medication.
2. The school must have a written request from the physician indicating the frequency and dosage of the prescribed medication (this form is available at the school).
3. Deliver prescribed medication directly to the school office. Please do not send them with the child.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School can be found on Instagram **@st.christopherces**. Please follow us to see what fun and exciting things your children are getting up to while at school.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

The Niagara Catholic District School Board recognizes concussions as a serious injury which requires appropriate follow-up measures to reduce the risk of potential additional injury. Concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management are a priority for the Board. The implementation of the Board's Concussion Administrative Operational Procedures is another important step in creating healthier schools in the Niagara Catholic District School Board

If staff, in communication with the school principal, suspects head trauma or a concussion might be possible based on signs and symptoms reported by the student, they are required to complete the appropriate documentation, call home and send home a copy of the documentation.

Medical doctors and nurse practitioners are the only healthcare professionals in Canada with licensed training and expertise to diagnose a concussion; therefore, all students with suspected concussions should undergo evaluation by one of these professionals.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

St. Christopher continues to move forward using the School Cash Online System and we require all families to make online payments for their children when paying for things like pizza days, field trips, etc. If you

have not already done so, please register for an account at: <https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and guardians who would like to make a financial donation to support the many learning and extra curricular activities happening each day at St. Christopher Catholic elementary school are able to do so at any time through <https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>. Once logged in, you will see a button in the top menu that says Make a Donation. By clicking here, you are able to select the donation amount and the Destination (St. Christopher CES). Once submitted, you will be immediately sent an official receipt for tax purposes.

ABSENT/LATE/EARLY DISMISSAL

The Safe arrival program is aimed at verifying the location and safety of each child in our school. Parents are asked to report their child's absences, lates, or early dismissals before the start of school. The system will call you repeatedly if your child is not present in school once the bell rings.

Absences and lates can be quickly and conveniently reported in one of three ways:

1. Through the School Messenger App available through the Android or iOS app store.
2. By calling the automated telephone system at 1-844- 287-6287 through which absences can be reported.
3. By logging into the website: go.schoolmessenger.ca

