

Loretto Catholic Elementary School

May 2025



School Information

Ms. L. Spadafora - Principal Mrs. M. Kelly - Vice Principal **Website:** <u>https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/lorettocatholic/</u> Location: <u>6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada</u> Phone: 905 356 4175

Twitter: <u>@LorettoFalls</u> Instagram: lorettocatholicnf

Principal Message

Let us remeber Pope Francis' words and his message of HOPE for the 2025 Jubilee:

"Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring." May he rest in Peace and may his messages continue to bring HOPE, PEACE and LOVE to the world.

During the month of May, we celebrate and honour our Immacualte Mother Mary.





We would like to wsh all of our Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Aunts and Special Women in our lives a Happy Mothers Day!!! May Mary, our Mother, continue to be a role model in your deication and love to all our children.

Catholic Education Week

We look forward to celebrating and recognizing our Faith during the week of May 4th- 11th. Please look at the information below as we have many special activities that welcome our parents into our school and witness our faith in action.

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 until September even if we continue to receive enrollment for new classes.

<u>****We will not be making any adjustments or changes to class lists or homerooms until the end</u> 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 expierences 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 manuever 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 or the Dental Office as a pick up zone.

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



Catholic Education & Mental Health Week

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "Pilgrims of Hope."

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2025 was inspired by the following considerations:

- In February of 2022, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the upcoming 2025 holy year would be "Pilgrims of Hope." "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. (from Vatican News, a short video on the history of the Jubilee/Holy Year: https://x.com/VaticanNews/status/1783768498885275868)
- The Holy Father asks us to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many refugees forced to leave their homes. He also summons us, as stewards of Creation, "to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home."
- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement toward a goal, often lived together with others

 and that certainly describes Catholic education. Hope one of the three theological virtues
 is grounded in our Easter faith in Jesus' resurrection and renewal; this is what enables us to be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus' name. Pope Francis invites us to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people. Even in challenging times, our eyes are focussed on the future.

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these

resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Pilgrims of Hope* together.

We hope to see many of you during our school celebrations!



Niagara Catholic District School Board CATHOLIC EDUCATION & MENTAL HEALTH WEEK PLANNER 2025 Theme: Pilgrims of Hope



Name of School: Loretto Catholic

Monday May 5, 2025 By honouring human dignity	Morning Prayers on announcements (board resource) Steps of Hope Journey Jar - school wide activity footprints - highlight what we are hopeful for (displayed in foyer) K-8 Blessing of our Garden - with Father Phil Catholic Education Week Daily Lesson Plans	Mental Wellness Quote of the day- student council Wayfinder: Mental Health Lesson Plans
Tuesday May 6, 2025 By caring for creation	Morning Prayers on announcements (board resource) MultiCultural Day K-8 Celebrating Excellence - Catch the Spirit Making of the Flowers and written intention (for Crowning of Mary on Thursday) K-8 - families welcome Catholic Education Week Daily Lesson Plans	Mental Wellness Quote of the day- student council Wayfinder: Mental Health Lesson Plans
Wednesday May 7, 2025 By responding to the poverties in our world	Morning Prayers on announcements (board resource) School CEW/Mental Health Bulletin Board creation day- flowers, petals - made by each class Petal Making activity K-8 Catholic Education Week Daily Lesson Plans	Mental Wellness Quote of the day- student council School CEW/Mental Health Bulletin Board creation day- flowers, petals - made by each class Petal Making activity K-8 Wayfinder: Mental Health Lesson Plans
Thursday May 8, 2025 By serving in solidarity	Morning Prayers on announcements (board resource) Marigold Challenge Submission Crowning of Mary whole school Catholic Education Week Daily Lesson Plans	Mental Wellness Quote of the day- student council Wayfinder: Mental Health Lesson Plans
Friday May 9, 2025 By living as peacemakers	Morning Prayers on announcements (board resource) Craft Day creation K-8 parents invited k-5 Catholic Education Week Daily Lesson Plans	Mental Wellness Quote of the day- student council Wayfinder: Mental Health Lesson Plans

Catch the Spirit Award

The Niagara Catholic **"Catch the Spirit Student Award of Excellence"** has been established to honour representatives of leadership within our student population as we continue to work together to "nurture souls and build minds" throughout Niagara Catholic.

Each year all schools across Niagara Catholic select one student as their award winner. Congratulations to **Eleora McIntyre** for winning the **2025 Catch The Spirit Award**. She will be celebrated on May 6th at the ceremony held at Brock University. We are very proud of Eleora and look forward to celebrating her accomplishment again at graduation.

LORETTO CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL "A Professional Catholic Learning Community"

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MISSION STATEMENT The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesess of Christ



Sacraments

Congratulations to our Grade 2 candidates who will be receiving their First Holy Communion on May 24th and our Grade 8 candidates who received the sacrament of Confirmation on May 3rd both at St. Thomas More Parish.

Thank you to Father Mathew, our parents, godparents, sponsors, Mrs. DeProphetis, Mr.Jones, Mrs. McKean, Mrs. Minotti and Mr. Cullen for preparing our students on their faith journey.

EQAO

Our students in Grade 3 and 6 are once again participating in EQAO. Once again, the assessment is completed using computers, the focus remains on Reading, Writing and Math. Students will have an opportunity to show off their gifts based on the Ontario Curriculum which they have been diligently working on throughout the year. **This year our Grade 3 students will be writing over two days - May 27 & 28 and Grade 6 students will write on June 2 & 3** - the

assessment times are less then in previous years so we will only

EQAO

need two days. Students will be given extra time if needed or if they miss any of the days.

Students will have the opportunity to complete the assessment and do their very best.

Parent Engagement

presentation

Youth Addictive Behaviours

with Dr. Jean Clinton, MD – Child Psychiatrist, Knowledge Translator, and Clinical Professor at McMaster University.



Niagara Catholic District School Board



Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee



Dr. Jean Clinton is a child psychiatrist at McMaster Children's Hospital and a senior scientist at McMaster's INCH Lab. She holds appointments in Pediatrics, Family Medicine, and Child Psychiatry at both McMaster and the University of Toronto. With nearly 30 years of experience consulting in child and youth mental health, child welfare, and primary care, she was recently named an education advisor to Ontario's Premier and Minister of Education.

Monday May 5 • 7-9 PM Denis Morris Catholic High School 40 Glen Morris Drive, St. Catharines

Registration is required for this event as seating is limited. Registration will be open until Friday, April 30, 2025. CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

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.

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.

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.

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. If you have purchased a Lynx T-shirt in previous years, student can continue to wear them on Spirit Wear day and during gym class.

As the warmer months have arrived, please be mindful that dress code remains in effect, collar shirts, appropriate length shorts(no short short), skorts, skirts (with shorts underneath), no tank tops or ripped waded jeans. **Sweaters remain as dress code**.

Thank you for your continued support.





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

Schoolcashonline.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.

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.

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter May 2025

Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.



A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. <u>Find an eye doctor near you</u>.

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

 Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes 	One eye that turns out or in
Blinking often	 Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
 Turning or tilting the head to the side often 	Reporting blurry or double vision
Covering or closing one eye	 Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain
For more information on vision coreaning, pl	a a a a viait

For more information on vision screening, please visit <u>https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx</u>.

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 <u>School Health webpage</u> 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 <u>Public Health</u>.

Head Lice



Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: <u>Head Lice -</u> <u>Niagara Region, Ontario</u>

NEW Quit Vaping Program for Youth

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is excited to launch <u>Youth-Vaping</u>. <u>Substance use, and Technology (VAST</u>). Youth-VAST is a program for youth in Ontario who are using vaping, substances, or feel like technology is taking up too much

of their time. This program brings together existing and new resources across CAMH to deliver virtual services directly to youth and their family.



- Program offered for youth ages 12-21 years.
- Appointments are offered virtually for youth all over Ontario
- Youth will be assigned a care coordinator to create a customized treatment plan
- Individuals can self-refer directly into this program, no physician referral required.

To refer, visit <u>Youth-VAST</u> to book an appointment. For more information you can email <u>youth.vast@camh.ca</u>.

May is Rabies Awareness Month

During Spring, wildlife activity increases and so does the potential for rabies exposures. Rabies is a serious and fatal disease that affects the brain and spinal cord of mammals, including humans.

To prevent rabies, avoid any contact with wild animals, especially those that appear sick. Although they may seem cute, do not feed wild animals and most importantly, make sure to have your pets vaccinated.



MIND

BODY

For more information visit

https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/disease-prevent/rabies.aspx



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



