

St. Martin Catholic Elementary

MAY 2025



School Information

Mr. J. Tornabuono - Principal
Mrs. C. Bianco - 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](#)

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we have just two months left before the end of this school year. May is an exciting month. During the week of May 04 - 10, 2025 we set time aside to celebrate in a very special way our Catholic Education. We are very blessed in Ontario to continue to have our Catholic Schools where we have Christ centered in everything we do. Our faith is integrated in all subject areas and in our words and actions.

May is dedicated to our mother, Mary. We take this time to honour her in many special ways and recall our relationship with our own mothers. We recognize the love and caring of all of our mothers and grandmothers. We thank God for them and ask Him to bless them wherever they are, whether they are still with us or whether He has already called them home.

J. Tornabuono

Remember!

Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Book Fair until May 9
- Book Fair Tea - May 1 & 2
- Grade 7 Vaccination & Kindergarten Flouride - May 1
- Smile Cookies - May 1
- First Communion - (Szabo) - May 3

- Catholic Education Week - May 4-10
- Mental Wellness Week - May 4-10
- Gr. 5 & 6 Faith Fair - May 7
- VIP Day - May 8
- Happy Mother's Day - May 11
- Science Olympics at BT - May 13
- Track & Field at Leisureplex (Gr. 4-8) - May 15
- Victoria Day Holiday - May 19
- Flag Football - May 20 & 22
- Grade 3 EQAO - May 28-30
- Kindergarten Orientation - May 27 4-6 pm

May Prayer

A Prayer For May:

May you be happy.

May you stay healthy.

May you feel safe.

May you find comfort.

May you sense peace.

May you give love.

May you possess courage.

May you have faith.

May you spread joy.

May you be kind.

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 Education Week

The theme for Catholic Education Week this year echoes the theme of the Universal Church as we celebrate the Jubilee Year as “Pilgrims of Hope.” Pope Francis encourages us to “fan the flame of hope that has been given to us,” (Letter on the Jubilee of Hope, February 2022) proclaiming the joy of being people who walk in friendship with Jesus and who find hope in His death and resurrection. Catholic Education is a source of hope for staff, students and families who go to our Catholic Schools. Our educators serve as anchors for the proclamation of the Gospel, with Jesus who serves as the Master Teacher in the classroom each day. Our students are examples of hope alive, bringing creativity, energy and wisdom into their learning. Families echo this hope as first teachers of the faith, making connections between academics and Catholic virtue that help nurture saints for the Church of today and tomorrow.



Catholic Education | **PILGRIMS OF HOPE**

**“We must fan the flame of hope
that has been given to us.”**

Pope Francis

Mental Wellness Week 2025

This year, Mental Health Week is being observed May 4-10 2025. Mental Health Week is a Canadian tradition, with communities, schools and workplaces rallying to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. The core objective of Mental Health Week is to promote mental health because mental health is something we can promote and protect, not just something we can lose. The theme of this year's Mental Health Week is understanding our emotions.

Recognizing, labeling and accepting our feelings are all part of protecting and promoting good mental health for everyone. Naming, expressing and dealing with our emotions even when they're uncomfortable can make us feel better. If you or someone you love is struggling, there is hope and help:

- Please contact the Mental Health and Addiction Access Line at 1-866-550-5205. The Access line is available 24/7 and information is confidential
- Visit www.cmha.ca/bounceback.
- Visit the Government of Canada's Wellness Together portal.



**Mental Health
Week**

A CALL TO BE KIND



Because
compassion
connects us all.

#CompassionConnects

VIP

Celebration

VIP Day is May 8, 2025

St. Martin Robotics

Robotics Team Success at St. Mark's!

Our robotics teams had an incredible showing at the competition at St. Mark's this past Friday! The Intermediate Team — Cole, Rocco, Matthew, and Mateo — once again proved their mastery, maintaining their title as reigning champions. Their technical skills and seamless teamwork were on full display, and we couldn't be prouder of their continued success.

We also want to recognize our talented Junior Team — Madeline, Leah, London, and Serah — who impressed with their collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Their performance was nothing short of inspiring, and we're excited to see what they'll accomplish next!

Good luck to the Intermediate Team as they prepare for the next challenge in Toronto this coming Monday — we know you'll give it your all! Go team!



Class Placements For September 2025

We will soon begin the process of preparing class lists for September. We take great pride in knowing our students well and in recognizing their unique and individual needs when creating class lists. Many factors are considered when placing your child in a class, for example:

- balancing ability levels in the class



- accommodations for students with special needs
- gender balance in the class
- emotional, social development of students (e.g. grouping students who have a positive influence on one other, and who support each other's learning)
- number of classes per grade based on student population

Parents who have a particular concern/request with regard to the placement of their child next school year in relation to the aforementioned reasons, are asked to place their suggestions in writing to Mr. Tornabuono before May 23rd, 2025.

We respectfully ask that concerns or requests have to do with the child's particular learning style and wellbeing only. Please avoid requesting specific teachers as our staffing will not be finalized until much later in the school year and the placement of students with particular teachers is at the discretion of the school alone.



Rosary Prayers

During this month, our classes will pray a decade of the rosary each day. Whether at school or at home, we can show our love for Mary and for Jesus. You can assist by saying the rosary with your child at home. In doing this, you are supporting what the school is doing as we nurture the Faith in our community together.

SAYING THE ROSARY:

- Make the sign of the Cross and say the Apostle's Creed.
- Say the Our Father.
- Say 3 Hail Marys.
- Say the Glory Be to the Father.
- Announce the First Mystery, and then say the Our Father.
- Say 10 Hail Marys while meditating the Mystery.
- Say the Glory Be to the Father.
- Announce the Second Mystery, and then say the Our Father.
- Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.



Catch the Spirit 2025

Each year, The Niagara Catholic District School Board awards the Catch the Spirit Award to one student from every school who has demonstrated: outstanding Catholic leadership qualities, an active involvement in school affairs and extra-curricular activities, involvement in various community activities and a high degree of academic excellence. Although there were many deserving candidates for this honour, this year's recipient is Shelby Parnell. Shelby will be presented the award on May 6th.

Once again this year, in late May and early June, the Grade 3 and 6 students will be writing the EQAO provincial test in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The test will be spread over several days. Each session will take approximately forty minutes. The

Many thanks are extended to our dedicated teachers who continue to strive for academic success in our students.

On Tuesday May 27th, there will be a information session for all students entering Kindergarten at St. Martin School in September. Students will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and some of their classmates. In addition, parents will receive some important details about how to prepare for the first day of school. The information session will be between 4-6 pm.



On Thursday June 5th, St. Martin will host a year end social event from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be a foods trucks, raffles, entertainment, activities for the children and an opportunity to socialize and interact with other St. Martin families. Stay tuned for additional details.

The School Lunch Days For May include:

- Pizza - May 7
- Pita - May 14
- Hot Dogs - May 21
- Pasta - May 28



Thank you to Mrs. Hutton and all of our parent volunteers. We couldn't have these days without your assistance. You are appreciated!



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. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

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 screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.

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](#).

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: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

NEW Quit Vaping Program for Youth

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is excited to launch [Youth-Vaping, Substance use, and Technology \(VAST\)](#). 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 [Youth-VAST](https://youth.vast.camh.ca) to book an appointment. For more information you can email youth.vast@camh.ca.

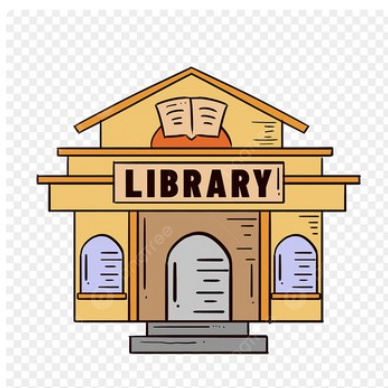
May is Rabies Awareness Month

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.

For more information visit

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



Library News

Our Book Fair is running until May 9. This spring we are adding a Family Tea Event to our Book Fair on May 1 & 2! Families are invited to join us for tea or coffee and some treats while you browse our Book Fair, or settle in to enjoy a story from our collection. Don't forget to mark the Book Fair dates on your calendar!



Blessed Trinity Corner - May

April was another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Our winter sports came to an end and our spring sports started up. On any given day at BT, you can find some or all of the following sports practicing or beginning their spring seasons on our new turf field (for the first time in the spring season):

- Soccer
- Track and Field
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Rugby
- Flag Football
- Girls Softball
- Boys Baseball

Other events that took place in April were the Junior Formal for our grade 9 and 10 students; the Waterloo Math Contest and all of our students took part in the Compass Survey created every year by the University of Waterloo.

Lastly, all of the Grade 8's who will be attending Blessed Trinity in September should have received Student and Course Verification forms to have one last look that they have chosen the appropriate courses for next year and that all of their biographic information is correct.

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.

Happy Mother's Day!

*A mother's love is like no other,
It's unconditional and pure.
A bond that lasts forever,
A love that will endure.*

*Through every joy and every trial,
She's always by your side.
With her loving arms around you,
She'll help you through the tide.*

*She's there to wipe away your tears,
And celebrate your every win.
A mother's love is a precious gift,
And a treasure deep within.*

*So on this special day,
Let's take a moment to say,
Thank you, Mom, for all you do,
And for your love that's always true.*

Happy Mother's Day!



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.

Medications & Allergies

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drugs, without written permission from the parent and a doctor. If there is a need for such medication, please contact the school to obtain the forms which must be filled out and signed by both the doctor and the parent. This record is required by School Board Regulations and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the family as soon as possible.

Please remember that St. Martin School is an Allergen Aware School. Please do not send products with nuts or nut traces with your child.



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.

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.



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters