



November 2023



# St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School

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

D. Smolders, Principal

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



## EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN (JAMES 1:19)

Have you ever tried to speak to someone who was distracted? Maybe they were listening to music, reading a book, or on a phone. Distracted people don't realize that they should be paying attention. They don't know what they should be listening out for. God speaks to us every day, but sometimes we get so busy and distracted that we forget that we should be listening. Maybe we don't know what we should be listening for, since God's normal way of speaking to us is not with an audible voice. God speaks to us in so many ways. Through the Bible, through the Mass and Sacraments. He moves our hearts, sometimes with a sensible joy. He speaks to us through the events of our lives, and through the mouths of other people. Take some time today to pay attention. How have you seen God's hand in your life this day, this month, and this year?

**D. Smolders**  
Principal

## MONTHLY PRAYER

This month's prayer will be the Guardian Angel Prayer. It will be part of our morning announcements and you are encouraged to make this prayer part of your daily routine with your family.

Angel of God, my guardian dear, To whom God's love commits me here,  
Ever this day, be at my side, To light and guard, Rule and guide.

## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 10:00 am

Pastor: Reverend Chad Grennan



If you are considering having your child baptized or would like them to make any other missed sacraments, please call the parish main office at: 905-687-6971

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 10 at 9:30 am, we will hold our Remembrance Day liturgy. This celebration of freedom and peace will also help us mark the sacrifices and accomplishments of so many that helped ensure our way of life.

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields*

John McCrae



## A LOOK AHEAD

- 10 - Remembrance Day Liturgy
- 11 - Remembrance Day
- 13 - Catholic School Council Meeting
- 15 - Grade 7 Vaccinations
- 23 - Project Plaid Day  
Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- 24 - PA Day
- 26 - Gr 7 & 8 Confirmation
- 27 - Bus Safety Presentations
- 28 - Out of Dress Code Day
- 29 - Picture Retake Day



@st.christopherces

## PROGRESS REPORTS & CONFERENCES

Progress reports will be available electronically via the parent portal after November 13, 2023. Additionally, we will send home a paper copy as well.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences are taking place on Thursday, November 23, 2023 from 3:30-6:30 for grade 1 to 8. Teachers and families are expected to meet to discuss their child's progress and next steps. To facilitate the creation of conference times that work best for families, we will be using an electronic appointment system that will allow you to select the time(s). The website will open on Wednesday, November 8 at 12:00pm. Please click here: [st.christopher.schoolappointments.com](http://st.christopher.schoolappointments.com). More information will be sent separately.

Communication and cooperation between home and school positively influences student achievement and this is a great time for us to connect to discuss how best to continue moving forward.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We held our first meeting of this year's Catholic School Council on October 2, 2023. Congratulations to Ms. Melissa Sticca and Ms. Lestaysha Aguilar who are the Co-Chairs of this year's council.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 at the school. The purpose of a school council is, through the active participation of parents, to improve student achievement. Any parent of a child enrolled at our school is invited to join and become a member of the council. Please consider joining us for this or any/all future meetings.

## TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

In responding to the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action, beginning in 2016, the Ontario government designated the first full week of November as Treaties Recognition Week.

Treaties Recognition Week is a time to recognize the importance of treaties as legal documents that are shared between sovereign nations. While we typically think of treaties as land claims between the Canadian government and Indigenous people, or between countries as a way of establishing peace, treaties have been a part of native culture for thousands of years and were legal agreements among the many Indigenous nations who shared this land before European contact.

Treaties are not a thing of the past. Even today, there are ongoing treaties in the Niagara Region and Niagara Peninsula that impact our staff and students who are of Indigenous heritage. For example, the 1492 Land Back Lane claim on Six Nations, the Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt in Shorthills, or the Mi'kmaq Lobster Fishermen on the east coast are recent international headlines.

## BULLYING AWARENESS & PREVENTION WEEK

This year, bullying prevention and awareness week will take place the week of November 19. We at Our Lady of Mount Carmel have key messages that we will focus on during this week and throughout the school year.

Monday-"Together we can make St. Christopher a Bully Free Zone."  
Tuesday-"Take a Stand, Lend a Hand"  
Wednesday -"Stomp Out Bullying"  
Thursday-"Keep Calm and Stop Bullying" – Wear Plaid Day

Throughout the week students will hear announcements around Bullying Awareness and Prevention tips.

### **What can we do at school to help students not bully?**

Be nice to each other  
Include others  
Stand up for each other  
Be kind  
Don't be shy  
Never give up  
Ask for help

## 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.bigbearspiritwear.com/>. Students are allowed to wear the spirit wear items to school and these are a worthwhile purchase as the cooler weather approaches. **Please label all clothing items that come to school so that we can return all misplaced items to the correct person.**

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

With wet winter weather fast approaching, parents are reminded that students must bring indoor shoes to school for health and safety reasons. As well, it is a good idea to bring a change of clothes, especially pants and socks, that students can change into if they get wet. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the dropping temperatures and label all of your child(ren)'s clothes.

As the winter months approach, we would like to remind parents that if bus transportation is **cancelled** in the morning, it also will be cancelled for the entire day. Children will not be picked up by bus at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on a day that transportation is cancelled, it will be your responsibility to pick them up at the end of the day. **Any child staying home when transportation is cancelled will need to be reported to the Safe Arrival system.**

Please follow @niagaracatholic on twitter, instagram or facebook for weather related cancellation.



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## 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.

We take student safety and privacy very seriously and only images of students for whom parents have given consent will be used on our social media account. If you would like to update your consent, please click [here](#) or contact the school to inquire about your current consent status.

## 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.

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.

## 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.schoolcashionline.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.schoolcashionline.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.

