



# St. Teresa of Calcutta Chronicle



St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary  
Part of the St. Francis Family of Schools

ISSUE: 4 DECEMBER, 2023



On behalf of the staff at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School, please accept our deepest wishes for a peaceful, holy and safe Advent and Christmas holiday. We are so blessed to be a part of this community and as educators and support staff, we feel honoured to be a part of the students journey towards success.

## Christmas Break December 25th, 2023 to January 5th, 2024

### CONFIRMATION

Our Grade 8 students recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Star of the Sea Church. This is the final sacrament of initiation for our students. Congratulations to all of the students on this important step in their journey of faith. Thank-you to Ms. Leslie, Mrs. Pietrangelo and Father Richard.



### ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA INSTAGRAM PAGE



Please follow us [@motherteresasc](https://www.instagram.com/motherteresasc) to get a glimpse into activities and events that are happening at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School. Please continue to follow us.

### VOLLEYBALL

I would like to congratulate both the intermediate girls and boys volleyball teams for their tremendous dedication and excellent sportsmanship during the St. Catharines Large School Intermediate Volleyball tournament hosted here at St. Teresa of Calcutta School. Thank-you to Mr. Kwinecki for convening the tournament and Ms. Leslie and Mrs. Haywood for coaching.



Currently, we have been holding tryouts for both our Jr. Girls and Boys Basketball teams with a tournament to follow. The date of the Tournament will be December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

### PICTURE DAY

Just a reminder that picture re-take day is taking place on Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. We will also be taking class pictures on this day as well. Students should be in full dress code for the pictures. This will be the last picture day we have this year with the exception of Graduation pictures in the New Year.



## CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

At St. Teresa of Calcutta, we reinforce with our students the necessity to help those families in our community who are less fortunate than us. Our annual Christmas Food Drive is taking place from November 27th – December 1st, 2023. Please send nonperishable food items. Items needed: bottled juice, dry pasta, canned pasta, tuna, peanut butter, canned soup & vegetables, tomato sauce, soap and personal hygiene items. We thank you for your donation.



## COBS FUNDRAISER



I would like to thank all of the St. Teresa of Calcutta families that supported our COBS Bread fundraiser. In total we sold 265 cards and generated \$3362.00 that will be put back directly into the school to support student engagement. Thank-you to the Catholic School Council for initiating this fundraiser.

## CHRISTMAS CHOIR



The St. Teresa of Calcutta choir will be travelling to Martindale Place on Friday December the 8<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. Parents are welcome to watch the performance that day. The choir consists of students from grades 2 to 8 and has been practicing since mid October in preparation for this day. Thank-you to our music teacher Mrs. Pietrangelo for working with our students.

## CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



Christmas is in the air and so is the Christmas crunch. Deadlines, wrapping, packing, traffic and general chaos are on today's route for mailman Gabriel Willson...who hasn't figured out how to deliver a mysteriously bulky box in his bag. A miracle is on the way, however, and it's a Heaven-sent delivery that brings Christmas straight to the heart. On **Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup>** our school will be showcasing the students' talents with a Christmas Performance entitled '**Christmas Special Delivery**' at 12:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. All grades from K to 7 have a part in the performance with our grade 8's serving as the 'Set Crew'. Please make sure to check cash on-line to reserve your seats for the performances. There will be no cost to parents and there is no limit to the amount of guests you can bring.

## VIP RAFFLE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

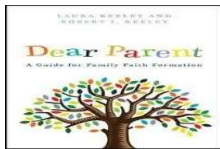


We will be selling VIP Raffle tickets for the show. The winners will be able to upgrade their seats that night and be front and center to the action! Each winner will receive 2 spots on our comfy VIP chairs complete with snacks for the show.

**Raffle tickets are on sale for \$2.00 each -3 for \$5 or 10 for \$10.**

Please make sure to only purchase Raffle Tickets for the performance time that you will be attending. Ex. If you are attending the 12:30pm show then only purchase raffle tickets that correspond to that show. 4 VIP Raffle winners will be pulled for each show. Tickets will be going on sale starting on Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> and will be sold everyday up until the December 19<sup>th</sup> show. Students will indicate the family name on the ballot and what performance they will be attending. If parents prefer, you are welcome to come into the school and buy your raffle tickets directly at the office.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in person at the school. All parents are welcome at any time. You are welcome to just sit and listen. The meetings for the Catholic School Council will be noted on the calendar monthly.

## E-MAIL ADDRESS & TEXT MESSAGES

As the majority of correspondences/newsletters/updates, etc. are now e-mailed, we would ask that you provide the office with your updated e-mail address and phone number if you already have not done so to ensure that you are in receipt of all communications as they relate to your child(ren). Your co-operation in this regard is greatly appreciated. Parents can Opt in for text messaging by texting a **Y to the short code 978338**. If you have already been receiving my text messages then there is no need to text into the code.



## CURRICULUM CORNER



One of the primary focuses for this year is to increase student achievement, specifically in the areas of numeracy and literacy. To that end, we are focusing on a number of strategies and interventions at the school level to support student learning. Our current math program is MATHUP for K to 8 students: <https://www.mathup.ca/>. Workbooks were purchased for all students in grades 1 to 7 to use as a consumable. In literacy we continue to use the Heggerty Program in K to 2 to build Phonemic Awareness which is the ability to understand that spoken words are made up of individual sounds called phonemes, and it's one of the best early predictors for reading success: <https://heggerty.org/>. We continue to utilize the 100 minute uninterrupted literacy/numeracy block into the school timetable to enhance and push forward student achievement. Other programs in the school include the Lexia Program Core5, Power Up, Empower program to 'Close the Gap' where necessary.

## EXTRA CLOTHES

As the weather gets colder and the students begin to play in the snow parents are reminded to send extra standardized dress code clothing to school especially for the children in the Kindergarten and primary levels. This will avoid inconveniencing parents when it becomes necessary to find dry clothes. All students are expected to have an indoor pair of shoes to wear in the halls and classrooms. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER



Colder weather is on the way. Please ensure that your child comes to school well prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coat and boots. Please label your child(ren)'s belongings as many have similar apparel and cannot always identify their belongings.

Please be aware that we do not have the facilities nor the staffing to supervise students who have parents requests asking for their child(ren) to remain indoor at recess times. If you feel that your child is not well enough to go outside, it would be best for you to keep your child(ren) at home.

On extremely cold days, we may limit the amount of time the students spend outside. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information and follow the Niagara Catholic District School Board guidelines. When the temperature is below a certain threshold (with wind chill) we will not be going outside. **I have attached an excerpt from the NCDSB protocol within this email.** With the exception of these occasions, it is our expectation that all students will go out for recess. Health officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial as long as students are dressed properly.

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS & CHECK THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD & NSTS WEBSITE.**

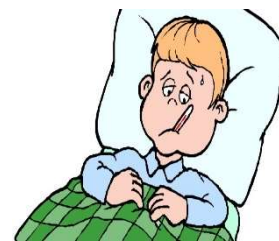
**AS WELL**, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians the procedures when it comes to "Inclement Weather".

1. If bus transportation is **cancelled in the morning**, it also follows that the **children will not be picked up after school** at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is then your responsibility to pick the child up at the end of the day.
2. When only transportation services are cancelled, **the schools remain open**, and it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to determine whether or not it is safe for the student to attend school.
3. Procedures relating to Inclement Weather after the school day starts:
  - Transportation is cancelled and school is kept open;
  - Transportation is cancelled and school is closed. At this point, the safety of our children is our prime concern. The school will attempt to contact you by telephone should an emergency closing be necessary after the children have arrived at school. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled and the school will be closing and that parents/guardians need make arrangements to attend at the school to pick up their child(ren).

### **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME???**

Please keep your child at home and away from others if he/she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever;
- Diarrhea;
- Sore Throat;
- Rash;
- Vomiting;
- Frequent coughing and/or sneezing;
- Yellow or green discharge from nose, ears or eyes.



Contact your family doctor for a diagnosis. Your doctor will advise you about care and treatment. For more information please contact the Infectious Disease Program at (905) 688-8248 ext. 7330 or 1-800-505-6074 or [www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca).

### **WASH YOUR HANDS**

Clean your hands to prevent the spread of germs and reduce your risk of getting sick. Wash your hands after;

- Coughing or sneezing;
- Blowing your nose;
- Using the washroom;
- Playing with pets;
- Playing outdoor;
- Before preparing meals and eating.



Use warm water and soap, lather and scrub for at least 15 minutes. Have children sing the ABC song, so they scrub for long enough. Alcohol-based sanitizers are safe for children and can be used when you do not see any dirt.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO JANUARY 2024  
NEWSLETTER JUST WEEKLY UPDATES**

