

# St. Martin Catholic Elementary

December 2023



## School Information

Mr. J. Tornabuono - Principal

Mr. Y. Leheta - Vice Principal

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/stmartin/>

Location: 18 Streamside Drive Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

Phone: 905-957-3032

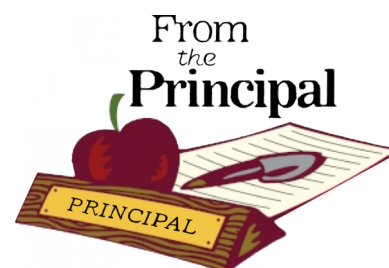
Follow us on Twitter [@MustangsMartin](https://twitter.com/MustangsMartin)

## Principal's Message

Advent is a time of preparation and a time to celebrate the past, present and future. We are reminded that we must prepare for the time when we will join God in Heaven. During Advent, we celebrate the historic event of Jesus being born to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. It is a story of love and of family. For the Blessed Virgin Mary, it speaks of her great love for God the Father. When she was told by the Angel Gabriel that she would be chosen to give birth to and raise Jesus, she did not hesitate. For parents in our school community, the story of the birth of Christ reminds us of the blessing that God has given us in our own children. The story of Christmas also reminds us that a whole community celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Also, I would like to thank all the families who were able to connect with their child's teacher for our initial Parent/Teacher conference. Early communication between the classroom teacher and the parent assists in supporting the learning of children. Please note that at any time, parents can arrange to meet with the teacher to discuss the progress of their children. I highly encourage regular communication to ensure that you remain informed of progress on a regular basis.

On behalf of St. Martin School Community, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you be blessed with good health and good cheer.



J. Tornabuono



## Advent Angels at St. Martin

In the foyer of the school there is a Christmas tree that has been decorated with angels. If you are interested, please have your child take an angel from the tree. The gender and age of a local child from our community has been written on the back of each angel. Then, purchase an unwrapped gift appropriate for this child. Next, return the unwrapped gift to the school with the angel attached as a gift tag. All donations will go directly to families in West Lincoln. Please have all gifts returned by Friday December 15th. Thank you for making a difference for a local child this Christmas.

## Thank You

Thank you to all of the families who continue to support our charitable initiatives. Your continued generosity is valued and appreciated. Each year at this time, many of you choose to purchase a Christmas gift for your child's classroom teacher. However, this year we encourage you to take an angel from our Christmas tree and purchase a gift for a child in our community in lieu of a teacher gift. The joy of Christmas comes from helping others who are in need.



## Confirmation

Congratulations to our Grade 8 students that will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, December 9th at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. Thank you to Mrs. Novakovich and Mr. Winslow for preparing the students to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## St. Martin of Tours

Mass Times:

**Christmas Eve:** Sunday, December 24th, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

**Christmas Day:** Monday, December 25th, 10:00 am

## Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Friday, December 22, 2023 last day of school in 2023
- Monday, January 8, 2024 Classes Resume
- Friday, January 19, 2024 P.A. Day



## St. Martin Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert will be held on Tuesday December 19th. Each grade will perform a song or two for our parent community. There will be two shows. The first show is at 9:30 am and the second performance at 12:00 pm. **Both shows will feature all students from Kindergarten through Grade 8.** The concert will be approximately 45 minutes in length.



Due to capacity limits in our gymnasium, we are asking parent(s) of Kindergarten to Grade 3 students to attend the 9:30 am show and parents of students from Grade 4-8 attend the 12:00 pm show. Students are welcome and encouraged to wear Christmas themed clothing.

## Kindergarten Registration For September 2024

Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year (children must be 4 years of age as of December 31, 2024). Register online at <https://niagaracatholic.ca/registration/elementary>. We encourage all families to register by February 2024. This helps to ensure proper staffing is in place for the new school year. Please share this information with any friends, family and/or neighbours who have a child that is ready to start in September 2024. For registration, you are reminded to bring in the child(ren)'s: ☐ Birth Certificate; ☐ Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate and/or Baptismal Certificate of the child(ren)'s parents and/or guardian (if applicable); ☐ Proof of Residence with school boundaries, for example utility bill. If applicable, original Landed Immigrant/Permanent Residence documentation, and the passport of the country of origin, indicating the date of entry into Canada.



### Library News

Our Readers are growing! Many of our primary students are beginning to explore our non-fiction section as well as investigate new fiction series. Your reader may not be able to read their library book independently yet, but has a strong interest in the subject they've chosen. Our goal in the library is to nurture and develop a life-long love of reading and continued interest in books, regardless of reading level. Please help us support our goal by reading with, and asking your child about the book they bring home.

### Blessed Trinity News

The month of November has flown by and has given us another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Our fall sports came to an end with many great performances and memories from all of our teams. Many of our teams qualified for NCAA championship games and events, highlighted by our Cross-Country team which brought home the NCAA title for the 7th year in a row. Many of our clubs and co-curricular activities are now in full swing and each day is busier than the next here at BT.



Some other highlights from November included the introduction of our school fundraiser for co-curricular activities, parent -teacher interviews and Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Our Safe Schools team put on a number of fun activities to remind us to be kind to each other. December will be upon us shortly and a representative from our Student Services will be visiting our grade 8 classrooms to give a presentation on the courses students will be selecting for high school next year. This begins the process of course selection and the registration of our grade 8 students into Blessed Trinity – a very exciting time for us as we look forward to our newest class at BT.



## Called By Name

Our Niagara Catholic's new theological theme for 2022-2026 will be "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples

My friend, 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. So, 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.

## Niagara Public Health

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:

1. Validate Feelings: Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid.

Encourage open conversations about any concerns.

2. Find Quiet Relief: When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.

3. Explore Support: Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial. Use this time to prepare them for post-high school life and independence.

For more information about the different services available for



Youth in Niagara visit: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.asp>

Don't forget to let Public Health know about your child's vaccinations! Sometimes, even if your child is all caught up on shots, Public Health might not have the record.

Every time your child receives a vaccine, be sure to report it:

- [Online](#)
- By phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 or
- Fax: 905-688-8225

[Find out which vaccinations are required and recommended](#) for children attending school

[Niagara Parents](#) provides a variety of services to help you raise a happy and healthy family. Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse instantly in whichever language they are most

comfortable speaking.

**Services offered:**

- Questions or concerns about parenting, your child's health, or pregnancy.
- Parenting classes, breastfeeding support, prenatal appointments and more.
- Postpartum support.
- Links to services within the community.

Connect with a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. through phone, live chat, video call, or email. Live chat is available in 90 different languages.

Find Niagara Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for different activities you can do with your kids, relevant resources and virtual events for parents.

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**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

