



Loretto Catholic Elementary School

February 2024



School Information

Ms. L. Spadafora - Principal

Mrs. J. Hastings - Vice Principal

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

Location: [6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada](#)

Phone: 905 356 4175

Twitter: [@LorettoFalls](#) **Instagram:** [lorettocatholicnf](#)

Principa Message

The month of February is known as the month of Love. Although we know very little about Saint Valentine except that he was a Roman Priest who was put to death for refusing to give up his faith as a Christian. It is very easy to understand why this man's love for Christ has been associated with love and is remembered on February 14th - St. Valentine's Day.

One of the immutable laws of the universe is that the more we love, the more we will be loved. The very essence of love demands that we give it away.

"Do you think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired." Saint Theresa of Calcutta

As we begin to prepare to move into our Lenten season, we will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday with a pancake snack from **IHOP Fallview**. Students will each receive pancakes which are donated by the school.

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday at 10:30 with Mr. van Wissen's GR 7 class. Ashes will be distributed at school. Unfortunately we were unable to coordinate our times to have a school wide liturgy.



As Ash Wednesday starts our Lenten season of Prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we will be celebrating our Valentine's Day on Tuesday February 13th. We ask that you please send in all cards on that day. We will distribute our Valentine's day candy lollipops on this day as well. Please be mindful that we follow the nutrition policy and have many allergies throughout our school, please do not send in treats to share with the class.

Send out to families next year; We thank you for your kindness in regards to Valentine's for the class. Unfortunately, due to the number and type of allergies in the school we were unable to distribute the treats. As was mentioned in our February newsletter, "Please be mindful that we follow the nutrition policy and have many allergies throughout our school, please do not send in treats to share with the class." We need to ensure the safety of students and we as a school go to great lengths to ensure that all items that are provided at school meet the allergy needs of our students as vetted through their parents and guardians, and are following the protocols outlined in the Niagara Catholic food and nutrition policy.

Thank you to all our families who joined us at the Family Ice Dogs game, it was a great time, seeing our families together and support our local community members.

Please check the February calendar at the bottom of the newsletter.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake



Valentine Candy Grams



Share The Love

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.



Term One Report Cards

Our Term 1 Provincial report cards will be available the week of February 12th through the Parent Portal. Please discuss your child's achievements with them as they have been working hard with their teachers to continue to build on their success.

Should you like an interview to discuss your child's success please contact your child's teacher.

Catholic School Council - Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Through Cash online we will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts by the dozen for \$13.00. Orders are open from Feb 6th-20th through school cash online. This fundraiser will be supporting the



continued purchase of Smart TV's for our classrooms and to support our Grade 8 graduation.

Orders will be sent home with students on March 5th..

Large orders can be picked up on March 5th after school in the Starlight chamber area.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 12-23, 2024

Support Kids Helping Kids. Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids Link at School Cash Online.



Niagara Catholic's 25th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 12-23, 2024. This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Creative Hair Day. Kids Helping Kids is open to students attending in-school and students in our virtual schools. Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online. For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: Niagara Children's Centre



Niagara Children Centre - Home

home

niagarachildrencentre.com

Junior Kindergarten- Open House



If you have a child who was born in 2020 then they are eligible to register for school for September. Parents are welcome to come into school on February 7th from 9:30-6:00 for our Kindergarten Open House.

Please bring your child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization, health card and proof of address.

We look forward to seeing you then!!!

Yearbook!!!

Back by popular demand, is this year's yearbook!!!

We will be creating another edition of the school's most memorable moments. Yearbooks will go on sale beginning **January 23rd until April 19th**. The yearbook will be completed with events up to May.



This year's cost is \$24.00 through School Cash Online.

Thank you

The Yearbook Committee

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 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 maneuver 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 and enter through the back gates after 8:35.

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 as a pick up zone.

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

Student Council

Catholic Graduate Expectations

This month our student council will be focusing on being a "Collaborative Contributor". A person who demonstrates this will find meaning and importance in work that respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good. This month our Student Council will be asking each class to take a picture of their students who are showing how to work together respectfully so we can share on our Social Media!



Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition

Congratulations to all our students who participated on Sunday January 28th, 2024 at the Mc Bain Centre. All of our students had the opportunity in class to participate. From each grade, students qualified to compete on the Sunday.

Thank you to Mr. van Wissen for organizing and to Mrs. Hastings for cheering our students.

Our Lynx Free Throw winners were: Maddie C (Gr 7) 2nd place , Kris H (Gr 4) 3rd place, Harper L (Gr 5) 2nd place, Eli A (Gr 5) 2nd place, Zeheng W (Gr6) 3rd place.

Taekwondoe - Donated by our Lynx Jung Family

Thank you again for sharing your talents and gifts with our students. We appreciate the time and effort you place in supporting our students. Our students always enjoy learning and practicing the new skills.

Unstoppable Tracy

Thank you to all our families who joined us for the event on Jan 31st. Tracy spoke to our students as well during the day and shared a motivational talk on the importance of acceptance, Dreaming Big, achieving our goals and not letting anything get in our way. "To leave no one behind!!!"



Winter Playground

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. With the number of students at our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form.

Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season: No throwing of snowballs, no kicking or throwing snow or snowing other students. We are also mindful that we share our playground and therefore our creations may be used, altered or may melt. The snow belongs to us all.

Standardized Dress Code

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 in past years, a reminder that the Black Grad hoodies are reserved for the students in the current grade 8 graduating class.

In the **winter months students**, please have students layer and wear **blue dress code sweaters**.

Thank you for your continued support.

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.**

We have launched 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.

New this year, St. Michael HS spirit wear is reserved for our Grade 8 students only. Only the new St. Michael's Spirit wear can be worn as part of our Dress Code this year.

LORETTO LYNX 2023 SPIRITWEAR

Gildan DryBlend 9.4 oz. 50/50 Jersey Polo

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Left Chest



Youth #8800B \$18.79
Adult #8800 \$20.49

Available Colours: Navy & White

Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt

Youth #88181Y Ladies' #78181 Adult #88181



\$27.50

Available Colours: Navy & White

50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Youth #18500B \$32.49
Adult #18500 \$33.95

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Full-Size Embroidery & Appliqué Decoration on Front



Youth #18500B \$36.95
Adult #18500 \$38.49

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

Dynamic Heather 2-Tone Lightweight Polyester Hoodie

Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Youth #Y2047 \$64.95
Adult #F2047 \$64.95

Available Colour: Charcoal Dynamic Heather/True Navy

50/50 Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Left Chest



Youth #18600B \$38.95
Adult #18600 \$42.49

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

ATC™ Mid Profile Twill Ball Cap Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo Front

100% cotton twill 6-panel Adjustable hook and loop closure

Coal Grey



Youth Size Adjustable #Y130 \$14.49

Navy



Adult Size Adjustable #C130 \$14.95

Acrylic 12" Pom Pom Toque

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Dark Heather/Navy

#SP15 One Size \$14.50

Acrylic Beanie-Style Winter Toque

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Charcoal Grey



One Size #102 \$12.95 + tax

Navy

Tax is NOT included in the Prices shown.

Order On-Line at www.bigbearspiritwear.com

No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Customized Products

Sizing Charts available at each product online | Delivery to your School option available

New Design!
LORETTO CATHOLIC
LYNX



6182 Dixon Street
Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2G 2L6
Ph: 905-357-7132
www.bigbearspiritwear.com

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.

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds

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

schoolcashionline.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
February 2024

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Parents and caregivers may have inquiries about what to anticipate as their children embark on their school journey. Working collaboratively with teachers, support staff, students, and parents, your School Health Nurse strives to create a healthier school community.

Check out our Welcome to Kindergarten video that reviews a few helpful reminders from Public Health!

- English: <https://youtu.be/mkJcbqwxwzck>
- French: <https://youtu.be/eu20sVNoTOU>

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From **February 1st to 7th 2024** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre and, eating disorder groups nationwide come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre "Transform the Narrative" Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)

Winter Walk Day

On **Wednesday February 7th** join schools across Ontario to celebrate [Winter Walk Day](#). While the cold air and snow might tempt you to drive, walking in winter can be enjoyable with some extra precautions. Here are tips for a safe and comfortable winter walk:

- Keep hands, head, and ears covered. Be sure hats and scarves do not block hearing or vision.
- Wear mittens, they keep hands warmer than gloves.
- Wear warm, waterproof boots with good treads for better traction on snow and ice.
- Wear wool or insulating clothing to help retain body heat.
- Beware if the temperature falls below -25 °C or if the wind chill is -28 °C or colder. This is when exposed skin freezes in only a few minutes.
- Change wet clothes as soon as possible - tuck extra socks and mitts into backpacks.
- Keep wearing sunscreen - yes, you can still get a sun burn in winter.
- Add reflective tape or tags on coats and backpacks.

Source: Green Communities Active & Safe Routes to School, Way to Go! School Program and Go for Green.

Check out Ontario Active School Travels [Winter Walk Day](#) webpage for promotional materials, resources, and activities below to help you celebrate WWD in your community! We're looking forward to seeing everyone in their cozy winter wear!

Niagara Public Health

Niagara Region



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter February 2024

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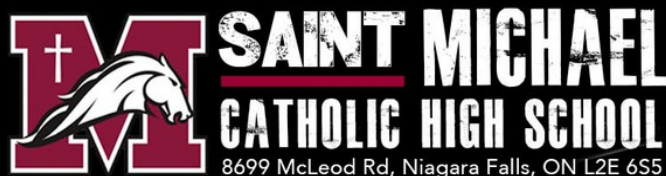
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- MIND
- BODY
- SPIRIT

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

February Calendar



Loretto Catholic Elementary School

Climbing Mountains Together In Faith



@LorettoFalls

February 2024



lorettocatholicnf



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Supervision begins at 8:35 a.m., we ask that students not enter grounds prior to this time. Students are to enter using grade/class specific doors only. Please continue to follow the expectations if using the Kiss n' Ride area.		Valentine Candy-grams on sale through cash online Feb 1-9	Day 4 1 	Day 5 2 NF Curling Club- Gr 7 V& Gr 7-am, Gr 8C-pm 	Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More
Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More 	Day 1 5	Day 2 6 CSC Krispy Kreme Fund-raiser February 6th-20th- cash online Pick up March 5th at school Rocks & Rings Curling Program at School for K-8	Day 3 7 Kinder Open House 9:30-6pm new families Mathletes Gr 7 & 8	Day 4 8 	Day 5 9 Happy 100th Day of School! 	Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More
Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More 	Day 1 12 March Food Orders start online Loretto Catholic Hive activity- school wide- Act of Kindness	Day 2 13 Shrove Tuesday pancakes for all Distribution of ALL Valentine's Cards/ lollipops	Day 3 14 Ash Wednesday- led by 7V Happy Valentine's Day Red white and pink day out of dress code	Day 4 15 Creative hair day- Valentine's Edition- dress code Library Visit with Gr 8's Love stories read by student council 	Day 5 16 PA Day	Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More
Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More 	Family Day 	Day 5 20 Backward Day- in dress code Krispy Kreme Fundraiser ends	Day 1 21 March Food orders closed ECO- Wear a cozy sweater in dress code 	Day 2 22 Valentine Bingo 	Day 3 23 Girls Basketball Tournament @NCDSB "Alice" performance @ St. Michael HS-Gr 4-6 	Mass 5:00 pm St. Thomas More
Mass- 9:00 & 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. 	Day 4 26	Day 5 27 CSC meeting @6:00 front foyer	Day 1 28 Pink Shirt Day- for anti bullying First reconciliation Gr 2@6:30-STM	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Kids Helping Kids- Valentine's candy-grams Valentine Treats- Send a special treat to friends in our school. We will be selling Chupa lollipops for \$0.75 from Feb 1st to Feb 9th. Student council will write out the Valentine hearts for students in Grades K-3. Parents are asked to send in a list of who they would like the candy gram to be sent to and the grade on a paper by Feb 7th.</p> </div>		

Loretto Catholic Elementary School is proud to be a part of the St. Michael Catholic Family of Schools



Ms. Spadafora