



Loretto Catholic Elementary School

April 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](#)

Principal Message

Serving Him as Easter People

For Christians, Easter Sunday celebrates one of the greatest days in history - when Jesus, the Son of God, defeated death and rose from the grave.

It is through His death that He saved us from sin and destroyed the hold that death had over us. But it is through His resurrection that Jesus gives us the promise of a new life; both in this world and in the next one.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"

John 3:16

Our Lady of Loretto, pray for us.

*Please find the **April calendar** at the end of the newsletter*

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.



School Organization for 2024- 2025

We will be starting to plan for the 2024- 2025 school year and the specific organization of the school is tentative dependent upon any changes to our enrolment numbers. As well, due to our enrolment numbers, we know that combined classes are a reality for many of our grades.

We will continue to follow the direction set in the past several years, **and will not be accepting requests.** As the experts in education, we will base all student placement decisions on what is in the *best interest of the entire student community at Loretto Catholic*. These decisions are made in good faith and based on, but not necessarily limited to, the following considerations: individual needs of students; academic strengths and needs; social and emotional needs of students; resource support requirements and personnel allocation; and classroom teacher strengths.

******We will not be making any adjustments or changes to class lists or homerooms until the end of September should enrollment increase or decrease.**

How Parents can help with the transition to a different grade...

Talk positively to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students discuss relationships and the excitement of making new friends.

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

Yearbook Winners

Thank you to all our participants. Another amazing turnout!!! The committee had a very hard time choosing.

Congratulations to this year's finalist and Yearbook Winner: Kiera C (Gr 8 Minotti)

Our Runners up and covers will be featured on the back of the yearbook are:

Kinder- Belle K

Primary- Evelyn H

Junior- Celeste I

Intermediate- Johan W



Niagara Accessibility Event



NIAGARA CATHOLIC Accessibility

FREE EVENT!

All Niagara Catholic parents, guardians, staff and community partners are invited to attend!

Light snacks and refreshments provided

DOOR PRIZES!

Limited Space! **REGISTER HERE** Before April 10!



MICHAEL JACQUES

Public speaker, activist, and author Michael Jaques, has written and self-published his book *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book* using speech-to-text technology. Michael is diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability and shares his life experiences to help audiences understand accepting and belonging.



RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION

The words we use carry meaning and power. Disability advocate, Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation will discuss how to speak and interact inclusively. Students with disabilities will share their perspectives on building a culture of acceptance through taped video interviews.

APRIL 15, 2024 • 6:00PM – 8:00PM
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE • 327 ONTARIO ST. ST. CATHARINES

***Link to register will be sent through School Messenger from Niagara Catholic.*

Niagara Catholic Accessibility; An Evening Event in Support of Accessibility Awareness

The Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Accessibility Planning Committee are pleased to invite parents, guardians, staff and community partners to a motivational evening featuring Niagara Catholic graduate, public speaker, and activist, Michael Jacques and disability advocate Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation.

Public speaker, activist, and author Michael Jaques, has written and self-published his book *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book* using speech-to-text technology. Michael is diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability and shares his life experiences to help audiences understand accepting and belonging.

Disability advocate, Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation will discuss how to speak and interact inclusively. Students with disabilities will share their perspectives on building a culture of acceptance through taped video interviews. The words we use carry meaning and power.

This exciting free event will take place on **Monday, April 15th from 6:00- 8:00 pm** at The Holiday inn and Conference Centre (327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines) and includes light snacks, refreshments and door prizes.

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

For the month of March our students brought in pictures of their family doing things together to demonstrate the **Catholic Graduate**

Expectation " A person who demonstrates this sets aside time for their family, school and their parish. Our student council has placed all the family photos on a bulletin board in our school.

Please check our social media accounts to see the display.



Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
 NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC)
 MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025**



The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board. The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets the on first Thursday of the month on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2024-2025 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to **Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**

PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

To be eligible for election/appointment as a parent/guardian representative to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, a person:

- must be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a school of the Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- must support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board; and
- must fully participate in the annual Commissioning Ceremony of NCPIC members.

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2024-2025 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership are as follows:

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Thorold/Merritton	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Niagara Falls	4 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake	3 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Welland/Pelham	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form **no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.** Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website. Please click on the link: [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](#).

Please send nomination forms to: Catholic Education Centre
 427 Rice Road
 Welland, ON L3C 7C1
 Attention: Yvonne Anderson
 or by email to: yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com

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

Available Colours: Navy & White

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

Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt

Youth #88181Y Ladies' #78181 Adult #88181

Available Colours: Navy & White

\$27.50

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

Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

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

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

Full-Size Embroidery & Appliqué Decoration on Front

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

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

Dynamic Heather 2-Tone Lightweight Polyester Hoodie

Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front

Available Colour: Charcoal Dynamic Heather/True Navy

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

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

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Left Chest

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

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

ATC™ Mid Profile Twill Ball Cap

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo Front

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

Coal Grey Navy

Youth Size Adjustable #Y130 \$14.49
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 Navy

One Size #102 \$12.95 + tax

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!

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

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.

We also ask that student not bring additional equipment i.e footballs, basketballs to school as we provide some to all classes which assist with maintaining student safety.

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.

April is Oral Health Month



The new Colouring Contest is here!

Great Prizes!

Win a Toys R Us gift card and kids oral health prize packs from Sunstar G•U•M.

cdha.ca/colouringcontest

Sponsored by: 



THE CANADIAN DENTAL
HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES HYGIENISTES DENTAIRE

Niagara Public Health

Connecting the Curriculum to Home

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the [Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting The Curriculum to Home

(Parents of Elementary aged students)

With our School Health Nurses

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- **Watch here:** [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions.

Niagara Ontario Health Team – Events Calendar

The [Niagara Ontario Health Team](#) created an events calendar tool to highlight the diverse activities happening in our region. This initiative highlights the importance of health and wellness. It also serves as a valuable link, connecting community members to resources available in Niagara.

The [calendar](#) makes it easier to find and explore new things to do. It also helps create meaningful connections in our community. Visit today to learn more about what is going on near you!

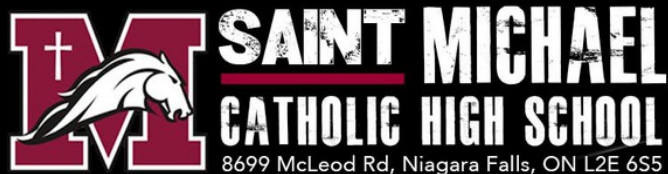


Benefits of Risky Play



Did you know that letting kids [play freely outdoors](#), even if it involves a bit of risk, is super important for their growth and well-being? Learn about the benefits of exciting play that might seem a little risky, and how it can help kids develop better physically, mentally, and socially. Let's rethink how we see risks and explore how adventurous play can actually help kids stay healthier and happier in the long run. Join us in creating a world where every child has the chance to thrive!

For more information on what it is meant by risky play, check out [Active For Life webpage](#).



- MIND
- BODY
- SPIRIT

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



Loretto Catholic Elementary School

Climbing Mountains Together In Faith



@LorettoFalls

April 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						Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Th More
Easter Sunday "He has Risen, Have faith in him... And he will always be there for you!" "Have a blessed and Happy Easter!"	Easter Monday 1	Day 3 2 Wear Dress Code Blues to support World Autism Awareness Day	Day 4 3 Easter Mass @STM 12:30 (K-Gr. 8) Int. Badminton @ St. Paul HS	Day 5 4 First Communion rehearsal @ STM-12:30	Day 1 5 Gr 7 Vaccine Clinic—gym	6 First Holy Communion - St. Thomas More 11:00
7 Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More	8 Solar Eclipse P.A Day	Day 2 9 	Day 3 10 	Day 4 11 	Day 5 12 "Pop of Colour Day" Out of dress Code K-3- Orange 4-6- Green 7 & 8-Red	13 Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More
14 Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More	Day 1 15 GR 3D Public Library visit	Day 2 16 May Lunch orders Open	Day 3 17 Gr 1/2M Public library visit	Day 4 18 Chess Tournament for Junior and Intermediate @ St. Mary (NF)	Day 5 19 	20 Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More
21 - Mass- 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More 28 National Day of Mourning	Day 1 22 EARTH DAY Activities Day 1 29 EAC/YW appreciation Day	Day 2 23 Int. Flag Football Day 2 30 Student Symposium	Day 3 24 Secretary's Day Thank you Mrs. Santanna May Lunch orders close	Day 4 25 	Day 5 26 Black & Yellow—Out of Dress code Confirmation Rehearsal @ STM 10:30	27 Confirmation—STM- 11:00

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



Ms. Spadafora

