



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School

Principal- Mrs. R. Araujo Vice-Principal- Mrs. M. Kish

Proud to be a part of the Blessed Trinity CSS Family of Schools



May, 2024 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs. Araujo and Mrs. Kish

The month of May is upon us. Two months left in the school year and we are preparing to bring this year to a close. With the weather changing and the sun shining for longer periods of time in the day, we can't help but feel restored. This is the power of Easter and the rebirth. This month we pay special tribute to Mother Mary who is a constant source of hope, love and faith in our lives. We continue to ask for her blessings to guide us down the right path.

What are you thankful for? What are some of the blessings in your life? When we see the good, we feel good about ourselves and about others. Challenge yourself and one another to always see the good and ask our blessed Mary to guide us in this and in all of life's challenges.



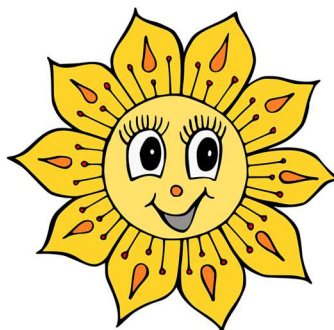
Faith Matters- May

God loves to involve us in His plans to lead people to heaven. He often uses the weakest to lead the strong. Sometimes God speaks to us through other people. But, have you considered that God could use you to bring His message to others? What have you done today to share the love of God with those around you? Spend some time with God today asking Him to help you share His love to those in most need of it.

Preparing for the Spring Weather

Parents with the spring weather upon us please remember the following tips:

- send a water bottle with your child so they can stay hydrated
- put sunscreen on your child in the morning as we are unable to apply it for them at school
- send a hat to shield them from the sun
- remind them to be mindful of ticks when playing in the grass



Class Placements for September 2024-2025- IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

In the weeks and months ahead we will begin organizing our school for the upcoming school year. Teachers and support staff will dialogue and determine where each child needs to be placed to best meet their needs and ensure success. Similar to last year, we are providing parents with the opportunity to place their requests in for their children. **ALL REQUESTS WILL NEED TO BE MADE VIA THIS GOOGLE FORM - <https://forms.gle/pGkeZx22xUNvVDdBA>**. Please do not provide this information to the classroom teacher or via email. All class placement requests will be centrally located. If you are having difficulty accessing the link, please email the school.

Due to the number of requests we had last year, we are asking that parents limit their requests to TWO per child. We have also removed the option of asking to NOT be placed with a teacher. We feel that all of our teachers are qualified staff members who have only the best interests of your children in mind. We hope you understand. However, you can ask to be placed **with** a certain teacher.

All requests must be made using the Google form no later than May 31, 2024. Any requests made after this date will not be entertained. Please understand that creating class lists for this size of a school is a huge undertaking and one that we take very seriously. It is very difficult to make changes last minute as it affects many other classes, teachers and students. Your understanding is anticipated and appreciated.

Kindergarten Open House- May 15, 2024- 4-5:30 pm

We welcome all of our new Kindergarten students on May 15, 2024 from 4 to 5:30 pm to visit the classrooms and see their new learning space. Parents will have an opportunity to view a brief presentation and then tour the school as well. We can't wait to meet our newest students.

BT CORNER

April has come and gone as quickly as the eclipse back on April 8th. We hope everyone at our Family of Schools had the opportunity to view a once in a lifetime event, the solar eclipse, and that the grade 7's and 8's were able to make use of the glasses provided by our Science Department.

April was another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Aside from taking the day to safely observe the eclipse, our winter sports came to an end and our spring sports have begun. On any given day at BT you can find some or all of the following sports practicing or beginning their spring seasons:

- Soccer
- Track and Field
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse – NEW TO BT
- Rugby

- Flag Football
- Girls Softball
- Boys Baseball

Exciting news for our future Thunder athletes, the artificial turf field has begun to be installed! It will definitely be ready to be used in September.

Some other events that took place in April... the Junior Formal for our grade 9 and 10 students, the Waterloo Math Contest, the schoolwide annual Compass Survey, and we ended the month with 24 of our Grade 11 and 12 leaders from our Link Crew attended the Global Student Learning Summit at Blue Mountain in Collingwood, ON.

Lastly, all of the Grade 8's who will be attending Blessed Trinity in September should have received Student and Course Verification forms to have one last look that they have chosen the appropriate courses for next year and that all of their biographic information is correct.

Please contact Blessed Trinity – Mr. John Cino – 905-945-6706 Ext. 2330 or Mrs. Rose Bianco Ext. 2312, if any Grade 8 parent has any questions.



This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, *"We are called to love."* The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024 was inspired by the following considerations:

With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of *"Pilgrims of Hope."* With open hearts of love, we can continue to *"fan the flame of hope"* for a bright future.

On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, *"He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers."*

The theme of the synod, *"Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,"* invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.

In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.

Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other's wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.

In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God's children are loved unconditionally.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Day 1: As people of hope / Dans l'espérance**
- Day 2: As people of faith / Dans la foi**
- Day 3: As people of mercy / Avec compassion**
- Day 4: As people of justice / Dans la justice**
- Day 5: As people of joy / Dans la joie**

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Called to love* together.

We have planned many fun activities for our students to participate in throughout the week. On Friday May 10, 2024 we will be inviting parents to join us from 1:45 - 2:30 pm and take part in a family activity. Students along with their parents will be creating a heart memento which we will hang outside on the fence to remind us that we are all part of the same family.

[EQAO News for Grade 3 and 6](#)

This year EQAO will once again be completed electronically. The schedule is indicated on the May Calendar. We have much more flexibility with this new format and the assessment itself is much shorter than in previous years. We hope this will alleviate any worry or stress that may be associated with writing EQAO. You can prepare your child by encouraging them to do their best and reminding them that these assessments are to give us a better idea of how we can program to meet the needs of our students. If you have any further questions about EQAO, we encourage you to visit www.eqao.com.

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 on the 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., in-person or electronically.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2023-2024 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, September 13, 2023.

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 2023-2024 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
Merritton/Thorold	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, <https://niagaracatholic.ca/niagara-catholic-parent-involvement-council-ncpic/>.

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

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Corner

Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.



A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

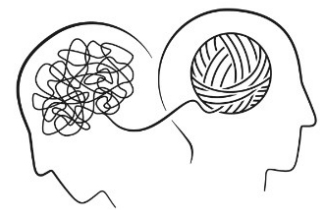
Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● One eye that turns out or in
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Blinking often	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Turning or tilting the head to the side often	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reporting blurry or double vision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Covering or closing one eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain

For more information on vision screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.

Mental Health Week 2024: A Call to be Kind

Showing compassion toward others can have a huge impact on someone's life. Mental Health Week in Canada runs from May 6 to 12, and this year's theme is focussed on the healing power of compassion. One of the most important ways that we can demonstrate compassion is through active listening without judgment. Actively listening can create a safe space for people to share their thoughts and feelings. You can do this by avoiding interrupting or dismissing their experiences.



Let's all learn to be more present, attentive, and empathetic.

- [Explore how compassion connects us all](#)
- [Learn to safely support someone struggling with their mental health](#)

#CompassionConnects #MentalHealthWeek