



May 2024



St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School



Proud member of the Dennis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools

D. Smolders, Acting Principal

L. Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Schools
33 Woodrow St., St. Catharines, ON, L2P 2A1



CONTINUING THE CALL

Let us focus on this thought - Jesus knows my name. Jesus calls me by name. He doesn't just say, "Hey, you!" but He knows you. And he calls out to me by name. You aren't just a faceless name in a crowd of humanity. Jesus recognizes you. And you are precious to him. You matter so much to Jesus that he calls you by name, beckoning you to walk closer to him, to trust him more and to live and move and have your being in his unconditional love for you.

D. Smolders
Principal

MONTHLY PRAYER

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Catholic Education Week will take place from May 5 - May 10 with a number of activities planned throughout the week to celebrate this wonderful gift. This year's theme is, "We Are Call To Love." The school will have a special liturgy on Tuesday, May 7 at 9:30am in the gymnasium and we are inviting all parents and guardians to join us.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 10:00 am

Pastor: Reverend Chad Grennan



If you are considering having your child baptized or would like them to make any other sacraments that they may have missed, please call the parish main office at: 905-687-6971

POPCORN SALES

Each Wednesday and Friday the student council will continue to sell popcorn to students who want it. Each bag costs \$2 and any proceeds will be used to purchase resources and activities for the classrooms to support student learning.

A LOOK AHEAD

- May 3: Star Wars Out of Dress Code
- 6: Catholic School Council Meeting
- 7: Grade 5s at Dennis Morris for Science Olympics
Catholic Education Week Liturgy in the gym (parents welcome)
- 8: Gr 3/4, 4/5, 6 Trip to Brock
- 15: School Track and Field
- 16: Gr 7/8 Vaccinations
- 22: New Kindergarten Parent Welcome Night
- 24: Grade 1/2 Trip to the safety village
- 31: Out of Dress Code Day

KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ORIENTATION

On Wednesday, May 22 from 5:30pm to 6:15pm we will be opening our doors to all of the new families that have registered a child to start in Kindergarten in September. This night will focussed on providing information to parents to help ensure a smooth and successful transition into St. Christopher. Please share this information with anyone who has recently registered a new kindergarten student for September or anyone else that has not yet registered but has a child that will be attending Kindergarten in September.

HOT LUNCH DAYS

We have scheduled our next pizza day for Thursday, May 9. We will also order chicken fingers and fries from Swiss Chalet on Thursday, May 23. Orders will be made through <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. No cash orders or late orders will be accepted.



We cannot provide any refunds for students who are away on the hot lunch day.

DRESS CODE CLOTHING

Families are reminded that St. Christopher Catholic School has a dress code in place that requires students to follow while at school. For a full list of acceptable clothing, please click [here](#).

If your child(ren) have outgrown any of their dress code clothing and you would like to donate to other families in the school community, you can send these clean, good condition items to the school. We will ensure that they go to other families who may need them. Once we have these items we will make them available in the office and will let families know that we have them.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We would like to congratulate the students who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in the coming weeks. They have put a lot of effort into building a stronger connection to God and are now ready to receive this gift of God.

If your child is above grade 2 and has not yet received their First Holy Communion or has not yet been baptized but is asking for this, please contact Ms. Roach at the parish main office at 905-687-6971.

TRACK AND FIELD

This year's track and field event will take place at the school on Wednesday, May 15, 2023. Students in grade 4 to 8 will participate in a number of running events as well as long jump. To help make this a successful event, please pack a number of additional small snacks in their lunch as well as a water bottle, sunscreen and a hat that they can wear. The students will be outside for much of the day and we want them to stay safe at this fun event.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will take place on Monday, May 6 at 6:00 pm in the Library Information Centre. Please join us as we discuss the final plans for this year and offer any suggestions that you would like us to consider for the next school year.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please drive with caution in the parking lot and near the school. We have many students who are being dropped off and picked up at the same time. They are all at varying places on their learning journey and may not always remember to look both ways before stepping out into traffic. Please exercise extra caution when driving in the school parking lot.

ON TIME ARRIVAL

This is a reminder that school begins at **8:35 am** each day. We have noticed a number of students who are regularly late. The opening routines and morning lessons are an important part of setting the tone for students for the remainder of the day.

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your child arrives at school on time each day and staff are on duty at 8:20 am.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School can be found on Instagram **@st.christopherces**. Please follow us to see what fun and exciting things your children are getting up to while at school.

We take student safety and privacy very seriously and only images of students for whom parents have given consent will be used on our social media account. If you would like to update your consent, please click [here](#) or contact the school to inquire about your current consent status.

SPRING WEATHER

With wet spring weather now in full swing, parents are reminded that students need to bring indoor shoes to school for health and safety reasons. Additionally, it is a good idea to bring a change of clothes, especially pants and socks, that students can change into if they get wet. We keep the students off of the field when it is excessively wet and muddy but at times students still manage to find it. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the changing temperatures and label all of your child(ren)'s clothes.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

The Niagara Catholic District School Board recognizes concussions as a serious injury which requires appropriate follow-up measures to reduce the risk of potential additional injury. Concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management are a priority for the Board. The implementation of the Board's Concussion Administrative Operational Procedures is another important step in creating healthier schools in the Niagara Catholic District School Board

If staff, in communication with the school principal, suspects head trauma or a concussion might be possible based on signs and symptoms reported by the student, they are required to complete the appropriate documentation, call home and send home a copy of the documentation.

Medical doctors and nurse practitioners are the only healthcare professionals in Canada with licensed training and expertise to diagnose a concussion; therefore, all students with suspected concussions should undergo evaluation by one of these professionals.

ABSENT/LATE STUDENTS

The Safe arrival program is aimed at verifying the location and safety of each child in our school. Parents are asked to report their child's absences or lates before the start of school. The system will call you repeatedly if your child is not present in school once the bell rings.

Absences and lates can be quickly and conveniently reported in one of three ways:

1. Through the School Messenger App available through the Android or iOS app store.
2. By calling the automated telephone system at 1-844- 287-6287 through which absences can be reported.
3. By logging into the website: go.schoolmessenger.ca



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

St. Christopher continues to move forward using the School Cash Online System and we require all families to make online payments for their children when paying for things like pizza days, field trips, etc. If you have not already done so, please register for an account at: <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and guardians who would like to make a financial donation to support the many learning and extra curricular activities happening each day at St. Christopher Catholic elementary school are able to do so at any time through <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. Once logged in, you will see a button in the top menu that says Make a Donation. By clicking here, you are able to select the donation amount and the Destination (St. Christopher CES). Once submitted, you will be immediately sent an official receipt for tax purposes.