

# Welcome to the Start of School

September 2024

## St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School

Home of the Tigers

**Mission Statement:** To educate each student to his/her full potential in a community formed and guided by Catholic beliefs and traditions.

**Motto:** "Journey Together On The Road To Discovery"

St. Nicholas Catholic is proud to be a part of the Denis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools.

*Go Tigers Go!*

**Principal:** Mrs. Jackie Watson

**Secretary:** Mrs. Kim Winstanley

**Catholic School Council Chair:** Ms. Paprzycki

**Superintendent:** Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

**Parish:** Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Father Benjamin Weber, Father Paul Mc Donald

**Email:** [st.nicholas@ncsb.com](mailto:st.nicholas@ncsb.com)

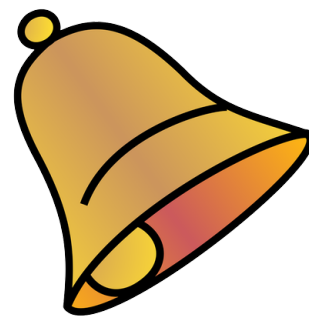
**Location:** [149 Church St, St. Catharines, ON, Canada](#)

**Phone:** [905-685-7764](tel:905-685-7764)



**Balanced Day:** Remember our new start times and format of the day. School begins at 8:25 a.m. Ten minutes earlier than last year.

Supervision begins at 8:10 a.m.  
Morning Bell rings at 8:25 a.m.  
Outside Recess #1 9:55 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
Nutrition Break #1 10:15 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.  
Outside Recess 11:55 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Nutrition Break #2 12:15 - 12:35 p.m.  
Dismissal remains the same at 2:45 p.m



Supervision begins 15 minutes prior to the morning bell and concludes 10 minutes after dismissal. Outside of these timeframes, there is no schoolyard supervision. Thank you to the many families who ensure that their child(ren) arrive to school during supervised times.

Please note that school begins promptly at 8:25 a.m. Students who arrive after the 8:25 a.m. bell must report to the office for a late slip. Thank you for your continued support.

Arrival and dismissal of all Kindergarten students will take place from the Kindergarten gated area. Kindergarten students who are bussed, will be met by staff and safely walked from the bus to their gated area upon arrival. The reversal will happen upon dismissal. All other students upon arrival to school will proceed to the back field.

## Dear Families and Friends

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year Tigers!

For those new to St. Nicholas Catholic and for those returning, we welcome you to another wonderful, exhilarating and exciting school year. To our graduating class of 2025, this is your year to shine. And to our graduating class of 2035, welcome to the beginning of your academic journey. We feel blessed to be able to journey with all of you as we begin this new school year.



As we teachers prepare for September's start, we cannot help but notice the sparkle and shine of the newly waxed floors, we see the pencils sharpened to their perfect points, and notebooks just waiting to be used. Desks are all perfectly aligned and chairs are neatly tucked in their spots. The hallways are quiet, the lights are dimmed and our school - well our school just feels a little sad and a bit empty.

What's missing? What will bring a true sense of life to our school is all of you. We cannot wait to see your smiling faces and to hear your screams of laughter and happiness. Yes, the floors will get scuffed up, the desks and chairs will be askew, papers and pencils will be found everywhere but where they are supposed to be. But the school - well our school will breath a sigh of happiness because it knows that once again and for another ten months, it is loved.

Can't wait to see you all this Tuesday.

Welcome to September and to the start of our school year.

Love your St. Nicholas Catholic Family

## A Prayer For the New Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings you put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

## School, Home Parish

St Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools is associated with the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Parish Priests are Father Ben Weber and Father Paul McDonald.

Weather pending, we walk to church once a month for mass with Father Ben, usually the third Thursday of the month for a 10:00 a.m. start. Each class is responsible for the readings and for celebrating mass along side Father.

Our current masses are as follows:

Opening Mass - October 17th, November 21st, December 6th (Feast Day of St Nicholas), January 23rd, February 20th, March 5th (Ash Wednesday), March 20th, April 17th, May 15th and June 19th.

We will also host in-school liturgies for September, Remembrance Day, Advent and Catholic Education Week. These dates and times will be posted on the monthly calendars.

All are always welcome to join in our celebrations, both at church and the school.

School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation will be in December and March/April. These will be held at school for students only.

Grade 8 Confirmation date has not been released as of yet.

Grade 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion dates have not been released as of yet.

Grade 2 and 8 parent information meeting dates will also be released shortly.

Grade 8 Graduation - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at Club Roma. Information to follow later.

Please understand that dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, the St. Nicholas Family community will be notified.

## Tentative Staffing of St. Nicholas Catholic for the 2024-2025 School Year

Kindergarten - Ms. Green a.m./TBA p.m.

Kindergarten - Ms. Doherty

ECE - Mrs. Cwierniewski

Grade 1 - Ms. Grant

Grade 1/2 - Mrs. Diemer

Grade 2/3 - Ms. Youngblut

Grade 3/4 - Mrs. Carbanara a.m./TBA p.m.

Grade 4/5 - Ms. Marotta

Grade 6/7 - Mr. Boland

Grade 7/8 - Mr. Ruberto

ERT – Mrs. Rathee



FSL/PTM - Mr. Lamothe  
PTM - Ms. Butryn  
ESL - Ms. Morgan  
ESL - Ms. McIntosh  
Itinerant Arts - TBA  
CYW/EA - Ms. Cristelli  
EA - Mrs. Beam  
EA - Mr. Cadavid  
EA - Ms. Fleck  
EA - Mr. Kobayashi-Himes  
EA - Mrs. L'Hoeste-Torres  
EA - Mrs. Niesink  
EA - Ms. Phelan  
EA - Mrs. Russell  
Intervenor - Ms. Laurin  
Library Technician - Mrs. Thorpe-Cottingham  
Custodian, a.m. - Mr. Pellegrino  
Custodian, p.m. - Mr. Robichaud  
Secretary - Mrs. Winstanley  
Principal - Mrs. Watson

## Class Placements

Memo sent by Board Messenger Monday, August 26, 2024.  
Families will be able to go into the Niagara Catholic portal to receive their classroom assignments on Thursday, August 29th. Classroom assignments cannot be changed at this time. Re-organization of classes could occur mid/late September based upon enrollment and direction from Senior Administration.

If you are unable to access the Parent Portal, please do not contact the school or worry. All teachers will be outside on the first day of school to greet families and to ensure students get to their correct classroom.

Parent Hub Link

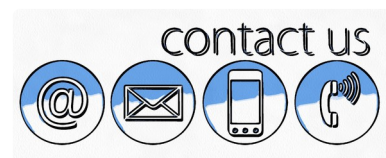
<https://sites.google.com/niagaracatholic.ca/parents/home>

## To Report Your Child Absent, Please Do Not Call the School

### **SafeArrival:**

To report your child absent prior to the start of the school day (before 8:25 a.m. of the day being called in for), please use one of the 3 methods listed below:

1. **Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.**
2. **Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app (blue logo) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device please**





enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.

3. The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

## What Happens If I Have To Pick My Child Up Early From School?

You can enter absences for the current school day in the SafeArrival system up to 8:25 a.m. If you know ahead of time that your child needs to leave early, please enter their early dismissal in the SafeArrival system. This way your child will be at the office ready and waiting. If you come to the school without prior notice, please ring the buzzer and Mrs. Winstanely will assist you.

## Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot

Please remember that you are asked not to park or get out of your car when in the Kiss 'n Ride line up. The Kiss 'n Ride is exactly that - a quick kiss as your child(ren) quickly get out of the family car. Or the quick ability for your child(ren) to get into the car and do up their own seatbelts. Please ensure that you have pulled up to the front of the line prior to your child(ren) getting out of the car. After school, staff will support students by getting them to their car safely. If you need to help your child(ren) get in and out of the car, or to assist with the seatbelt, or to help with the putting on or taking off of backpacks, we kindly ask that you park your car in a designated parking spot - away from the flow of traffic.

Our parking lot is small, however the traffic is able to flow well when expectations are followed.

We thank everyone for their cooperation when it comes to the safety of our students and staff when in the parking lot and in the Kiss 'n Ride.

## Bussing Information From Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS)

Please visit [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) and sign-in to the secure parent portal to get your child's student transportation information. To sign in to the portal you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on their report card. While you are there, please subscribe to the delay and cancellation module for direct and timely emails regarding student transportation that impacts your child.



### Remember Bus guidelines...

**Be 5 to 10 minutes early** and stand on the inside of the sidewalk/shoulder away from the roadway.

**When the bus arrives** line up in a straight line, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open, and never touch the outside of the bus.

**Getting on the bus** one at a time, hold the handrail as you climb the stairs, and go directly to your seat and get settled.

**Riding on the bus** sit with your back to the back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap and use your quiet speaking voice so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving.

**Getting off the bus** stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop, only get off the bus at your school or at your bus stop, look for your parent/guardian before you get off the bus if that is your routine, and always tell the bus driver if you do not see your parent/guardian at the bus stop waiting for you if that is your routine or if you missed the stop.

**Crossing in front of the bus.** Watch and wait for the bus driver to signal to you to cross the road once it is safe to do so.

## PPM 128 Cell Phone Use in Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

### Elementary

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

**\*\*Please note that all cell phones need to remain in backpacks or lockers. If your child does have a locker, it is suggested that s/he brings a lock. Cell phones are not to be kept in back pockets, in the pouch of hoodies, in desks, or anywhere visible.**

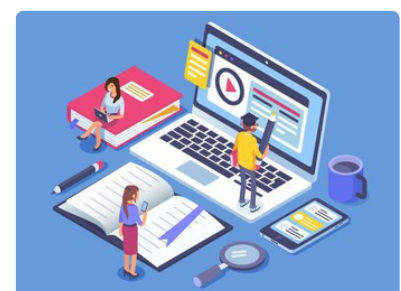
If a child does have his/her cell phone out, they will be directed by the classroom teacher to go to the office where the phone will be locked in the safe. The cell phone will either be returned at the end of the day, or will be returned to the parent/guardian when they come to pick it up.

Thank you

## Technological Wonders

### Communication thru emails:

A reminder that information and updates will be regularly sent out via email. Please ensure that your current email address is on file at the office. Likewise, monthly calendars, newsletters and on-line paraphernalia such as class trip information can be found on our school's website.



**\*Please understand that if we do not have your current email address, you will not receive information, nor will you be able to access information such as report cards, through the parent portal.**

Always keep us apprised of email changes.

Thank you

## **CONSENT FORM - NOTICE OF THE COLLECTION, USE AND DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION**

UPDATED CONSENT FORMS THAT REQUIRE THE ATTENTION OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**Found On the Board's Website In School Cash Online (Information will be sent to all parents/guardians from the Board during the first week of school).**



As part of Niagara Catholic District School Board's ongoing commitment to the protection of personal information under the custody and/or control of the Board along with the right of privacy with respect to personal information that is collected, used, disclosed, and retained in the school system, parents/ guardians are asked to complete the updated form that is found in School Cash Online.

The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) requires school boards to obtain parent/guardian consent to release students' personal information to school volunteers, parishes, and the Niagara Region Public Health Unit, as well as consent to the disclosure of personal information such as creative and academic accomplishments, images/videos/audio recordings and/or accomplishments to be shared on school or Board websites, social media or with the media.

Please complete the Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information Consent Form and return to the school between Tuesday, September 3rd and Sunday, September 8th.

## **Emergency Response Procedures: Fire Evacuation Drills, Hold and Secure/Shelter in Place and Lockdowns**

As part of our Emergency Response Preparedness Plan, throughout the year St. Nicholas Catholic School will practice (simulated) Fire Evacuation Drills, Hold and Secure/Shelter in Place and Lockdown drills involving Board Emergency Response personnel. Classroom teachers will review the procedures that students are to follow during these procedures.

These simulations give students and staff an opportunity to implement our School and Board Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety of all students and staff should an emergency situation occur.



Our first set of drills are as follows:

Fire Evacuation Drill - Tuesday, September 10th

Hold and Secure - Friday, September 13th

Lockdown - Tuesday, September 17th

If you have any questions, please contact the school in advance of these drills.

## **Hot Lunch Fridays**

Friday, September 27th - Pizza Day

- last day to order pizza is September 24th

Log into school cash online to check out options and to pay.

**Please understand that we are unable to sell food the day of. All lunches are to be preordered.**



## **Ice Cream Days - Friday, September 27th to Friday, June 20th**

Every Friday at lunch, the Grade 8s will be selling ice-cream for \$2.00. All ice cream sold will be peanut free.

All proceeds will be directed into the Grade 8 Graduation fund.

Thank you in advance from all of the Grade 8s.



\*\*You will be able to order through school cash in three blocks throughout the year,

September 27th - December 20th : 13 weeks = \$26.00

January 10th - March 28th : 11 weeks = \$22.00

April 3rd - June 20th : 12 weeks = \$24.00

We will also still be accepting cash on the Fridays.

## **Lunch Angels - Will Resume Once We Meet With Community Crew**

Lunch Angels will resume once again and will run Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for the remainder of the year. If the Lunch Angel program is unable to run on a certain day due to inclement weather or lack of volunteers, we will inform our community as soon as we are notified. Letters to participate in the Lunch Angel program will once again be made available within the next two weeks. A very big thank you goes out to all staff of St. Nicholas Catholic who help to organize and distribute these lunches on a weekly basis.



## **Happy Birthday to You**

Birthdays are very special days for children and adults alike. At St. Nicholas Catholic we recognize everyone's birthday through morning announcements and special tributes while in the classroom. We ask however that special food treats, balloons and toys be kept to the wonderful and exciting birthday parties taking place outside of school hours.



All food brought into schools are to adhere to School Board Policies. Due to numerous allergies and for safety reasons, we cannot distribute cupcakes, candies or the like, even if they are peanut/tree nut free. Please think about donating a book to the classroom library for your child's birthday or bring in non-food items for classroom distribution such as pencils, stickers and erasers.

Please respect the safety of all students. Remember how you would want your child protected by his/her school community if your child had an allergy.



## Tigers - Sports Corner

Dear Parents of Students in Grade 4 - 8,  
This year, and every year hence forth, we are asking parents to sign off on the NCDSB Elementary Participation/Acknowledgment of risk form before any interschool sport can be played. This would include all sports and intramurals.



Intramural activities are defined as school-sponsored physical/recreation activities that occur outside the student's instructional time and are not competitions against other outside teams/groups. They may include Sports Games and Sport Imitations, Low Organization Activities, Drop-In Physical Activities, and some Special Events and Clubs.

Elements of Risk: In all physical activities there is an element of risk. Accidents/injuries may result from the nature of the activity and can occur without any fault on either the part of the student, or the school board or its employees or agents or the facility where the activity is taking place. Injuries may range from minor sprains and strains to more serious injuries (for example, concussion). Participants assume this risk but reduce the chance of an accident/injury occurring by carefully following instructions at all times during the activity.

Forms will be sent home on the first day of school and we ask that they are returned by Friday, September 6th.

Thank you

## Sports on Deck

Dear Parents,

Niagara Catholic's Sports Council has changed up the order of interschool sports being offered to our junior and intermediate students this year. On deck this Fall will be:

Junior and Intermediate Soccer

Cross Country

Junior Triple Ball

Intermediate Volleyball

All sign up lists and practices will be established by the teachers coaching.

Thank you

## Elementary Dress Code

NCDSB has a dress code of navy and white for all Elementary schools and their students within. Below is an excerpt from the Elementary Standardized Dress-Code Policy 302.6.10:

1.1 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☒ Navy Blue sweat pants for students in

Kindergarten to Grade 3; ☒ Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted);

☒ Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or ☒ Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts. ☒ Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers.

Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

1.2 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☒ Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve); ☒ Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve); or ☒



School designed spirit wear polo shirt. The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white. In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

Please see below the policy attached in its entirety.



**302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy.pdf**

[Download](#)

227.6 KB

## Big Bear Spiritwear

St. Nicholas Spiritwear is now being offered through Big Bear Spiritwear. Please click onto <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/st-nicholas/> to see the options available for purchase. All St. Nicholas Spiritwear can be worn throughout the year as it is an extension of the school dress code.

Orders placed through Big Bear Spiritwear can either be picked up at their Niagara Falls store or can be delivered to the school for a \$3.00 charge. Items delivered to the school will be sent home with the student in his/her backpack.



## Terry Fox Walk, Friday, September 22nd

All school boards across Canada have recognized the cancer fundraising efforts of a young man named Terry Fox. On Friday, September 27th, Niagara Catholic will hold their annual Terry Fox walk in honour of this remarkable man. Please wear red and white on this day in support of the Terry Fox walk and what this day represents.

All students will have an opportunity to walk to the Cathedral and back in the afternoon.

We are requesting donations of a loonie or toonie be made through our school cash on-line. All money collected will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.



Terry Fox would say, "anything is possible if you try." So let us all try like Terry and support this good cause.

Thank you in advance.

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Orange Shirt Day

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day throughout Canada in recognition of the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential Schools.

Throughout the month of September, staff will be explaining to students the meaning of Orange Shirt Day at a level appropriate for their student's understanding. Please help to recognize this day by wearing an orange shirt.

Since September 30th is a Saturday, we will wear orange on Friday, September 29th.

This is not an out of dress code day. Dress code bottoms are to be worn.



**ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPTEMBER 30**

## St. Nicholas Catholic School Council Meeting Monday, September 23, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.

What is Catholic School Council?

A Catholic School Council is an advisory body and a communication link through active participation of parents/guardians and community agencies. They encourage the active participation and faith formation of its members, supporting the triad of church, home and school, to improve student achievement and well-being of all students in their school community, and to enhance the accountability of the education system. At St. Nicholas Catholic, we welcome all parents/guardians to be a part of our CSC. We will meet four to five times throughout the school year. Our first meeting will be Monday, September 23rd at 5:00p.m. at the school.

Please call the school to let us know if you are interested in becoming a member of our CSC and if you are able to make Monday's meeting.



## Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

Parent Information



**September - Public Health Elementary Newsletter.pdf**

**Download**  
199.5 KB

## Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools

Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2015 is an important step to support the health and well-being of students diagnosed with asthma in Ontario schools.



**If your son/daughter has been diagnosed with asthma, please contact the office to provide information about your son/daughter's asthma medication.**

**You will be required to complete and submit the Niagara Catholic Student Asthma Management Plan for your student.**

Any student under the age of 16 years will be permitted to carry and administer his/her asthma medication at school with your consent. A student 16 years or older is not required to have his or her parent's or guardian's permission to carry his or her asthma medication.

The Ministry of Education website has resources on asthma that can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/anaphylaxis.html>.

## Rowan's Law: Concussion Safety

September 28, 2022, is Rowan's Law Day. The last Wednesday of every September is designated as Rowan's Law Day to honour



Rowan Stringer's memory and raise awareness about concussion safety. In May 2013, 17-year-old Rowan died as the result of head injuries she sustained while playing rugby.

As a result, Rowan's Law requires all coaches and team trainers to review their sport organization's Concussion Code of Conduct each year before the start of the season. The code sets out expectations and rules of behaviour to minimize concussions while playing sport. NCDSB has a concussion protocol in place that schools review yearly. And although we try to minimize accidents through proactive safety and diligence, sometimes injuries do happen. When situation arise, we follow the concussion protocol put in place within our system.

## **Meet and Mingle BBQ Night Thursday, September 21st 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Come on out to this relaxing evening and enjoy a hamburger or hotdog while meeting and mingling with other members of our St. Nicholas Catholic family on Thursday, September 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Classrooms will be open for your viewing pleasure and for your child(ren) to show you around.



From 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., teachers will be outside enjoying the bbq, mingling with families and friends.

From 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., teachers will be in their classroom to discuss the new school year. Please understand that this is a time for all to be in the classroom. Separate appointments should be made with the teacher if personal matters need to be discussed.

Please also note that the Kindergarten classrooms will not be open for playing, but rather for viewing.

Please go onto School Cash Online to complete the requested hotdog and hamburger form. This will allow us to get a rough count of the amount of food that will be required.

## **A Very Big Thank You**

A very large thank you goes out to our custodians Mr. Pellegrino and Mr. Robichaud for their outstanding job in cleaning our school over the summer holidays.

The floors are shiny, the desks are set up, the windows are clean and we are set to go on Tuesday.

Thank you for all of your hard work.

With Love!



## **Respectful Interaction Framework**

St. Nicholas Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.

Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated.



While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff,

students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

Thank you

### **P.A. Day Friday, Septemebr 20th**

There is no school for students on this day.

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**Jacqueline Watson**

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters