



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

October, 2024 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

Our first month back has been amazing! Thank you to all the families that were able to attend our Open House and meet your child's teacher, the Family Math scavenger hunt was a huge success, special congratulations to the two families who won our Family Fun Baskets! We can not wait for all the wonderful things that will happen this school year. Wishing all of our families a wonderful October, a Happy Thanksgiving and a spooky Happy Halloween!!!



NOTE: Friday October 11 is a PA Day. Monday October 14 is Thanksgiving!

Faith Formation



This year's theme: "Called by Name: Hear My Voice & Come, Follow Me"

"I have even called you by your name" (Isaiah 45:4) Do you feel left out sometimes? Lonely or sad? That's ok, because God is always with you and He knows exactly what you are going through. No matter what challenges you face, or seemingly impossible situations you get into; God will never leave you. He will make everything good for you and you can soak in His divine light. God calls each one of you by name. Jesus knows you by name! What a privilege! And what a comfort to those of us who place our faith in Christ! God loves us more than we can imagine. He has sworn never to let us go. Do you hear Him calling you?

Updated Staffing List 2024-2025

Meet our team!!!

Kindergarten A	J. Trivieri ECE- D. Littler		Grade 4	D. Giammarco
Kindergarten B	S. Barlow (AM), L. Borsodi (PM), ECE- M. Krushelnicki		Grade 4	A. DeBellis
Kindergarten C	K. DiTomasso ECE- K. Manson		Grade 5	J. Jaski
Kindergarten D	S. James		Grade 5	G. Puma
Grade 1a	E. Kawai		Grade 6a	A. Grossi
Grade 1b	P. Anzovino		Grade 6b	A. Cantoni
Grade 1/2a	L. Di Marco		Grade 6c	J. Boland
Grade 2a	K. Zortman (Marchese)		Grade 7a	D. Ciccone
Grade 2b	K. Marchese		Grade 7b	JP Sorgini
Grade 2/3a	C. Haitas		Grade 8a	R. Martinelli
Grade 3/4a	E. Kitchingman		Grade 8b	M. Lettieri
Grade 3/4b	C. Savage		PTM (one period)	J. Mann
ERTs	L. DelGobbo-Hanounik L. Borsodi (1/2)		PTM	T. Di Ianni
EA	B. Finlayson		FSL/PTM	M. Ruggiero
EA	A. Blake		FSL	C. Fthenos
EA	L. Gillis		Itinerant Arts	M. Venneri
EA	S. Chantler		Itinerant Arts (pm only)	C. Wilson
EA	Amanda Lang Crawford		Child and Youth Worker	A. Roy
EA	Melissa Chondronikolas		Secretary	L. Avon
EA	V. Jeffery		Secretary	L. MacDonald
MultiLingual Teacher (MLL)	Sara Pilon		Caretaker	R. Dryce
Library Tech	Mrs. Barfield		Caretaker	J. Yablonsky
Vice-Principal	Mrs. Kish		Head Caretaker	C. Berketo
Principal	Mrs. Araujo			

Offence Declaration

A reminder to parents who have their Vulnerable Sector Check on file. Please contact the office to complete your declaration yearly. The VSC is good for five years and then it will need to be reissued. Those wishing to obtain a Vulnerable Sector Check can contact the school for the letter that needs to be provided to the local police station. We thank you for volunteering your time.

OLF Catholic School Council

We would like to introduce this year's members of CSC. We thank them for giving their time to support our school community and students. If you would like to become a member of council, please reach out to us.

Chair- Mike Febbraro

Staff Rep- Ms. Manson

Members- Vince Kikas, Sabrina DeSantis, Christine Leonetti, Julija Zych, Lucas Posavad, Shane Gregersen, Natalie Bosiljevac, Romina Chondra, Holly Blackborrow, Dyane Pinto & Andrea Scibetta.

P/Treasurer- Mrs. Araujo

VP/Secretary- Mrs. Kish



Food Drive

We are getting ready for our yearly Food Drive! From **October 1, 2024 until October 9, 2024**, we will be collecting non-perishables and donating them to the Grimsby Benevolent Fund (GBF). While any and all donations are greatly appreciated, below is a list of some of the most needed items:

Rice side kicks, Juice and juice boxes, Tea/coffee, Cookies, Pudding cups, Fruit cups, Canned fruit, Condiments (ketchup, mayo, relish, mustard, oil pickles, sauces), Granola bars, Canned pasta, Instant potatoes, canned potatoes, Apple sauce, Snacks, treats, Cleaning supplies (any), toilet paper, paper towel, tissue boxes, Multipurpose cleaners, Laundry and dish soap, Pet food for the fur clients: cat & dog, Baby wipes, Canned meat: chicken, ham, salmon, Chunky soups, stews, chili, Canned vegetables, Cereal, Toiletries – men and women.

We thank you in advance for your support! Go Fatima Flyers!



Halloween- Information

Students will be permitted to dress up for Halloween if they wish. Students not wishing to dress up can wear orange and black. This will take place on **Thursday October 31**. NO weapons, full masks, or depictions of violence are permitted. Any inappropriate costumes will not be permitted either. Also, **please DO not send any treats** in for the class whatsoever. Please do not send students in costumes that they are not able to independently manage. We want this to

be a fun day for our students and we appreciate your help by ensuring the rules are being followed.



Terry Fox Fundraiser 2024

Thanks to all the students who came out for the Terry Fox Run at Our Lady of Fatima on Sept. 27 and for your continued financial support of this great cause. The OLF School community continues to inspire us all with your dedication and commitment to honour Terry Fox's legacy and his Marathon of Hope. In his words, "It's got to keep going without me."



Eco News: Waste Free Wednesdays

Our Lady of Fatima is committed to reducing waste and single-use plastics and we need your help! We are asking all students to help reduce lunch waste – pack a litterless lunch! Participate in Waste-Free Wednesdays all year long. For an extra challenge, we encourage a litterless lunch every day! Choose to Reuse! Reusable bags, jars, and containers allow you to shop in bulk and skip the packaging. We can make a difference if we work together and choose to reuse.



Bus Behaviour

We are very pleased that the majority of our riders have been showing respectful behaviour on the bus. Just a reminder to parents and students that bus transportation is a privilege. Sharp Drivers have the important responsibility to transport students safely. Students have the responsibility to abide by the expectations of the driver. *Behavior that compromises the safety of others, or interferes with the right to a relaxing, enjoyable journey, will be dealt with immediately.* Drivers have been made aware to issue reports as they see fit. Reports will then initiate the debriefing process with the student and/or parents. Disciplinary action will be based on the situation. Suspension from bus transportation is one possible consequence. Please take some time to reinforce this message with your child.



BT Corner

It has been a great start to the year here at Blessed Trinity for all of our students as many sports, clubs and extra-curricular activities are already in full swing. Our Grade 9 students have already been, or will be, involved in a number of activities to ensure their transition to high school is a successful one. Before school even started our Grade 11 and Grade 12 Thunderstruck – Link Crew members hosted an Orientation Day on Wednesday, August 28th. Over 95% of our incoming grade 9 students attended and enjoyed a morning of fun activities, tour of the school,

practiced opening locks and a delicious pizza lunch. They were also able to meet many of their new classmates with whom they will be spending the next 4 exciting years together here at BT.

September 26th will be a busy day at Blessed Trinity. All of our Grade 9 students will be participating in a Terry Fox walk to raise awareness and money for cancer research. Our Link Crew leaders have been encouraging all of our grade 9's to solicit donations to help us reach our goal of raising \$2000. On the same day we will be hosting our Grade 9 Curriculum Night for all of the Grade 9 students and their parents.

Lastly, we will be celebrating Orange Shirt Day as part of Truth and Reconciliation week to remember all of those impacted by Residential schools at the end of the month.

October is already shaping up to be another busy month, in particular, we will be focusing on the current grade 8's and starting a number of visits and interactions throughout the year to get our grade 8's excited about coming to Blessed Trinity. It all starts with an opportunity to watch our Jr Football team play on our new turf field on October 9th!

We look forward to meeting all the prospective Thunder over the next few weeks and working with them to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter October 2024

WALKTOBER

As the rush of the new school year starts to settle down, consider walking, biking or rolling with your child to school.

your child to school.



Join families across Niagara and the world in celebrating October's [International Walk to School Month](#) (Walktober). Kids who walk or bike to school arrive alert and ready to learn. If you live too far away to walk or wheel to school, try driving to a location near your school and walk the rest of the way. Using active transportation helps reduce congestion at your school.

This Walktober, enjoy **#ActiveSchoolTravel** and leave the car at home more often
@NiagaraParents @OntarioAST @NiagaraSTS

Don't Be Scared by Cavities this Halloween!

Keep your child's smile BOO-tiful this Halloween!

Here are some tips to help keep teeth healthy:

- Brush teeth twice a day for two minutes using fluoridated toothpaste
- Floss once a day
- Stay away from sticky, starchy and hard candy
- Limit sugary drinks. Drink water after eating tasty treats to rinse away sugar that may be stuck on your teeth.
- Book a FREE dental appointment at Public Health's dental clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or [live chat with us](#).



To learn more on how to keep your family's teeth healthy, visit www.niagararegion.ca/dental.

Help Keep the Classroom Germ Free – Stay Home When Sick

Fall brings the 'unofficial' start of respiratory illness season. This means that viruses that affect our respiratory system (for example our lungs and throat) begin to spread more often.

Help keep the classroom germ free by keeping your child home if they are sick. If your child is sick, they should stay home from school until:

- ✓ They have no fever, without the use of fever reducing medication **and**
- ✓ Their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours or 48 hours if they have nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea **and**
- ✓ They don't develop any new symptoms

Like every year, different respiratory viruses can be spreading in our community at the same time. These viruses can have similar symptoms. This means it can be hard to tell what you are infected with based on just symptoms alone.



By keeping your child home when sick, you help prevent them from spreading whatever infection they have to others.

Mental Illness Awareness Week 2024

This year, [Mental Illness Awareness Week \(#MIAW\)](#) is from October 1-7. Mental Illness Awareness Week is an annual national public education campaign designed to help open the eyes of Canadians to the reality of mental illness.

Mental Illness and Stigma:

Stigma is when people think badly of someone because of a certain characteristic or trait they have, which is seen as negative. This often happens because people don't fully understand things like mental illness. Stigma can lead to unfair treatment, which can be on purpose or by accident.

Some of the harmful effects of stigma can include:

- Hesitancy to get help or treatment
- Lack of understanding by family, friends or others
- Fewer opportunities for work, school or social activities
- Bullying, physical violence or harassment
- The belief that you will never succeed at certain challenges or that you can't make things better for yourself

You can help reduce stigma by educating yourself, being aware of your attitudes and behaviours and choosing your words carefully when you talk about mental illness and substance use disorders.

Helpful Resources:

- [Addressing Stigma](#)
- [Canadian Mental Health Association: Stigma and Discrimination](#)
- [Words Matter \(CAMH\)](#)

Annual Memorial Forest Vigil:

The [Memorial Forest](#) seeks to reduce the stigma around mental illness and promote a greater understanding and compassion from the community as a whole. Each year, a Memorial Forest Vigil is held during Mental Illness Awareness Week to provide an opportunity to share stories of hope and success as told by individuals and family members living with mental illness.