



# October 2024



## NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The term 'Thanksgiving' is in reference to "a prayer expressing gratitude".

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded that this is a time for us to reflect on and celebrate not only the harvest, but all blessings of the past year. It is a time for us as a Catholic School Community to gather as one family to share our traditions, values and customs that we hold most precious. It is a time that we prepare our hearts in gratitude, by giving thanks and extending ourselves to give to others in need.

In the Bible, the meaning of Thanksgiving reflects adoration, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationships. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and His children. At St. John Catholic School we strive daily to build and foster positive relationships with God, peers and all those we meet. We acknowledge God as faithful, and always give Him thanks for His abundant blessings. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

In short, Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart that reinforces our intimate relationship with God. So as this season of Thanksgiving approaches, let us take time to thank Father Rico for his guidance and spiritual leadership, and for the hard work and dedication of the staff at St. John. We also give many thanks to the commitment of our Catholic School Council members as they continue to work tirelessly to enrich our school community. Finally, we would also like to extend our gratitude to all of our families for their ongoing generosity throughout the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

On behalf of the staff at St. John Catholic School, we wish you and your family all the blessings God has to offer at this time of Thanksgiving, as gratitude is the heart's memory. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

*Mr. D. Forte*  
Principal

### OCTOBER - A MISSION OF FAITH

*"Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone."  
- Pope Francis*

Our theme for the month of October focuses on a mission rooted in faith and what it means to share the Good News with the people we encounter every day. As disciples of Christ, all that we say and do should bear witness to our faith in God. May we be mindful of this mission to share the Good News and may every moment of our day be an opportunity to live it.

### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The true spirit of Thanksgiving is to give thanks for all that we have received. At St. John, we are having a non-perishable goods food drive in support of **Community Care of West Niagara** until **Thursday, October 10**. Community Care of West Niagara is in great need of non-perishable food items and canned goods. Any food items families are able to contribute would greatly benefit many families in need in our community.

Your continued generosity in helping those in need is greatly appreciated. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

### SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

Supervision:	9:10 am
Entry Bell:	9:20 am
Recess/Nutrition Break:	10:50 pm - 11:30 am
Recess/Nutrition Break:	1:30 pm - 2:10 pm
Dismissal:	3:30 pm

Families are invited to visit the ['Bell Times' section of the St. John Google Website](#) to access a full breakdown of our bell times for this school year.

### SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM

To report your child absent, please use any one of the methods listed below:

- SafeArrival Website:** Visit the website at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create an account using your email address. After logging in, select the **Attendance** tab to report an absence.
- Personal Mobile Device:** Download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store, 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 directly to your mobile device, please enable **Push Notifications** in the **Settings** section of the app. The document titled, [SchoolMessenger App Parent & Student User Guide](#) provides instructions for using the app.
- Standard Telephone:** The toll-free number **1-844-287-6287** will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

### STUDENT ABSENCES & LATE ARRIVALS

It is essential that all student absences and late arrivals are called into the [Safe Arrival Program](#) by **8:30 am** via phone (1-844-287-6287), website or app. These are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You are also able to input future absences in advance if you are aware of an upcoming appointment or vacation. **Board and Ministry policy dictates that we must investigate any unreported absences. This can involve calls to places of employment, the emergency numbers provided to the school and, in some cases, the police.**



*We are proud to be a part of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools*



# ST. JOHN JAGUAR NEWS

**STAY INFORMED; STAY CONNECTED**

Effective home and school communication is key to the growth and success of our entire St. John family. In order to continue to build upon communication between home and school, please **provide us with an existing email address**. Through email, you will conveniently receive newsletters, calendars, event announcements, and friendly reminders to keep you up to date and well informed!

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Thanksgiving Mass** will be celebrated here at St. John Catholic School on **Thursday, October 10** at **12:30 pm**. We thank Father Rico and Father Stephen for taking the time to come to the school to celebrate the Eucharist with students and staff. Mass will be led by **Mrs. Nardilli's Grade 6/7 class**.

**Confirmation Candidate & Parent Information Meeting -**

This will take place at St. Joseph Parish at **6:00 pm** on **Wednesday, October 9** for all candidates receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this school year and their parents or guardians.

Families are asked to please see our monthly calendar for information and details regarding daily Masses at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. In addition, further information regarding St. Joseph Parish, can be found by visiting the ['St. Joseph Catholic Parish Information Section' of our St. John Google Website](#).

The school also invites families to visit the [St. Joseph Catholic Parish Website](#) for additional information and details pertaining to the parish.

The **St Joseph's Catholic Women's League (CWL)** will be collecting socks for the month of October in support of **Out of the Cold**. Socks will be collected **after all Sunday Masses** in a basket in the lobby. The CWL is looking for new socks for men, women, and children to distribute throughout the region. For more information on the CWL at St Joseph's, please visit the Diocesan Website <https://stcatharinescwl.ca/> or contact St Joseph Church at **905-945-2661**.

**MEET THE STAFF OPEN HOUSE & KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BBQ - THANK YOU!**

A sincere thank you is extended to all those who participated in and contributed to our Meet the Staff Open House and Knights of Columbus BBQ. The event was a tremendous success and together we made a significant contribution to local charitable causes through the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, and Grimsby Benevolent Fund.

Thank you to the **Knights of Columbus** for all their hard work in setting up for and preparing the food. A special thank you is also extended to the representatives from the **Catholic Women's League** for overseeing food sales. The school community would like to thank the **Lincoln Fire Department** and **Niagara Regional Police** for their presence throughout the evening. Lastly, we thank all student and staff representatives from **Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School** for being present to engage families. Your efforts are most appreciated! God bless! :)

**HAVE YOU MOVED OR ARE YOU MOVING?**

To any families who have recently moved or will be moving in the near future, please confirm that St. John is your home school at [portal.nsts.ca/eligibility](http://portal.nsts.ca/eligibility). In keeping with Niagara Catholic's home school focus, we encourage all families to ensure that children are enrolled in their home school. This will allow students to establish and maintain meaningful relationships with other students who live in the heart of their community.

**NIAGARA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (NSTS)**

We invite all families who have children riding the bus to visit the [Niagara Student Transportation Services \(NSTS\) website](#) for the most recent updates on bussing. Parents are encouraged to log into the parent portal for specific information pertaining to run times and bus stop locations for their child(ren). Please be advised that NSTS has indicated that at times, school bus delays are possible and do happen, especially as routines are in the process of being established and when weather presents challenges. To receive notifications regarding delay alerts, families are invited to download the **BusPlanner Delay** app or subscribe for email alerts in the parent portal. Parents not wishing to receive notifications would be required to simply check in by visiting the **'Alert'** section of the NSTS website. On the website, parents can also access the [NSTS Back to School Transportation Information](#) for the current school year.

**'SchoolCash' ONLINE**

If they have not already done so, families are invited to click on the link below to create an account for **'SchoolCash' Online**. **'SchoolCash' Online** gives parents the ability to make quick and easy payments online for school-related purposes. When visiting the website below, parents will need to click on the **'Register'** icon to create their account. The site also provides additional information about **'SchoolCash' Online** and how it works. For those who have already setup an account during a previous school year, that account will carry over and work for the new school year. **Link to 'SchoolCash Online website':** <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

**NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION EVERY CHILD MATTERS**

The date **September 30** has been declared the **National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)** throughout Canada in recognition of the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential Schools, and as an affirmation of Niagara Catholic's commitment to ensure that **every child matters** as we continue on our reconciliation journey.

The origin of Orange Shirt Day is based on a story shared by a survivor of the residential school system, Phyllis Webstad, during the Truth and Reconciliation meetings held in Williams Lake, BC in 2013. In response, schools celebrate Orange Shirt Day as affirmation that the sense of worth of every child does matter and the colour orange is the visible symbol of that support.

On **September 30** all members of the St. John Catholic School Community were invited to wear an orange shirt or clothing item in support of Orange Shirt Day. We thank everyone for their participation in this very significant day as we continue on our journey toward truth and reconciliation.

**VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

School visitors continue to be restricted out of an abundance of care and consideration for the health, safety, and privacy of students and school staff. Essential items that must be dropped off are to be labelled clearly and can be placed on the cart to be retrieved by a designated staff member. On behalf of school staff, students, and families, thank you everyone for their ongoing cooperation with this very important matter.

**INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC HEALTH**

Families are encouraged to visit the ['Niagara Region Information'](#) section of the St. John Google Website for the most up-to-date information from Niagara Region Public Health.

**STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS**

If a student becomes sick while at school, the identified emergency contact(s) on file will be called for immediate pick up. Parents and guardians of ill children are encouraged to contact Niagara Public Health and follow their advice. *Anyone who is sick should stay at home until their symptoms have resolved for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).* We thank everyone for their ongoing cooperation regarding this very important health and safety matter.

**NUT ANAPHYLAXIS**

The entire school community is working hard to prevent accidental exposure to products that trigger life-threatening reactions. As a result, we continue to maintain a **PEANUT & NUT SAFE environment**. We would appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep St. John Catholic School safe, by making sure your children do not bring foods to school that may contain any traces of **peanuts** or **nuts**.

**MILK ANAPHYLAXIS**

Due to a number of students in our care who have a severe anaphylactic allergy to milk, it is asked that parents kindly refrain from sending milk to school with their child out of an abundance of care and consideration for the health and safety of these individuals. Thank you to everyone for their understanding of this very important health and safety matter.

**PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

If your child has a prevalent medical condition that the school should be aware of and plan for, it is necessary to read the letter to families, and complete and/or update the applicable Plan of Care forms. All documents can be accessed in the ['Prevalent Medical Conditions' section of the St. John Google Website](#). Please click on the link to access the site and the necessary documents that pertain to your child's prevalent medical condition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

**RYAN'S LAW:****ENSURING ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS**

Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) is an important step to support the health and well-being of students diagnosed with asthma in Ontario schools. During this school year, the Niagara Catholic District School Board has created an Asthma Policy. If your son/daughter has been diagnosed with asthma, please contact the office at your school 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, as well as other prevalent medical conditions. Families are encouraged to take time to read the content shared on the site. It can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink above.

**REMINDERS FOR ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

**Kiss n' Ride Drop-Off:** In an effort to keep our students and staff members safe, families are reminded that when using the Kiss n' Ride drop-off, *drivers are asked to please remain in their vehicle* and have child(ren) exit the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk when it is safe to do so. Supervising staff will be present in the parking lot at 9:10 am. Parents are kindly asked to please drop their child(ren) off *between 9:10 and 9:20 am*. We thank you for your support as we strive to welcome our students onto school property in an efficient, yet safe manner.

**Kiss n' Ride Pick-Up:**

To reduce congestion in the Kiss n' Ride line and along King Street, Kiss n' Ride students will be dismissed from their classrooms at *3:20 pm*. Parents are asked to please be at the school in a timely manner so students can be dismissed efficiently and without causing disruption to the flow of traffic on King Street.

**Park & Pick-Up/Drop-Off:**

Families of children in car seats who need to park their vehicles and walk their children to the school sidewalk are asked to please be mindful of oncoming traffic, which includes busses and Kiss n' Ride vehicles. For their own safety, families are reminded of the importance of utilizing designated walkways to access the sidewalks. To avoid congestion in the parking lot and to prevent a back-up of vehicles onto King Street, Park & Pick-Up students will be dismissed from their classes at *3:20 pm*.

**ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE****SHIRTS:**

- Navy blue or white oxford-style long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt.
- Navy blue or white polo-style long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt.
- School-designed spirit wear including shirts, sweaters or hoodies.
- **All sweaters must be navy blue or white.**

**PANTS / SKIRTS:**

- Navy blue sweat-pants for students in ELKP to Grade 3.
- Navy blue pants - Dress, Cargo, Denim, Kobe, Corduroy style.
- Navy blue skorts or dresses - length must be appropriate and modest.
- Navy blue walking shorts or capris or Grade 8 students have the option of wearing grey secondary uniform pants.

**SHOES:**

- We ask that parents/guardians please ensure that students come to school each day wearing appropriate and comfortable closed-toe footwear (i.e. running shoes with proper ankle support).
- Parents are asked to please send their child(ren) to school with a pair of indoor shoes and outdoor shoes. This will allow for cleanliness in our building and for caretaking staff to focus on sanitization of surfaces and touchpoints. Thank you to everyone for their cooperation with this very important health and safety matter.

***In addition to the above, please be advised that...***

- ✓ *all **St. John spiritwear** can be worn by any student on any given day of the school year as part of the Niagara Catholic Elementary Standardized Dress Code.*
- ✓ *all **Blessed Trinity spiritwear** can be worn by any student on any given day of the school year as part of the Niagara Catholic Elementary Standardized Dress Code.*
- ✓ *all **Grade 8 Grad Hoodies** can be worn on any given day of the school year by Grade 8 students as part of the Niagara Catholic Elementary Standardized Dress Code.*

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

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. The Act also requires school boards to obtain 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. The updated form also addresses virtual learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Parents/guardians are asked to complete the most current **Parent Consent - Student Personal Information** through ['SchoolCash' Online](#).

**ST. JOHN GOOGLE WEBSITE**

Families are invited to visit the St. John Google Website for daily information items. Please know that the school will send out a SchoolMessenger notification any time there are pertinent updates made to the site. Monthly newsletters and calendars will be embedded into the website as well, once finalized. The links will be shared in the SchoolMessenger notification that goes out to inform families.

**Link to St. John Google site:**  
[St. John Catholic School Google Website.](#)

**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL FORMATION**

The St. John Catholic School Council held its first meeting of the school year on **September 23**. At this meeting, the Council was formed and elected **Lynn Dudok** ([lynn.a.dudok@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.a.dudok@gmail.com)) to serve as the Chairperson for the current school year. In addition, the Council elected **Breeann Staibano** ([breeann19@hotmail.com](mailto:breeann19@hotmail.com)) as the Co-Chairperson for the current school year. Minutes for the meeting will be posted on the [St. John Niagara Catholic Website](#). The names of all Catholic School Council members will be reflected in the meeting minutes. Thank you to all those who participated in the first meeting and for serving as members of the St. John Catholic School Council for this school year. Please be advised that the next Catholic School Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, November 25** at **6:00 pm** in the school's Library Information Centre.

**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL (CSC) CORNER HELLO FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL!**

Welcome to CSC Corner, a spot in this newsletter where you will find important updates from your Catholic School Council. Our first meeting was held on Monday, September 23, and our group of twelve members are excited to represent parents and guardians of St. John Catholic Elementary. We have started our work to make this year memorable for our students!

Families are invited to support St. John while enjoying a box (or more!) of delicious donuts. Our first CSC Fundraiser for the year will be through Krispy Kreme Donuts. Sales will run throughout the month of October, and the pickup date is set for mid-November. Exact pickup date and more details to follow via email soon.

Get your tickets for our St. John Niagara IceDogs Night! Join other families as we root on one of our favorite local teams. Come early for the pre-skate and support our very own St. John Choir as they sing the National Anthem to open the game! Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#). **Password is: StJohn1017.**

We value your input. Any ideas for the Catholic School Council? Please email **Lynn Dudok** at [lynn.a.dudok@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.a.dudok@gmail.com) or **Breeann Staibano** at [breeann19@hotmail.com](mailto:breeann19@hotmail.com).

### GOVERNANCE POLICY VETTING AND TRACKING

In keeping with Niagara Catholic's commitment to openness and transparency, the Board has established an extensive vetting process for its Governance Policies.

As part of the vetting process, Niagara Catholic students, parents, guardians, staff, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC), Diocese of St. Catharines, and members of the Niagara Catholic community are invited to submit their feedback.

Please visit the [Governance Policies, By-Laws, Administrative Operational Procedures, Protocols And Procedures](#) section of the Niagara Catholic website for specific information on how to submit feedback for policies that are currently being vetted.

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

Parents and students requiring technical assistance are encouraged to access the following support portal: <https://help.niagaracatholic.ca>. Niagara Catholic launched this platform for students and parents in an effort to provide technical support for issues relating to the Niagara Catholic Virtual Learning Environment (NCVLE), Niagara Catholic Parent Portal, Safe Arrival System, and more.

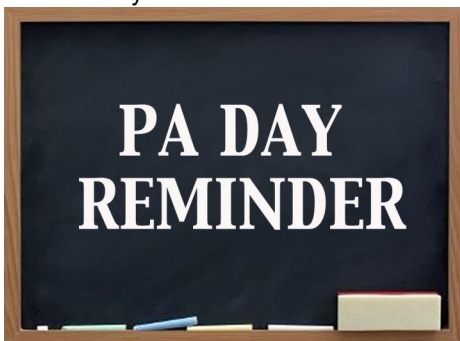
### THANKSGIVING - MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

Please be advised that **Monday, October 14** is Thanksgiving. As a result, there is **no school** on this day. We hope that everyone is able to enjoy the Thanksgiving long weekend with their loved ones. Classes will resume on **Tuesday, October 15**.



### PA DAY - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Please be advised that **Friday, October 11** is a professional activity day for staff. As a result, there is **no school for students** on this day.



### NIAGARA CATHOLIC RESPECTFUL INTERACTION FRAMEWORK

St. John 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 cohesive and cooperative community that helps one another achieve success.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board is made up of Association representatives and Trustees whose role is to support students with diverse needs and their families. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board with regards to matters relating to educational programs and services to be implemented in schools for our students who meet this criteria. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings and learn about different programs and supports that are available in special education.

Meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are unable to attend the meetings and you wish further information, please visit our website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) under Special Education, Special Education Advisory Committee or contact your school Principal who will provide you with a list of representatives and their contact information.

SEAC continuously strives to ensure that the rights of students with diverse learning needs are being met both at the elementary and the secondary level as well as serving as a resource for parents of these children. For further information there are two links:

- The Special Education Advisory Committee website: [www.seac-learning.ca](http://www.seac-learning.ca); and
- the Ministry of Education Special Education website: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html).



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### HALLOWEEN

St. John students will participate in Halloween activities in their respective classrooms, as well as a **Dance-a-Thon** on **October 31**. Students may come to school dressed in Halloween costumes and are invited to remain in them for the duration of the day. Students are asked to bring a change of clothes, should they want or need to change out of their Halloween costume later in the day. Due to a number of students in our care who are anaphylactic to nuts, peanuts, and other sources of nuts, **only prepackaged snacks that are clearly labelled as 'nut-free' may be brought in to be shared among students**. Please be advised that nutritional foods are encouraged. Further details will be communicated to families as the date approaches.

### HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe, should parents decide to send their children out on Halloween night:

- *Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.*
- *Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections.*
- *Bright coloured costumes will make your child more visible. Face paint instead of masks that cover the eyes helps them to see better. Have your child carry a flashlight.*
- *When children get home, be sure to check all treats carefully, and throw away any treats that aren't wrapped.*



### ONTARIO DRESS PURPLE DAY

Every October, Children's Aid Societies across the province of Ontario raise awareness about the role that adults and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families.

**Monday, October 28** is Ontario Dress Purple Day. On this special day, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies partners with boards of education, schools, and child care facilities across the province to speak up for every child and youth's right to safety and well-being in all spaces. In doing this, we are called to celebrate the community that cares for kids by encouraging everyone to dress in the colour purple.

Ontario Dress Purple Day offers an important opportunity to raise awareness among elementary, middle, and high school students about their right to safety and well-being.

At St. John Catholic Elementary School, all students, staff, and community members are encouraged to come to school wearing the colour purple in support of Ontario Dress Purple Day. We look forward to seeing everyone in purple as we demonstrate our commitment to the well-being of children and youth across the Niagara Region, province of Ontario, and the globe!

### BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

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.



### ST. JOHN 'EcoSchools' INITIATIVE

At St. John Catholic School, we continue to remain active in our efforts to continue to fulfill our goals to serve as "Stewards of God's Earth". We continue to maintain our environmental efforts, nurture our students as both current and future environmental leaders, and reduce the ecological impact of our school.

Families are advised that we are continuing with the promotion of **Waste-Free Lunch Wednesdays** here at the school. A waste-free lunch is one that contains reusable containers to pack your child's lunch and snacks. Although participation is optional, when we pack a waste-free lunch, we are helping the earth by reducing the use of plastic bags, wrappers and minimizing the amount of garbage.

