



# November 2024



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness"*  
- Galatians 5:22

November, the month we Remember! November 11<sup>th</sup> holds a special spiritual significance, as it is believed to be the number of spiritual awakenings and powerful new beginnings.

This is especially important to note, as November 11<sup>th</sup> marks a new beginning for the world. At 11 a.m., on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1918 a call for armistice (suspension of fighting) was made in order to secure a peace settlement. The moment when hostilities ceased, it became universally associated with the Remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives for our peace and freedom as we now know it.

Today, we continue to honour the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the wars that followed. We also honour our military and peacekeepers who continue to strive for peace every day!

As a St. John family, we value a society of peace and justice. Everyone experiences difficulties, and as Christians we are not exempt. So it is our long-term goal to continue to instill human value and moral principles in our students. As in the words Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us, *"Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"* (John 14:27).

The poppy is a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice made so that we may enjoy the peace and freedoms in Canada. Your children will be taught the reverence and significance of wearing a poppy, and the importance of Remembrance Day to demonstrate a united support for peace! We continue to sing every day of a Canada that is "glorious and free."

Many Blessings!

*Mr. D. Forte*  
*Principal*

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On this day, we will bow our heads for a moment of silent thought and prayer. We will pay tribute to those who fought for our freedom. We pray for peace in our troubled world. It remains important to show our veterans and peacekeepers our appreciation and gratitude. On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, poppies will be available to students for a donation to the veterans.



## NOVEMBER - A MISSION OF HOPE

*"Be not afraid!" - St. John Paul II*

When we are faced with challenges in our daily lives, we can become burdened by a sense of fear and despair. Our faith in Jesus reminds that our mission as disciples of Christ is also rooted in hope. The disciples certainly felt fear and despair as they watched Jesus being crucified on the cross, but it is in the resurrection of Christ that they, and we, find our true hope. May we be witness of hope for others during difficult times, reminding them that in Christ, nothing is impossible!

## SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

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

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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

**REMEMBRANCE DAY FACTS**

- ◆ *The poppies became a symbol for Remembrance Day following the famous poem In Flanders Fields, written by John McCrae during the First World War. The poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in Flanders Field located in Belgium.*
- ◆ *For many years poppies were made with a black center. In 1980 they were changed to green, and in 2002 the centers were changed back to black.*
- ◆ *Remembrance Day is usually marked with a moment or two of silence at 11:00am, on November 11th.*
- ◆ *The bugle is often played at military funerals and on Remembrance Day, to symbolize that soldiers can rest in peace. In war the bugle was used to tell soldiers it was time to return to their barracks and sleep.*
- ◆ *Depending on the country, Remembrance Day is celebrated as a national holiday, public holiday, or day of observation.*

**ALL SAINTS' DAY**

On this day, Catholics honour the Saints of the Catholic Church, that is those who have entered Heaven. **All Saints' Day**, also known as the Solemnity of **All Saints**, is celebrated every year on November 1st by the Roman Catholic Church as a day to commemorate those who lived as exceptional followers of Christ. These individuals continue to inspire us daily to be the hands and feet of Jesus on Earth as we strive to one day achieve sainthood ourselves.

**ALL SOULS' DAY**

All Souls' Day is celebrated annually by the Roman Catholic Church on November 2nd. It is known as the *Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed*. On this very special day, we pray for all lost souls in purgatory so they can attain Heaven and achieve sainthood. We practice this ritual because in the Second Book of Maccabees, we learn that we are connected with the lost souls in the '*Communion of Saints*', which is the spiritual union of the members of the Christian Church, both living and deceased, including those on Earth, in Heaven, and those awaiting purification from their sins.

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**First Communion Inscription Mass** - This will be taking place on **Thursday, November 7 at 12:30 pm** at the school. The Mass will be celebrated as a whole school and is dedicated to those students preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist this school year.

**First Reconciliation** - Students in Grade 2 and other grades who are Roman Catholic and preparing to receive First Holy Communion will be receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on **Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

**Advent School Mass** - Our Advent School Mass is scheduled to take place on **Monday, December 2 at 10:00 am** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. Families are welcome to attend!

**Advent Family Mass** - Our Advent Family Mass is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. There will be light snacks and refreshments available in the reception room following Mass. We look forward to celebrating as a Catholic community!

**Confirmation** - Students in Grade 8 who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

**First Communion** - Students in Grade 2 and other grades who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist on **Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 am** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

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.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

A great **thank you** to all the families of St. John Catholic School for their support of such a successful Thanksgiving food drive. As always, Community Care of West Niagara representatives were thankful for our generous collection of food. This donation has helped restock their shelves during this extremely busy season.

**Our next Food Drive will take place from Monday, December 2 to Friday, December 13.**

**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.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

On **Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 am** all clocks are turned back 1 hour. Please adjust your clocks accordingly!

**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.

**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*.

**COLD WEATHER**

Cold weather is on its way. Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recesses. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots, all labeled with their names.

On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow Board and Niagara Public Health guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, it is our expectation that all children will go out for recess





**PROGRESS REPORTS**

Provincial Progress Reports will be available in the [Niagara Catholic Parent Portal](#) during the **week of November 11**. This report will focus on how students are progressing in the various subject areas and learning skills. Parents are asked to please take time to review the report card with their child.

**PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION CONFERENCES**

Parent-teacher conferences will take place at the school on **Wednesday, November 20 from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm**. Parents will have the opportunity to schedule a timeslot to discuss their child's progress report. Please stay tuned for a 'SchoolMessenger' notification with details. Those who are unable to attend are asked to please connect with their child's classroom teacher to schedule an alternative date and time.

**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL (CSC) CORNER**

Welcome back to CSC Corner - the best place to get a quick monthly update from your Catholic School Council.

Thank you to all families and students that came out to cheer the Niagara IceDogs last month. A special thank you is extended to our St. John Catholic School Choir for their enthusiastic performance in singing the National Anthem and to Mr. Hauber for leading them. You all make us proud to be a part of the St. John community!



Did you know that St. John School had three special visitors a few weeks prior to the game? On the morning of October 1st, players from the Niagara IceDogs visited our school to talk with and encourage our students. They ended their visit with a scrimmage between the St. John Staff (with the IceDogs) and our Grade 8 students! The final score was St John Staff & IceDogs 8, St. John Grade 8 Students 4. An enjoyable time was had by all!

Pick-up for **Krispy Kreme Fundraiser** orders will be on **Wednesday, November 20, between 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm**, which is the same night as the school's Parent-Teacher Conferences. How convenient! Be sure to stop by the **library** to grab your orders before you head home. Please know that money raised through this fundraiser will be put toward the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement. The CSC thanks you for your ongoing support.

Do you need gently used uniform pieces or a place to donate uniform pieces that your students have grown out of? Visit our Gently Used Uniform table after grabbing your Krispy Kreme order in the library on November 20. Please note that you can take uniform pieces without a donation, free of charge.

'Tis almost the season. Our school's Advent Mass is the evening of **Tuesday, December 17**. The Catholic School Council collects donations for refreshments to be served after the mass. If you or your employer would like to donate, please contact the CSC members listed below.

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).

The next Catholic School Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, November 25 at 6:00 pm** in the school's Library Information Centre.

**TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK IN ONTARIO****November 4 - 8**

In responding to the **Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action**, beginning in 2016, the Ontario government designated the first full week of November as **Treaties Recognition Week**.

Treaties Recognition Week is a time to recognize the importance of treaties as legal documents that are shared between sovereign nations. While we typically think of treaties as land claims between the Canadian government and Indigenous people, or between countries as a way of establishing peace, treaties have been a part of native culture for thousands of years and were legal agreements among the many Indigenous nations who shared this land long before European contact.

Treaties are not a thing of the past. Even today, there are ongoing treaties in the Niagara Region and Niagara Peninsula that impact our staff and students who are of Indigenous heritage. For example, the 1492 Land Back Lane claim on Six Nations, the Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt in Shorthills, or the Mi'kmaq Lobster Fishermen on the east coast are recent international headlines.

Families are invited to visit the [Treaties Recognition Week Ontario Website](#) for further information in regard to this very important week in our Canadian heritage .

**INTERNATIONAL INUIT DAY****Thursday, November 7**

The Inuit (pronounced 'in-new-wheat') are found in the circumpolar regions of Canada, the United States, Greenland, and Russia. **November 7th** has been designated **International Inuit Day** to celebrate the history and lives of Inuit, as well as recognition of the creation of the Inuit Circumpolar Council representing approximately 160,000 Inuit from all four countries.

While the number of people of Inuit heritage is small in Niagara, Niagara Catholic does have students and families who have identified as Inuit as part of the confidential self-identification process. On this day, we celebrate and honour those individuals and all Inuit peoples in our world.

Further information regarding Inuit culture can be found on the [Website for the Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families](#).

**INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY****Friday, November 8**

**November 8th** is recognized as **Indigenous Veterans Day** in Canada.

Indigenous people from this land have fought on the frontline of every major battle Canada has been involved in dating back more than 200 years to the War of 1812. It is estimated that 12,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit men and women served as part of Canada's military in World Wars I & II as well as the Korean War.

Here at St. John, we acknowledge the contribution of all the brave men and women who served to keep Canada and our world a safe place for all to enjoy today.

Families are invited to click [here](#) to view a video for additional information on Indigenous Veterans and to learn about the sacrifice that our Indigenous Veterans made for our rights and freedoms.

### 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 Policies, Administrative Operational Procedures, Protocols, and Bylaws 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

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.

### PA DAY - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Please be advised that **Friday, November 29** is a professional activity day for staff. As a result, there is **no school for students** on this day.

### LOCKDOWN & FIRE DRILLS

All Niagara Catholic Elementary and Secondary School sites are required to conduct at least two practice lockdown drills and six practice fire drills annually. These practice drills are to help ensure that staff and students are informed and follow emergency response procedures in the event of an actual incident. Please know that to date, St. John Catholic School has successfully conducted one of its two required lockdown drills and three of six of its required fire drills for the current school year.

### 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.](#)



### #ProjectPlaid CAMPAIGN FOR PATHSTONE MENTAL HEALTH

St. John Catholic School will be participating in the **#ProjectPlaid** campaign on **Thursday, November 28**. On this day, all students and staff are encouraged to come to school wearing plaid. The goal of the campaign is to increase the conversation around mental health to help reduce stigma and to raise funds to support mental health programs at Pathstone. Families are invited to make a donation to the cause through ['SchoolCash' Online](#). We look forward to seeing everyone in plaid!



### NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

Diabetes Awareness Month is a time when communities across the country team up to bring awareness to diabetes and urge action to tackle the diabetes epidemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has created even more urgency as adults living with diabetes are at greater risk of developing serious symptoms and complications, like pneumonia, and they are almost three times more likely to die in hospital. With the discovery of insulin over 100 years ago, Canada can't afford to ignore the impact of this chronic disease on individuals, families, our healthcare system, and the economy. Help spread awareness this November and support the fight to end Diabetes! **#EndDiabetes**

### BULLYING PREVENTION & AWARENESS WEEK

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment.

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week - **November 18 - 22** - Ontario residents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

Throughout Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, students at St. John Catholic School will be participating in teacher-led activities to learn more about bullying and its effects on others. As students continue to be educated regarding this matter, research has shown that positive change in student achievement and well-being becomes more prevalent.



**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. In the '[EcoSchools Information' section of the St. John Google Website](#), families will find any and all information pertaining to our 'EcoSchools' initiative, including monthly newsletters to promote ecological awareness in our school, homes, and community.

Families are advised of the following 'EcoSchools' events recognized throughout this month...

**Waste-Free Lunch Wednesdays:**

To continue with our ECO initiatives, we will promote Waste-Free Wednesday lunches throughout the year. 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.

**November is Radon Action Month:**

Radon is a soil gas that can be found in elevated levels in certain homes. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, surpassed only by smoking. It's important that all Canadians test their homes for radon, and take action to reduce their radon level if required. Please visit the [Take Action on Radon website](#) for more information.

**International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict:**

The environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage. On 5 November 2001, the UN General Assembly declared **November 6** of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. On this day, students will learn about the impact war has on our environment. Families are encouraged to visit the [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict website](#) to learn more about this global concern.

**International Day for Tolerance:**

**November 16** is International Day for Tolerance, the day when people around the world are encouraged to show respect and appreciation for others' cultures, forms of expression, and ways of being human. Tolerance recognizes the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. Only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe. Families are invited to visit the [International Day for Tolerance website](#) to learn more about the significance of this special day.

**World Children's Day:**

On **November 20**, we celebrate [World Children's Day](#) in Canada. This day is dedicated to promoting international togetherness. It is celebrated on different days all over the world, but carries the same message. For many years, children have been abused and taken away from their loved ones, and although we cannot undo the past, we can use this day as a reminder for the future. We should always strive to make this world a better and safer place for the current and future children of the world.

**World Fisheries Day:**

This is a day to celebrate the importance of Canada's aquatic habitats and their role in sustaining both aquatic life and life on land. On **November 21**, we encourage all to join us in recognizing the importance of this very special day. Please visit the [Canadian Wildlife Federation website](#) to learn more.

**World Sustainable Transport Day:**

Transport is vital for promoting connectivity, trade, economic growth and employment. Yet, it is also implicated as a significant source of green-house gas emissions. Resolving these trade-offs is essential to achieving sustainable transport and, through that, sustainable development. Please visit the [World Sustainable Transport Day website](#) for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of our ECO initiatives!  
~ St. John Catholic School ECO Team

**RED SHIRT DAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS  
(RED WEDNESDAY)**

**Red Wednesday** is a day to acknowledge and pray for Christians around the world that are and have been persecuted for their religious beliefs. St. John Catholic Elementary School will support this initiative by engaging in prayer and wearing the colour red in solidarity on **Wednesday, November 20**. Prayer is the bond that unites us in love and solidarity with our brothers and sisters who suffer and are persecuted for their love of Jesus.

**Prayer for Persecuted Christians**

*O God of all the nations,  
the One God who is and was and always will be,  
in your providence you willed that your Church  
be united to the suffering of your Son.*

*Look with mercy on your servants  
who are persecuted for their faith in you.  
Grant them perseverance and courage  
to be worthy imitators of Christ.*

*Bring your wisdom upon leaders of nations  
to work for peace among all peoples.*

*May your Spirit open conversion  
for those who contradict your will,  
that we may live in harmony.*

*Give us the grace to be united in truth and freedom,  
and to always seek your will in our lives.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.*

**BLESSED TRINITY  
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The month of October began with a bang. The Blessed Trinity community, and in particular our Junior Boys Football team, would like to thank the Grade 7 and 8 students and teachers from our Family of Schools for their incredible spirit and support during the October 9th game on our new turf field. It was a fun and exciting day as our future Thunder cheered our team to a victory over Notre Dame.

It was a very busy day as we also celebrated the blessing of our new turf field with special guests in attendance, including our Director and former Principals. The month started off with a Friday Night Lights White Out game on October 4th where over 1000 spectators watched our Sr. Boys Football team defeat St. Paul in a very exciting game.

The month of October will end with our annual Pilgrimage to raise money and awareness for the people of Las Pajas in the Dominican Republic. This will take place on Sunday, October 27th. Grade 8's from our Family of Schools have been invited to join the Blessed Trinity community in our annual Pilgrimage. A great example of our caring spirit at Blessed Trinity and our goal to always help those less fortunate.

October also saw representatives from our Student Services Department visit all of our grade 8's in their classrooms to introduce themselves and begin the process of transitioning our grade 8's to BT next September. We also brought back recent graduates from each elementary school to speak to the grade 8's about their experience at BT so far this year and lead a fun activity called Fears, Cheers and Unclears. This gave the grade 8's an opportunity to ask and talk about what they are nervous about, what they are looking forward to and what they are unsure of when it comes to starting high school next year. We had some great questions and discussions around what to expect in high school and our grade 9's had a blast visiting their old classrooms.

What to look for next month? On November 12th at 6:30 pm BT will be hosting an AP (Advanced Placement) Information Night for all parents.

