



October 2022



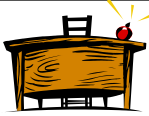
St. Theresa Tribune

St. Theresa Catholic Elementary

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Dear Jesus, you have blessed us with children who are here to teach each other, their parents and teachers. Continue to bless us all with the wisdom to teach our children, the fortitude to gently re-direct, the patience to let them problem solve and reason, and the love to see the gifts all children are from your creation. Lord, we teach in reverence.



Principal's Message

This first month of school has been simply outstanding. I have so thoroughly enjoyed meeting all my new students, their families and my staff. I am so honoured to be your principal. I am so very impressed by your children, their behaviour and respectful interactions. Thank you all for your warm welcome to this incredible community.

Our new school year is merely a month old and it has been bustling with activity for both our students and staff. Congratulations to all students on your successful beginning to this school year. We've settled into our new classrooms and are delving into our new curricula. Parents are asked to continue encouraging their children to maintain their daily communication between home and school by talking about the school day, keep their school materials organized and ensure that they are ready for each school day. All classrooms are effectively learning using a varied approach of whole class lessons, small group work, paired/partner work and independent work.

Our Terry Fox Walk was a huge success as we were sporting red and white colours in honour of our Canadian Hero. Our children proudly wore their dedication stickers to honour loved ones who have journeyed with cancer. Teachers engaged students in age appropriate lessons on head injuries, concussions and the need to have all bumps to heads reported and monitored. September 30th was National Truth and Reconciliation Day, your children wore orange t-shirts as an action statement for this day. We dedicated time during the day for prayers, conversations and reflections on how we as a society must achieve reconciliation and how we as Catholics can live out the healing for society. God Bless all children!

Thank you, our parent community, for your support of St. Theresa Catholic School staff. We are honoured and privileged to have your children under our care and instruction. St. Theresa staff are to be commended for their daily dedication and commitment to our students. Together with the students these teachers and support staff are responsible for the outstanding school spirit of our school.

As we enter the fall season, we need to reflect on all the wonderful gifts that God has given us. We should celebrate with thanksgiving for our harvest, food, family, spiritual gifts and personal gifts. We, the staff of St. Theresa, wish you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Dan Trainor
Mr. D. Trainor, Principal

Parking Lot Safety

Parents are cautioned when driving in and out of the school parking lot.



Students who walk to school may be crossing the driveway to get to the sidewalk. Student safety is our first priority and we ask that drivers please be vigilant.

If you are picking your child(ren) up at our "Kiss and Ride" which also serves as the bus lane, we ask that everyone keep the traffic flowing in this space at a slow speed to ensure students are safe. It is preferred that you park your vehicle in the parking lot and escort your child(ren) to the front of the school during morning drop off and repeat the same procedure at the end of the day by meeting your child(ren) at the exit gates.

We have been given approval by the city of St. Catharines for the two large buses to park and load and unload on Autumn Place. We are waiting for the "loading zone" signs to go up on the street before we will have the buses park there. I will continue to communicate the progress with the community. Thank you, safety of our children is our first priority.



Welcome to our School

We welcome Ms. Phillips who will be one of our grade eight teachers this school year. Ms. Phillips will be covering the Long term leave for Ms. Deluca until February 2023. We are still waiting for our teacher who will teach the grade 8 French as a second language until Ms. Deluca returns. We are also waiting for the assignment of the permanent teacher who will replace Mr. Bonazza. This teacher will teach the first two periods of the grade eight day. Mr. Fossey (Grade Six) has extended his leave until the end of October and we are very pleased to keep Mr. Hall with us for this absence.

Bell Times



A.M. Entrance: 8:40 a.m.
A.M. Recess: 10:10-10:25 a.m.
Lunch: 11:25 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
P.M. Recess: 1:45-2:00 p.m.
Dismissal: 2:50 p.m.

*Morning supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Students should not be on the school yard before 8:30 to ensure they are being supervised. Thank you!



Classroom Spotlight Grade One

Grade one is a great place to be! We are busy learning about our roles and responsibilities in our classroom. We are learning about stewardship and how we can take care of our little piece of God's world.

September is busy with reading stories, making our own books, learning about rhyming families and creating self-portraits. We are learning about growth mindset in math. We can work in groups, share our ideas and we are learning that mistakes actually help our brains to grow new pathways! We are mathematicians working on patterning with shapes and numbers. We make patterns and our pattern "detective" friends try to "crack the code."

Mrs Szalai's grade one class is a fun and safe place to learn and grow.



Anaphylaxis Awareness & Action Plans

All classrooms at St. Theresa are **peanut, tree nut and milk safe classrooms**. **No peanuts, peanut products, or tree nuts are allowed at any time.** We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and peanut products. Please do not send in any food items for class distribution. We also have a student with dairy allergies and must ensure we handle all dairy food items carefully. Students who share the classroom with our student with a dairy allergy have been informed and know that they are to wash their hands after lunches and snacks that contain dairy items. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or dairy products for breakfast/lunch at home. We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safety of all students. Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.

Emergency Practices

Throughout September and October your child(ren) will be participating in two fire-drills and one lock-down drill. Students will be taught their exit routes prior to the fire-drills. There will be notice to all parents/guardians prior to the lock-down drill.

It is wise for families to talk about the drills and why we must practice at school and at home. Thank you for your support.

Medication

For safety reasons, no child is to bring any form of medication to school. If medication is necessary, there is a form that must be filled out by your doctor to indicate dosage, instructions, etc., and the prescription container clearly labeled with names (child, parent, doctor), phone numbers and must be left at the office. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.

St. Theresa Spirit Wear

We will be offering St. Theresa Spirit wear for all students this year, including GRAD hoodies for our grade 8 students. Orders will be done directly through Exclusive Imprint. You can order spirit wear at anytime and it will be delivered to the school.

Please use the following link to access the order forms, thank you.

<https://exclusiveimprint.com/>

Catholic School Council

Our first Catholic School Council meeting was held on Tuesday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m. We are excited to continue the great work that we have been doing over the last few years. We welcomed back our previous members and are so excited to see new parents to join us. Our meetings are approximately every 6 to 8 weeks, usually run about 90 minutes. Come out, share your ideas and meet fellow parents. Mrs Carrie-Ann Csordas and Mrs. Lori Knight were elected as Co-chairs for this school year. Our next meeting is on November 23rd, at 6:00 p.m.

Safe Arrival

Remember to report your child's absence using our safe arrival system. Phone **1-844-287-6287** or visit

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> to access a Parent Portal where an account can be set up to report absences via web or smart phone. The free App called "SchoolMessenger" is available through the App Store or Google Play. Absences may be reported up to 5 days. If your child will be away longer than 5 days, please contact the school. Safe Arrival absence reporting will be accepted until **8:40 a.m.**, each morning for the current day. After that time, please phone the school to report. Instructions for registering for SchoolMessenger is available in the school office.



Cell Phone use for Students

The Ministry of Education has directed schools and school boards to not allow elementary students to have cell phones on them during the school day. To fairly manage this mandate along with parenting decisions made for each of our students; we thank you for respecting the following compromise. If you are providing your child(ren) with a cell phone as part of their communication and safety tools as they transit from home to school and back, be advised that all cellphones will be placed in the classroom "cell garage" or in each student's backpack for the instructional day. If you are texting your child during the day — please expect them to only get the message at dismissal time (2:50). All communication must go through the main office. If students are using their cells as a personal device for research, teachers will direct them to access their cell phones. If students are required to bring a device for a specific purpose, the teacher will send a message in their digital platforms, such as the "NCVLE-classroom, School Messenger" so parents are aware of the request.

Thank you for your support.

Hot Lunch Days



We are starting our hot lunch program in October. We will have two pizza days this month and will expand our food options as the year progresses. Please note that the pizza will come to the classroom in a tray and be given to the students by staff. During our covid restrictions time the pizza came to the school in individual boxes. We will be selling chips again this year. Chips will be sold on Tuesdays. We are changing the flavours of the chips to ensure we are aligned to our anaphylaxis awareness and action plans, therefore the chip flavours will not have cheese ingredients.

Professional Development Day

Our next PD day is **Monday, October 24th, 2022**. Please note that the day is a Monday which is different than our typical days for PD days. Staff will be working on our School Improvement plans and reviewing Mathematics curriculum and instructional strategies.

Hallowe'en

St. Theresa Catholic students will participate in Hallowe'en activities on Monday, October 31st. Students may choose to wear a costume that allows them to sit in their desk and complete school work. Students will wear costumes all day. Students are also invited to wear **black and orange** clothing and accessories. Black and orange clothing allows our children to enjoy the Hallowe'en activities in comfortable clothes. Black and orange are typically clothing items that children have and therefore our Hallowe'en activities are hopefully not placing an additional expense on our parent community. Students are to wear their costumes or black and orange clothes for the whole school day.

Hallowe'en activities will occur in the afternoon in each classroom. All students will have a small to medium pumpkin purchased for them. Students will paint their pumpkins. We ask for all students to bring a plastic bag for their pumpkin.

For safety reasons, students are not to wear full head costumes, facial masks or paint their full faces. We need to be able to see their faces in the event that a child develops an allergy to foods or environmental factors. Thank you for respecting this safety rule and for making any alterations to your child(ren)'s full costume.

Candy and Snacks shared from our homes will be allowed but we will sent home with each child so parents can decide what treats are to be eaten. Teachers will allow the children to have one to two treats during the day. We must follow the board nutrition policy on these days. We understand our families wanting to share treats for our children, we ask that if you send items that they be things that can be easily sent home with your children's classmates.

School Picture Day

Individual school pictures will be taken on Thursday October 20th, 2022.

The retake date has not been set as of yet. Students are to be in full dress code on picture day. We will use the composite layout for the class photo so we do not miss any students who are unable to be here on the first picture day. Grade Eight Graduation picture date will be set for early 2023.



Terry Fox Walk-A-Thon

On **Friday, September 23rd** students in grades K-8 walked in the annual Terry Fox Walk-a-Thon. We raised \$188.00. We are very proud of our students and the effort they made for this fundraiser. Thank you to our grade seven students for all the announcements you made to inform our students about "why we walk" and for leading us in the Terry Fox assembly. Thank you, Ms. Wills for organizing this successful event for our school.



Purple Shirt Day

Every October, Children's Aid Societies across Ontario raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families through the provincial Dress Purple Day campaign. The campaign is more important than ever, since the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional stressors for families, and in some cases has increased risk for the well-being and safety of children and youth.



St. Theresa 50th Anniversary

Our school opened in September of 1972. It was the second open-concept school in our school board and certainly may have been the second in the province of Ontario. Our school originated from St. Joseph Catholic School that was on Chestnut Street, next to our parish of St. Patrick. The school consisted of a small main building and an annex building. St. Joseph Catholic School closed when our school opened in 1972. For the last fifty years our school has thrived as a wonderful school community serving many families for generations. We were so happy to recognize this moment in history with an open house on Saturday, October 1st, 2022 from 1:00 p.m., to 4:00 p.m., followed by our community Mass at 5:00 p.m., at St. Patrick Church. Thank you to all who made this event a memorable time for our community past, present and future.



St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School Newsletter & Website

We will send home a paper copy of the school calendar each month. The newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website. This will generally happen on the last Thursday of the current month. Watch for your newsletter as it contains much information regarding school activities. All information is sent home with the youngest or only child in a family. Newsletters and calendars will be posted on our school website! Please visit this exciting showcase of our great school.

Holy Childhood Walk-a-thon

"Children Helping Children"

During the month of October we are reminded of those children throughout the world who are in immediate need. The Holy Childhood Association invites everyone to become missionaries for Christ by praying and sharing their time for needy children in the developing world. St. Theresa students will participate in the Holy Childhood Fundraiser Walk-a-thon. We are asking for each child to donate \$2.00. Our Holy Childhood Walk will take place on October 14th, 2022. Thank you in advance for your support.

Upcoming Dates:

November is Diabetes Awareness Month
 November 1st to 5th is Treaties Recognition Week
 November 2nd - Gr. 9 Take your Kids to Work day
 November 4th - Gr. 7 and 8 Needles
 November 7th - International Inuit Day
 November 8th - Indigenous Veterans' Day
 November 13th - Gr. 8 Confirmation
 November 14th - Progress Reports on parent portal and home
 November 14th- 18th - Parent teacher interviews will occur
 November 23rd - Poinsettia Pick up date, CSC at 6:00 p.m.
 November 25th - P.D. Day