



St. Teresa of Calcutta Chronicle

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary
Part of the St. Francis Family of Schools



ISSUE: 4 DECEMBER, 2024



On behalf of the staff at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School, please accept our deepest wishes for a peaceful, holy and safe Advent and Christmas holiday. We are so blessed to be a part of this community and as educators and support staff, we feel honoured to be a part of the students journey towards success.

Christmas Break
December 23rd, 2024 to January 3rd, 2025

CONFIRMATION

Our Grade 8 students recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Star of the Sea Church. This is the final sacrament of initiation for our students. Congratulations to all of the students on this important step in their journey of faith. Thank-you to Mrs. Simpson and Father Richard.



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA INSTAGRAM PAGE



Please follow us **@motherteresasc** to get a glimpse into activities and events that are happening at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School. Please continue to follow us.

PICTURE DAY



Just a reminder that picture re-take day is taking place on **Monday December 2nd 2024**. Students should be in full dress code for the pictures. This will be the last picture day we have this year with the exception of Graduation pictures in the New Year.

VOLLEYBALL

I would like to congratulate both the intermediate girls and boys volleyball teams for their tremendous dedication and excellent sportsmanship during the NCAA Intermediate Volleyball tournament. Thank-you to Mrs. Simpson for coaching both the Intermediate Boys and Girls teams. Thank-you to Mr. Ukrainetz and Mrs. Haywood for coaching and convening the Triple Ball Tournament here at the school.



Thank-you to Tim Hortons for providing the Hot Chocolate on Joy Day

CHRISTMAS MASS



The students of St. Teresa of Calcutta will be attending an Advent Mass at the church on Thursday December 19th @ 9:30 a.m. The choir will be singing on that day. Parents are more than welcome to attend the service at the church.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

At St. Teresa of Calcutta, we reinforce with our students the necessity to help those families in our community who are less fortunate than us. Our annual Christmas Food Drive took place from November 18th – November 28th, 2024. Thank-you to everyone who brought in nonperishable food items. We thank you for your donations.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR



The St. Teresa of Calcutta choir will be travelling to Martindale Place on Friday December the 13th @ 1:30 p.m. Parents are welcome to watch the performance that day. The choir consists of students from grades 2 to 8 and has been practicing since mid October in preparation for this day. Thank-you to our music teacher Mrs. Pietrangelo for working with our students.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



Here we are in the “sleepy” little village of Bethlehem. But in this tiny town something huge and miraculous is about to happen. Right in the midst of all the action is an irresistibly intrepid group of orphans who reside at the Inn of Bethlehem. Starr and the spunky orphans all soon realize that it is no ordinary day. They meet Mary, Joseph, the Angels, and some crazy ‘70s Disco Shepherds who tell them of extraordinary dreams! But Blake, the newest orphan at the inn, is skeptical of everyone, stating that he is only staying long enough to earn money to get “Straight Outta Bethlehem.”

However, as the night culminates with a special Baby born in the stable, Blake learns that God has not forgotten him, and he offers himself as a gift at the manger. This loveable ragamuffin group of characters will put a smile on your lips and a song in your heart as they unveil the story of Christmas and how God sent His only Son to be born, Straight Outta Bethlehem! As eyewitnesses to the Holy, blessed event, their special re-telling of the story is sure to shine a bright new light on the importance of our Savior’s birth!

On **Thursday December 5th** our school will be showcasing the students’ talents with a Christmas Performance entitled **‘Straight Outta Bethlehem’** at 1:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. All grades from K to 7 have a part in the performance with our grade 8’s serving as the ‘Set Crew’. Please make sure to check cash on-line to reserve your seats for the performances. There will be no cost to parents and there is no limit to the amount of guests you can bring.



VIP RAFFLE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



We will be selling VIP Raffle tickets for the show. The winners will be able to upgrade their seats that night and be front and center to the action! Each winner will receive 2 spots on our comfy VIP chairs complete with snacks for the show. **Raffle tickets are on sale for \$2.00 each 3 for \$5 or 6 for \$10.**

Please make sure to only purchase Raffle Tickets for the performance time that you will be attending. Ex. If you are attending the 1:15pm show then only purchase raffle tickets that correspond to that show. 2 VIP Raffle winners will be pulled for each show. Students will indicate the family name on the ballot and what performance they will be attending. If parents prefer, you are welcome to come into the school and buy your raffle tickets directly at the office.

ELF DAY



Elf Day is coming to St. Teresa of Calcutta on Tuesday December 17th. Every student in the school will receive 1 ballot. The winning student will have one of our student council members with them for the day dressed up as an ELF! These elves will be able to help with the students school work, plan fun activities, hang out with them at recess, help them carry books to lockers, classes etc.... There are Elf-less possibilities!

HOCKEY GAME & ST. FRANCIS VISITS



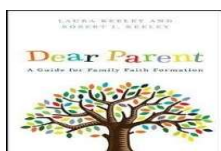
As part of our Transition activities to St. Francis, our grade 8 students will be attending a St. Francis Phoenix Hockey game during the day on Wednesday December 18th. On Tuesday December 10th the students will travel to St. Francis as part of an orientation and course selection day. Students will be provided with lunch at the school. The Saint Francis Mentorship team will also be coming to St. Teresa of Calcutta on Monday December 16th to run a Corn Hole Tournament with our grade 5,6,7 & 8 students.

COBS FUNDRAISER



I would like to thank all of the St. Teresa of Calcutta families that supported our COBS Bread fundraiser. In total we sold 365 cards and generated \$4450.00 that will be put back directly into the school to support student engagement. This fundraiser money will be used to subsidize and pay for Junglesport and there will be no cost to parents this year. Thank-you to the Catholic School Council for initiating this fundraiser.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



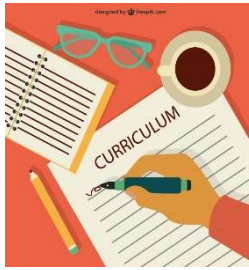
The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 at 5:45 p.m.** in person at the school. All parents are welcome at any time. You are welcome to just sit and listen. The meetings for the Catholic School Council will be noted on the calendar monthly.

E-MAIL ADDRESS & TEXT MESSAGES

As the majority of correspondences/newsletters/updates, etc. are now e-mailed, we would ask that you provide the office with your updated e-mail address and phone number if you already have not done so to ensure that you are in receipt of all communications as they relate to your child(ren). Your co-operation in this regard is greatly appreciated. Parents can Opt in for text messaging by texting a **Y to the short code 978338**. If you have already been receiving my text messages then there is no need to text into the code.



CURRICULUM CORNER



One of the primary focuses for this year is to increase student achievement, specifically in the areas of numeracy and literacy. To that end, we are focusing on a number of strategies and interventions at the school level to support student learning. Our current math program is MATHUP for K to 8 students: <https://www.mathup.ca/>. Workbooks were purchased for all students in grades 1 to 7 to use as a consumable. In literacy we continue to use the Heggerty Program in K to 2 to build Phonemic Awareness which is the ability to understand that spoken words are made up of individual sounds called phonemes, and it's one of the best early predictors for reading success: <https://heggerty.org/>. We continue to utilize the 100 minute uninterrupted literacy/numeracy block into the school timetable to enhance and push forward student achievement. Other programs in the school include the Lexia Program Core5, Power Up, Empower program to 'Close the Gap' where necessary.

EXTRA CLOTHES

As the weather gets colder and the students begin to play in the snow parents are reminded to send extra standardized dress code clothing to school especially for the children in the Kindergarten and primary levels. This will avoid inconveniencing parents when it becomes necessary to find dry clothes. All students are expected to have an indoor pair of shoes to wear in the halls and classrooms. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

INCLEMENT WEATHER



Colder weather is on the way. Please ensure that your child comes to school well prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coat and boots. Please label your child(ren)'s belongings as many have similar apparel and cannot always identify their belongings.

Please be aware that we do not have the facilities nor the staffing to supervise students who have parents requests asking for their child(ren) to remain indoor at recess times. If you feel that your child is not well enough to go outside, it would be best for you to keep your child(ren) at home.

On extremely cold days, we may limit the amount of time the students spend outside. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information and follow the Niagara Catholic District School Board guidelines. When the temperature is below a certain threshold (with wind chill) we will not be going outside. **I have attached an excerpt from the NCDSB protocol within this email.** With the exception of these occasions, it is our expectation that all students will go out for recess. Health officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial as long as students are dressed properly.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS & CHECK THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD & NSTS WEBSITE.

AS WELL, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians the procedures when it comes to "Inclement Weather".

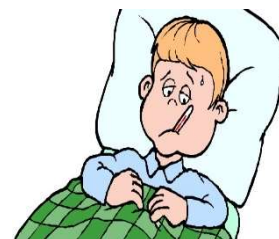
1. If bus transportation is **cancelled in the morning**, it also follows that the **children will not be picked up after school** at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is then your responsibility to pick the child up at the end of the day.
2. When only transportation services are cancelled, **the schools remain open**, and it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to determine whether or not it is safe for the student to attend school.
3. Procedures relating to Inclement Weather after the school day starts:

- Transportation is cancelled and school is kept open;
- Transportation is cancelled and school is closed. At this point, the safety of our children is our prime concern. The school will attempt to contact you by telephone should an emergency closing be necessary after the children have arrived at school. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled and the school will be closing and that parents/guardians need make arrangements to attend at the school to pick up their child(ren).

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME???

Please keep your child at home and away from others if he/she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever;
- Diarrhea;
- Sore Throat;
- Rash;
- Vomiting;
- Frequent coughing and/or sneezing;
- Yellow or green discharge from nose, ears or eyes.



Contact your family doctor for a diagnosis. Your doctor will advise you about care and treatment. For more information please contact the Infectious Disease Program at (905) 688-8248 ext. 7330 or 1-800-505-6074 or www.niagararegion.ca.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Clean your hands to prevent the spread of germs and reduce your risk of getting sick. Wash your hands after;

- Coughing or sneezing;
- Blowing your nose;
- Using the washroom;
- Playing with pets;
- Playing outdoor;
- Before preparing meals and eating.

Use warm water and soap, lather and scrub for at least 15 minutes. Have children sing the ABC song, so they scrub for long enough. Alcohol-based sanitizers are safe for children and can be used when you do not see any dirt.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO JANUARY 2025
NEWSLETTER JUST A CALENDAR AND WEEKLY UPDATES**