



Loretto Catholic Elementary School

December 2024



School Information

Ms. L. Spadafora - Principal

Mrs. M. Kelly - Vice Principal

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/lorettocatholic/>

Location: [6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada](#)

Phone: 905 356 4175

Twitter: [@LorettoFalls](#) **Instagram:** [lorettocatholicnf](#)

Principal's Message

The Christmas season is the perfect time to gather and celebrate the love of family and friends and we would like to extend to you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas filled with laughter, love and good cheer.

God Bless you

Ms. Spadafora & Mrs. Kelly

Loving Father,

*Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

Close the door of hate

and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift

and good desires with every greeting.

*Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,*



*and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.*

Our Lady of Loretto, pray for us.

*The **December calendar** is located below at the end of the newsletter.*

Communication

Loretto Catholic 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 community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

We continue to focus on "**Bee-ing part of our Loretto Catholic Hive**", we all play a role in order for our Hive to be successful. We can **Be Kind, Be Caring, Be successful, Be Nurturing, Be workers, Be Faithful...**

As we work through this year students and staff will work on the importance of Team work and how our Hive is a collective group that helps to make each one of us better and stronger spiritually, emotionally and intellectually.



Advent Celebrations

Advent begins on **December 1st**. This is a time of preparing for the coming of Jesus, our Saviour. During the liturgical season of Advent, our students will be doing activities to recognize this special season. We will also be gathering together as a school community to listen to the Word of God and light our Advent wreath.

Our Grade **3/4, 4, 5's** classes will be leading us in weekly liturgies in class.

Families are welcome to join us on **December 10 th** for our Advent Mass with Father Mathew at 10:00 at St. Thomas More Parish, Mass will be lead by the Grade 6/7 Mancuso.

Parking Lot Safety

Just wanted to take a moment to thank all our families who are following the **Kiss'n Ride process both before and after school.**

We are asking parents to only use the front area designated as a Kiss'n 'Ride- to not park and leave your car or exit your car in this area. Student(s) exit the car only with their belongings and cross with the supervisor to the school property.

We also ask that parents do not park in front of the stop signs along the exit path as this blocks traffic and flow and the entry of the afternoon busses.

Parents/Guardians we ask that you not block the entrance way at the end of the day as the busses are struggling to get into our parking lot or to have to try and maneuver around cars.

We have supervision staff who are helping students so they can walk to their entrances both at the front and back of the school **before 8:45 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the front doors.

We ask that cars proceed **slowly** as we have had a few very close calls with students. Cars need to **STOP** and check that the crosswalk is clear where students and families are walking to cross.

Should parents want to park- then please use the side entrance at the KSD side and enter through the back gates after 8:35.

Families are asked not to park on the side of Loretto Catholic where the gate and portables are at any time as this is an Emergency Lane, as well we have been asked not to use the Avondale Parking lot as a pick up zone.

Your support and assistance in ensuring our students' safety are very important to all of us.

Playground Safety

Parents, we have noticed lots of excessive physical play during our outdoor and after school times. Often, it is a simple misunderstanding or because feelings were hurt. Students are saying very unkind words over a loss of a game or showing poor sportsmanship. We are asking for your support as we continue to work with our students on being kind to each other, walking away, going to a teacher for help, asking the other student to stop. These are some of strategies we are using. Our students can communicate their feelings afterward and are always remorseful and willing to work through to a solution and restore the relationship. We will continue to develop and work on students regulating their emotions with the Zones of Regulations.

We thank you in advance for addressing this at home as a family as well.

Catholic School Council

The Loretto Catholic School Council (CSC) Christmas elves are busy preparing for the upcoming Christmas season. **Gingerbread night** is on **Thursday December 11th from 4:30-6:30 pm.** Cash online is open until Dec 5th at midnight. If you are unable to attend



but would like to order a kit, please purchase and email the school to let us know you would like it sent home with your child.

Thank you to those who pre-ordered their gingerbread houses. We are looking forward to coming together with our Loretto Catholic School families. We will be in the gymnasium to decorate and share some cheer. Please be mindful that we are a peanut safe school if you are bringing in any additional items that evening.

Stuff the Bus

Project Share is starting their "Stuff the Bus" event. Schools in Niagara collect food, and toys which are collected by a **Niagara Falls Transit bus on Friday, December 8th.**



Project SHARE of Niagara Falls

@projectsharenf · Social Service

Project Share is an emergency support services agency. They provide emergency food to an average of over 100 families per day. In addition to their emergency food program, they offer 17 programs to help meet their mission of improving the lives of Niagara Falls families and individuals in need. The need for Project Share's services has seen a substantial increase since the Covid-19 pandemic and they are currently supporting 45% more clients than at this point last year. From December 1st to the 9th we will be collecting non-perishable food, and toys in the bins located in the front foyer so you still have time to send items in. Look for our pictures on Instagram!

Thank you for your continued support!

Balance Day schedule

A Balanced School Day is a modified elementary school schedule designed to enhance learning, foster healthy habits, and encourage daily physical activity.

A typical Monday to Friday Balanced School Day at Loretto Catholic would be:

- **845- 8:55 a.m. -Bell rings/Announcements & Attendance**
- **8:55-10:55 a.m. – 120 instructional minutes**
- **10:55-11:35 a.m. – 40 minutes nutrition break (20 mins eating/20 mins physical activity break)**
- **11:35-12:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes**
- **12:55-1:35 p.m. – 40 minutes nutrition/physical activity break**
- **1:35-2:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes**
- **2:55-3:05 p.m. - Prayers/Announcements & Dismissal**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Student Council

We will be selling snacks on Fridays during December. Snacks are \$1.00 - \$2.00. Different flavoured chips and sour keys and ring pops.

Brrrr...its cold outside!

Colder weather is here again! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves,

gloves, warm coats and boots, labeled with their names. As well as having indoor shoes to change into.

In colder weather we often receive requests to allow children to remain indoors when students have a cold, flu, etc. Please note that we cannot comply, as we have neither the facilities, nor the staff to supervise these students. If you feel your child is not well enough to go outside, it would be best for you to keep your child home. Health officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial, as long as students are dressed appropriately. On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time that students spend out of doors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow Board guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, it is our expectation that all children will go out for recess.

Winter Playground

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. With the number of students at our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form.

Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season: No throwing of snowballs, no kicking or throwing snow or snowing other students. We are also mindful that we share our playground and therefore our creations may be used, altered or may melt. The snow belongs to us all.

Big Bear Spirit Wear

Families are able to purchase Spirit Wear through Big Bear Spiritwear - **please visit the website by clicking on the banner above with their name.**

Our new **FRESH** Loretto Catholic Logo for our Spirit Wear.

Students may continue to wear existing spirit wear. Just a reminder that Spirit Wear T-shirts are not part of the daily dress code as collar shirts must be worn.

Please see the items below that are available throughout the year to purchase.

****To order- Link to Big Bear website- click schools- click Niagara Falls - click on Loretto Catholic**

School dress code is in effect. Collared shirt is either blue or white- no logos. Pants, skirts, shorts are blue. Denim is dark denim and in good repair, not faded or with holes.

All sweaters are blue unless they are Loretto Catholic Spirit wear which are blue and/or grey and have our school logo on it.

Grad hoodies are reserved for our students in Grade 8 only. As well s St. Michael's current spirit wear on Wednesdays.

In the **winter months students**, please have students layer and wear **blue dress code sweaters.**

Please be mindful that running shoes are necessary for gym classes and for outside play.

Thank you for your continued support.

LORETTO LYNX 2023 SPIRITWEAR

Gildan DryBlend 9.4 oz. 50/50 Jersey Polo

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Left Chest



Youth #8800B \$18.79
Adult #8800 \$20.49

Available Colours: Navy & White

Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt

Youth #88181Y Ladies' #78181 Adult #88181



\$27.50

Available Colours: Navy & White

50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Youth #18500B \$32.49
Adult #18500 \$33.95

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Full-Size Embroidery & Appliqué Decoration on Front



Youth #18500B \$36.95
Adult #18500 \$38.49

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

Dynamic Heather 2-Tone Lightweight Polyester Hoodie

Printed with Full-Size Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Youth #Y2047 \$64.95
Adult #F2047 \$64.95

Available Colour: Charcoal Dynamic Heather/True Navy

50/50 Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Left Chest



Youth #18600B \$38.95
Adult #18600 \$42.49

Available Colours: Navy and Dark Heather

ATC™ Mid Profile Twill Ball Cap Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo Front

100% cotton twill 6-panel Adjustable hook and loop closure

Coal Grey



Youth Size Adjustable #Y130 \$14.49

Navy



Adult Size Adjustable #C130 \$14.95

Acrylic 12" Pom Pom Toque

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



Dark Heather/Navy

#SP15 One Size \$14.50

Acrylic Beanie-Style Winter Toque

Embroidered with Loretto Lynx Logo on Front



One Size #102 \$12.95 + tax



Charcoal Grey



Navy

Tax is NOT included in the Prices shown.

Order On-Line at www.bigbearspiritwear.com

No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Customized Products

Sizing Charts available at each product online | Delivery to your School option available



6182 Dixon Street
Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2G 2L6
Ph: 905-357-7132
www.bigbearspiritwear.com

NIAGARA CATHOLIC Standardized Elementary Dress Code

Niagara Catholic has a standardized dress code for students in all of our Catholic elementary schools. All students wear navy blue bottoms and navy blue or white shirts.

OUR DRESS CODE COLOURS

Tops

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy or white Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy or white collared shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School-designed spirit wear

The elementary standardized dress code shirt must be plain (no logos or advertising) and buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.



Bottoms

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy sweat pants (Kindergarten - Grade 3) or;
- Navy pants (capri, cargo, denim, kobe or corduroy) or;
- Navy skirts, skirts or dresses or;
- Navy walking shorts.

Only knee-length shorts, skirts or dresses are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants.



Shoes

For health and safety reasons, running shoes with a full back and closed toe are the recommended footwear. Parents/guardians should provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear. Socks must be worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

Nurturing **Souls** & Building **Minds**

Hour of Code

Canada Learning Code Week is happening!

December 9-15, 2024

Students across Canada will collectively code to unlock Emoji World!

Once again we will be participating in the Hour of Code!

More information can be found at:

<https://www.canadalearningcode.ca/>

Electronics

The Electronic communication Systems Policy states that cell phones or smart phones, tablets, laptops, audio or video recording devices are eligible for use by students in all Niagara Catholic Elementary schools (Grades 6-8) **as approved only by staff for instructional or co-instructional purposes**. The expectation is that students will use NCDSB's electronic communication systems for educational purposes, to enhance learning through responsible access to global information and communication. Students who carry cell phones when travelling to and from school, for safety reasons, are reminded they are not allowed to use their cell phones to call or text home once they are on school property or during the school day/recess/lunch.

All cell phone must **remain off/silent** and **put away** during the school day unless noted by the school staff.

Students are asked to use the school student phone located in the office if they need to call home or are not feeling well.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring students stay safe from social media during the school day.

School Cash online

Payment for School Activities- School Cash Online

Parents/Guardians are asked to sign up for our convenient payment program - SCHOOLCASHONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities/lunches without sending in money to school.

To register, please go to:



SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome

Why Use SchoolCash Online? Convenient Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home Easy To Use Online shopping with various payment methods Safe Your child won't be carrying cash or checks to and from school Saves Time Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place

schoolcashonline.com

Lynx Water Bottles

We will continue to sell our Loretto Lynx 24- ounce reusable Sports Water bottles with our Loretto Lynx logo on it as well as a spot to write your child's name on it. Water bottles are BPA-free sports bottles that are made with a polyethylene (PET) material that's phthalate-free, non-toxic and lead-free. It features a twist-on lid with push/pull drinking spout. Its translucent bottle colour matches its lid color. Bottles can be purchased through School **Cash Online for \$8.00 each or 2 for \$14.00. We will begin selling as of mid September until late May.**



Reusable Water Bottles & Utensils

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle. This will not only help keep our children hydrated but will also help our environment. We ask that if your child needs a fork or spoon to eat their snacks or lunch that you please place one in their lunch pails.

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for all their support this year. Each class has a bin and tongs filled with delicious and nutritious food items such as yogurt tubes, fruits, fruit bars, and



individually baked goods. These items vary from day to day. All students are welcome to pick a snack to compliment their own snacks.

We also want to thank our families for donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain it throughout the year.

Please continue to help by donating through School Cash Online.

Items Left At School

We know it is the season when we have many student belongings at school like hats, mittens, sweaters, coats, indoor/outdoor shoes and boots at school. Often items are not labelled and it is hard to know who they belong to. We do have a lost and found for students to check in the vestibule in the main entrance to the school. Unfortunately, should items go missing and/or are lost when students have left them at school a reminder that we, the school, are not responsible for any lost items or items left at the school. We will do our best to help our students find their items. We ask that items are all labelled as many items are similar or from the same stores.

Toys at School

We remind all our students and parents that although toys are fun to play with during recess times, it is difficult to keep track of whose toys belong to whom. Often students bring and play with their toys during class time. We ask that you please consider not sending toys or labelling the toys and speaking to your child about when is an appropriate time to use them.

Although students are encouraged **not to trade** playing cards of any kind i.e. Pokémon, we are not responsible for traded, lost or misplaced cards.

Thank you for your support

Pets on School Property

Parents, we kindly ask that your pets do not come on to school property at arrival and dismissal. Many of our areas are already congested with families at pick up and some of our families and students are a little uncomfortable.

We appreciate your support.

Public Health Updates

NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

December 2024

ROUTINE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up to date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on schedule.

Learn more about the [vaccinations for children in school](#) and which vaccine(s) your child may need on our [website](#).

All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

Please note, you do not need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.

HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:

1. Validate Feelings: Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
2. Find Quiet Relief: When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
3. Explore Support: Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.

For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

Looking for a safe and welcoming space to relax, learn, and connect? Libraries offer more than just books—they're a free resource for promoting mental wellbeing, accessing technology, and engaging with your community. Whether you're seeking a quiet spot to unwind, attending a workshop, or discovering new hobbies, your library has something for everyone. Visit your local library today!

Learn more about libraries in your area and the services they offer by visiting: [Public Libraries Niagara](#).

GIVING BACK

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for the community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara Region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:

A charitable organization affiliated with your church

[St. Vincent de Paul](#)

[Community Care](#)

[Newark Neighbours](#)

[Salvation Army Community and Family Services](#)

[Pelham Cares](#)

[The HOPE Centre](#)

[Project SHARE](#)

[Grimsby Benevolent Fund](#)

[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)

[Open Arms Mission](#)

[United Way Niagara](#)

[Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)

We are a proud member of the Saint Michael Highschool Family of Schools



Loretto Catholic Elementary School

Climbing Mountains Together In Faith



@LorettoFalls



December 2024



lorettocatholicnf



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent Begins 	2 Day 1 Advent Liturgy #1— a.m. Presentation— Gr. 4P	3 Day 2 Parent Engagement Jon Hansen Presentation Grades 5-8 1:45 p.m. Parents Welcome	4 Day 3 Christmas Cookie Sales End Cash Online Wasteless Wednesday	5 Day 4 Food Orders for Jan. Begins—Cash Online Student Council Christmas Stories	6 Day 5 JOY DAY Deck the doors pm Christmas Sweater Day Out of dress code	7 5:00 pm Mass St. Thomas More
8 Mass— 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More 	9 Day 1 Advent Liturgy #2— p.m. Presentation—Gr. 5P Dental Screening JK/SK Stuff the Bus Ends	10 Day 2 Advent Mass 10:00 a.m. St. Thomas More Church Families Welcome 	11 Day 3 St. Michael HS Band 10:00-11:00—gym Choir Fest—12:00-1:30 Family Gingerbread Night 4:30-6:30 gym Waste-less Wednesday	12 Day 4 Public Library Visit— Kinder K—1:30 Gr 4-6 walking to Dorchester Manor Student Council Advent Christmas Trivia	13 Day 5 Vex Tournament at St. Mary's N.F. Be part of our Hive—wear black and yellow day—out of dress code	14 5:00 pm Mass St. Thomas More
15 Mass— 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More 	16 Day 1 Advent Liturgy #3—p.m Presentation— Gr. 5G 	17 Day 2 Food Orders for Jan. End—Cash Online Student Council Christmas Bingo	18 Day 3 ELF Play Gr 4-6 Niagara Falls Waste-less Wednesday	19 Day 4 Christmas Craft Day K-8 in Gym Cookie Day	20 Day 5 Advent Liturgy #4—a.m Presentation— Gr. 3/4V Christmas story reading Green and Red Day Out of Dress Code	21 5:00 pm Mass St. Thomas More
22 Mass— 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m. St. Thomas More 	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Jesus' Birthday 	26	27 	28
<p>Christmas Canteen Student Council will be sell- ing snacks on Fridays after lunch for \$1.00-\$2.00 (chips & sweets)</p>		<p>Christmas Break begins December 21 — School begins January 6</p>				

Loretto Catholic Elementary School is proud to be a part of the Saint Michael Catholic Family of Schools

December Calendar



Ms. Spadafora

