



St. Theresa Tribune

Sowing the Seeds of Faith, Blossoming in Knowledge
St. Theresa Catholic Elementary

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Principal's Message...

FAITH

When you come to the edge of all the light you have known and are about to step into the darkness.

Faith is knowing one of two things will happen.
There will be something to stand on or you will be taught how to fly.
Unknown



January was a productive and exciting month! We are so very proud of all our students. Members of our intermediate homework club are studious and focused each day after school. Our students have been highly engaged in literacy and numeracy activities with their book/math buddies each week.

Students, first term is over and you have all worked very well. The grades and marks on your report cards are a description of your work habits and achievement. As we begin our second term, you are encouraged to set new learning goals and re-commit yourselves to your academic responsibilities.

February will be faith-filled and action-packed. February is a month of reflection and action. We celebrate Black History month through lessons and discussions about humanity's faith and hope as we evolve, grow, learn and persevere. We are so excited for the Kindergarten Open House on February 6th and we are eager to meet our future students who will be joining us. **We will celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 13th, as the 14th is a Professional Activity Day.** Students will receive a cookie from staff on Tuesday for Valentine's Day. We will engage our children in activities to support the fundraising for the Kids Helping Kids campaign.

First term report cards will be sent home and will be available on the parent portal by February 10th, 2025.

Yours in Catholic Education,

D. Trainor

Mr. Trainor
Principal

Prayer for One's Friends

Lord Jesus, it's wonderful to have friends.

But friendship is not always easy;
our friends have faults and so do we.

Sometimes we get into an argument
and become angry, sometimes we feel like
letting things go. Help me to be patient and generous with my
friends and for myself.

Help us to be filled with Your joy.
Amen

Kindergarten Registration

Parents with children born in 2021 are encouraged to register for September 2025. Registration forms are available at www.niagaracatholic.ca. We are so excited to welcome our newest students. We welcome all new students and their families to our Kindergarten open house on February 6th, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Our Open House is the first of three transition-to-school events for our new students.



With Prayerful Thanks

We ask for our families to keep Mrs. Sartor in your prayers as she begins a short medical leave. During her absence we welcome Ms. Nardilli who will serve as our Educational Resource teacher. Ms. Nardilli currently teaches a grade 6/7 class at St. John in Beamsville. The role of Educational Resource teacher must be filled by a permanent teacher with Special Education Qualifications. A supply teacher will teach Ms. Nardilli's class while she is with us. Many of our current staff have the Special Education Qualifications and considered filling in for Mrs. Sartor, but their commitment to their students, and not wanting to step away from their classes during the school year prevented them from applying to the role. We commend them for their dedication to our children. We thank Ms. Nardilli for taking the short term spot at our school and welcome her to our school on January 27th.

We are so very excited to welcome Ms. J. Colavecchia-Wills back with us on January 27th. Her grade two students are anxiously awaiting her arrival and are eager to have her as their teacher for term two. Ms. Colavecchia, we missed your calm demeanour, and love of literacy, the arts and children. We are very happy you are well and able to return to us!

Huge thanks to Ms. Olszowy for all you did at our school during your time teaching our grade two class. We thank you for your commitment to our grade two students and will certainly remember the Advent liturgy you prepared for us prior to Christmas. We wish you well on your teaching journey and are so happy that you have St. Theresa time as part of your vocational work.

We will continue to pray for all staff as they adjust to their changes and know that our children will be well taught, and nurtured in faith formed by these interactions and experiences.



Classroom Spotlight: Grade Four

Our Grade Four class is as busy as ever this month! As our students are settled in and preparing for the second term, it is clear everyone has transitioned to a junior student! Students are working on using the online EDWIN resource in their study of rocks and minerals, and well as exploring the regions of Canada. They are currently investigating how rocks and minerals are used in our world and how we extract them from the earth. To develop their critical thinking skills and sense of global citizenship, we are identifying pros and cons of extraction processes. As we continue to study topics this term such as light and sound, pulleys and gears, and early civilizations, we will take on the same approach to strengthen these skills.

We are continuing to incorporate word study in our daily work to teach and reinforce letter/sound relationships. Studying and reviewing the Words of the Week at home will support this as well. Our upcoming topics in Literacy are learning about point of view in reading and writing, as well as inferring when reading.

In Math, students will be continuing to build on their multiplication and division skills when 2-digit numbers are multiplied. Through daily math talks, students are exposed to different ways to approach problems. Also, students can access NCVLE at home for extra practice using MathUp student links, as well as reviewing any posted work at any time! Special congratulations to Chilotam and Raymond for achieving Mathlete status on Knowledgehook - way to go!

Students have also been studying what it means to be a saint in the Catholic Church and how saints are important in our lives. They have researched many saints such as St. Nicholas, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Patrick and St. Valentine. We will continue to look to these saints for inspiration in our lives. Our Grade Four students continue to grow and learn, as they work on positive interactions and developing a caring classroom community!



Anaphylaxis Awareness and 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.

Intermediate Homework Club

Our intermediate homework club is a thriving club! The club runs weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:50 to 4:15 p.m. in the library. Ms. DeLuca, Mrs. Rogers, and Mr. Trainor are the staff moderators of the club. As part of the learning students will have access to technology and also use various literacy and numeracy games to reinforce their skills. We encourage all intermediate students to access the club once a week to support their learning.

School Snack Program

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Read, Ms. Hall, Ms. Skeoch and Mr. Rosano for their continued diligence in organizing, ordering and preparing the morning snacks for our students. Each child is permitted a fruit, dairy and grain. Thank you to Community Care for donations made throughout the year to support our Snack Program. *Did you know you can also make donations for our snack program?* Donations in the amount of \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 can be made through St. Theresa Cash online. Larger donations can be made through the Donation Module located on the top right of the screen when you log onto your School Cash Online account. Tax receipts will automatically be emailed to you when using the Donation Module. Thank you for your continued support. A special "Thank you" to families who have donated to this worthwhile program.

Kids Helping Kids Week

Niagara Catholic's 27th Annual **Kids Helping Kids** fundraiser will take place from February 10th to 21st in Niagara Catholic Schools.

This year's fundraiser will once again jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education.

Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in creative events at school. Our week for this fundraiser will be February 10th to 13th.

At St. Theresa we will have the following creative and fun dressing days.

- **Monday Feb., 10th will be sports jersey/hoodie day.**
- **Tuesday Feb., 11th Your Choice day. Will you be wearing a jersey, red, white or pink colours, a hat or ALL of these items on this day?**
- **Wednesday Feb., 12th will be Hat Day.**
- **Thursday Feb., 13th is Celebrate Valentine's Day Wear red, white and pink.**

We ask for families to donate \$2.00 for each child to cover all four days of creative dress and accessories. Thank you!

Donations to the **Kids Helping Kids** fundraiser can be made through School Cash Online.

For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. Find out more about the Niagara Children's Centre [here](#).

French Art Gallery Lessons

On February 6th, our Grade 4,5 and 6 students will have the Art Gallery come to teach a cultural French Art lesson. This opportunity allows our children to experience French from the community and be engaged in a cultural activity as well. Please be advised that there is no cost to you. Madame Afonso

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 made 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.
<https://exclusiveimprint.com/>

Catholic School Council

Our next meeting is on February 4th, 2025 at **3:00 p.m.** All are welcome to our meetings. We will be finalizing our Shrove Tuesday plans and learning more about our school improvement plan.

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.

Honouring Black History Month

Black History Month 2025 Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations

The month of February gives us all the chance to celebrate the diversity and achievements of Black people in Canada. However, it is also a time to reflect on Canada's painful history and the distinct challenges that Black people in Canada continue to face in their daily lives, such as systemic barriers, racism and discrimination.

Our government has been steadfast in their commitment to combatting systemic barriers and creating a more equitable and just future for Black Canadians. To that end, Canada officially recognized the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent in 2018. We also welcomed the adoption by the United Nations of the second International Decade for People of African Descent. To read more about Canadian Heritage funding opportunities to support Black communities, visit the [Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program](#) web page. As we celebrate Black History Month, I want to invite you to join us in highlighting and celebrating the remarkable contributions that Black people in Canada make to our country every single day.

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 & calendars will be posted on our school website! Please visit this exciting showcase of our great school.

Pink Shirt Day Feb. 26th, 2025



This year's theme for Pink Shirt Day is "Cultivating a Community of Kindness", a simple but powerful message encouraging us to look beyond our differences and celebrate the things that make us unique. When we sprinkle kindness, we see beyond the things that separate us and see instead the things that unite us as people; we can see how our differences are beautiful. In a world of people tearing each other down, it is more important than ever to focus on being kind to one another. This Pink Shirt Day and every day, let's cultivate our community of Kindness.

Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools will continue to demonstrate a commitment to bullying prevention and intervention in our schools, our communities, and online through our participation in ***Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday, February 26th, 2025*** focusing on lifting each other up.

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 p.m. **All communication must go through the main office during the school day.** 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.

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), and phone numbers and must be left at the office. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.



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", 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. **Do Not park** in the "Kiss and Ride" and leave your vehicle. Thank you, safety of our children is our first priority.