

St Joseph Phoenix News

FEBRUARY 2025

REFLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 🏰

“Come, follow me!” These words of Jesus are an invitation for each and every one of us. How can each of us better follow Jesus right where we are today? How can we become missionaries encouraging each other to look up from the table, let go of our sins and see the finger of Jesus pointing at each of us personally beckoning us to hear the command call?: “Come, follow me!”

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

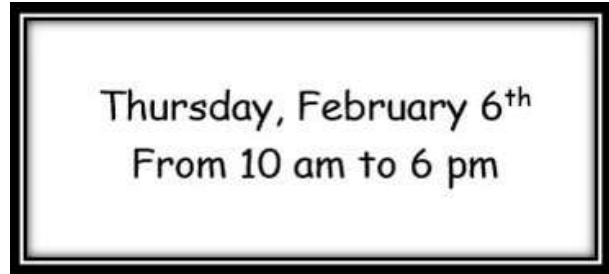
As we close out what seems like the longest month of the year, we look forward to a busy February. Two of the bigger events we have this month are the Kindergarten Open House on the 6th, and our annual Kids Helping Kids event that runs for two weeks beginning on the 10th of February, with many fun activities happening during these two weeks. Stay tuned for more information on this event.

We will also be celebrating Confirmation at the end of the month with our grade 8 students. This is always a special night for us, watching the students taking ownership of their faith by embracing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through this wonderful Sacrament.

I also want to highlight an event we have coming up on March 4th at 6 pm so that hopefully, you can plan ahead to attend. We have an incredible speaker coming in. Jess VanderWier is a local registered psychotherapist, mom of three, and founder of Nurtured First. Jess will be presenting “Screen Time and Social Media: A Parent’s Guide to Navigating the Digital World.” As a father of 4 older children, I strongly recommend that you attend this parent presentation! I hope to see you all there.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Tim Atkinson, Principal





Family Literacy Day

On Monday, January 27th, St. Joseph School celebrated Family Literacy Day with a school wide focus on spelling. It was so fun seeing all of our students with their alphabet letters and even more fun watching them make words together. From Kindergarten to Grade 8 all students spelled words with themes such as animals, colours and things that you can eat. A big shout-out to Mrs. McIntosh's class, who created 144 words throughout the day!



Mrs. McIntosh's Class



Mrs. Sorgini's Class



Mrs. Wall's Class



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The theme for this year's Black History Month: "Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations."

It was the Canadian Negro Women's Association that introduced the celebration of Black History Month to Toronto in the 1950's.

This black Canadian community initiative was adopted by the Ontario government in 1979, thanks to its championing by the Ontario Black History Society. In 1995, the House of Commons

declared a national Black History Month, which went into effect in 1996.

Black History Month exists to remind us all of the rich contributions within our society from people of African and Caribbean decent, and of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice. Teachers have the opportunity to engage their students, not only during this month but throughout

the school year, on recognizing the strengths and resiliency of communities that historically have been marginalized, as well examining issues of racism and the impact of discrimination on these communities.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 13 - 24

Support Kids Helping Kids. Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids Link at School Cash Online.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Niagara Catholic's 27th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 10-21, 2025.

This year's event will 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. Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online at

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

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.

To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website:

<https://www.niagarachildrenscentre.com/>

KIDS 
helping kids

NATIONAL SWEATER DAY



On Thursday, February 6, St. Joseph School will be participating in **National Sweater Day**, begun by the World Wildlife Federation (WWF). National Sweater day was initiated to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation and to show how together we can be a part of the solution. Since 2010, more than a

million Canadians have shown their support for limiting global temperature rise by turning down their thermostats and wearing their favourite sweaters to stay warm.

The staff and students of St. Joseph School will be wearing their warm sweaters, along with their dress code, to demonstrate their concern about climate change. We encourage each household to turn down the heat in their home by 2 degrees and put on their favourite sweater to demonstrate their concern for our warming planet!

The EcoTeam

PINK SHIRT DAY

Our 2025 Pink Shirt Day theme is all about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to school. It all starts with small gestures - a kind word, an offer of support or understanding. If we plant enough, pretty soon, more will be sprouting up all around us! By sprinkling these seeds of empathy and compassion, we can work towards a world without bullying and "Let Kindness Grow" through all of our kindness community gardens. The Pink Shirt Day campaign recognizes the importance of unity, inclusivity, and diversity of all people.



More Information for families and schools about ***Bullying – We Can All Stop It*** is available from the Ministry of Education

Bullying - we can all help stop it

Learn what to watch for, what you can do and where you can go to get help if your child is being bullied. Parents and guardians of students in elementary and secondary school can use this guide to get information.

[ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca)

PARENT PRESENTATION

Join Us for an Evening with Jess VanderWier from Nurtured First

The St. Joseph Catholic School Council is proud to bring in Jess VanderWier, a local registered psychotherapist, mom of three, and founder of Nurtured First.

Jess will be presenting **Screen Time and Social Media: A Parent's Guide to Navigating the Digital World**. An RSVP Google form will be emailed to all families later in February.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn practical strategies to protect and empower your children in today's digital age. We hope to see you there!

Event Information

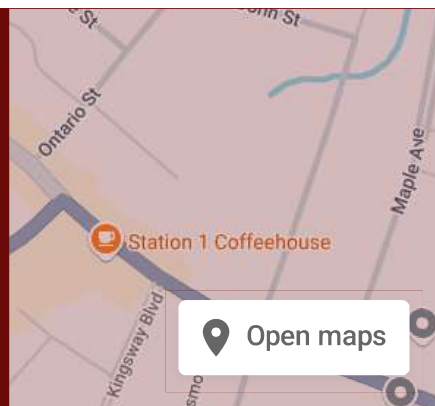
Screen Time and Social Media

When?

Tuesday, Mar 4, 2025, 06:00 PM

Where?

**St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, 5 Robinson Street
North, Grimsby, ON, Canada**



END OF DAY PICK-UP

Our top priority for morning and afternoon transitions to and from school is safety. I think the system we have in place does a good job of that. Those of you who regularly pick up and drop off do a great job of following the system we have. The end of the day is a little busier, as many of you come early and wait in your vehicles in the centre lane which is perfectly fine. Some days, the centre lane of cars backs all the way out to Robinson street, and the busses cannot make the turn into the school. To help with this issue, I am asking that you please pull up close to the car in front of you so we can squeeze as many in as possible. Also, please don't pull into the line if your vehicle will prohibit the bus from making it's turn.

Your continued support with our pick-up and drop-off procedures is greatly appreciated!

Mr. T. Atkinson

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

With the winter weather upon us , please check the board website, social media platforms and local radio and television for updates about closures and cancellations due to weather.

Decisions about bus cancellations – either in a specific area, or across Niagara Catholic – are made by Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS). The decision to cancel buses is made **by 6 a.m. on a school day**. The decision is made based on current and forecast conditions.

Sometimes, parents choose to keep students at home when buses are cancelled, and schools are open. We remind all parents to report your child's absence using Safe Arrival if you choose to keep your children at home, so that we know they are safe. If you do not and your children are not at school, you will receive automated calls to report their absence.



ECO TEAM NEWS

The Eco Team and Student Council would like to thank you so much for your participation in our Recycle for Ed collection BLITZ and the blanket and coat drive. Thanks to your generous support we collected over 460kg of recycled goods and raised just over \$100 to fund other Eco initiatives. We also supplied many of our region's homeless with blankets and coats to help them through the frigid winter temperatures. Your generosity supporting our environment and community-in-need is overwhelming.
Go Pheonix!



In an effort to align St. Joseph school with ECO-Friendly habits, we would like to reduce consumption and limit unnecessary items filling our landfills. With Valentine's Day approaching, we are especially mindful that many students hand out cards *along with* a variety of small items, such as little toys and trinkets, to their classmates. While the intentions are positive, the reality is that the items given to peers end up in our landfills shortly after they are received. Students will always be welcome to bring in and distribute cards, and to continue what we started last year, no

other items will be distributed.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and our planet thanks you as well!

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. Atkinson and The Eco Team

[St Joseph Phoenix Spirit Wear Link](#)

[School Cash Online](#)

[School Messenger](#)

BT CORNER

We at Blessed Trinity hope all of our Family of Schools had a very enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

At Blessed Trinity, January marks the last 2 weeks of our Semester 1 and final exams for our students. The focus for January will be wrapping up the semester and preparing for those exams.

For the grade 8's at our Family of Schools it will mean getting to actually choose the courses they will be taking next year in Grade 9 at Blessed Trinity. The process began back in December and in the first two weeks of January with an information presentation to all grade 8 students on the compulsory and elective courses they will be choosing from.

On January 16th that process continued with our Grade 8 Open House at Blessed Trinity. We would like to thank all parents and students who attended. It was a very exciting evening that saw one of our largest turnouts ever.

The last step in the process was to have a representative from Blessed Trinity visit Grade 8 classrooms to help students actually choose and submit their courses through My BluePrint from January 22nd to February 9th.

The deadline for selecting courses, submitting the registration form and payment of the Grade 9 Registration Fee of \$55 is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th. Please go to <https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> to pay the fee.

Please contact Blessed Trinity – Mr. John Cino – 905-945-6706 Ext. 2330 or Mrs. Rose Bianco Ext. 2312, if any Grade 8 parents or guardians have any questions.



Holly Humphreys

Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters