

St. Thérèse Catholic School

March 2025

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Anoquot-Smith - Secretary

Website - <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/st-therese/>

Address - [530 Killaly Street East, Port Colborne, ON](#)

Phone - 905-835-8082

Instagram - @st.thereseperc

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School Bell Times

8:40-8:55- Student Arrival

8:55 -9:05 - Entry Bell - Prayers, Announcements, Attendance

10:25-11:05 -Recess and Nutrition Break

1:05-1:45- Nutrition Break and Recess

3:05 - Prayers, Announcements

3:15 - Dismissal Bell

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Lent is an important part of the liturgical calendar as it helps us prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus. In our upcoming Ash Wednesday Mass, students will be reminded that ashes are a symbol of repentance. It is important for us to focus less on 'what we can give up' and more on 'what we can give back'.

Our students are learning the three key ways to prepare for Jesus' death and resurrection is through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, students will have the chance to practice all three ways to prepare for the resurrection of Christ.

In February, we welcomed new Kindergarten Registrations for the 2025-2026 school year into St. Thérèse during our Open House. We are so happy to be welcoming so many students next year. If you are aware of anyone who has a child born in 2021 who still needs to register for Kindergarten, please spread the word of our wonderful school community.

March promises to be filled with many fun activities for our students with Earth Hour, National Nutrition Month and several special event days - please check our school calendar for a quick summary of events and see more details below in our newsletter!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Turcotte

A Lenten Prayer

Loving God

I give this season of Lent to you
And ask you to show me what I need to turn away from.
And what I need to turn towards.
Shine your loving light in the dark parts of my heart,
And bring new life, new hope and new possibilities.

St. Thérèse, pray for us.

Amen.



Theological Theme - Called By Name - Come Follow Me

Our Monthly Reflection

Speakers often ask, "Do you follow me?" to make sure you understand. You can hear someone speaking, but to truly understand them, you have to listen. We often hear the words of Jesus in the Bible, at school, and during Mass. But are we taking the time to really follow what Jesus is saying? Jesus calls each of us to follow Him. Part of following Jesus means listening to His words, understanding His message, and living it out each day. What's one way you can follow Jesus more closely? How will you start building that habit today?





Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

This Tuesday we will recognize **Shrove Tuesday** by enjoying a pancake snack at first nutrition break. Our pancakes are once again supplied by McDonald's in Port Colborne.

On Wednesday, we will have an **Ash Wednesday Mass** in our **school gymnasium at 2pm**. All are welcome to join us to receive ashes. Please sign in at the office when you arrive. Please remember, our parking is minimal at this time.

Kindergarten Open House

Kindergarten Registration is always open. If you know of any families who are interested in joining our Titan family, please have them visit niagaracatholic.ca for more information. We were thrilled to welcome many new families during our recent Open House who will be beginning Junior Kindergarten in September. We were also very excited to meet so many siblings of our current students!

Thank you to our Open House Team - Mrs. Rossi, Mrs. Tedesco, Ms. Smyth, Mrs. Doddridge and Mrs. Anonot-Smith for organizing and facilitating our Open House!

Our new families are reminded to drop off any documents they may have to complete the registration process (birth certificate, baptismal certificate, proof of residency, immunization records etc) All new junior kindergarten students will be invited with their families through School Messenger about the date of our New Kindergarten Orientation Night. That evening will take place later in the spring and will consist of a presentation from our Kindergarten Team, as well as a bus ride around the neighbourhood. Spread the news! St. Thérèse is growing!



Eastside Market

Our next Eastside Market is on Tuesday, April 1st! You can purchase your \$5 bag of produce through School Cash Online until Monday, March 24th at midnight! Please consider purchasing a \$5 to pay in forward!

We will send a reminder - but please bring a reusable grocery bag on the day of the market to ensure your child can bring their produce home!

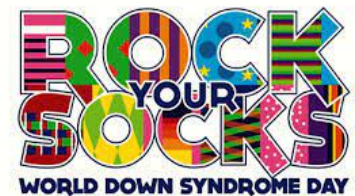


Follow us on
Instagram

@St.TheresePC

ROCK YOUR SOCKS - World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day will take place around the world on **Friday, March 21st**. We are inviting all staff and students to wear colourful socks to raise awareness about Down Syndrome and how people with Down Syndrome play a vital role in our lives and our school communities. Rock Your Socks!



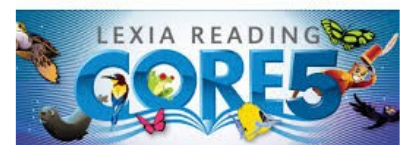
Catholic School Council Update

The **St. Thérèse Catholic School Council (CSC)** is starting to plan our annual Spring Fest event taking place on **Thursday, June 5th - Please save the date!** We are seeking for donations to our Raffle Table - if you are willing to donate or would like a Donation Request Letter please don't hesitate to contact the school.

We are looking forward to bringing back this fun event for our school community!!

Lexia - CORE 5 Reading Program

Since September, all of our Grade 3 students as well as several other students who would benefit, have been participating in the **Lexia CORE 5 Reading Program**. This online platform begins with a placement assessment, then provides our students with specific activities and lessons all while giving the child and teacher feedback about their learning.



In January, we were fortunate to have all of our Grade 1 and 2 students enrolled in the program. It has been amazing to see our students work through various activities and receive certificates for their accomplishments. Not only does it allow us to target individual needs very easily, but it also has our students excited to learn and see their own growth.

It is **VERY** important that the computer aspect of the Lexia Reading Program remain an **AT SCHOOL** activity. Students **MUST** complete the work **independently**. This allows the program to tailor the learning specifically to the child's individual needs and alerts us when struggles arise so we can intervene and teach specific lessons to address student misconceptions. Once a child levels up and has mastered a section, they will receive a special certificate as well as follow up paperwork to reinforce the concepts they just learned. The follow up paperwork activity can be completed at home if you wish to engage your child in their reading activities.

It is extremely important you are not working with your child through the computer portion of the Lexia Program. Supporting your child with this aspect of the learning will collect data about your child's accomplishments that are inaccurate if they were supported to complete the work. Additionally, students are required to obtain a specific number of minutes and units complete each week - we do not want them to tire of the program or the learning by completing extra lessons and activities outside of school.

We look forward to celebrating your child's accomplishments with you as we continue to use this program through the remainder of the school year.

KNOWLEDGEHOOK

Did you know our students from Kinder to Grade 8 have access to a great Math Resource called Knowledgehook?

This platform allows students to engage in various math activities online as directed by their classroom teacher. Students can access their Knowledgehook account from home and even gain access to some online tutoring support.

As students earn stars for their participation in Knowledgehook, their progress is celebrated with music over the PA, they receive a certificate and their name is added to our Knowledgehook Wall of Half Mathalon and Full Mathalon Achievers!



What Are Our Students Involved in This Month?

March continues to be action packed with many opportunities for our students to enrich their school life! Here is a quick overview of some of the activities our students are involved in!

- Student Council (Colour Wars)
- Eco Warriors (The Big Gulp!)
- Healthy Heroes (The Big Crunch)

- Spirit Squad
 - Faith Ambassadors
 - Eastside Fresh Market (preparing for April 1st!)
 - Dance Team (Showcase March 6th - Lakeshore Catholic)
 - Chess Club (March 25th)
 - Crochet Club (wrapping up this month)
 - PALS (our older students run games and activities for our younger students at recess)
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Grade 8 Graduation

Our **Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony** will take place at **Lakeshore Catholic** on **Thursday, June 19th**.

Graduation Photos will take place on **Tuesday, March 18th** at school - students will need a white collared shirt for the photo.

Proofs will be sent home for parents interested in purchasing Graduation Photos. A picture of each Graduate will be taken for our Graduation Composite which hangs on our Graduation Wall.



Does Your Child Need the Sacrament of Baptism

Father Daniele is running the **Christian Rite of Initiation for Children (RCIC)** to help children prepare for the sacrament of Baptism. Please reach out to Father Daniele at the parish at (905) 835-4645 if you are interested.

If your child is in Grade 2 and would like to receive the sacrament of **First Communion**, it is possible for them to be Baptised and still receive First Communion with their classmates this year in May.



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

St. Thérèse SPIRIT WEAR - NEW ITEMS!

St. Thérèse Spirit Wear is available for purchase year round! Items are shipped directly to the school with your child's name on the package for easy delivery! Be sure to check out their website where you can see all of our new items!

Please check out [Big Bear Spiritwear's website](#) for more information - Click on Schools to find our shopping link!

THE GREAT GULP

Simple daily actions, such as using a reusable water bottle, can have a big impact on the environment. On Wednesday, March 19th our school will be participating in **The Great Gulp**, by taking a drink of tap water from a reusable bottle, glass, or mug.



Through this simple action we hope to raise awareness about drinking water, access to safe and healthy tap water, and the importance of reducing single-use plastic waste in Canada.

We encourage you and your family to join us in this initiative by organizing a Great Gulp with members of your household, or with family and friends virtually. You can also find other activities to do at home to extend this learning, by checking out the ecoschools.ca/thegreatgulp.

We look forward to hearing about the unique ways your family participated in raising awareness and taking action!



NIAGARA NUTRITION PARTNERS HEALTHY HEROES SNACK ATTACK

To celebrate National Nutrition Month - we are participating in a Snack Drive to support our daily Nutrition Program.

Throughout all of March you can donate whole grain (peanut free) snacks for us to use as part of our nutrition program in our daily class food bins! **How many boxes of whole grain snacks can we collect?**

Items could include: crackers, cereal and granola bars, Nutragrain bars.

Would you rather us shop for you?

Instead of purchasing a grain product that matches the criteria, donate to the St. Thérèse Nutrition Program through **School Cash Online** and we'll do the shopping for you!

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.





KIDS HELPING KIDS - THANK YOU

A big thank you to all our families for participating and donating to the 2025 Kids Helping Kids campaign. We had a fun-filled two weeks with so many exciting events on the go!

We appreciate all of the school spirit on our theme days and are humbled by the generosity of our school community. We raised **\$1717** for the **Niagara Children's Centre** and the **Niagara Catholic Foundation for Education**. Just incredible! Thank you to everyone who participated in all of our Food Days, our candygrams, our theme days or purchased Smencils!

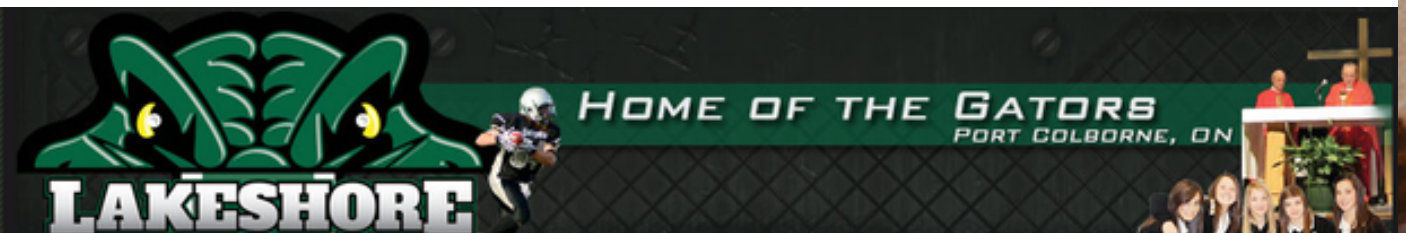
Earth Hour

As part of our **GREEN Niagara Catholic Eco Schools Program**, we will once again participate in the Global EARTH HOUR event on **Friday, March 21st** to demonstrate how we continue to be good stewards of the Earth.

For one hour during the day we will turn off lights where it is safe to do so and where it will not adversely disrupt normal classroom teaching. Each class will be participating in Earth Hour related lessons. We are also encouraging all Titan Families to participate in Global Earth Hour planned for Saturday, March 22nd between 8:30 and 9:30pm.



We had an amazing time celebrating the 100th Day of School!

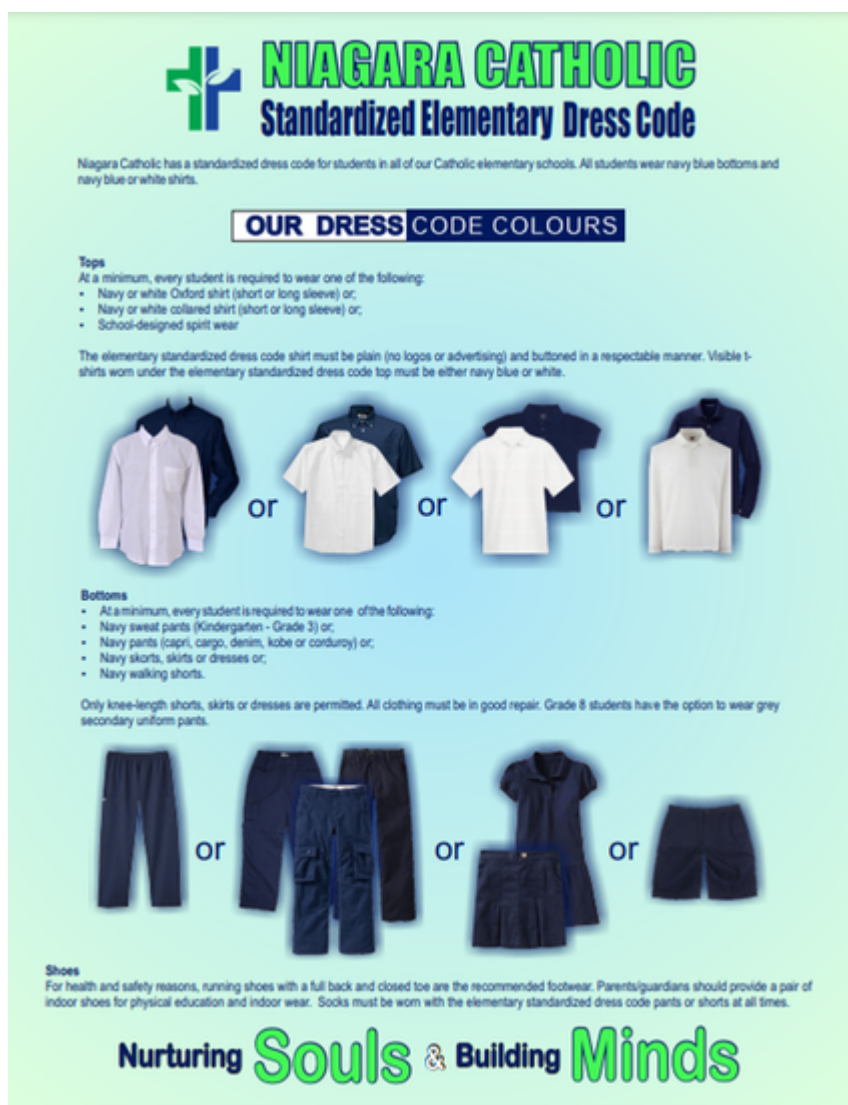


Standardized Dress Code

Reminder that students are expected to follow dress code expectations daily. We have provided a graphic below as a reminder of the colour and items of clothing that students can wear to school. Our Grade 8 Students are also able to wear their GRAD Hoodies!

All students can also wear St. Thérèse Spirit Wear or Lakeshore Catholic Spirit Wear!

Thank you for your continued support.



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

Morning Drop Off

Please remember - staff supervision begins at **8:40 a.m.** each morning. Students should not be dropped off or arriving to school earlier than this time.

Starting at 8:40 a.m. 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 8:55 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students

must enter through the front doors of the school.

Inclement Weather Cancellation Information for Families

Inclement Weather Procedure

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to review the inclement weather procedure:

1. When transportation is cancelled **BEFORE** school begins - notification will be sent out through our Niagara Catholic social media pages, School Messenger and be announced on local radio stations.

In this situation schools are **OPEN** for staff and students and it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to attend school and to provide transportation.

If your child is not coming to school, please report their absence using the Safe Arrival System.

2. In the rare occasion when transportation is cancelled **AFTER** school begins - the school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The option you, as a parent, have chosen on the **Emergency School Form** will apply to all emergency dismissals.

In case of inclement weather check Niagara Catholic District School Board website at:
www.niagaracatholic.ca

Safe Arrival - Reporting Your Child's Attendance

To report your child absent, please use one of the 3 methods listed below:

1. Use the SafeArrival website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address on file with the school. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the School Messenger App (blue logo) from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device, please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app.

3. The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

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.

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. As we continue our Eco Schools Initiatives we will be moving away from single-use plastics and want to educate our students about sustainable actions they can take as stewards of our earth.

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.

Please do not send Pokémon cards to school as students are not permitted **to trade** playing cards of any kind.

Thank you for your support!



Melissa Turcotte

Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters