



Notre Dame Catholic School



6559 Caswell Street, Niagara Falls, ON, L2J 1C2

Phone: (905) 358-3861 Email: notre.dame@ncdsb.com

Principal: Mr. E. Roussos Superintendent of Education: Mr. D. Massi

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

November 2024

Principal's Message

It was great to see students showing off their Halloween spirit dressed in costumes, and showing off their creativity and individuality at school. Now as we begin to prepare for a change in season and daylight savings, we turn our thoughts towards All Saints Day and All Souls Day, followed by Remembrance Day. The month of November is a time for us to reflect on those in our own families who have departed from our dinner tables, and give thanks for the sacrifices they made for us.

Take Time

*Take time to pray, time to play, time to laugh, time to sing,
Time to remember, time to give thanks,
Time to rebuild, time to restore, time to renew together.*

I wish all of our families have a safe and enjoyable month of November!

All the best,
E. Roussos

Theological Theme: Called by Name: Follow Me

Have you ever tried to speak to someone who was distracted? Maybe they were listening to music, reading a book, or on a phone. Distracted people don't realize that they should be paying attention. They don't know what they should be listening out for. God speaks to us every day, but sometimes we get so busy and distracted that we forget that we should be listening. Maybe we don't know what we should be listening for, since God's normal way of speaking to us is not with an audible voice. God speaks to us in so many ways. Through the Bible, through the Mass and Sacraments. He moves our hearts, sometimes with a sensible joy. He speaks to us through the events of our lives, and through the mouths of other people. Take some time today to pay attention. When have you heard God's voice in your life this day, this month, and this year?



Registrations - Join Our Family!

We are always welcoming those families who want to join the Notre Dame Catholic School Community! Please register online on the Niagara Catholic DSB webpage or by clicking [here](#).

We are proud to be a part of the Saint Paul High School family of schools!

Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission

We are a Christ-centred Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

JUSTICE ♦ COMPASSION ♦ STEWARDSHIP ♦ ACCOUNTABILITY ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ FAITHFULNESS



Notre Dame Catholic School



ON THE CALENDAR

Alternate Lunch Days

Families will have the option to order lunch for students on select days each month. In November, we will offer the following alternate lunch days:

- November 1 - Subway Lunch (previously posted on SchoolCash Online)
- November 7 - Pasta Fresca
- November 14 - Swiss Chalet
- November 21 - Subway
- November 28 - Carmine's Pizza
- December 5 - Little Caesar's

All orders can be placed through SchoolCash Online. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Treaties Recognition Week

In response to the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action, since 2016 the Ontario government has designated the first full week of November as Treaty Recognition Week. This year, Treaty Recognition Week is during the week of **November 4-8**. Treaty Recognition Week is a time to recognize the importance of treaties as legal documents shared between sovereign nations. Students will be completing activities in class to highlight the significance of this week.

Remembrance Day

Students at Notre Dame will be commemorating Remembrance Day on **November 11** with a school liturgy at 9:45 AM and ending with a minute of silence. Poppies will be provided for your children. Parents are invited to join us for this ceremony.



Picture Retake & Class Photo Day

Students in all classes will have the option for picture retakes on **Wednesday, November 20**. Class photos will also be taken that day as well.

JK / SK Fluoride Varnish Program

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be visiting Notre Dame Elementary School on **November 25** to provide fluoride varnish to JK/SK students. This service is recommended to keep teeth healthy and help prevent cavities. A link to the Medical History and Consent form can be found [here](#).

Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic

On **Wednesday, November 27**, Niagara Public Health will set up at Notre Dame to administer vaccinations to Grade 7 students. Information and consent forms were sent home to Grade 7 families in late-October. A Public Health nurse will visit our Grade 7 students to discuss the vaccines and provide information on the serious diseases they help prevent. A link to the Niagara Public Health webpage, which contains the electronic consent form can be found [here](#).



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ON THE CALENDAR

Plaid Shirt Day

Pathstone Mental Health has invited Niagara Catholic schools to participate in their #ProjectPlaid campaign. Notre Dame students are asked to wear **plaid shirts with dress code bottoms** to promote awareness for mental health on **Thursday, November 28**. This is not an out of dress code day.



Progress Reports & Parent-Teacher Conferences



All students will receive **Progress Report Cards** the week of **November 11** via the Niagara Catholic DSB Parent Portal. This Progress Report will focus on the student's general progress towards the achievement of curriculum expectations in all subject areas, as well as on the six learning skills: responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self-regulation. These reports will not contain letter grades or percentage marks. Establishing learning goals from these reports will enable students to establish a firm foundation for their efforts.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place at Notre Dame on **Wednesday, November 20** from 4:00-7:00 PM. More information about that evening will follow soon.



Saint Paul High School Transition Activities



Saint Paul High School Transition Activities

Our Grade 8 students have started their transition from being part of the Notre Dame family to joining the Saint Paul family. Students have been visited by school administrators Mrs. Majka, Mr. Folinazzo and Mrs. Piroosko to introduce students to the excellence they can expect when attending Saint Paul. Notre Dame students will begin experiencing the Patriot culture by attending a variety of events held at the high school.

Grade 8 Open House

Families of our Grade 8 students are invited to attend the Saint Paul High School Open House on **Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 PM**. Students and their families can explore the different activities and programs that Saint Paul has to offer to continue their faith-based education journey.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Notre Dame Spirit Wear



Notre Dame Catholic School spirit wear has been given a refreshed look. All spirit wear items will be accepted as part of the Notre Dame Catholic School standardized dress code. Families can purchase items directly through our supplier, Big Bear Spiritwear, on their website [here](#).



Elementary Standardized Dress Code



The Niagara Catholic DSB has a Standardized Elementary Dress Code in place for students in elementary schools. All students are to wear navy bottoms and navy blue or white shirts. For more detailed information, please view the NCDSB flyer [here](#).

Notre Dame Catholic School Council

The Notre Dame Catholic School Council is part of what makes our Catholic school so special. We will have our second meeting of the year on **Monday, November 25** in the Notre Dame school library. If you are not part of our Catholic School Council team and would like to attend the meeting, please contact the school to let the office know.

Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff are thankful for all that Delta Bingo gives back to the school. Students have benefitted from recess and PE equipment, learning materials, as well as classroom technology. We look forward to continuing our school fundraising efforts through our partnership.

Thank you to Mrs. Thornton for organizing a team of volunteers who represent our school. Thank you to Mr. Senese, Mrs. Fraser, and Mrs. Lafford for donating their time for the benefit of our students!



The school is always looking for parent volunteers to assist during our assigned time at Delta Bingo (Tuesday afternoon). If any parent would like to assist with fundraising, please contact the school.

Student Consent Forms

Each year students have the opportunity to join in many learning activities here at school or on educational field trips. The school is asking that parents complete the following consent forms ([found on School Cash Online](#)), to ensure the school has the necessary information to keep your child/children safe.

Parent Consent - Student Personal Information (all K-8 students) - This form allows us to know parent preferences when it comes to using a child's information (ie. images, etc) in school publications such as social media posts, class photos and the school yearbook.

NCDSB Athletic Participation /Acknowledgement of Risk Form (Gr. 4-8 students only) - This form explains risks associated with participation in activities happening on school property and allows parent to indicate preferences regarding a child's participation in day-to-day activities (ie. intramurals, sports team tryouts, etc).

Educational Field Trips and activities happening off school property will have a separate consent form sent home.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Emergency Medical Protocols

At Notre Dame, we work cooperatively with families in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy educational environment for all students. We recognize that students who are at risk because of medical concerns such as **allergic reactions, diabetes, epilepsy, intolerances, asthma and/or seizures** require an intervention plan for their needs to be met and to reach their full potential at school.

If your child requires a specific plan of care, please contact the school at your earliest convenience so we can ensure his or her safety while in our care.

SchoolCash Online Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for our students, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SchoolCash Online. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:
<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

School Messenger - Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. School Messenger allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently using the **mobile app**, a **website**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This process allows the school to verify student attendance and notify parents of an unreported student absence efficiently.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will contact you to get a reason for the absence. Calls will continue until you choose an option to explain your child's absence. **PLEASE** use the following information to report your child's absence: mobile app, online at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Aware Internet Filter

This is just a reminder to families that all Niagara Catholic schools use a software program called "Student Aware". This program enables schools to monitor its student internet traffic while using Board internet devices. The "Student Aware" program will be identifying and notifying school staff when students access online websites related to suicide, violence, abuse and/or other dangerous activities that could be injurious to themselves and/or others. When high-risk incidents are identified, the occurrence will be investigated and school administration will respond accordingly to support student mental health and well-being.

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Mass Times

- **Saturday:** 5:00 PM
- **Sunday:** 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Notre Dame on Social Media

Follow Notre Dame on Instagram to get the latest updates: **@notredamenf**