



# Sacred Heart Spectator



8450 Oliver Street "Niagara Falls" ON " L2G 6Z2  
 Telephone: (905)-295-3732  
 E-Mail: [sacred.heart@ncdsb.com](mailto:sacred.heart@ncdsb.com) Board Website: [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca)  
 Principal: Mr. J. Romeo School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley  
 Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

## APRIL 2025

### THE LENTEN SEASON WILL COME TO A CLOSE WITH THE ARRIVAL OF EASTER!



Lent began back on February 14<sup>th</sup>. It is important for us as partners in Catholic education to help children see that Lent is more than "giving up" something. Rather, it is more a time to look at where we ought to be. We also need to help our children see that Lent is not something we do by ourselves. God is always with us, and so are our friends at school and at church. Together, we place ourselves with Jesus in His mission of prayer and care for others.

Through acts of social justice and a focus on peace, we can all make a difference, locally and globally.

Although the Lenten season often seems to be cold and the landscape barren, we need to look with hope to the promise of Easter and the Spring season that comes with it.

The season of Lent concludes with the beginning of the Easter season. A reminder that that there is no school on Good Friday (Friday April 18) and Easter Monday. (Monday April 21, 2025)

### CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION for 2025 - 2026

Plans are in the preliminary stages for the 2025-26 school year. While we await approval from the board office on the number of classes and teachers required, **we ask that you submit any specific requests concerning academic and social grouping placements by email ([sacred.heart@ncdsb.com](mailto:sacred.heart@ncdsb.com)) by May 1, 2025**, to the attention of Mr. Romeo.

Many situations unfold from now until the beginning of a new school year. As professional educators working at Sacred Heart Catholic, we will **CONSIDER** all requests, but we will base all student placement decisions on what is in the best interest of the entire student grade-level community at Sacred Heart. **These decisions are made in good faith and based on, but not necessarily limited to, the following considerations:** *individual needs of students; academic strengths, weaknesses and needs; social and emotional needs of the students; special education needs; resource support requirements and personnel allocation; as well as classroom teacher strengths.*



### EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

With the arrival of winter, we can expect colder temperatures and more snow. The Niagara Catholic District School Board will make every attempt to keep schools open during periods of inclement weather. Only in exceptional circumstances will schools be closed part way through the day. In these rare cases, we will follow the procedure that you have selected on the Student Information Form that you filled out in September. If your contact information or pick-up arrangements have changed, you are asked to please contact Mrs. Plyley at the office so the necessary updates can be made. Announcements concerning school closures or cancellations will be made on all local radio stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. You can also check the Board website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) as well as the board's social media accounts.

### SACRED HEART EASTER MASSES

- Commemoration of the Lord's Passion—3 p.m. & Stations of the Cross—7 p.m. Fri. April 18, 2025
- Holy Saturday 8:30 p.m. Mass **NO 5 p.m. Mass**
- Easter Sunday—11 a.m. Mass

### SACRED HEART ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow Sacred Heart on Instagram to get the latest updates: [@sacredheartniagara](https://www.instagram.com/sacredheartniagara)



**Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary**  
*A proud member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools*



# Sacred Heart Catholic



## ON THE CALENDAR

### PA DAY— Friday April 4, 2025

Friday April 4, 2025 is a professional activity day. There is no school for students on this date.



### POPCORN SALES



Each Tuesday, the Gr. 8's will make their way through the Primary hallway (Kindergarten through to and including the Gr. 3/4 class) and on Wednesday's they will sell to the Junior / Intermediate Hall (Gr. 4/5 class through to the Gr. 8's)

Please have students bring \$2 in with them if they are interested in purchasing popcorn on their specified day.

### HOT LUNCHEES & MILK PROGRAM

Hot lunches this month (orders are processed via School Cash Online):

**Pizza Day – Thursday April 3, 2025 (orders are due March 31)**

**Swiss Chalet Day—Thursday April 10, 2025 (orders are due April 7)**

**Betty's Fish & Chips—Thursday April 17, 2025 (HOLY THURSDAY) (orders due April 14)**

**Sub Day – Thursday April 24, 2025 (orders are due April 21)**



### WORLD AUTISM DAY—Wed. April 2, 2025



World Autism Awareness Day will be recognized at Sacred Heart Catholic on Wednesday April 2, 2025. All students and staff will be invited to wear a blue shirt on this day. This effort can help to raise awareness in support of initiatives being developed locally or provincially to increase the understanding and acceptance of people with autism around the world. At Sacred Heart Catholic all students and staff are invited to wear a blue shirt (*any type of blue shirt, it does not have to be a dress code navy blue*) to demonstrate support for autism awareness.

### LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

We will be having a Lenten Food Drive that will run from Wednesday April 2—Wednesday April 16, 2025. This Lenten Food drive is being run by Mrs. Maloney's Gr. 8 class. At the end of the drive there will be a Pizza Party Lunch for the class that brings in the most items. Mrs. Maloney's class will be tracking the amount of items each class brings in.

Donated items will be dispersed amongst local community partners who will get all of our generous donations to those who need it most. If you are able and willing to, we kindly ask that donations of non-perishable food items be sent in with your child(ren) and they will be housed in each classroom.



### EASTER HOLIDAY

The 2025 Easter Holiday will take place from Friday April 18, 2025 (Good Friday) and conclude on Monday April 21, 2025 (Easter Monday).



# Sacred Heart Catholic



## LOOKING AHEAD!

### EQAO GR. 3 & 6 — MAY 2025

#### EQAO BEGINS IN MAY

Wednesday, May 7, to Wednesday, June 11, 2025 is the Administration window for having the Primary and Junior EQAO. The parents of students in Gr. 3 and 6 will receive more detailed information as to the more exact timeframe school staff intend to run the assessment for students in Grades 3 and 6 by the end of April. We continue to ask that you make every attempt to ensure that your child is at school on time, especially from May 7<sup>th</sup> - June 11<sup>th</sup>, and that you do not schedule appointments or vacations during this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school. Thank you for your support.



### SPRING PHOTO DAY



Lifetouch Pictures will be coming back to our school on Thursday May 1, 2025 for "Spring Picture Day"

What are Spring Pictures?

Since Fall Picture Day, students have grown so much. Spring Picture Day gives students time to shine and provides families a beautiful, professional photo of their child that captures their growth throughout the school year.

Spring Pictures are a fun 1 pose ¾ length casual pose photo with optional participation.

On this day, it will be an out of uniform day for our Sacred Heart Students and they are encouraged to wear Spring colours!

### PASTA DINNER—GR. 8 GRAD FUNDRAISER

**SAVE THE DATE!!!! - Thursday May 15, 2025 starting at 5 p.m.**

The Grade Eight class of Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary invites you to our Pasta Night Fundraiser! You and your family have the choice to dine in or take home! All proceeds will go to supporting our Grade Eight Graduating class, and will be used to offset the cost of their Graduation. The location will be the Chippawa Firehall.





# Sacred Heart Catholic



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### SACRED HEART SPIRIT WEAR

Please note that Bigbear Spiritwear will now be supplying Spirit wear and dress code items that will be available for sale via their website. Please access [Sacred Heart's](#) direct link.



### 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](#).

### CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOL & SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS

To minimize distractions, students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off or onto silent mode during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning, for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off or on silent and have them stored away.

Social media platforms on school networks and board devices will be disabled. This is intended to limit the number of interruptions in class and to benefit the mental health and well-being of students. Niagara Catholic already blocks access to some social media sites. Now all will be unavailable to students on the board network during the school day.

### SCHOOL YEARBOOK

An electronic consent form was sent to families back in early September by the Niagara Catholic DSB. This form allows families to indicate their preference on whether their children's photos can be included in school publications, such as the yearbook, social media posts, etc.

**If families have not completed their consent form yet, we kindly ask consent forms be completed for each child through [Permission Click](#)**

### 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.***



# Sacred Heart Catholic



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### 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.

### COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME & SCHOOL—QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

The Ministry of Education has given school boards new requirements on how to communicate with parents who have questions, concerns, or complaints. This information will also be shared on the Parents section of the Board website and school websites in time for the start of the new school year. The process is outlined below:

- Parents/guardians should expect a response to a concern within **two business days**.
- If parents have a question about a classroom-related matter, such as curriculum, homework, classroom behavior, or specific incidents, please contact the child’s teacher.
- If the parent cannot resolve the issue at the classroom level and/or have a question about school procedures, extra-curricular activities, or safety concerns, please contact the school Principal.
- For issues unresolved at the school level or issues related to Niagara Catholic policies, procedures, resource allocation, or other concerns, please contact the Superintendent of Education assigned to Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary

### MORNING SUPERVISOR REMINDER

Our first bus arrives at 8:35 a.m. Students should not be beyond the gates of the school until 8:35 a.m. Parents are reminded that students should not be at school earlier than 8:35 a.m. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### 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



# Sacred Heart Catholic



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

April 2025

#### Connecting Curriculum to Home

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the [Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

#### Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting The Curriculum to Home

(Parents of Elementary aged students)

With our School Health Nurses

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- **Watch here:** [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions.

#### Dental News

The Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program

Office Location	Day and Time
Niagara Falls Public Health Office 7835 McLeod Rd	Mondays 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Niagara Region Headquarters 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way	Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Welland Public Health Office 200 Division Street	Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

offers **FREE** dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara..

Appointments are available at the following locations [Niagara’s Mobile Dental Clinic](#) also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment [contact the Dental Program](#) or [book a dental assessment online](#).

#### Let’s Talk Vaping

Even for elementary students, there’s a good chance that kids have been exposed to vaping—whether at school, through friends, on social media, or in movies and TV shows. From one parent to another, learn the basics about vaping in just 12 minutes.

<https://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents/>

#### Be Safe For Niagara

It can be overwhelming to try to navigate mental health supports in Niagara. With the [Be Safe app](#), you can get the help you need, when you need it most. Be Safe is a free mobile app that offers information and links to mental health, addiction and suicide prevention resources in Niagara. It helps support you through the process of reaching out when life feels overwhelming.

The Be Safe App in Niagara:

- Allows users to create a digital safety plan
- Informs users about mental health and addiction resources in Niagara

Helps you be prepared if you find yourself in a crisis

For more information, please visit <https://besafeapp.ca/> You can download the app on the [App Store](#) or [Google play](#).