



St. Alexander – Newsletter



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Principal: Mr. M. Venzon
Vice Principal: Mrs. C. Pozzobon
Superintendent: Ms. Kim Kinney
Parish Priest: Fr. Paul MacNeil

*St. Alexander Catholic Elementary is proud to be part
of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools*

FEBRUARY 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Called by Name: "Come Follow Me"

"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!"

There are many exciting things going on this month at St. Alexander Catholic, including Kids Helping Kids Week from February 10-21st (see schedule below).

We look forward to an excellent month together as we journey onward as a Catholic School Community.

Mr. M. Venzon



REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCE—BUS CANCELLATION

On days when there are bus cancellations and schools are open, parents/guardians of students who normally ride the bus should report, using the electronic Safe Arrival program, their child(ren) as absent if they are not sending them to school. It is only if schools are closed, by the Director of Education, due to inclement weather or any other reason that student absences do not need to be reported. The system will contact parents/guardians who have not reported their child as absent.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

As a reminder for families who are familiar with the process outlined in our *School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure AOP* – and as information for those who are new to the school in Niagara or Niagara Catholic – the decision to cancel buses is made by Niagara Student Transportation Services very early in the morning, based on the current **and** forecast conditions to ensure students are safe throughout the day. NSTS makes its decision with bus companies and consults agencies such as Niagara Regional Police about whether buses are safe on the roads. They communicate the decision to the local school board directors of education, who decide whether to open schools or keep them closed for the day. Niagara Catholic communicates decisions about bus and/or school cancellations by 6 a.m. You will find the information in the following places:

- On the Board website – a red banner appears on the main page when buses and/or schools are cancelled
- The Board’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages
- Local radio and TV stations and newspaper websites

Most often, buses are cancelled but schools remain open. If you choose to keep your child at home due to inclement weather, **you must report their absence using the appropriate code through Safe Arrival.** We advise parents that Niagara Region Public Health continues to caution against mixing cohorts, which means that we cannot put classrooms together this year to ensure proper supervision of students. If, for some reason, a school does not have adequate coverage in place to ensure the safety of students while at school, an individual school *may* be closed.

Please keep in mind that driving a car is much different than a bus, and even though roads seem fine to drivers in personal vehicles, the conditions (such as snow drifts) may make it impossible for school buses to navigate through neighbourhood streets, particularly if they are not ploughed.

As well, we remind families that buses can be cancelled if the temperature falls to a point where stop arms and other mechanical parts required for the safe operation of the vehicle may freeze. We understand that may be frustrating for parents on a bright, cold, snow-free day, but the safety of students is the top priority of the school bus companies, NSTS and Niagara Catholic and if the buses cannot operate safely due to the cold, transportation will be cancelled.

Living between two lakes can mean completely different weather in parts of Niagara. Occasionally, that leads to bus cancellations or school closures in one part of Niagara due to weather, while the rest of the region is unaffected. We encourage you to please check our website and social media feeds for accurate information to ensure that what you are reading online applies to you.

If the entire system is shut down, we will call, email and text your family using School Messenger by 6 a.m. to advise you it’s a snow day. You do not need to report your child’s absence from school, as schools are closed.

Although weather systems do blow through without warning, we usually have some idea that bad weather is coming and we encourage families to be prepared for this, especially if parents have to go to work while children are at home.

If your child is staying home due to a bus cancellation or a school closure, they will have the opportunity to participate in asynchronous learning from home. Click [here](#) for a link to for Primary, Junior, and Intermediate literacy, numeracy, and other subjects for students to keep up with work if that is what you choose to do. Please note that participating in this work is voluntary and should be considered as revising or reach-ahead work, rather than teacher-led new learning. Secondary students may also review any classroom work or reach-ahead where possible if they choose to do so.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at St. Alexander.

WINTER WEATHER

Going out for recess during the winter season will be a normal thing each day. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn, i.e., boots, gloves, hats, scarf, etc. As is always the case, it is important that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form. Snow is lovely to look at, but while at school it should be left on the ground. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

REPORT CARDS

Term One Report Cards will be available to parents in the Parent Portal during the week of February 10-14th, 2025. Interviews are at the request of the parent/guardian or teacher. Please feel free to request an interview by emailing your child's teacher using the template: firstname.lastname@ncdsb.com

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25th, beginning at 5:30 pm here at St. Alexander School. All parents are welcome and there is no experience necessary - just a desire to make St. Alexander Catholic School the best that it can be!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE

Please note that we will have our St. Alexander Kindergarten Registration Open House on Thursday, February 6th, 2025, from 9:00am to 6:00pm here at the school.

During the Registration Open House families can bring their little ones to take a tour of the school and see what is going on in one of our 4 Kindergarten classes! Feel free to also bring your questions so we can answer them while you are here.

Families are Encouraged to use *Easy Register* to register their child(ren) at any time. This online registration system can be accessed on the landing page of the Board website at www.niagaracatholic.ca by clicking on the "Join Us! Register" icon.

Please know that we are always accepting registrations for our Kindergarten Program. Please feel free to pass this message along to other parents, friends or neighbours. You can visit our board website at [http://www.niagaracatholic.ca/](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) and click on JOIN US! REGISTER online, call St. Alexander Catholic at (905) 892-3841, or stop in at St. Alexander anytime to get information!

Attention Current Kindergarten Parents!

We invite you to our Kindergarten Observation Day on **Wednesday, February 5th**! The Observation Day is open to current Year 1 (JK) and Year 2 (SK) Kindergarten students. Parents will be able to observe their child at a group circle and then work with their child while they are at play. When you arrive, please stand/sit quietly along the sides of the gym; please avoid engaging with your child until you are asked to. This is not our normal routine because we are in the gym. It is meant to represent a sample of activities children engage in throughout a day in Kindergarten.

We have a few reminders that we kindly ask you to follow during your session:

A Few Reminders:

1. Parent Observations are limited to **parents/guardians only**. **No siblings**, please.
2. Please attend the session that pertains to **your child's class**.
3. The observation day is **one day only** and there is no make-up session if you are unable to attend.
4. We kindly request that you please exit the gym promptly so that we may transition smoothly for the next session to begin on time.

Thank-you! We look forward to seeing you soon,

The Kindergarten Team

Schedule:

Time	Class
8:55 - 9:20	Mrs. Goodwin / Mrs. Martinez-Cook
9:30 - 9:55	Ms. Savage / Mrs. Szymkow
10:05 - 10:30	Mrs. Medvic / Mrs. Bachynski
11:40 - 12:05	Mrs. Loney / Mrs. Orozco

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day, also known as Anti-Bullying Day, is on **February 26, 2025**. Throughout February and the year, [CKNW Kids' Fund's Pink Shirt Day](#) raises awareness and funds for programs promoting children's self-esteem. Wear a pink shirt on this day to stand against bullying and contribute to creating a kinder, more inclusive world. Let victims know they're not alone; help and support are available.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 10 - 21, 2025

Please make your donation through the
Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online

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 through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Creative Hair Day.

Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in 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.

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

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The banner features three logos in red heart shapes: the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education logo, the Niagara Catholic School Education logo, and the Niagara Children's Centre logo with a QR code. Below the logos are three photos of children: two girls in a garden, two boys on a bench, and a girl with a bicycle.

February 10 - 21, 2025

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St. Alexander Catholic	
Monday Feb. 10	100th Day of School Dress like you are 100 years old! Notre Dame Hockey Game - Grade 7 & 8
Tuesday Feb. 11	Wild Hair Day Pajama Day
Wednesday Feb. 12	School-wide Mass at St. Alexander Parish Sports Shirt or Jersey Day
Thursday Feb. 13	Red and White Day Valentine Accessories and/or Creative Hat Day
Friday Feb. 14	P.A. Day (no school for kids) <i>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!</i>

St. Alexander Catholic

Monday
Feb. 17

Family Day (no school)

Tuesday
Feb. 18

Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online

Wednesday
Feb. 19

Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online

Thursday
Feb. 20

Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online

Friday
Feb. 21

Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online

VEX tournament day

14th Annual Julia's Hope Cup

SAVE THE DATE for the 14th Annual Julia's Hope Cup to be held at Chippawa Park Pond in Welland for our traditional annual pond hockey tournament and carnival on Saturday, February 15, 2025.

Julia's Hope Cup is a celebration of the life of Julia Turner and her humanitarian spirit, while raising funds in support of The Hope Centre. This family event is open to anyone in the Welland community and is FREE to attend.

Years ago, Paul Turner created the Hope Cup Pond Hockey Tournament to raise money for the Hope Centre. This festival gathered families in the community for classic outdoor Canadian pond hockey with an indoor silent auction and amazing prizes donated by local businesses. The name changed 10 years ago to Julia's Hope Cup after Paul's daughter Julia passed away, to honour the life of Julia and her inspiring spirit. [Read Julia's Story](#).

Funds raised will go towards The Hope Centre's food security programs, including their food bank and community lunch program. In 2024, The Hope Centre had over 24,000 visits to their food bank and served over 35,000 take-out lunches to help the most vulnerable in our community.

More people than ever are facing food insecurity in our community with more than 1 in 10 Wellanders accessing the food bank.

This year, Julia's Hope Cup is aiming to raise over \$60,000 to support The Hope Centre's food security programs.

You can help us reach our \$60,000 goal by participating in our [online fundraising campaign](#)



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

February 2025

Welcome to Kindergarten!



Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community.

Check out our [School Health webpage](#) for some important links and supports:

- [Childhood illnesses and diseases of public health significance](#)
- [Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods](#)
- [Dental Screening](#)
- [School-aged vaccines](#)
 - Parents and legal guardians of junior and senior kindergarten registrants and students new to Ontario are asked to report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#).

Is your child due for vaccines?

Go to [Immunization Connect](#) to review your child's immunization history and check the



Immunizations Needed section for missing vaccines.

If your child is missing any vaccines, book an appointment to get them vaccinated. Vaccines are available at healthcare providers' offices, walk-in clinics or Public Health vaccination clinics.

Bring your yellow card or immunization record print out from [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](#) to each vaccine visit. This will help you and your health care provider keep an up-to-date record of which vaccines have been received.

Can't find any immunization records? Here are some [tips](#) to help you.

- **Previous healthcare providers** will keep records for a limited time. Also check with local health units, your pharmacist, and any urgent care clinics, as well as hospital emergency departments.

- **At home** – Close family members such as parents or guardians may have copies of your childhood immunizations in old papers, including baby books and school or camp forms.
- **Schools, colleges, universities or other post-secondary institutions** may still have records for you or your child.
- **Previous employers**, including the military, may still have records from your employment.

If your family is having trouble with locating or transferring immunization records, please [contact the Vaccine Team](#) and a nurse will discuss what needs to be done. Translation services are also provided.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From **February 1st to 7th 2025** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) and eating disorder groups nationwide that come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre “Transform the Narrative” Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)

Family Day

Family Day is coming up on **Monday, February 17th** and it's a great chance to spend time with loved ones Whether it's starting a new tradition like a family hike, playing outdoors, trying a nutritious recipe, or enjoying a fun board game together, this Family Day can be all about building



lasting memories and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

To support you in making Family Day a meaningful occasion, we invite you to explore local programs and events to make the most of the day and keep your family active, engaged, and healthy!

- **Explore an EarlyON centre**, providing free, high-quality drop-in programs for children from birth to six years of age. Click [here](#) to access their family day calendar!

- **The local Performing Arts Centre** has a full day of exciting events for all ages. Check out their [schedule](#) and enjoy a variety of activities happening throughout the day.



- **Visit the Merritton Community Centre** on February 15th for their annual Family Fun Day
- **Find a new adventure spot** in a [regional walking or hiking trail](#)
- **Check your [local public library](#)** for free family day activities