

# St. Ann Catholic School

## December Newsletter

### PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world and the Prince of Peace that this world desperately needs. How I thank and bless You for coming to earth to die on the cross for our sins, so that all who believe in Your name might be given peace with the Father and may receive Your peace and love into their hearts.

Shine the light of Your love deep within the hearts of all those that do not know You as Saviour. Light the minds of those that are blinded to the truth of the glorious gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord. And Lord, I pray that You would draw many into Your arms of forgiveness so that they too might be made right before God and receive His peace into their hearts at this time, so that the goodwill that was promised by the angels so many years ago, might become their portion this Christmas time.

Grant all those that know and love You as Saviour, to be specially blessed this Christmas and may You draw each one ever closer to Your heart of love, in a world that is becoming darker, so that the light of Your truth may shine through us to a world who needs Jesus, in Whose name I pray,

Amen.

### No Visitors in School

In order to limit the number of people in our schools, there will be no parents allowed in the school during the school day unless there is a medical emergency. Parents picking up students will ring the buzzer at the front door and your child/children will be brought to the front door. This will be an inconvenience but is necessary to ensure we minimize the number of people in and out of our school.

When parents are dropping anything (mittens, snowpants, school work, etc.) off for the child/children, please be sure the items are in a bag with child's name and grade. You will be admitted at the door and you will place the items (bag) on the cart situated just inside the door.

### Catholic School Council

Stay safe,

Joanne Azzopardi

*St. Ann Parent Council Chair*

### **Star of the Sea Church**

*Greetings below is a list of Mass times for Christmas eve/day at Star of the Sea*

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

4:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25—10:00 a.m.

### **Parental screening**

Please ensure that the Parental Agreement for Daily Screening is completed and sent in to the school.

Please also ensure that you screen you child daily for the following:

- fever (feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or higher)
- chills
- cough that's new or worsening (continuous, more than usual)
- barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing (croup)
- shortness of breath (out of breath, unable to breathe deeply)
- sore throat
- difficulty swallowing
- runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- lost sense of taste or smell
- pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- headache that's unusual or long lasting
- digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain)
- muscle aches
- extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)
- falling down often
- for young children and infants: sluggishness or lack of appetite

If your child is ill, please do not send them to school and follow up with your family physician.

### **NCPIC and SEAC**

1. At the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting of November 5, 2020, Superintendent Forsyth-Sells welcomed new and returning members. Fr. Paul MacNeil, Bishop/Diocesan representative presided over the commissioning ceremony of the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, as they publicly proclaimed their commitment to promote the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

2. Carrie Vernelli was elected as the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold a term of office from November 5, 2020 to September 2021. Chris Kouroushis will continue as the Co-Chair for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. The revised NCPIC By-Laws as approved by the NCPIC will be presented at the December 15, 2020 Board meeting.
4. The SEAC members have been working to update the SEAC Brochure and the Student Support Brochure to reflect updates to the publications. Upon final approval, the updated publications will be made available to families and to school staff.
5. For the time being, the SEAC members have been meeting monthly in a virtual format. Please contact Jennifer Lanese, Administrative Assistant to Gino Pizzoferrato at [Jennifer.lanese@ncdsb.com](mailto:Jennifer.lanese@ncdsb.com) or 905-735-0240 x 222 to participate in the virtual meeting as an observer.
6. Please share the 2020-2021 NCPIC and SEAC memberships attached to this memo with your school community.
7. On behalf of the NCPIC and the SEAC, wishing you a Holy and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

#### Brock University Parent Advisory Committee

Brock University's Lifespan Development Research Institute is recruiting for a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) made up of parents from the Niagara community who would like to provide input on relevant research and knowledge mobilization work.

This will include research focused on parents, families, children/youth, and the community.

PAC members will learn about exciting research happening at the Lifespan Development Research Institute and will have a chance to lend their voices to the research.

The Lifespan Institute PAC will involve meeting in a group setting with researchers and staff, four times a year to review relevant projects and provide feedback.

PAC meetings will happen online until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted with the dates and times to be announced.

Interested parents can visit the website for all requirements and to complete an online application at <http://brocku.ca/lifespan-development-research/parent-advisory-committee/> Applications are due by January 8, 2021. Please email questions to [lifespan@brocku.ca](mailto:lifespan@brocku.ca).

## French Immersion

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an **optional** program. The entry point for September 2021 is either Kindergarten Year 1 or Grade 1, depending on the school site offering the program.

Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

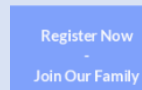
- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten
- Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Grade 1
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Grade 1

## **Transportation**

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2. Designated Family of Schools French Immersion schools can be located at the following link [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca).

## **French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration**

- On-line open pre-registration window for students **new** to French Immersion in September 2021: **Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.** through to **Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**
- Pre-registrations outside of this window will **not** be considered.
- There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program.
- An account must be created first through [easyRegister.ca](http://easyRegister.ca) to access the pre-registration forms.
- Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp.
- Please visit [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) and click:



Then, click the French Immersion tab for information about the program. Additional pre-registration details will be posted on this site as they become available. Please check the site before the pre-registration window opens.

## Selection Process

In accordance with the Board's Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy #301.1, there are a limited number of spots available for students entering the program. Eligible spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis for each elementary French Immersion school site. Applicants will receive notification by **Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to inform them if their children have been placed in the French Immersion program **OR** if their children have been placed on the school's waitlist. Applicants who have not received notification by **March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021** are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.

Please direct questions to Mary Vetere, FSL/International Languages Consultant at [mary.vetere@ncdsb.com](mailto:mary.vetere@ncdsb.com)

or Diane van der Veldt, Coordinator of Student Information Services at [diane.vanderveldt@ncdsb.com](mailto:diane.vanderveldt@ncdsb.com).

## Public Health

In this month's newsletter, you will find information on the following topics:

### For Parents (in blue)

- Free Dental Program – Healthy Smiles Ontario
- Fundraising for Niagara Nutrition Partners
- What is the Guidance for Social Gatherings?

### For School Staff (in green)

- Fundraising for Niagara Nutrition Partners
- COVID-19 Info-Line for School Staff
- Lunch/Break Room Guidance during COVID-19

I would also just like to say a huge thank you to all of you and your staff. I know these past few months have been challenging, but throughout my visits to schools I have seen how hard all of you are working to ensure that students are as safe and supported as possible. Your hard work shows and it is paying off. Although cases are coming into the schools in some instances, the work you are doing to promote physical distancing, proper mask use, and good hand hygiene, is significantly reducing the risk of transmission.



## Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

### 2020-2021 Membership

Geographical Areas	Parent Representatives	Family of Schools
Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	➤ Shonna Daly	Lakeshore Catholic High School-Our Lady of Victory, St. Elizabeth, St. George, St. John Bosco, St. Joseph, St. Philomena, St. Patrick and St. Therese Catholic Elementary Schools
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	➤ Jessica Coutinho ➤ Todd Ulbinas	Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School-Our Lady of Fatima, St. Edward, St. John, St. Joseph, St. Mark and St. Martin Catholic Elementary Schools
Merritton/Thorold	➤ Mary-Kate O'Hara-Skubel	Denis Morris Catholic High School-Monsignor Clancy, St. Anthony, St. Charles, St. Christopher, St. Nicholas, St. Peter and St. Theresa Catholic Elementary Schools
Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	➤ Rita Colling ➤ Marilyn Fabiano ➤ Chris Kouroushis (Co-Chair) ➤ Jitto Tom Uthup	Saint Michael Catholic High School-Father Hennepin, Loretto Catholic, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary Schools  Saint Paul Catholic High School-Mary Ward, Notre Dame, St. Gabriel Lalemant, St. John Henry Newman, St. Mary, St. Patrick and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary Schools
St. Catharines	➤ Jeremy A. Harb ➤ George Roussos	Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School-Assumption, Canadian Martyrs, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Alfred and St. Michael Catholic Elementary Schools  Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School-St. Ann, St. Denis and St. James, St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary Schools
Welland	➤ Melanie Oakes-Flegg ➤ Carrie Vernelli (Chair)	Notre Dame College School-Alexander Kuska, Holy Name, St. Alexander, St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Augustine, St. Kevin and St. Mary Catholic Elementary Schools
<b>Bishop/Diocesan, Community and Student Senate Representatives</b>		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	
Allan Buri	Secondary Student Senate Representative	
<b>Board Representatives</b>		
Dino Sicoli	Vice-Chair of the Board	
Leanne Prince	Trustee	
<b>Board Staff</b>		
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	Director's Designate-Superintendent of Education	
Joe Tornabuono	Elementary Principal	
Lou Stranges	Secondary Principal	
Josie Rocca	Support Staff	
Yvonne Anderson	Recording Secretary	



The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.





Special Education Advisory Committee

**2020 – 2021 Membership**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Anna Racine, Chair	Community Member	<a href="mailto:rracine37@cogeco.ca">rracine37@cogeco.ca</a>
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children's Centre	<a href="mailto:dorothy.harvey@niagarachildrenscentre.com">dorothy.harvey@niagarachildrenscentre.com</a>
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health	<a href="mailto:bhelmeczi@Pathstone.ca">bhelmeczi@Pathstone.ca</a>
Kelsey Huxley	Indigenous Community Member	<a href="mailto:kelsey_562@hotmail.com">kelsey_562@hotmail.com</a>
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	<a href="mailto:m_murphy7@sympatico.ca">m_murphy7@sympatico.ca</a>
Pina Palombo	Down Syndrome Niagara	<a href="mailto:downsyndromeniagara@gmail.com">downsyndromeniagara@gmail.com</a>
Lorraine Smith	Mainstream	<a href="mailto:lsmith@mainstreamservices.com">lsmith@mainstreamservices.com</a>
Rita Smith	Community Living – Port Colborne / Wainfleet	<a href="mailto:ritas@clpcw.com">ritas@clpcw.com</a>
Kerry Thomas	Community Living – Welland /Pelham	<a href="mailto:kerrythmas@cl_wellandpelham.ca">kerrythmas@cl_wellandpelham.ca</a>
Madeline Zoelman	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara	<a href="mailto:mzoelman@ldaniagara.org">mzoelman@ldaniagara.org</a>
<b>Board Representatives</b>		
Kathy Burtnik	Trustee	<a href="mailto:kburtnik@cogeco.ca">kburtnik@cogeco.ca</a>
Frank Fera	Chair of the Board	<a href="mailto:frankfera4@gmail.com">frankfera4@gmail.com</a>
Serena Butera	Student Senate	
<b>Board Staff</b>		
Gino Pizzoferrato	Director's Designate – Superintendent of Education	
Chris Kerho	Elementary Principal	
Adele Filice	Secondary Principal	
Jim Di Gioia	Support Staff	
Danny Giancola	Support Staff	
David O'Rourke	Support Staff	
Jennifer Lanese	Recording Secretary	

# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

Niagara  Region

For Parents

## Don't Take the Risk This Season: Get Your Flu Shot

It is more important than ever to get your flu shot this year.

The flu shot **won't** protect you from COVID-19. The flu shot **will** protect you from influenza and help keep people out of the hospital. Remember, the flu vaccine still prevents and reduces the severity of the flu, even if it's not a perfect match.

Getting the flu shot won't increase your risk of COVID-19 illness.

### Where to Get Your Flu Shot

Free flu shots will be available across Niagara. Please make a plan to get your flu shot with your health care provider.

If you do not currently have one, see a list of [family physicians in Niagara who are accepting new patients](#). Flu shots are also available at participating pharmacies (for children five years of age or over) and walk-in clinics. You can also monitor Public Health's [Where to Get the Flu Shot](#) webpage to see if there are any community flu clinics run by community health care providers.

### More Information

Visit Public Health's [Flu Shot and Activity](#) webpage for more information about the flu.



## What to do if your child has COVID-19 symptoms

Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should NOT enter school or child care. They should return home to self-isolate.

The next steps for children depend on what kind of symptoms they have. For information visit our website <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/reopen/schools.aspx> - scroll down to "Prevention and Protection" and click on "what to do when a child has COVID-19 symptoms."

Adults with any one symptom of COVID-19 should always self-isolate and seek assessment by a health care provider or self-refer for testing. **It does not matter what kind of symptom they have.**



## For School Staff

### Handwashing and Germs Teaching Tool

For background information and learning activities on handwashing and germs visit our teaching tool: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/curriculum/handwashing-and-germs/default.aspx>

This teaching tool is designed for students in Kindergarten to Grade 1 and aims to help students:

- Reflect on how germs and illness are spread
- Practice correct handwashing and hand-rub techniques
- Use correct respiratory etiquette as part of their daily living

### Grade 7 Vaccinations

#### Catch-up for Students Overdue for School Program Vaccines

- As you know, the Grade 7 school immunization clinics were not completed in the spring of 2020 due to school closures in response to COVID-19 and redeployment of Public Health staff
- Before the end of December 2020, Public Health will send a letter to all parents and legal guardians of grade 8 students outlining how to get their child caught up on missed doses

#### Grade 7 Clinics for 2020/2021

- As a result of Public Health's role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff capacity has had to be refocused. At this time, all Public Health school vaccination clinics for the fall are currently cancelled.
- We will reach out as more information becomes available for the remainder of the school year for this year's grade 7 cohort

### Reminders for Infection Prevention and Control

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools, remember the following:

- It's important to make sure that all staff, visitors, and students have completed screening before entry to school every morning. You can find the Ministry of Education School Screening Tool [here](#). Remember that screening should also be a continuous process that happens throughout the day.
- Reminder that physical distancing is one of the most important prevention methods. If you are unable to maintain a safe 2 metre distance from a student, it's important to remember to wear your face shield. Physical distancing should be practiced even when outside of the classroom, particularly in rooms like the staff room.
- Face coverings are an important method of protection for not only you, but those around you. When you are not using your masks or face covering it should be stored properly to prevent the spread of bacteria, viruses, and germs. To store it properly, fold the outside of the face covering in on itself, so only the inside of the face covering is facing outwards. The mask or face covering can then be stored in its own bag or container before placing it into your pocket, purse or vehicle. Discard the bag or clean and disinfect the container after use. For more information, [visit our website](#).
- While it's very important to maintain physical distancing, good hand hygiene, and ensure proper mask usage at school, it's just as important to be practicing it in your personal/social life.

# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter



## For Parents

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Adults with any one symptom of COVID-19 should always self-isolate and seek assessment by a health care provider or self-refer for testing. **It does not matter what kind of symptom they have.**

### Milk and Hot lunches

There will be no opportunity to purchase hot lunches or milk at this time. If this changes, parents will be notified.

### STUDENT EMERGENCY SHEET

Thank you to all parents who have returned your student emergency sheets. Please let the school know if there are any changes to your personal information including changes to email, emergency contacts, phone numbers or custodial arrangements for parents.

## **CROSSING GUARD**

The City provides a Crossing Guard in front of our school and across from Henley Island. The children must walk across Main Street with the Crossing Guard at all times.

## **LOCKERS**

Students will have access to lockers during the winter months. A protocol will be created and will be passed on to parents once it is finalized.

## **NUT SAFE SCHOOL**

St. Ann is a Nut Safe School. Please be aware that there are children in our school who have severe allergies to nuts and foods containing nut by-products. NASK (**Niagara Anaphylaxis Support and Knowledge**) recommends parents read and become familiar with food labels and check ingredient contents. Please send only foods that are peanut and nut safe.

## **Lunch Time**

Students will eat in their own seats during lunch. Waste Free lunches are encouraged. Students will bring home waste in their lunch or wait for a staff member to direct them to put garbage in the receptacle.

## **SCHOOLCASH ONLINE**

Niagara Catholic has provided parents with an online payment option for your child's items. We strongly encourage you to register and begin using this great service.

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

## **SPIRIT WEAR**

Spirit Wear is available online by contacting Big Bear Sportswear and ordering directly from the website. Items will be delivered to the school and distributed to students by school staff.

## **ATTENDANCE**

**Please ensure that you report your child's absence using the Safe Arrival Program. You may also obtain information for registering for Safe Arrival on the Niagara Catholic District School Board website.**

## **PARKING LOT NEWS**

Please use the "Kiss and Drive" so your vehicle is not blocking the arriving buses. Please help us keep all children safe as it is our highest of priorities. Together we can continue to keep our children safe. The protocol for dismissal will continue until further notice

- Parent pick up 2:35 PM
- Walkers dismissed at 2:49 PM
- Bus students will be called down as buses arrive

**We ask that you exercise extreme caution when driving in our very busy parking lot, especially during the morning and at dismissal at the end of the day. Parents should be picking their children up at the sidewalk. Students should accompany parents while walking to their cars. We have had several close calls with students running through the parking lot to meet their parents. Let's do our best to keep everyone safe!!**

### **Volunteers**

There will be no volunteers in school at this time. We will allow volunteers as soon as it is safe to do so. Thank you to all who have inquired about volunteering at our school.

### **FIREDRILLS and LOCKDOWNS**

Part of Niagara Catholic's Emergency Protocol is routine fire drills and lockdown drills. In September, St. Ann Catholic completed 2 fire drills and 1 lockdown practice.

### **ANIMALS**

To ensure the safety of all our students, we are enforcing **No Pets on premises** during school hours of operation. Many students are afraid or have allergies to animals. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

### **SEAC**

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board is made up of Association representatives and Trustees whose role is to support students with diverse needs and their families. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board with regards to matters relating to educational programs and services to be implemented in schools for our students who meet this criteria. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings and learn about different programs and supports that are available in special education.

Meetings are currently taken place using Microsoft Teams at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month due to the COVID-19 restrictions. If the format changes, it will be published two weeks in advance of the meeting via appropriate Board supported social media and directly to Committee Members. In the case of a holiday, the meeting would be held on the second Wednesday of the month. If you are unable to attend the meetings and you wish further information, please visit our website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) under Special Education, Special Education Advisory Committee or contact your school Principal who will provide you with a list of representatives and their contact information.

SEAC continuously strives to ensure that the rights of students with diverse learning needs are being met both at the elementary and the secondary level as well as serving as a resource for parents of these children. For further information there are two links: The Special Education Advisory Committee website – [www.seac-learning.ca](http://www.seac-learning.ca); and the Ministry of Education Special Education website

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html) .

### **Transportation**

**It is a parent’s responsibility to request the change of programming delivery and to advise NSTS of transportation changes.**

1. The Virtual School has a webpage:

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/niagara-catholic-virtual-school/>

2. Further to the comments on the virtual schools, the transition form is available from the banner on the website:

### **Transitioning between In-Person Learning and Online Remote Learning**

Elementary Student Requirements:

Parents/Guardians of elementary students who wish to transition between in-person and online remote learning must complete the Elementary Student Transition Form on or before the 15th of the month for their child change to become effective the first school day of the following month.

Transition Request Deadline	Start Date
January 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	February 1, 2021

Transportation Requirements:

Regardless if your child transitions between in-person or online remote learning, if your child is eligible for transportation you must complete the Opt-In / Opt-Out Transportation Request through Niagara Student Transportation Service (NSTS). Read the detailed Back to School Transportation Plan for additional information.

