

ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



ST. PETER CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal - Mr. Kevin Lamb

Secretary - Ms. Rita Colling

Catholic School Council Chair - Mrs. Candice Foley

📍 7 Aberdeen Circle, St. Cathari...

✉️ st.peter@ncdsb.com

☎️ 905-984-3040



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We begin this school year with anticipation and excitement of greater achievements and continued success.

We ask for God's blessing upon us as we begin our journey together.

We hope that your summer was restful, filled with excitement and memorable times together. We extend a very special welcome to our new kindergarten students and to the new families and students who have moved into our school community.

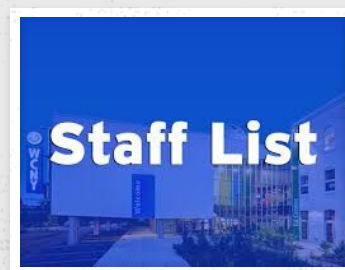
I would like to extend a very special thank you to our caretaking staff; Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Corby, who have worked extremely hard to get our school ready to receive students, the school is in great shape!

We welcome the opportunity to work with families, St. Julia's parish as well as other community groups to provide fulfilling experiences for our students, developing their educational, social and spiritual growth throughout this year. We're all looking forward to a great year together.

Sincerely,
Mr. K. Lamb
principal

STAFF LIST

Mr. K. Lamb – Principal
Mrs. R. Colling – Secretary
Mrs. N. Lorenzi – K
Mrs. C. Richards – ECE
Ms. A. Marano – K
Mrs. D. Warner - ECE
Mrs. V. Di Felice – Grade 1
Mrs. M. Dikic - Grade 2
Mrs. R. Arbour – Grade 3
Mr. D. Royer – Grade 4
Mrs. J. Marr -Grade 5
Mr. C. Langkamer - Grade 6
Ms. L. D'Addario – Grade 6/7
Mrs. B. DeSantis- Grade 7
Mr. F. Fera – Grade 8
Mme. R. Afonso–FSL
Mme. J. Millar–FSL
Mme. L. Malone-FSL
Mrs. E. Amadio -ARTS
Mrs. L. Martineau-PTM
Mrs. K. Cormier – ERT
Ms. J. Carroll – CYW
Ms. A. Morgan – MLL
Mrs. J. Ashley – EA
Mrs. T. Saporito– EA
Ms. R. Baylor – EA
Ms. M. Pennetta – EA
Mrs. R. Brady-EA
Mr. R. Sawyer– EA
Mrs. S. Minniti – EA



Mer. R. McCausland- EA
Mrs. C. Byng—Librarian
Mrs. D. Johnston—Caretaker
Mrs. M. Corby—Caretaker



CALLED BY NAME: "HEAR MY VOICE"

**Called by Name: "Hear My Voice"
2023-2024**

"Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say" (Isaiah 28:23) Have you ever stopped to think about how much noise there is in our lives today? We are bombarded from morning to night with so many voices calling out for our attention. God tells us to "listen" and to "pay attention." His voice is not a loud voice, but a voice that speaks to us in the silence (1 Kings 19:11-13). God doesn't want to be one voice among many. He wants His voice to be our guiding light. He doesn't want a part of our heart. He wants our whole heart, because He has made our hearts to find joy in Him. What are the loud voices in your life that make it hard to find times of silence for prayer? What can you do today to make more time for God?

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The St. Peter Catholic School Council is an excellent vehicle for parents and community members to become more involved in the school. The CSC acts as an advisory body to the principal and the school board and performs other important roles in the school such as fundraising and event organization. The council meets approximately four times per year. All parents/guardians may attend council meetings. A member of the community can either nominate parents or self-nominate should they wish to serve on Council in an executive role or member of Council. Please consider volunteering, your efforts will definitely benefit our students. Our first council meeting is September 19th at 6 pm. Please contact the office if you require more information or are interested in attending.





SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash Online is a convenient and secure way to pay for school events for your children. It is easy to register and takes less than 5 minutes! Please go to niagaracatholic.ca/parents/school-cash-online for information and registration instructions. Registered parents can see their payment history, print receipts and receive email notifications whenever new student fees are posted. Things such as food days, class trips and fundraisers are some examples of items that you can conveniently pay for on School Cash Online, as cash and cheques are not accepted as payment. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

ST. PETER OPEN HOUSE

Be sure to mark **Tuesday, September 26th** on your calendar, as a time to meet as a community and become familiar with your child's classroom. We will be holding an Open House from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for students, parents and staff to get to know each other and then allow parents/guardians to familiarize themselves with the expectations of their child's academic/social program for the current year.

More information to follow!

FOOD DAYS

Our specialty lunches this month are scheduled for September 14th-Pitas, 21st-Swiss Chalet, and the 28th-Pizza. All food items can be purchased using school cash online.



SCHOOL ENTRY

In compliance with the Safe Schools Act, a security card access system is installed. All entry doors are locked.

Students arriving after the entry bell are considered late and must enter through the main office entrance and receive a late slip.

We ask that you please consider scheduling your child(ren)'s appointments (ie. medical, etc.) before or after school if possible, in order to minimize classroom interruptions. Often times, the same classroom is interrupted several times in one day.

If you must pick up your child for an earlier dismissal – please report to the office. For attendance and safety purposes, you will be asked to sign your child out. We will notify the classroom teacher to send your child to the office. Students will not be dismissed from the classroom for earlier dismissal without notification from the office that the parent is waiting

in the office (not in the car). Always send a note to the teacher to inform them when they can expect you.

If you are delivering anything for your child (books, lunch etc.) please label it and leave it at the office and it will be delivered for you. If you let your child know to expect a lunch, he/she can pick it up at the office at the lunch bell.

End of the day dismissal is a very busy time. The safety of all our children is important and we need to monitor people within the school. Adults who are picking up children at the end of the day are not to wait in the halls to meet their children. Please wait for the child(ren) outside of the school at the exit doors. If you must see your child's teacher please wait until the halls have cleared after signing in at the office.

Students are dismissed at the end of the day from their assigned exit doors. For safety reasons, students who do not take the bus are reminded to walk home immediately following dismissal and not remain playing in the yard after school.

Be prepared as a family, make plans for rainy day procedures. Students do not call home to get a ride.

Students who are not regular bus students may not take a bus home to visit a friend after school. Students **may not** change the bus they take home to go to another destination.

BUS COLOURS

NSTS have recently assigned colours to our buses. This will help you identify what bus your child is on when contacting NSTS and St. Peter.

4205- Black

4214-Blue

4240-Red

4529-Orange

4601/4645- White

4799-Green



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: ORANGE SHIRT DAY-SEPTEMBER 29TH

Orange Shirt Day is the story of Phyllis Webstad, an Indigenous woman who shared her experience at an Indian Residential School through the children's book, *The Orange Shirt Story*. By participating in Orange Shirt Day, we recognize the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential School system in Canada. The first Orange Shirt Day occurred on September 30th, 2013 as Chief Fred Robbins saw Phyllis' story as a way of bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Since that time, Orange Shirt Day has grown into a

national awareness among schools, businesses, and communities. In June 2021, the Federal Government of Canada designated September 30th as the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. While this addresses Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action, it coincides with an established day that was created by Survivors of Indian Residential Schools. As a Board we can acknowledge the Federal statutory day, but for school and student activities, for the present time, it remains "Orange Shirt Day" as a way of respecting the grass root Indigenous movement.

NCVLE

Niagara Catholic Learning Environment (NCVLE):

Families are advised that the [NCVLE](#) will serve as the standard virtual platform for all classes throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Families can access the NCVLE for their child(ren) by clicking on the hyperlink above and selecting the *'student login'* option. Students and families are encouraged to click on the hyperlinks below to access and explore the [refresher on accessing the NCVLE](#) prior to the start of school. Please note that classroom teachers will also be spending time reviewing this concept with students during the first few weeks of school. Students and families are also reminded of the importance of accessing assistance through the [student](#) and [parent](#) support hub pages. Families are invited to click the hyperlinks above for direct access.



HEAD LICE

Head lice continues to be an ongoing issue, especially in school-aged children.

Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with whether you have clean or dirty hair, or the cleanliness of your home.

Check your child weekly. Look for:

Lice: - adult is 1/8" (1-3 mm.) long

- brown or black or gray
- on or close to the scalp

Eggs: - tiny, dark coloured or white (darker coloured eggs are (Nits) especially likely to be alive)

- oval shape
- glued to hair shaft (especially near to the scalp), behind ears, back of head and under bangs

If you find lice or nits:

- **Call the school** so a head lice notice can be sent home with classmates.
- Check everyone in the house.
- Talk with your doctor if someone is pregnant, breast-feeding, is under the age of 2 or has asthma, allergies or seizure disorder.

- Be sure to follow directions carefully. Do a second treatment as advised.
- Remove all eggs or some may hatch and the problem will continue and spread to others.
- Good lighting and a fine tooth comb are needed.

Vacuum your house and wash clothing and bedding used the last 3 days. Remind your children not to share combs, brushes, hats, head-bands etc.

NRPH - 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 x 7379



SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Niagara Catholic has had a standardized dress code in our elementary schools since 2012. It consists of solid navy blue pants, shorts, skirt or blouse, and a solid navy or white top with a collar. We ask all students to follow the dress code. Please do not send your child to school in black or grey clothing or shirts that have Team logos on them. Polka dots, stripes, etc. are also not part of the dress code. If you are having difficulty finding clothing please contact the school directly. Our spirit wear provider is Big Bear Spirit Wear in Niagara Falls who deliver orders to the school. You may want to check the new St. Peter Athletic shorts offered this year.

<https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/>

[Big Bear Spiritwear – School Uniforms, Spritwear, Gradhoodies, School Apparel](#)

Big Bear Spiritwear is moving to a new and larger location at 6182 Dixon Street, Niagara Falls, ON, starting September 1st. Orders can be picked up at 6893 Oakwood Drive, Unit 1 until August 31st.

www.bigbearspiritwear.com

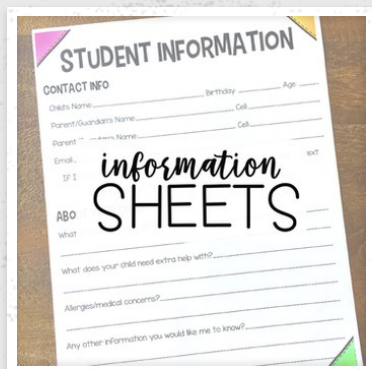
ELECTRONIC DEVICES/PROCEDURES

As life seems to get busier by the day for families, we realize that plans change and there may be a need to communicate these changes. We also feel it is important to remind everyone that personal cell phones, digital assistants (PDAs), audio or video recorders and players, or other personal electronic devices are prohibited for use by students in all Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools unless specifically approved by staff for instructional or co-instructional purposes. Students are NOT to have cell phones out in class unless under the DIRECT supervision of their teacher. Students are not allowed to have their cell phones out at recess, in the hallways, or in any other areas of the school. If students need to contact their parents at any time, they are ALWAYS allowed to call from the office. If you need to reach your child during the school day to notify them of a change in a plan, we ask that you contact the office and the message will be relayed through the teacher (no direct home to school direct

attendance). For those students who bring a cell phone to school, the Board assumes no responsibility for the safety and security, loss, recovery, repair, or replacement of a personal electronic device when carried on to Board premises.

PICTURE DAY

For your advanced planning our individual school pictures will take place on Monday October 16th. A digital flyer will be sent by the company closer to the date.



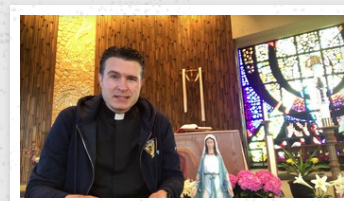
STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS

IMPORTANT!

Each September we send home student information forms in the first few days of school and ask them to be returned with updated information; e.g. address, telephone, email changes. The forms this year will be a distinct orange colour. These forms are critical in making sure we have updated contact information for all students which allows clear communication and helps our safety protocol.

SCHOOL MASSES

To strengthen our faith and meet as a community our students gather several times each year to celebrate the Eucharist. Please check the monthly calendar for the dates and locations of the school masses. Our opening mass will be held on Tuesday, September 12th at 10 am. Parents/guardians/grandparents/family are always welcome to attend. Our opening mass will be held at St. Julia's church. St. Julia's has also scheduled grade-specific masses on certain weekends where St. Peter students will help with different parts of the mass. We hope you are able to join us on these occasions.



VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors / volunteers to our school **MUST** sign in at the office and sign out when leaving. Visitors (including parents) in the halls will be asked by staff to report to the office. We ask for your co-operation with this routine for the safety of all the children.



SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Please be aware that the supervision of students in the yard begins at 8:25 a.m. Students arriving prior to this time will remain in the yard without supervision.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus information can be found on the transportation website at www.nsts.ca or on the NCDSB website at www.niagararc.com. You will need your child's OEN Number (on their report card) and their Date of Birth. We ask for your patience during the first weeks of school as wrinkles will be worked out as soon as possible.

<https://www.nsts.ca/bus-zone/back-to-school-transportation>



PUBLIC HEALTH REMINDER

It's back to school time again. Is your child's immunization up to date? The Immunization of School Pupils Act is a law to protect the entire community. Changes have been made to this law to improve the health and safety of Ontario's school children. **To attend school, your child is now required to be immunized for:**

- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)**
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough)**
- **Meningococcal Disease**

Dose requirements and the time between shots have also been updated for the following:

- **Tetanus**
- **Diphtheria**
- **Polio**
- **Mumps**

The requirements for measles and rubella have not changed.

For parents of children under the age of 18,

REPORT YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION ON TIME!

1. **LOCATE** your child's immunization record. If it is missing, contact your child's family doctor or other health care provider who has immunized your child.
2. Have your doctor **CHECK** your child's immunization record and give any immunizations that are missing or book an

appointment at a Niagara Region Public Health immunization clinic.

3. **REPORT** any immunizations your child receives to Public Health.

Contact Public Health at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 or online at www.niagararegion.ca/vaccines

TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

On Friday September 22nd St. Peter students will be participating in Terry Fox Walk. Donations for the event will be posted on school cash online. Students and staff will be encouraged to wear red shirts or shirts with a Canadian theme.



ANAPHYLAXIS ALERT

As you are aware, the Niagara Catholic District School Board has in place a policy concerning ANAPHYLAXIS – i.e. life-threatening allergies. We have children in our school who suffer extreme allergic reactions to bee stings and certain foods (all nuts and nut products as well as sesame products as well as other foods). Specifically, we have several students in our school who will begin to suffer an extreme reaction by ingesting these products.

Our community is encouraged to be sensitive to the real threat that products containing **nuts and nut** products pose to these children. While there is no Board wide ban on peanuts or peanut butter, we would appreciate your cooperation in not sending peanut products in lunches and snacks with your children. We look for your support in making our school environment safe for all of our children.



ST. PETER BELL TIMES

8:40 am ENTRANCE

10:10 am - 10:25 am MORNING RECESS

11:25 am – 11:45 am LUNCH

11:45 am – 12:05 pm LUNCH RECESS

1:05 pm – 1:20 pm AFTERNOON RECESS

2:50 pm DISMISSAL

SAFE ARRIVAL/SCHOOL MESSENGER

Please use the Safe Arrival system to report all absences and lates for your child. You can report an absence by:

PHONE - 1-844-287-6287

ONLINE: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

APP: SchoolMessenger



PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO

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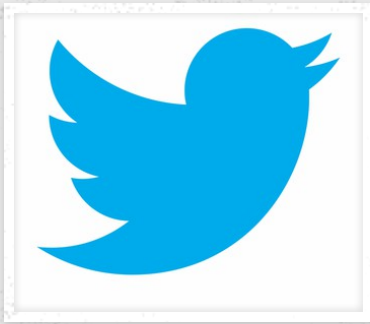
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