



# St. Patrick Catholic School



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November 2023

**Principal: Mrs. I. Ricci Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi**  
**4653 Victoria Ave. Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 4B8**

*"We are proud to be part of the St. Paul Catholic Family of Schools"*

## INTRODUCTION

### NOVEMBER- REFLECTION

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. How have you seen God's hand in your life this day, this month, and this year?

### HOLY CHILDHOOD WALK

Kudos to all of our St. Patrick families for such incredible support for our annual Holy Childhood Walk.

A special thank you to Mr. Curcio for organizing this event each year. We are truly making a difference in our world for those in need. We continue to pray for the children of South Africa, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, India, Ghana, Indonesia, Malawi, Uganda and Nigeria. The focus country this year was Thailand. Thank you for the donation to the Holy Childhood Organization.

## PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY

**Nov. 15th**

Edge Imaging will be at St. Patrick for Picture re-take day on **November 15th, 2023**. We will also have our Grade 8 students this year receive their Grade 8 Grad photos taken on this day. If your child would like to have a re-take make sure your child's teacher is aware of this. Thank you.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. we will have a ceremony for Remembrance Day virtually in the school gym. This celebration of freedom and peace will also help us mark the sacrifices and accomplishments of so many that helped enhance our way of life. We will mark the 11<sup>th</sup> hour with silence and prayer. Thank you to Mr. Pascoe for organizing this for our students and staff.



**In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields**

**-John McCrae**

**MID TERM PROGRESS REPORTS and  
PARENT CONFERENCES  
NOVEMBER 2023**

The Progress Report Card will be available on the Parent Portal the week of November 13th. Interviews will be held on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.. PLEASE use the school appointments website that was sent home to you. This is how we are booking conferences with teachers. If you are running into problems please call the school.

**HALLOWEEN**

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Halloween Parade.

**BREAKFAST PROGRAM at ST. PATRICK**

The Breakfast Program is well under way! It is a Grab and Go program. We have added more items to the program.

**Thank you to Niagara Nutrition Partners!**

**STUDENTS' PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Students must use extreme caution when bringing in their electronic devices to school (i.e. Ipads, laptops, cell phones). All of these devices are not allowed to be used unless under the direct supervision of our staff. They are not to be used in the washrooms, hallways or at recess time.

The school cannot provide a guarantee for their security.

Students should refrain from bringing money to school or anything valuable. Your child's name should be marked on anything he or she may bring to school. If a bicycle is brought to school, it should be attached to the bicycle racks. Parents should be aware that the school is not responsible for any such personal belongings which may be lost, damaged or misplaced.

**No Idling at School**

Help to make our school an idle-free zone. We'll all breathe a little easier.

Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per pound of body weight. Smog levels tend to be worse in the late afternoon, precisely when driving parents accumulate around the school yard.

Today's modern engines require no more than 30 seconds of idling at start-up, even on winter days. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine. If your vehicle is equipped with an automatic starter, try to avoid using it until just prior to boarding the vehicle. When you are dropping off or picking up your children at school, please stop in a safe, legal parking space and turn off your engine. Then safely walk your children to and from the school.

The truth and consequences of engine idling:

- \*It wastes fuel: Three percent of Ontario's fuel is wasted by idling. An idling gas engine burns about 3.5 litres an hour.
- \*Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine!
- \*It wastes money: \$1.8 million of fuel is idled away by Canadians every day.
- \*It contributes to reduced quality of our air: An idling engine produces twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion, significantly contributing to local air pollution.
- \*It contributes to global climate change: Idling engines account for 8 million kilograms of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per day. Passenger transportation is responsible for 18% of Canada's total GHG emissions.
- \*It is harmful to your engine: An idling engine is not operating at its peak temperature, which means fuel combustion is incomplete. Soot deposits can accumulate on cylinder walls leading to oil contamination and damaged components. Idling, while warming an engine, does not warm the wheel bearings, steering, transmission and tires--only driving does this.

**START OF THE DAY EXPECTATIONS**

**A CONTINUED FOCUS ON SAFETY AT ST. PATRICK**

Supervision at St. Patrick Catholic School begins at 8:50 a.m. You cannot drop off your child earlier as we have no supervision until 8:50 a.m. Dropping your child off earlier is unsafe.

At 8:50 a.m. we will allow students to enter the school. We ask that all students enter the building at that time, students are not to loiter outside as supervision is inside the building not outside the building.

Student safety is paramount, please do not send your child to school too early.

Thank you for your cooperation always.

**VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL  
DROP-OFF AND DISMISSAL**

Visitors are not allowed into the building at this time. If you need to contact the school please call first to let us know. We are always happy to talk with you.

Mr. Roma will give you clear instructions if you are bringing items to the school for your child or if you need assistance.

**BULLY AWARENESS & PREVENTION  
WEEK  
NOV. 20-24, 2023**

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment.

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 20-24, 2023 – Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

Our Grade 4 and Grade 7 students have been asked to participate in an online survey concerning students' feeling of safety and security at school. This is a voluntary survey that will be administered at school with teacher supervision. Permission forms were sent home for students to return.

Safety of children is a priority for all school communities. St. Patrick participates in several activities and programs to assist in creating safe environments for our children to learn, to develop and to grow.

Some of the activities that we use here at St. Patrick Catholic School includes:

- Safety Programs in co-operation with the Niagara Regional Police as well as the Niagara Regional Health Department
- Bus Safety Presentation (NSTS)
- Teacher Yard Supervision
- Emergency Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills
- Bike and Seasonal Health Safety Programs
- CARSA: presentations for intermediate students will be scheduled virtually with Donna Christie
- CASAN: Technology Addiction
- TEEN Connect Program: Gr. 7 Class will be scheduled
- Bullying and Internet Safety Talks
- Safety Talks (in class, CYW)
- Recess Project/PALS
- Young Caregivers Program
- Big Brother/Big Sister Mentorship Program

Although these activities assist in making the school environment as safe as possible, the school and playground are not always risk-free. It is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility to teach safety practices to our children. Parents share this responsibility with teachers and other community agencies.

Working together and sharing information, we can create safe environments and safe practices to benefit our children.

Allow us to thank you in advance for taking the time to go over the following [Streetproofing Tips for your Children](#). The staff have already discussed this with our students. Please take this opportunity to reinforce the work we have done at school.

**Streetproofing Tips for Children:**

- A stranger is anyone you don't know and may be a woman or man.
- Never get into a vehicle with a stranger no matter what they want or offer you.

- Try to remember the colour and type of vehicle a stranger who approaches you is in. Don't worry about the license number.
- If you are approached by a stranger, tell your teacher or parents as soon as possible.
- Strangers are usually bigger and stronger, so don't even get close enough to their vehicle so that they can grab you.
- Walk on regular paths, such as sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the road, facing traffic coming towards you.
- Don't take short cuts through school yards, parks or along railroad tracks.
- Walk with a buddy.
- Tell your parents where you are going, and call them when you get there. Do the same when you leave to go home.

### CURRICULUM CORNER

How can you support your child's literacy development? Make a special, quiet time to read together with your child every day. It should be an enjoyable routine in your day. Depending on the familiarity of the book and its level of difficulty you can decide whether the book should be: read to your child; read with your child; or read by your child.

Reading to your child shows him/her how reading works and sounds, and that it is enjoyable and valuable.

Reading aloud with your child builds confidence in reading books that may be too difficult to try alone. When the book is being read by your child, use the 3 P's - Pause, Prompt, Praise - to assist: Pause if the child is unsure; wait a moment. Let your child look at the pictures and words to work out the meaning. Give a prompt or clue that encourages your child to look closer and have a go. Ask a question such as: What word might make sense? What would sound right? What does it start with? Praise all efforts. If the child is still unsure after a try, tell them the word so they don't lose the meaning of the story.

Keep the Pause, Prompt, Praise process short, so as not to interrupt the flow of the story. Enjoyment and understanding of the book is most important.

### WINTER CLOTHING/INDOOR SHOES PROCEDURE

We are asking now that wet, snowy weather is approaching that student's bring in their own indoor shoes to change into.

Students will have a hook to hang their coat and snow pants on in their classroom/hallway. Their wet boots will remain in the hallway. Their backpacks/lunches will remain at their desk area.

If any student requires any additional clothing for the winter please contact the school for the assistance.

Kindergarten students have had a successful system with their cubbies since September. They are asked to bring in indoor shoes.

### DRESS CODE UPDATE

Congratulations to the students of St. Patrick who have done an excellent job implementing the Dress Code Policy. Just a reminder to parents that only solid white or navy blue is acceptable at St. Patrick. Shirts **must** have a collar. NO BLACK pants. Socks must be neutral in colour. As the weather gets colder any sweaters worn in the classroom must be solid white or navy blue with NO logos.

### HOT LUNCHESES at ST. PATRICK LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA and FIREHOUSE SUBS

Hot Lunches are underway this school year. At this time ONLY orders through school cash on-line can be processed - no cash orders accepted.

### P.A. DAY

November 24th is a P.A. Day. There will be no school on November 24th.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our First St. Patrick Catholic Council was held Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Patricia McGilvery who is St. Patrick's Catholic School Council Chair for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Thank you to parents that joined our Council this school year.

### **MOM'S PANTRY FUNDRAISER**

We will be holding our first school fundraiser. We have chosen Mom's Pantry. All information about this fundraiser will be sent home to each family.

Please order on-line directly through Mom's Pantry. Please send the link to your family members to help support our fundraiser.

The fundraiser will begin on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.  
The fundraiser will end on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Parents can pick up purchased items approximately Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow.

Thank you to our wonderful Catholic School Council for organizing this fundraiser for us this school year.

### **PLAID DAY NOV. 23rd #Projectplaid**

On Nov. 24th Students will be participating in the #ProjectPlaid-Pathstone Mental Health Campaign.

All students are invited to wear Plaid on Thursday, November 23rd, 2023.

The Goal of the campaign is to increase the conversation around mental health, ultimately reducing stigma, and raise funds to support Mental health programs at Pathstone.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE NOVEMBER**

#### **It's the season – Cold & Flu**

Respiratory illness season has arrived and isn't going anywhere anytime soon. Cold, flu, COVID-19 and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) are all in the mix.

Keeping up to date with vaccines can activate you and your child's immune system's natural fighting ability. Our immune system uses vaccines to practice fighting germs so it knows

what to do when faced with them. Getting an XBB COVID-19 dose and a flu shot will give the immune system a much-needed top up - just like charging a cell phone battery. It's safe to take the flu shot and fall 2023 COVID-19 dose at the same time. These vaccines may also be given any time before or after other vaccines, like the ones offered to grade 7 students.

#### **Head Lice**

Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

#### **EpiPen® and Auto-Injectors**

During the school day, your child will be in contact with many staff members and other children, moving around to different locations inside and outside. Remember to check if your child's EpiPen® Auto-Injectors are up to date (not expired).

### **NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL PROGRAM**

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be offering Dental screening to grades JK, SK, 2, 4, 7 and 8 on December 1st.

A registered dental hygienist will take a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized mirror and light. Staff will be wearing a mask, eye protection, gloves and performing hand hygiene between each student. The Healthy Smiles Ontario program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care.

If you do not want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening, you MUST complete the online

School Dental Screening Nonparticipation Form or call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 each school year.

If your child(ren) is not in one of the grades listed above, they may have the opportunity to participate in the dental screening. If you would like your child to be screened, please complete the School Dental Participation Form.