



St. Patrick Catholic School



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December 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

On behalf of the entire St. Patrick Staff, may I wish you and your family the Joy and Peace of this very Holy Season and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year 2024. Yours in Catholic Education,
Mrs. I. Ricci

Come Lord Jesus!

Fill our hearts with love for you.

Let your wisdom and love fill the earth

so that your peace will rule over all the world.

Let our celebration of Christmas keep you at the centre,

this year and every year,

Until you come set us free!

Amen

CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2023

Dec. 1st: Christmas Food Drive underway: bring in non-perishable items. Thank you for your support.

Dec. 1st: JOY DAY at St. Patrick students are encouraged to deck themselves out in a holiday T-shirt or sweatshirt and Christmas bling

Dec. 7th: Grade 8 Day at St. Paul and Christmas Road Show

Dec. 8th: Grade 6 students attend St. Paul for Christmas Roadshow

Dec. 12th: Advent Mass at St. Patrick Church at 10 a.m.- Parents are welcome to attend

Dec. 15th: Christmas Concert at 1:00 p.m. in the School Gym: Parents are welcome to attend

Dec. 20th: Turkey Lunch Day (free for students)

Dec. 22nd: Students can wear Christmas PJ's and will be given chocolate milk and a Christmas cookie

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

Students in each grade will participate in a weekly Advent Celebration and lighting of the Advent candles with prayers each Monday morning commencing Monday, Dec. 4th. Our desire is to guide your child on

this very important journey towards Christmas.

We will have a school-wide Advent Mass on Dec. 12th at 10 a.m. This will be led by Father Gerard.

SCHOOL SIGN OUT PROCEDURES

We are asking all parents to **wait** outside the front doors until your child is called down. Staff will get your child for you. Thank you for your patience.

STREETPROOFING YOUR CHILDREN

When street proofing your children, the following safety tips should always be a part of the conversation.

1. Never approach a stranger.
2. Stay away from vehicles you do not know.
3. Be wary of strangers who are overly friendly or take an unusual interest in you.
4. You can go places and accept things from people you know, but first get your parents permission and tell them where you are going, who you are with, and when you will return home.
5. Avoid potentially dangerous places such as secluded areas in parks, school yards after school is finished, alleyways, lane ways, and empty parking lots.
6. Never get into a stranger's vehicle.
7. Never engage in conversation with a stranger who is walking or driving a vehicle. Always stay back a safe distance and continue walking while being aware of the stranger's actions.
8. If you are ever confronted by a stranger, do whatever it takes to break free, such as loud screams, biting, kicking, and rolling on the ground.
9. Never accept gifts, money, or candy from a stranger.
10. Always walk to and from school with brothers, sisters, or friends.
11. Whenever possible, if approached, try to remember the licence plate number, vehicle description, and the stranger's description.
12. Contact the police as soon as possible for assistance by calling 911.

BASIC RULE: SAY NO, GET AWAY, AND TELL SOMEONE YOU TRUST

STUDENT ABSENCES AND LATES

SAFE ARRIVAL ATTENDANCE REPORTING
IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT or
LATE FROM SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON THE
ABSENCE MUST BE REPORTED BY CALLING

1 844 287 6287

OR VISIT nc.schoolconnects.com

You can no longer call the school to report absences
and do not email the teacher. You must call the
system.

We must account for every child. Please make every effort to remember to contact the school via one of the above methods when your child is absent. The phone line and web site are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

We are seeing an abundant number of students coming in late to school. PLEASE ensure that your child is on time. The first bell rings at 9:05 a.m.

If your child is late then they are missing first period learning which is crucial.

Also, PLEASE use the Safe Arrival system. Call the system or use the APP.

If we do not know where your child is we will call until we get the necessary information.

WINTER PLAYGROUND RULES

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn, i.e., boots, gloves, etc. With the number of students in our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of snowball throwing.

Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snowballs at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season: No throwing of snowballs, no kicking, throwing snow or snowing other students. No breaking of others' forts.

Please be advised that students engaging in these types of behaviours will be dealt with immediately. If this behaviour continues, parents will be contacted and further consequences will come into effect.

Our outdoor play structures will be closed during winter due to safety concerns.

USE OF CELL PHONES

Use of Cell Phones: The Provincial Code of Conduct has been revised to include a restriction on the use of personal mobile devices during instructional time. The use of personal mobile devices during instructional time is permitted under the following circumstances: 1. for educational purposes, as directed by an educator, 2. for health and medical purposes, and 3. to support special education needs.

ECO SCHOOL NEWS "ST. PATRICK EARTH CLUB"

Hey Shamrock Family! Our school now has an Eco Club and we've called ourselves the **St. Patrick Earth Club**. We meet once or twice a week and our first order of business was to audit our school recycling program. It looks like we have some work to do! Our Earth Club members will be visiting all classes ensuring students know what is recyclable and what is trash.

Every Wednesday we are asking families to try to reduce the amount of garbage that we create from our lunches. Our "Waste Free Wednesdays" will continue throughout the year. Don't forget a reusable water bottle 😊.

Starting in December, classes will have "Lights out Fridays!" Friday afternoons, classes will be encouraged to shut off the lights in their classrooms to help save energy. This will continue every Friday until June.

On December 7th, students in K-6 will participate in Niagara Region's Elementary Waste Management Program. This program provides the opportunity for students to learn about Niagara's curbside Recycling and Green Bin programs through a fun and interactive approach.

We will be having Lights Out Fridays and Waste Free Wednesdays for the this school year. The Earth Club will help to promote these initiatives.

Thank you to the EARTH CLUB for creating this new logo for our school.



KUDOS FOR CARING

A Special Thanks to the school community for the following:

- To parents who call in absences, drop off/pickup children in the designated area, park in the appropriate places, and wait for their children outdoors. Thank you for always wearing your masks as well.
- To our Catholic School Council members for their suggestions and feedback for activities this school year.
- To Mr. Roma for all his hard work through the office administration and organization, and for ensuring that our students are safe and accounted for through our Board's Safe Arrival Program.
- To the teachers, ECE, Librarian, CYW and Educational Assistants who work diligently to ensure our students receive the best Catholic Education possible.
- To Mr. McGean and Mr. Tisi who keep our school clean and safe.
- To Father Gerard for his spiritual guidance and assistance in our sacramental preparations.

BREAKFAST NUTRITION PROGRAM

Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for our Healthy Nutrition Program and Community Crew, Food For Kids and St. Patrick Church. Each classroom has their own classroom basket with items students can eat each morning and throughout the day. All items are peanut-free and individually wrapped.

Teachers will be distributing these items out to students if they ask for them in the morning or for an additional snack throughout the day.

MOM'S PANTRY FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all that donated to our first fundraiser of the school year.

Thank you Mrs. McGilvery and Catholic School Council for helping organize this fundraiser.

Profits will help subsidize classroom and outside supplies. Pick up for orders is December 14th starting at 2:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our Catholic School Council will meet on Dec. 4th, 2023. Our next meeting is March 4th @ 6 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend these meetings, please just let Mrs. Ricci know. Minutes of our meeting are always posted on our school website.

Please keep yourself up to date in regards to what is happening at St. Patrick. We will continue to plan for events this coming school year to include the parent community.

NO JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Since December and January are shorter months for us at the school, there will be no January Newsletter.

A January calendar only will be provided on the first day of school, January 8th, 2024.

PIZZA DAY/FIREHOUSE SUBS

Little Caesar's Pizza will continue on Dec. 7th and Dec. 21st. Firehouse Subs will be offered to students that would like a sub for lunch on Dec. 14th. Use the School Cash Online feature to secure your child's lunch. If you are having difficulty with CASH ONLINE please contact Mr. Roma at the office. We will have at least two/three hot lunches each month this school year.

Late orders will not be accepted. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION and CONFIRMATION UPDATE

We have tentatively booked our Grade 8 graduation celebration for **Monday June 24th, 2024** at St. Patrick. Grade 8 Confirmation will be held on **Saturday Feb. 10, 2024**. More information will follow in the New Year.

LICE CHECK REMINDER

Our protocol at St. Patrick is as follows:

1. Parent / School Staff reports infestation to the office.
2. Letters are sent to parents of the students in the class informing them of the infestation.
3. School team checks these classrooms for other cases. If lice are found, parents are informed.
4. Parents treat infestations with products available at the Pharmacy.

Thank you for your co-operation in managing this situation. For more information please call Niagara Health Services at 905-356-1538 ext. 224.
is wrong

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of severe weather conditions, announcements to close the schools or to cancel buses will be made on all local radio stations at 7:00 a.m. and on the NCDSB website at www.niagaracatholic.ca. During bad weather, when the school remains open, parents must decide whether or not their children will attend. It is very important that we have your emergency contact telephone numbers on file, as well as any update or change in information since your last Student Information Form was submitted to us. IF your child remains at home you STILL must call the absence into the Safe Arrival System.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER and INDOOR SHOES

With the arrival of cold weather, families are reminded to provide their child(ren) with indoor shoes for health and safety reasons. Thank you to all parents who provide indoor shoes!!! As well, it might be a good idea to send in a spare change of clothes. Many students need reminders to wear a coat, hat and gloves. Please ensure your child brings a coat to wear for outdoor recess breaks.

IF you require anything please contact the school. We have new and gently used items to pass along if needed.

DRESS Code at St. Patrick is mandatory. Students are to wear NAVY BLUE pants not Black. Students are to wear collared white or navy blue shirts or plain Navy sweaters/sweatshirts. Students are allowed to wear School Spiritwear. Grade 8 students are allowed to wear their Grad Hoodies. Our intermediate students can wear St. Paul Catholic High School spiritwear as well. This is board policy. PLEASE adhere to these school expectations.

CASHLESS at ST. PATRICK

“The school accepts only online payment for all fees and activities for students.”

“As part of the Niagara Catholic DSB, we are committed to providing a safe and efficient ONLINE environment in order to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. Online payment users benefit from knowing students are not carrying cash to school which can be easily forgotten, misplaced or not handed in on time for important school activities and events. School Cash Online is a secure and safe payment portal and is PCI compliant. Please join the many parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience

of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow the online step-by-step instructions at <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Home/SignIn> to begin receiving email notifications for events involving your child(ren).

Some of the added benefits enjoyed by using School Cash Online include:

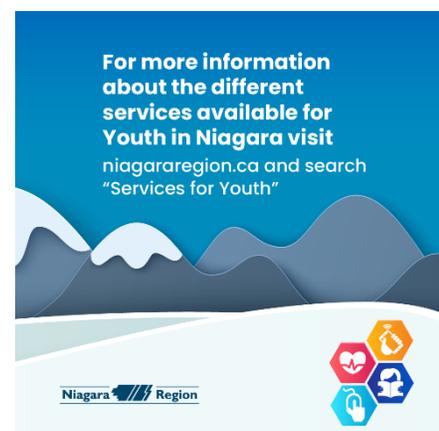
- Have online access to digital receipts and a complete list of paid and unpaid items
- Ability to pay by credit cards, including Visa, Mastercard, Visa Debit, Mastercard Debit
- Ability to preload funds into the School Cash Online wallet for future use
- Receive reminder emails, so payment due dates are not missed
- One-time registration – students will automatically be moved between schools within our Board

NIAGARA PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES DECEMBER 2023

Holiday Expectations

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:

1. **Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
2. **Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
3. **Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.



For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

Reminder to Report your Child's Vaccines to Public Health

Don't forget to let Public Health know about your child's vaccinations! Sometimes, even if your child is all caught up on shots, Public Health might not have the record.

Report your child's vaccines

Each time your child receives a vaccine, report it to Public Health. Health care providers don't do this for you.

If there is a disease outbreak, Public Health uses the vaccine information to:

- Identify children at risk
- Reduce the spread of disease

niagararegion.ca/vaccines QR
905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

niagara parents Niagara Region

Every time your child receives a vaccine, be sure to report it:

- [Online](#)
- By phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 or
- Fax: 905-688-8225

[Find out which vaccinations are required and recommended](#) for children attending school.

Giving Back

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for a school community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider



supporting:

- [Community Care](#)
- [Newark Neighbours](#)
- [Salvation Army Community and Family Services](#)
- [Pelham Cares](#)
- [The HOPE Centre](#)
- [Project SHARE](#)
- [Grimsby Benevolent Fund](#)
- [Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)
- [Open Arms Mission](#)
- [United Way Niagara](#)
- [Jammies for Families](#)

Niagara Parents

[Niagara Parents](#) provides a variety of services to help you raise a happy and healthy family. Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse instantly in whichever language they are most comfortable speaking.

niagara parents

Providing supports & services to help you raise a happy and healthy family

Connect with Niagara Parents

Live chat or speak with a public health nurse in **90 different languages available:**

- niagararegion.ca/parents
- 905-684-7555 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555
- parents@niagararegion.ca
- Niagara Parents
- niagaraparents

Niagara Region

Services offered:

- Questions or concerns about parenting, your child's health, or pregnancy.
- Parenting classes, breastfeeding support, prenatal appointments and more.
- Postpartum support.
- Links to services within the community.

Connect with a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. through phone, live chat, video call, or email. Live chat is available in 90 different languages.

Find Niagara Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for different activities you can do with your kids, relevant resources and virtual events for parents.

Jingle Bell Walk!



December's [Active School Travel](#) theme is the annual Jingle Bell Walk! It's a great time to use the holiday spirit to promote Active School Travel!

Activity Idea: Host a Jingle Bell Walk by asking parents and students to walk to school with bells or anything that jingles. You can also suggest wearing warm festive hats – or topping their hats off with antlers!