

ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

December 2023 Newsletter



ST. PETER CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mr. Kevin Lamb

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Principal's Message

December brings the beginning of the season of Advent, a time when we prepare to welcome the anniversary of Christ not only coming into our lives but also into our hearts. In a day and age where everything seems to be fast-paced, the pace can seem overwhelming when Christmas comes. In our school, we hope to bring a sense of quietness in preparation for the coming of baby

Jesus, through classroom activities and weekly Advent celebrations. This will hopefully help everyone to slow down and be patient.

On behalf of our Catholic School Council, we are pleased to announce the return of the "**Christmas Gift Shop**" for the second consecutive year. We are still collecting gently used items to be donated for the event. A reminder that we are always in particular need of gifts for all our Dads and Dad figures. Please send any donations to the office by December 15th.

Once again we will be having an Advent Food Drive in support of St. Julia's Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please see the information section below. Thank you to all parents, grandparents, and guardians for helping to teach your children the importance of helping those in need, particularly at this time of year.

On behalf of the entire St. Peter Catholic Elementary School staff, may I wish you and your family the Joy and Peace of this Holy Season and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. K. Lamb

Principal



Advent Food Drive

St. Peter Catholic School students will be collecting food for the St. Vincent de Paul society over the next few weeks. There are numerous families that need our help, especially over the holidays! We are asking that students bring in 1 or 2 non-perishable items so that we will have a variety of foods to put in the Christmas baskets. St. Vincent de Paul always welcomes gift cards for: Zehrs, Superstore, No Frills and HBC. Gift cards can be

dropped off at the office and we will collect items between December 4th and 15th. Baskets will be made up before the Christmas holidays begin. As always, thank you in advance for your support!

Baby Shower for Mother Mary

In addition to our food drive, another social justice initiative we are implementing this year is our Christmas Cheer Week. This will take place during the week of December 4-8th. Activities are listed in the hard copy sent home December 1st as well as on the calendar. To 'buy in' to these activities we kindly ask you donate one of the baby items listed in the note. All items will be donated to Community Care. Thank you in advance for helping those in need at this time of year.



Called By Name " Hear My Voice" 2023-24

God invites us to hear His voice. But, how do we go about hearing it? How do we learn to recognize it? God has blessed us with a priceless gift: the Bible. St. Jerome famously wrote that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." We recognize our loved ones' voices because of the many hours we've spent together. Should we expect it to be any different with Jesus? When we read the Gospels, we learn His ways and we hear His voice. Do you have a Bible that has been collecting dust? This is the sign you've been waiting for to pick it up, open up the Gospels, and give them a read. Jesus is waiting for you.



Christmas Gift Shop

On behalf of our Catholic School Council this is a follow up to our earlier communication that we are pleased to welcome back the "Christmas Gift Shop". We are still collecting gently used items to be donated to the event. A reminder that we are always in particular need of gifts for all our Dads and Dad figures. Please send any donations to the office by December 15th as the gift shop is planned for Tuesday December 19th during the school day.



Project Plaid

Thank you to all students and staff who participated in our "Project Plaid" fundraiser on November 23. Project Plaid is an initiative with Pathstone Mental Health and it aims to elevate suicide prevention, engage in conversation and raise funds to support mental health programs at Pathstone. It's about finding hope and giving hope to others. Together we helped raise \$263 for a great cause.



French Immersion On-Line Pre-Registration

- On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2024: Monday, January 15th, 2024 at 7:30 a.m. through to Friday, February 2nd, 2024 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 Edsembli 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 and click

- ➤ the **French Immersion Registration** banner

OR

- ➤ 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



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter: December 2023

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14GvOF1ITR3max36YtCEjAfrYtud9ieAV/edit>

Mental Health

Mental Health during the Winter Break

With the winter break around the corner, it is important to still keep in mind that the pandemic has not disappeared, and taking care of our mental health is still very important. Winter can be more

difficult for some due to the time change and having less exposure to daylight. Some may experience mental health impacts such as sleep disturbances, low interest in activities, fatigue, and irritability (CMHO, 2021). Check out the PDF [Putting Your Family's Mental Wellness First - 7 Tips to get Ready for the Holidays](#), with winter mental health tips created by Children's Mental Health Ontario and School Mental Health Ontario.



Resources:

<https://www.family.cmho.org/mental-health-ready-for-the-holidays/>

<https://www.family.cmho.org/winter-mental-health-tips/>



THE COLD WEATHER HAS ARRIVED!

Cold weather is here! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots. Labeling your child's clothing saves a lot of stress on their part and expense on yours.

On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow Board

guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, it is our expectation that all children will go out for recess. In addition to proper outdoor attire, indoor shoes are essential to keep our classrooms and hallways safe and to participate safely in physical education classes.

'Tis the Season

'Tis the season for colds and flu. Please do not send your child to school if he/she is not well. Children may not be kept in for recesses or lunch time when they are sent to school ill as staff are often involved with meetings and supervision. Allow your child the time to get better before sending him/her to school. This is particularly true this year as everyone is working extremely hard to keep one another safe.



Inclement Weather Procedure

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, CHECK OUR BOARD WEB SITE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION, LOOK FOR A MESSAGE FROM THE NCDSB IN SCHOOL MESSENGER AND LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION 105.7 FM & 1220 AM FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS!

CHECK Niagara Catholic District School Board website at

www.niagaracatholic.ca.

Playground Rules

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. Proper attire must be worn, i.e., boots, gloves, hats etc. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors.

With the number of students in our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of

dangers/consequences of throwing snowballs. No one wants anyone to be hurt or injured in any way. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season:

No throwing snowballs, no kicking or throwing snow at other students. No breaking of others' snow 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.



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 CONTACT THE SCHOOL WITH ANY CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES.

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

Our school now has the ability to utilize the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about school and board events, school closings, safety alerts and more. Our Catholic School Council feels that text messages are a quick and easy way for the school to communicate such items. In order to receive these texts you have to "Opt in" which is a really easy thing for you to do. Please click on the link below for an instruction sheet to OPT-IN to receive SMS Messages from St. Peter.



School Messenger SMS Opt-In Instructions - Click Here

NCDSB Elementary Standardized Dress Code

Shirts

- Navy blue or white oxford-style long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt.
- Navy blue or white polo-style long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt.
- School-designed spirit wear including shirts, sweaters or hoodies.
- All sweaters must be navy blue or white.



Pants / Skirts

- Navy blue sweat-pants for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3.
- Navy blue pants - Dress, Cargo, Denim, Kobe, Corduroy style.
- Navy blue skorts or dresses - length must be appropriate and modest.
- Navy blue walking shorts or capris or Grade 8 students have the option of wearing grey secondary uniform pants.

Shoes

· In an effort to limit student traffic in hallways and keep students and staff safe, families are advised that students will not require a pair of indoor shoes to start the school year. We ask that parents/ guardians please ensure that students come to school each day wearing appropriate and comfortable closed-toe footwear (i.e. running shoes with proper ankle support) that they can remain in throughout the duration of the school day. We also ask that if your child is still learning to tie laces that you send slip on or Velcro shoes



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

ST PETER SPIRIT WEAR

Families can order Grad Hoodies and St. Peter Spirit Wear through the Big Bear Spirit Wear Website. Usually, the orders are delivered to the school to hand out to students. All orders are to be done by going to the Big Bear Spirit Wear website, bigbearspiritwear.com

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Instagram

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@niagaracatholic



Kevin Lamb

Kevin is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Merry
Christmas