



St. Patrick Catholic School



Phone: 905-354-6631

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February 2024

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"

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our theme this school year is "Called by Name: Hear My Voice." And while our theme is about God's call to us, it should also serve as a reminder of our call to Him. Each day God says to us, "let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet" (Song of Solomon 2:14). God doesn't want to talk at us; He wants to have a conversation with us. Have you given Him the pleasure of hearing your voice yet today?

PROVINCIAL REPORT CARDS/PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Your child will be receiving their first term provincial report card during the week of Feb. 12, 2024. Student report cards will be posted on the Parent Portal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please call the school and set up an appointment.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEPs)- Parent Involvement

IEPs are sent home at each reporting period. If your child has an Individual Education Plan, you can expect the Term 2 IEP to be posted to the parent portal with goals and expectations for Term 2. The Term 2 IEP is currently in the development stages. You are welcome to arrange a time to speak with your child's teacher to discuss your child's goals and learning expectations for the upcoming term. We are doing this by telephone call.

IEP development is a collaborative process. Educational priorities that families feel are important to their child's learning experience are integral to the Individual Education Plan.

The parent's role in the IEP process is as follows:

- collaborate in the IEP process;
- advocate for their child's best interest;
- provide up-to-date medical information about their child;
- provide important information about their child's likes, dislikes, learning styles, interests, and reactions to situations, and about the talents and skills their child demonstrates in the home and community;
- reinforce and extend the educational efforts of the teacher by providing opportunities to practice and maintain skills in the home;
- provide feedback on the transfer of skills to the home and community environments; and
- maintain open communications with the school.

We look forward to working in collaboration with you through this IEP process.

If you have any specific questions, please ask your child's classroom teacher or Mrs. Russell.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON THE ABSENCE MUST BE REPORTED BY CALLING 1 844 287 6287 OR BY PHONE APP OR BY VISITING nc.schoolconnects.com

You can no longer call the school for absences. 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. Call before the first bell at 9:05 a.m.

SCHOOL AND BUS CANCELLATIONS

With winter weather upon us, please check board websites, local radio stations and television updates about closures and cancellations due to inclement weather. If the schools are closed, by the Director of Education, due to inclement weather or any other reason then student absences do not need to be reported. If the bus is cancelled and the school is open you still MUST call the system to report your child's absence.

KIDS HELPING KIDS WEEK Feb. 12-15, 2024

"Kids Helping Kids" is always held around Valentine's Day to signify giving from the heart out of love. The funds from "The Kids Helping Kids" campaign go directly for the delivery of therapy services, at Niagara Children's Centre. This results in a positive difference in the lives of many children. Many former and current students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board system have received or are receiving therapy at Niagara Children's Centre and have benefited by the Centre's programs and services.

We are asking for voluntary participation with the following fundraising activities throughout the week of February 12th to the 15th. A voluntary donation of \$2 is encouraged. This can be done through School Cash online.

Monday February 12th Wacky Hair/Backwards Day

Tuesday February 13th Sports Day wear your favourite sports top and hat, hand out all Valentine's Day Cards and Candy Grams

Wednesday February 14th Red, White, Pink Day

Thursday February 15th Pajama Day/Cozy Sweater Day-Snuggle up and Read with book buddies

For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: Niagara Children's Centre

On behalf of the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre we thank you for your continued support,

MARCH BREAK

This year March Break runs from Monday, March 11th to Friday, March 15th. Enjoy the time off with your family and friends.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on **MONDAY MARCH 4th, 2024 at 6:00 PM** More information will be sent to parents about this meeting. All parent(s), guardian(s) are welcome to attend.

VALENTINE DAY CELEBRATION Feb. 14th, 2024

We will have a Candy Gram sale online. Students can wear red, pink and/or white as it will be a dress down day.

Classroom teachers will notify their own classes as to celebrations or activities planned for Valentine's Day.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION 2024

The date of Grade 8 Graduation has been confirmed for **Monday, June 24, 2024**. More information will follow.

DRESSING FOR WINTER WEATHER

With the arrival of January's chilly winds, parents are reminded to send their children to school dressed for the weather – hats, mittens, scarves, boots, heavy coats and snow pants are absolutely needed for the blustery winter days. Extra pairs of socks and pants tucked into backpacks also come in handy! Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes or slippers to wear inside the school.

SNOWBALLS

Our school requests your support to prevent unnecessary injuries that result from the throwing of snow by students in the yard. Snow throwing/kicking in any form is not permitted. We ask for your support in reminding and reinforcing this concept with your child/ren.

COLD WEATHER

In accordance with Board guidelines and Niagara Region Public Health Cold Weather Alert notices, students will remain in for recess when the wind chill factor is -25 and below. The temperature is checked before each recess to ensure it is safe for students to be outside.

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION and FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, the students in Grade 8 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Feb. 10th at 5 p.m.

Bishop Bergie and Father Gerard will confirm the students during this very special sacrament.

Dates for Grade 2 First Reconciliation will be on March 5th at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick Church.

First Holy Communion will be on April 28th at 1:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Church.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL ROUTINES

Please take note that all students who arrive at school after the 9:05 a.m. bell are considered late and must report to the office. Students who are arriving late are missing valuable and irreplaceable instructional time and it will be duly noted on their future report cards.

IMPORTANT!!!

Parents, it is imperative that you make “end of the day” arrangements prior to your child coming to school. We cannot guarantee that we are able to relay messages to your child. Should it be an emergency situation, we will do our best to relay the message; however, you should continue to write a note for “end of the day” routines for your child’s safety and peace of mind.

PLEASE pick up your child on time at the end of the day.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE PAYMENTS

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> Registered parents can see their payment history, print receipts, and receive email notifications whenever new student fees are posted.

Step 1: Go to this

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

Step 2: Register by selecting the “Get started Now” and following the steps

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the “click here” option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account

DRESS CODE REVIEW

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all St. Patrick Catholic families for their continuous support with the Niagara Catholic’s standardized dress code. Listed below are a few dress code reminders:

- Students may wear St. Patrick Spirit Wear
- Navy or white shirts must have a collar and are to be without any logos.
- Pants, skirts and shorts (knee length) need to be **navy blue**.
- Only students in grade three and under are permitted to wear navy track pants or tights.
- Only navy blue or white sweaters may be worn in the classroom. Sweaters must not include any logos. Additional dress code information can be found on the Niagara Catholic website under parent and community tab.

How to Help Kids Handle Stress

How to Help Kids Handle Stress here are some ways to build a less stressful home:

- Make sure your child gets exercise and time to play.

- Healthy food can help the body cope with stress more easily.
- Spend time with your children and ask them how they feel.
- Hugs and kisses show kids you love them and make them feel good.
- Bedtime routines help kids relax at the end of the day.
- Sleep is important. A tired child gets stressed more easily.
- Morning routines get the day off to a good start.
- Have fun together. A good laugh helps fight off stress.
- Learn to manage your stress.

For more information about stress in children visit www.kidshavestresstoo.org

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE FEB. 6, 2024

Our Annual Kindergarten Open house is scheduled for Feb 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please spread the word we are accepting registrations anytime.

Register online at www.niagaracatholic.ca

REGISTRATION EARLY LEARNING KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM for SEPTEMBER 2024

Registration for the full day Kindergarten at St. Patrick has begun and we will continue to take registrations as the year progresses. This is a blended program for 4-5-year old's. Children must be born in the year 2020.

Please bring your child's:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate
3. Proof of Address
3. Custody Documents (if applicable)
4. If not born in Canada citizenship papers must be provided

Please call 905-354-6631 if you need more information.

STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE

If you have moved or made changes to your telephone or cell phone numbers and/or email address, please contact the office so we can update your child/ren's information. It is important that in the event of a mishap at school we can get in touch with you. Thank you.

Please update your email address and cell phone numbers always. We are now communicating mostly through email.

ASH WEDNESDAY Feb. 14th, 2024-PARENTS WELCOME

Ashes will be given on February 14th at 9:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Church. Parents are welcome to attend this service with Father Gerard.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY

Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. Classes will be having activities and lessons this month.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>

PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION for PARENTS

Grade 7 Vaccines Catch Up

Niagara Region Public Health has completed all fall school-based immunization clinics for the following publicly funded [routine school vaccinations](#):



- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Grade 7 students who missed their school immunization clinic can receive these vaccines through the following options:

- **Niagara Region Public Health vaccination clinics** – book an appointment at a community clinic by calling the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 ext. 7425
- **Family doctor or Nurse Practitioner**– Contact your health care provider to discuss vaccine availability. If you do not have one, you can check with a local walk-in clinic.

Wintertime Well-Being

As the weather changes and days get shorter, many people, including children and youth, may feel more anxious, depressed, or tired. It's essential to be mindful of our emotional well-being. Beat the winter blues and check out these simple activities to boost your and your child's mood.

- [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](#)
- [100 Fun Activities to Boost Your Mood](#)
- [Stress relief activities for kids](#)

Help Keep the Classroom Germ Free – Stay Home When Sick



Respiratory viruses like the flu and COVID-19 are spreading in our community. Since these viruses can have similar symptoms, it can be hard to tell what you are infected with based on just symptoms alone.

If your child is sick, they should stay home from school until:

- They have no fever, without the use of fever reducing medication **and**
- Their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours or 48 hours if they have nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea **and**
- They don't develop any new symptoms

By keeping your child home when sick, you help prevent them from spreading whatever infection they have to others.

Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. **Gear Up:** Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.
2. **Choose Safe Hills:** Opt for designated tobogganing hills that are free from obstacles like trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. **Follow Etiquette:** Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. **Think Safety:** Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.
5. **Stay Visible:** If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.



Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland!

Visit [Niagara Families](#) for places your child can toboggan.

Mindfulness Awareness Stabilization Training

As teachers wrap up their final lessons amidst the excitement of the holiday season, holiday

preparation becomes a hectic task. In the midst of this hustle, focusing on the present moment can be challenging. Unity Health Toronto presents [Mindful Awareness Stabilization Training \(MAST\)](#), a program designed to teach emotion regulation skills through psychoeducation and mindfulness practices. With easily accessible handouts and a collection of brief audio tracks, MAST aims to enhance mindfulness not only in individual educators but also within the classroom environment.



[Jack.org's Mental Health Promotion](#)

Introduce Mental Health Promotion to the Classroom with [Jack.org's Educator Hub \(edHUB\)](#) resource. This comprehensive and free resource library equips educators with teaching materials to integrate mental health promotion programming into their classrooms. Featuring curriculum-aligned activities, lessons, and a unit plan, this program supports educators by offering safe, youth-friendly, and evidence-informed mental health resources. It empowers educators to enhance their students' mental health literacy within a learning environment that fosters growth and well-being.