



Notre Dame Catholic School



6559 Caswell Street, Niagara Falls, ON, L2J 1C2

Phone: (905) 358-3861 Email: notre.dame@ncdsb.com

Principal: Mr. E. Roussos Superintendent of Education: Mr. D. Massi

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

February 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

The midway point of the school year is approaching. Progress towards our goals is ongoing. There will always be more to do and more ways in which we can grow or improve spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Our strength and determination to accomplish goals comes from many places, but most importantly our faith. We offer this prayer for all of our families:

A Prayer for Accomplishing Goals

Dear God, we come to you seeking your divine wisdom to understand what you want us to accomplish with the gifts, talents, opportunities, time, and other resources you have given us. Please help me plan effectively and set goals and targets that help align our purpose with yours and live a life that allows your will to prevail, and see your plans come to pass in our lives. We pray, Amen.

All the best,
E. Roussos

Theological Theme Called by Name: Hear My Voice

"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) Throughout her life, Mary reflected on the words of Jesus, pondering them in her heart. Mary's heart was and is full of love for Jesus. The words that He spoke to her were not passing things, quickly forgotten. They were opportunities for her to marvel at the Son of God. Mary's example invites us to make time to reflect on the words of Jesus. We learn about the heart of Jesus through the heart of Mary, who pondered His words in her heart.



Registrations - Join Our Family!

We are always welcoming those families who want to join the Notre Dame Catholic School Community! Please register online on the Niagara Catholic DSB webpage or by clicking [here](#).

Notre Dame on Social Media

Follow Notre Dame on Twitter and Instagram to get the latest updates:

@NotreDameNF @notredamenf

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish

Website: www.scapular.ca

Mass Times:

- Saturdays: 5:00 PM & Sundays: 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00



We are proud to be a part of the Saint Paul High School family of schools!

Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission

We are a Christ-centred Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

JUSTICE ♦ COMPASSIONS ♦ STEWARDSHIP ♦ ACCOUNTABILITY ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ FAITHFULNESS



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Alternate Lunch Days

Families will have the option to order lunch for students on select days each month. In February, we will offer the following alternate lunch days:

- Wednesday, February 7 - Little Caesar's Pizza
- Thursday, February 15 - Pasta Fresca
- Wednesday, February 21 - Swiss Chalet
- Wednesday, February 28 - Subway

All orders can be placed through **SchoolCash Online**. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual observance in the **month of February**. All Canadians have an opportunity to participate in Black History Month activities, events, and festivities to honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. Students will be completing various activities in classes that promote awareness the contribution Black Canadians have made to Canadian culture.

Science & Engineering Fair

Our Grade 6-8 Science Fair showcase will be on **Thursday, February 1**. Our Gr 6-8 students completed projects and will showcase their learning to students, staff and families. All projects highlight our students' scientific thinking. All Gr 7 & 8 projects will be adjudicated before lunch by Saint Paul High School students and NCDSB staff, with top projects moving on to the Niagara Regional Science Fair on the weekend of March 23. Families are invited to view projects from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM in our gymnasium. There will be no viewings allowed during adjudication.



Term 1 Provincial Reports



Term 1 Reports for students will be posted in the Parent Portal during the **week of February 12**. Although no formal interviews are scheduled, as always, teachers and parents may request to meet at an agreeable date and time to discuss student progress over the course of the term.

Ash Wednesday & Valentines Day

As Valentines Day falls on Ash Wednesday, we will keep that Wednesday as a day of religious observance. The entire school will be attending mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish that morning to receive ashes.

Classes will honour St. Valentine on his February 14th Feast Day through prayer, works of mercy and learning about his life and the sacrifices he made out of love for God. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of God's call to repent and believe in the Gospel, and the lives of the saints, including that of St. Valentine, model this same call.

Students at Notre Dame will "celebrate" Valentines Day on **Tuesday, February 13**, Students are invited to wear red, pink and white, as it will be an out of dress code day. The school will be selling Valentines cookies for \$2. All proceeds will help offset Graduation costs for our Grade 8 students. **Parents are asked not to send any treats to school for their child's class, as they cannot be shared with other students.**





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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pink Shirt Day



Niagara Catholic continues to demonstrate a commitment to bullying awareness, prevention and intervention in our schools, our communities, and online through the participation of our schools in Pink Shirt Day on **Wednesday, February 28**.

Bullying can come in many forms (such as physical, verbal and cyber) and sometimes be hard to see. On **February 28**, students and staff at Notre Dame are invited to wear a pink shirt with their dress code bottoms in support of bullying awareness.

Kids Helping Kids Fundraiser

Niagara Catholic's 25th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 12-23. This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Creative Hair Day. Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online.

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

Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Annual Benefit Gala

The Gala supports Niagara Catholic District School Board students in need and scholarships. Event details:

Thursday, March 21, 2024, Club Roma Event Centre, 6:00 pm. Tickets \$100/person

Online payment can be made at www.niagaracatholic.ca or by cheque payable to the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Mailing address: 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON L3C 7C1 -- Attention Anna Pisano.

Please make payment by March 13, 2024 (\$30 tax receipt upon request). Individual tickets available or tables of eight or ten. For further information (905) 735-0240, ext. 214 or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent. Students will be provided with a pancake snack on **Tuesday, February 13**. Parent volunteers will be at the school making pancakes that morning.



Dental Screening

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be offering Dental screening to grades **JK, SK, 2, 4, 7 and 8** on **Monday February 26**. A registered dental hygienist will be at the school to examine each student's mouth using a sterilized mirror and light. If you do not want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening, please 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 by completing the School Dental Participation Form.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Saint Paul High School Transition Activities



Our Grade 8 students have started their transition from being part of the Notre Dame family to joining the Saint Paul Catholic High School Community. Students have been visited by school administrators Mrs. Majka and Mr. Folinazzo to introduce students to the excellence they can expect when attending Saint Paul High School. Notre Dame students will continue experiencing the Patriot culture by attending a variety of events held at the high school.

Transition Visits & Activities

Over the course of the second term, our students will be further exposed to the culture and excellence they will experience at Saint Paul HS. The high school hockey teams have invited interested Grade 7 & 8 students to skate with them at a practice. As these events are scheduled, students and families will be notified.

Kindergarten Open House

Our Kindergarten Open House will be held on **Thursday, February 8 from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.**

Parents of future Kindergarten students are invited to drop by Notre Dame to see our Kindergarten classrooms in action and get a tour of the different learning environments within the school. Family visits do not need to be scheduled. The Classroom Teachers, Early Childhood Educators, Education Resource Teacher and school Secretary and Administration will be available to provide information about your child starting their Catholic Education journey in September 2024. Look for more information on our school social media platforms.

Kindergarten Registration

Register online at niagaracatholic.ca

If you have a child that was born in 2020, they are eligible to begin school in September 2024. **Click on the link above** to register your child and have them join the Notre Dame Family!



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Emergency Medical Protocols

At Notre Dame, we work cooperatively with families in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy educational environment for all students. We recognize that students who are at risk because of medical concerns such as **allergic reactions, diabetes, epilepsy, intolerances, asthma and/or seizures** require an intervention plan for their needs to be met and to reach their full potential at school.

If your child requires a specific plan of care, please contact the school at your earliest convenience so we can ensure his or her safety while in our care.

Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for your children, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program - SCHOOL CASH ONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:
<https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

School Messenger - Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. School Messenger allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently using a **mobile app**, a **website**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This process allows the school to verify student attendance and notify parents of an unreported student absence efficiently.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will contact you to get a reason for the absence. Calls will continue until you choose an option to explain your child's absence. PLEASE use the the following information to report your child's absence: mobile app, online: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff thank you so much for your generosity!!! We look forward to continuing our school fundraising through our partnership. Last year, funds raised through volunteering allowed the school to purchase classroom TV displays, classroom resources and physical education equipment to enhance student learning



The school is looking for parent volunteers to assist during our assigned times at Delta Bingo (Tuesday afternoon). If any parent would like to assist with fundraising, please contact the school.