



ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

FEBRUARY 2024

Safe Arrival

To report your child absent please use one of the three methods listed below:

1. Use the SafeArrival website,

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger App (blue logo) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.

3. The toll-free number

1-844-287-6287

will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

Principal's Message

It feels as if we just celebrated New Years, yet we already into the month of February.

On Tuesday February 13, 2024 we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day of love and devotion. Activities for Valentine's Day will take place within each classroom. Please do not send your child with food and/or candies on this day as it poses a risk to the students in our school with allergens. Your respect of the safety and well-being of St. James students is appreciated.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on the Wednesday February 14, 2024 with a Liturgy in the gymnasium led by Father Stephen. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. On this day students are to follow the dress code policy respecting the significance of Ash Wednesday.

Anti-Bullying Awareness Day will be taking place on Wednesday February 28, 2024 and students are encouraged to wear pink on this day. Let's continue to work as a team and do our part to make St. James a bully behaviour free place.

The St. James staff and students will be supporting the "Kids Helping Kids" campaign running from February 12, 2024 to February 23, 2024. The planned events are included on page 3 of newsletter.

Student and Parent Council will be working in unison to prepare pancakes for the staff and students on Shrove Tuesday. Students are asked to bring in their own recyclable plate and fork.

The month of February is Black History Month. Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. K. Lococo, Principal

Let Us Pray,

Dear God, in this month of February, we ask for Your strength to persevere in all that we do.

Whether faced with challenges or opportunities, may we approach them with courage, wisdom, and reliance on Your grace.

We pray for resilience in our faith, our work, our studies, and daily life.

Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You, standing firm in Your promises, and moving forward with hope and confidence.

Amen.

Report Cards

Term One Reports will be available on the parent portal during the week of February 12, 2024.

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/reportcards>

Please be advised that parent-teacher conferences for this term will be at the request of the teacher and/or parent(s)/guardian (s). Teachers will be making a request to the parents of students for whom they feel an interview would be necessary. After the Report Cards are made available, parent(s)/guardian (s) may also request an interview by contacting the teacher to arrange a convenient time.

February Food Days

Thursday 1st — Sub Lunch Day
Thursday 8th — Mandarin Chinese Lunch Day
Thursday 15th — Pizza Lunch Day
Thursday 22nd — Mexican Lunch Day
Thursday 29th — Chicken Finger Lunch Day

Kindergarten Open House

The Kindergarten Open House will take place on Wednesday February 7, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is for **students new to the school for 2024-2025.**

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday **February 28, 2024** is **PINK SHIRT DAY**. Each year, on **Pink Shirt Day**, we encourage everyone to wear something **pink** to symbolize that we as a society will not accept bullying anywhere.

Take the message and remember it all year long.

Indoor/Outdoor Footwear

Parents are reminded to send a pair of indoor shoes with their child to the school starting January 8th. This will allow for cleanliness in our school and fore caretaking staff to focus on

Cold Weather

Cold weather is on the way. Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children need hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots, labeled with their names.

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

YMCA Before and After School Child Care is in your school!

YMCA Before and After School Child Care operates in St. James. Your child can have fun and participate in planned indoor and outdoor activities with their friends while being in a safe, Quality program. Registrations are for five-day-a-week spaces, and you can begin the process by signing up through the Region's waitlist system at: Niagara.onehscn.com, or for more information about registration please email: ccregistration@niagara.ymca.ca

Professional Activity Day

This is a friendly reminder that on Friday February 16, 2024 is a designated Professional Activity Day for Niagara Catholic Staff. Therefore, there is no school for students on this day.

Family Day

Niagara Catholic schools and Catholic Education Centre will be closed on Monday February 19, 2024 to observe Family Day. The purpose of Family Day is to emphasize and celebrate the importance of families taking time to be together.

Dental Screenings

The Public Health Dental program will be offering dental screenings this school year. Dental screenings will be provided February 14th and February 15th 2023, to students in all grades as required under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

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. Students will be asked to remove their masks for 20 - 30 seconds and will be distanced from other students.

Parents/guardians will be contacted if their child requires immediate dental care. The Healthy Smiles Ontario program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care.

Please contact the Dental Program if you DO NOT want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening. For more information or to opt-out your child(ren), 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.

Valentine's Day

As part of the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser, we invite all students to dress in red, pink and/or white on February 13, 2024.

Valentine's Day activities will be theme based activities in individual classroom. We are requesting that students DO NOT bring in an food items on Valentine's Day to distribute. This will ensure a minimal disruption to the learning environment as well as ensure our Anaphylaxis students are not inadvertently exposed to an allergen.

Students will have the option to purchase and have sent to a classmate a Valentine's Day Cookie(s), or to purchase one for themselves.

The cost of the Valentine's Day Cookie will be \$2.00. Classroom teachers will distribute the ordering sheets to students. The form is to return completed with a toonie to process the order. Ordering sheets and funds are to be brought to the Valentine Cookie ordering table during lunch. A member of Student Council will be at the table to process the request and answer any questions.

Orders will be taken during lunch periods between Monday February 5, 2024 to Monday February 12, 2024 by 12:40 p.m. at our Student Council Table.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

FEBRUARY 12TH—FEBRUARY 23RD, 2024

Support Kids Helping Kids. Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids Link at School Cash Online.



Niagara Catholic's 25th Annual **Kids Helping Kids** fundraiser will take place from February 12 —23, 2024.

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. **Kids Helping Kids** is open to students attending in-school and students in our virtual schools.

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](https://www.niagarachildren.org/)

Week of February 12, 2024

- 12th Hat Day
- 13th Red and White Day for Valentine's Day
- 14th Ash Wednesday (Regular Dress Code)
- 15th Mismatched Clothing Day

16th PA DAY

Week of February 19, 2024

- 19th Family Day
- 20th Favourite Sports Team or Superhero Day
- 21st Hawaiian Luau Day: All Hawaiian shirts + Hawaiian Accessories
- 22th Colour Challenge Day –
Kindergarten - Pink • Grades 1 / 2 - Red • Grade 3 / 4 - Purple •
Grade 5 / 6 - Green • Grade 6 / 7 - Yellow • Grade 8 - Orange
- 23rd Pajama Day

Live the Skilled Life!



Skilled
Trades
Promotion
Night

**FOOD
STATIONS**

**PRIZE
GIVEAWAYS**

THURSDAY FEB. 1 • 6:30PM - 8:30PM
»»Denis Morris Catholic High School««
St. Catharines



Learn about how the trades and apprenticeship pathway can be a great choice for you, from industry and government partners.

Speak to company, union and agency representatives about the options available for your future.



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter February 2024

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Parents and caregivers may have inquiries about what to anticipate as their children embark on their school journey. Working collaboratively with teachers, support staff, students, and parents, your School Health Nurse strives to create a healthier school community.



Check out our Welcome to Kindergarten video that reviews a few helpful reminders from Public Health!

- English: <https://youtu.be/mkJcbqxwzzk>
- French: <https://youtu.be/eu20sVNoTOU>

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From **February 1st to 7th 2024** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre and, eating disorder groups nationwide come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre "Transform the Narrative" Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)



Educational Resources

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day, also known as Anti-Bullying Day, is on **February 28, 2023**. Throughout February and the year, [CKNW Kids' Fund's Pink Shirt Day](#) raises awareness and funds for programs promoting children's self-esteem. Wear a pink shirt on this day to stand against bullying and contribute to creating a kinder, more inclusive world. Let victims know they're not alone; help and support are available.

Encourage your school to wear Pink Shirts on the 28th to show that you stand against bullying! For more ways to get involved visit <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/get-involved>.



Winter Walk Day

On **Wednesday February 7th** join schools across Ontario to celebrate [Winter Walk Day](#). While the cold air and snow might tempt you to drive, walking in winter can be enjoyable with some extra precautions. Here are tips for a safe and comfortable winter walk:

- Keep hands, head, and ears covered. Be sure hats and scarves do not block hearing or vision.
- Wear mittens, they keep hands warmer than gloves.
- Wear warm, waterproof boots with good treads for better traction on snow and ice.
- Wear wool or insulating clothing to help retain body heat.
- Beware if the temperature falls below -25 °C or if the wind chill is -28 °C or colder. This is when exposed skin freezes in only a few minutes.
- Change wet clothes as soon as possible - tuck extra socks and mitts into backpacks.
- Keep wearing sunscreen - yes, you can still get a sun burn in winter.
- Add reflective tape or tags on coats and backpacks.



Source: Green Communities Active & Safe Routes to School, Way to Go! School Program and Go for Green.

Check out Ontario Active School Travels [Winter Walk Day](#) webpage for promotional materials, resources, and activities below to help you celebrate WWD in your community! We're looking forward to seeing everyone in their cozy winter wear!

AUDITION NOTICE

LINUS HAND PRODUCTIONS YOUNG COMPANY PRESENTS



The logo for Disney High School Musical 2. The word "Disney" is in its signature script at the top. Below it, "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" is written in large, bold, gold, textured letters. The number "2" is in a large, blue, textured font.

PERFORMANCES WILL TAKE PLACE **JUNE 2024** AT THE **GREG FREWIN THEATRE**

All roles will be performed by students between 5–18 years of age. For the audition please prepare a song (preferably musical theatre). The song can be performed acapella or with accompanying music.

If you have a child who is interested in auditioning please contact:

289-213-8001 or **handlinus@gmail.com**

Other
Productions
include



For Registration or More Information

289-213-8001 • handlinus@gmail.com

linushandproductions.com

4536 Potr tage Road, Niagara Falls, ON