



# St. Patrick Catholic School



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Phone: 905-354-6631

[stpatrick.nf@ncdsb.com](mailto:stpatrick.nf@ncdsb.com)

APRIL 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"*

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION at ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Gr. 2 - First Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 p.m.

### Easter Blessing

*May we be blessed by the touch of spring;  
rain falling from the heavens washing us clean,  
telling us that life is sacred;*

*May we be blessed by the sight of spring:  
flowers breaking through winter's crust,  
telling us that life is beautiful;*

*May we be blessed by the sound of children  
playing in the garden, yelling with happiness,  
telling us that life is joyful;*

*May we be blessed by the taste of Easter eggs, hidden  
and then found, telling us that life is sweet;*

*May we be blessed by the smell of Easter bread  
baking in the oven, awakening our senses,  
telling us that life is good;*

*May we be blessed by memory this Easter time,  
of loved ones, of loved places, telling us that  
Your love is always here.  
Amen.*

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the families in our school who are so generous and who have helped our fundraising efforts for the 2023/ 2024 school year be a success.

### To Date:

Mom's Pantry: Fall -Profit \$568.61

Valentine Day Candy Grams: February -Profit \$263.00

Spring Raffle: April

Big Red Meat: coming in April/May

Pasta Lunch (Grade 8 Fundraiser): April 25th

Ice Cream Fridays (Grade 8 Fundrasier) April to June

Track and Field Canteen (Grade 8 Fundrasier): May

Pizza/Sub Days: On-going

We are excited to announce we will have a School Fun Fair in June. More information will follow.

## SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

As we continue to assess areas of concern surrounding student safety, we would like to offer the following reminders.

- Please obey parking lot exit and entrance signs.
- Park only in designated areas – leave the bus zone free from vehicles. Do not leave your car idling.
- Drive slowly and cautiously in the parking lot(s)
- Do not use staff parking lot to drop off your child. This is extremely dangerous.
- Do not leave students in the schoolyard unsupervised before or after school. Please refer to supervision schedules below.

## Supervision Kindergarten to Grade 8

8:50 - 9:05 a.m. (Direct entry into the school)

School Wide Masses at St. Patrick Church

April 2<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am  
May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am

## **SAFETY REMINDERS at ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC**

**RIDING BIKES** – With the warmer weather approaching, a number of students are riding their bikes to school. Students are reminded to bring a lock for their bikes to keep them from being stolen.

For safety reasons, students must **wear a helmet and walk the bike on school property avoiding the driveways. Do not bring scooters to school. We have nowhere safe to store them.**

**ANAPHYLAXIS** – We have some students with Anaphylaxis: a life threatening condition caused by an allergic reaction to certain foods, insect stings, medications, products, etc. It can lead to a loss of life in as little time as five minutes, if not responded to immediately.

If a child has an allergic reaction he/she must be given a needle injection (Epi-pen) immediately and rushed to hospital. As spring approaches, we remind our students that snacks are not permitted outside, so as not to attract bees. Also, we encourage students to keep our school **peanut-safe.**

**We do not allow snacks to be shared between students.**

**We do not allow snacks or drinks outside at recess.**

## **ACTIVITIES IN APRIL**

Excited about up-coming events in April:

- \*Spring Raffle Fundraiser Underway All Month
- \*April 3: Intermediate Badminton Tournament @ St. Paul High School
- \*April 5: Grade 8's Visit St. Paul High School for the day
- \*Ice Cream Friday's Begin-(order on line)
- \*Popcorn Friday Once a month-(order online)
- \*April 15-19: Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students Visit St. John's Outdoor Education Centre
- \*April 17: Chess Tournament at St. Mary's School
- \*April 23: Intermediate Flag Football Tournament @ St. Paul High School
- \*April 23: Young Caregivers Program Begins (6 week)
- \*April 25: School Wide Pasta Luncheon at Church Hall
- \*April 25: Jordan School House Trip for Grade 3 class
- \*April 28: First Holy Communion at 1:30 pm

## **NIAGARA CATHOLIC ACCESSIBILITY APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>**

Niagara Catholic Accessibility; An Evening Event in Support of Accessibility Awareness The Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Accessibility Planning Committee are pleased to invite parents, guardians, staff and community partners to a motivational evening featuring Niagara Catholic

graduate, public speaker, and activist, Michael Jacques and disability advocate Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation. Public speaker, activist, and author Michael Jaques, has written and self-published his book Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book using speech-to-text technology. Michael is diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability and shares his life experiences to help audiences understand accepting and belonging. Disability advocate, Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation will discuss how to speak and interact inclusively. Students with disabilities will share their perspectives on building a culture of acceptance through taped video interviews. The words we use carry meaning and power. **This exciting free event will take place on Monday, April 15th from 6:00- 8:00 pm at The Holiday Inn and Conference Centre (327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines) and includes light snacks, refreshments and door prizes.**

## **EQAO: Provincial Assessment-Grade 3 and Grade 6 MAY and JUNE 2024**

Students in Grades 3 & 6 will participate in the Provincial Assessment during the time period of May – June. Dates and times will be determined. This annual testing provides the school board and school an overview of how students are mastering skills and understanding concepts in language and math.

Please refrain from taking any vacation during this time if your child is participating in EQAO. School results and other data are used for school improvement planning. The assessment is conducted in a very low-key manner and our experience has shown that it does not cause undue stress on children. Please do not hesitate to call the school, should you have any questions or concerns. This testing will be on-line this school year.

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2024-2025**

Please register your child for Kindergarten. Remind friends and neighbours in our school community that registrations are still being accepted.

## **EARTH DAY 2024-April 22<sup>nd</sup> WE CAN MAKE CHANGE A HABIT!**

### **Top 10 Things to Help the Environment**

1. Smart Shopping - Buy what you need, not what you want. Buy used items.
2. Simple Savers- weather strip windows and doors, use aerators on faucets, replace incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent ones
3. Transportation Alternatives - Walk, cycle, car pool and use public transportation. Reduce idling

4. Food Choices- choose local and organic foods, eat less meat
5. Washing and Drying - Wash full loads of clothes in cold water and hang to dry
6. Heating and Cooling - For summer air conditioning, set your thermostat to 24°C or 25°C. For winter heating, set your thermostat to 19°C or 20°C. Install ceiling fans and programmable thermostats
7. Close to Home - Vacation, travel and work as close to home as possible
8. Bathroom Basics - Take short showers instead of baths, close water taps while brushing your teeth
9. Careful Cleaning - Choose natural, non-toxic cleaning products; make simple, natural cleaners with ingredients like vinegar, baking soda and water
10. Don't Discard - Donate, reuse and recycle items before throwing them into the trash. Harmful materials like chemicals, batteries, electronics, etc. should be taken to local hazardous waste depots or recyclers.

### VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers enrich our students' lives by assisting students, helping out with special activities, working on various school council committees and assisting with various events during the school year. Volunteers add to our school spirit as well as to our students' learning. Your efforts are always greatly appreciated!

If you wish to:

\* volunteer on a regular basis and work directly with students, and/or

\* supervise student(s) (other than your own child) on a school field trip, a Criminal Background Check (CBC) is required.

CBC information can be found at:

<https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/whatwedo/policebackgroundchecks.asp>

### GRADE 7 IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN- MAY 27, 2024

Niagara Region Public Health will be returning to our school on May 27th to vaccinate students in grades 7 with a previously submitted consent form for the following routine school vaccine(s):

· Meningococcal

Single dose required for school attendance under the Immunization of School Pupils Act:


· Hepatitis B (HB)


2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history


· Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history

On clinic day, please remind your child to:

 Eat breakfast or a snack

 Wear a loose-fitting short sleeve t-shirt

 Bring a distraction (book, music, phone) as a comfort measure (optional)

If your child feels nervous and anxious about vaccination, learn about the CARD System to help improve the vaccination experience.

If you have any questions, please call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074, ext. 7425 to speak with a Public Health nurse

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK MAY 2024

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "*We are called to love.*"

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024 was inspired by the following considerations:

- With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of "*Pilgrims of Hope.*" With open hearts of love, we can continue to "*fan the flame of hope*" for a bright future.
- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, "*He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers.*"
- The theme of the synod, "*Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,*" invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other's wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God's children are loved unconditionally.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Day 1: As people of hope
- Day 2: As people of faith
- Day 3: As people of mercy
- Day 4: As people of justice
- Day 5: As people of joy

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Called to love* together. We hope to see many of you during our school celebrations!

We have prepared a series of activities for Education Week at St. Patrick Catholic School:



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PLANNER  
2024**

“We are called to love”

**NAME OF SCHOOL: St. Patrick Catholic School (NF)**

<p><b>Monday May 6:</b> “As people of Hope”</p>	<p><b>Start of Mental Health awareness Week</b> “Unlearn Presentations”</p> <p><b>Grade 3. Calm Down Room Projects</b></p> <p><b>Classroom Door Decorating Theme is “LOVE”</b></p> <p><b>Pray the Rosary: Grade 6-8 Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday May 7:</b> “As people of Faith”</p>	<p><b>School Education Week Mass: 10 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>School Concert Series-“We are Called to Love”</b> <b>Parents Welcome to attend 1:30 p.m. in school gym</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday May 8:</b> “As people of Mercy”</p>	<p><b>Catch the Spirit Award: Brock University Mean Girl’s Performance at St. Paul High School (Grade 8 students to attend)</b> <b>Education Week School Art Activity</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday May 9:</b> “As people of Justice”</p>	<p><b>Wellness Fair Led by Mr. Pascoe’s Grade 5/6 Class in School Library</b> <b>Water Bottle Challenge: Development &amp; Peace</b></p>
<p><b>Friday May 10:</b> “As people of Joy”</p>	<p>Q-MACK Presentation to School Community- Parents Welcome to Attend at 9:15 a.m. School Gym <a href="http://www.qmack.com">www.qmack.com</a> NBA Tourning Entertainer, Youth Educator and Public Speaker Classroom: “Walk with God’ Reflection=Joy of our Earth</p>