

St. Ann Catholic Elementary School



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April 2024

"We are proud to be part of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools"

Principal: Paul Moccia

Superintendent: Mrs. Kim Kinney

INTRODUCTION

We are officially in the season of Easter and are beginning to enjoy the freshness and renewed energy the spring weather brings. Spring also reminds us there is very little time left in the school year and we still have so much to do! We are a very busy school. The staff, students and parent community are working very hard to accomplish all of the goals that we set for ourselves. It takes many people working together to ensure our students have the best school community possible. Many committees and teams of energetic people have been formed to provide St. Ann Catholic Elementary school with the wealth of programs and activities that our students enjoy.

As always, academics are at the forefront at St. Ann Catholic Elementary School. The spiritual growth of our students is also vitally important. Our Grade 2 students are also preparing for the special sacrament of First Holy Communion.

I am so appreciative of the support and dedication of the St. Ann Catholic Elementary School community. It is the students, staff and parents that make St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, "a partnership to foster academic, social and spiritual growth according to the teachings of Christ."

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The St. Ann Catholic School Council is a very active group of community members working together to ensure our students receive the best education possible meeting the students' social, emotional, physical, academic and spiritual needs. The council does not do this alone. Many other parents volunteer their time to assist with council projects. The main focus of the Catholic School Council is to partner in the improvement of student achievement. The role of the Catholic School Council is to represent

the parent community to input not only in school decisions, but also in decisions made by the Niagara Catholic District School Board. In order to make the entire St. Ann Catholic Elementary School community aware of upcoming council discussions/decisions, please visit via www.niagaracatholic.ca, click elementary school, St. Ann Pelham, Catholic School council, agenda/minutes for access. It is understood not all parents are able to attend meetings due to work or family commitments. Your voice can always be heard by contacting Mr. Moccia or any other council member.

UPDATE FROM YOUR ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL COMMITTEE

Spring into Spring-Walk to School Day

Leave your car at home and choose an active trip to school. If you ride a bus, take part by walking to your bus stop. If you must travel by car, consider parking a few blocks away so you can walk part of the trip.

Students can wear green to celebrate Spring. Don't forget to dig out your umbrella and rain boots so you can walk whatever the weather.

Walking and rolling to school is a great way to be kind to the environment and our bodies and have fun.

Celebrate Earth Day on **April 22** by cleaning your commute.

Reducing vehicle use is one of the most important things you can do to reduce the risk of climate change. Pledge to make every day earth day and reduce your carbon footprint by walking, biking or taking your bus to school.

CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS at St. Ann

Confirmation Parent
Meeting

Wednesday, April 24th
at 5:30 p.m.

First Communion

Sunday, May 5th at 2:00 pm

SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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

- 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.
- 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 ELKP to Grade 8

a.m. 8:50 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.

SAFETY REMINDERS

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**.

Catholic Education Week 2024

Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools will be celebrating Catholic Education week (CEW) with the theme of **“We are called to love.”**

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.

Catholic Education Week is a celebration of what we do each and every day, ensure all students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to reach their full potential with Christ as the truth, the way and the light. More specific information as per activities during Catholic Education week will be communicated.

EQAO: Provincial Assessment

Students in Grades 3 & 6 will participate in the Provincial Assessment during the time period of May – June. This annual testing provides the school board and school an overview of how students are mastering skills and understanding concepts in language and math. The 2 ½ day assessment provides percentages of students achieving at Level 1-3 and above.

The administration of the Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary and Junior Divisions (Grade 3 and Grade 6), Spring 2023, will be held in May and June. Specific dates will be communicated out once confirmed.

A virtual EQAO parent night for our Grade 3 and 6 parents was also planned on **Tuesday, March 26 at 6 pm.**

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Please register your child for Kindergarten. Remind friends and neighbours in our school community that registrations are still being accepted. All registrations will be done on-line and can be found by visiting www.niagaracatholic.ca.

EARTH DAY 2024-April 22nd 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 - 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.

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

CHILDREN AND CONCUSSIONS

Physical activity is great for children, but there is always a risk when kids are involved in active play. Parents should be aware that a bump to the head, face or neck, or a blow to the body can result in a possible concussion. Concussions can be serious, and a person does not need to be knocked out to have a concussion. Some signs of a possible concussion include:

- Headache, dizziness, nausea or vomiting
- Trouble seeing or hearing
- Crankiness, sadness, nervousness or other changes in behaviour
- Confusion, forgetfulness or repeating the same thing

Help the child who was hurt to a safe place and get medical attention. If a concussion is diagnosed, the child should not attend school or participate in activities until told to do so by the doctor. Parents should alert the school and coach if their child has been diagnosed with a concussion before returning to school or other activities.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC ACCESSIBILITY-APRIL 15, 2024

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

