

St. Nicholas Catholic - April

Home of the Tigers!

Our day begins at 8:35 a.m. After that time, a late slip is required.

St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School

Mission Statement: To educate each student to his/her full potential in a community formed and guided by Catholic beliefs and traditions.

Motto: "Journey Together On The Road To Discovery"

St. Nicholas Catholic is proud to be a part of the Denis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools.

Go Tigers Go!

Principal: Mrs. Jackie Watson

Secretary: Mrs. Kim Winstanley

Catholic School Council Chair: Ms. Paprzycki

Superintendent: Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

Parish: Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Father Benjamin Weber and Father Paul McDonald

Email: st.nicholas@ncdsb.com

Location: [149 Church St, St. Catharines, ON](#)

Phone: [905-685-7764](tel:905-685-7764)



Called by Name: Hear My Voice

Reflection #8

A big part of friendship involves sharing words with one other. Thoughts, ideas, feelings. All of these things, when shared, help a friendship to grow. But sometimes friendship consists of simply being with one another. Though no words are shared, it is still quality time spent with someone we care about. In our friendship with God it is the same. Sometimes in prayer we don't know what to say. In those moments, we can simply be with God and recognize His presence with us. We can learn from the words of a simple peasant who explained his prayer to his parish priest, St. Jean Vianney: "I look at Him and He looks at me."



School, Home and Parish

St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools is associated with the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Parish Priest is Father Ben Weber. Vice Rector is Father Paul McDonald.

Weather pending, we walk to church once a month for mass with Father Ben or Father Paul, usually the third Thursday of the month for a 10:00 a.m. start. Each class is responsible for the readings and for celebrating mass along side Father. Our current masses are as follows:



April 18th: thank you to Mrs. Boland and her Grade 1 class who will be celebrating with Father Ben and Father Paul.

May 16th and June 20th.

School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation is April 11th. These will be held at school.

Grade 8 Confirmation: Sunday, May 19th at the 11:30 a.m. mass. Please note, this is a date change.

Grade 2 Sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, May 4th at the 4:30 p.m. mass.

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be an open opportunity in which you can bring your child to the church during any confessional time. Confessions are usually 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grade 2 and 8 parent information letter has already been sent home by Father.

Please understand that dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, the St. Nicholas Family community will be notified.

It Is Imperative That You Report Your Child(ren)'s Absences Daily

SafeArrival:

To report your child absent prior to the start of the school day (before 8:35 a.m. of the day being called in for), please use one of the 3 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 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Arriving on Time:

Please try your hardest to arrive to school on time, at 8:35 a.m. Arriving late causes disruptions in the classroom and often times means trying to catch up on what was said regarding the day's events.

Please also remember, if you are late to see Mrs. Winstanley for a late-slip before going to class. Thank you

Niagara Region Public Health and ONESIGHT EssilorLuxottica Foundation Eye Screening

VISION SCREENING RESULTS:

If you did not receive a letter addressed to your child on Wednesday, March 20th, that is because no vision issues were detected during vision screening.

We still encourage your child to have a regular eye exam with an eye doctor in your area. Why is this so important?

- ☒ Children who have trouble seeing may struggle to learn and take part in school activities
- ☒ Children often don't know they have vision problems which means issues can go unnoticed, and if left untreated, some vision problems may affect vision for life
- ☒ Vision screening does not detect all vision issues and does not replace a full eye exam by an eye doctor

What you need to know:

- ☒ The cost of an eye exam is covered for children 19 years of age and under by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).
- ☒ The Canadian Association of Optometrists recommends school-aged children (six-19 years old) have a yearly eye exam

☒ If your child is seen by an optometrist and glasses are recommended during the school year, connect with your school to see if they would qualify for a free glasses provided by the Eyes to All vision screening program

☒ If you would like some assistance finding an optometrist, setting up an appointment, have questions about vision screening or accessing free glasses, please email

healthyschools@niagararegion.ca, tell us what school your child attends and your school nurse will contact you.

If you currently do not have a family optometrist, below is a list of optometrists that can be called.

Participating optometrists and business hours 2024.pdf

[Download](#)

152.0 KB

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program April 16, 2024 For Kindergarten Students Only

This is the second fluoride application of this school year.

Information was sent home to all Kindergarten families on Monday, March 18, 2024, via email.

Just a reminder...

to participate, parent/guardian **MUST** complete the online [Dental Screening and Fluoride Varnish Consent and Medical History](#) by April 5, 2024.

Thank you

Public Health Newsletter

April's newsletter for parents/guardians.



Public Health Parent Newsletter for April.pdf

[Download](#)

263.1 KB

Hot Lunches

Pizza Day - Friday, April 5th

Last day to order pizza will be Wednesday, April 3rd.

Chicken Fingers Day - Friday, April 19th

Last day to order chicken fingers will be Tuesday, April 16th.



Please note that money cannot be brought in the day of. All food needs to be ordered through School Cash, on-line.

Thank you to Mr. Boland and Mrs. Rathee for coaching the Junior Girls' and Boys' basketball teams. The teams have been working hard in preparation of their tournaments April 17th and 18th, respectively.

Fair play tournaments will take place at St. Denis Catholic. And the championship game for those who move on will take place on the 19th.

A reminder that all children/student spectators must be accompanied at all times by a parent/guardian.



ECO Schools

This year our St. Nicholas Catholic Tigers are once again working hard towards our platinum certification. We are so very proud of the efforts of all who are helping us to achieve this top goal. Let's make this two years running!!

Earth Day Monday, April 22nd

What Is Earth Day?

Ever wonder how Earth Day began? The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. Grassroot demonstrations were held through the United States dealing with serious issues concerning toxic drinking water, air pollution, and the effects of pesticides.

Today, not only is Earth Day meant to increase awareness of environmental problems, but it is also becoming a popular time for many communities to gather together to clean up litter, plant trees, or simply reflect on the beauty of nature.



For Earth Day 2024 on April 22nd, [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://www.earthday.org) is unwavering in their commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of **ALL** plastics by 2040.

Thank you to Mrs. Carbonara's and Miss Linay's Grade 3/4 class who will be celebrating Earth Day with us with planned activities throughout the day.

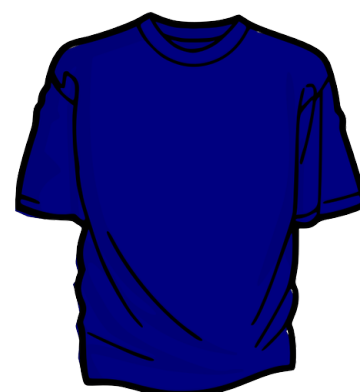
World Autism Day - Tuesday, April 2nd Wear blue today

Who is Autism Ontario?

Autism Ontario is the province's largest collective voice representing the autism community, supporting thousands of families across the province through its seven Regions, who provide committed and skilled expertise and guidance to their local communities.

We provide information on autism, support autism research, implement programs and services for the autism community, and aim to support and advocate for all children, youth, and adults on the autism spectrum and their families across the province, regardless of race, ethnicity, income, religion, or gender identity.

Visit autismontario.com for more information.



Let us wear blue today to help to raise awareness in support of initiatives being developed locally and provincially to increase the understanding and acceptance of people with Autism around the world.

Kindergarten Registration is Still Taking Place

We had a very successful Kindergarten Open House in February, and we are still accepting Kinder registrations for the 2024-2025 school year.



How to become a Tiger?

To register for the 2024-2025 school year, use the Easy Register, accessed on-line through the Niagara Catholic website. Click on the "Join Us! Register" icon. When registering you will need - proof of address, proof of birth and baptismal certificate. Even if registering online, you will still need to bring or email the above documentations in before the registration is considered complete.

We will also be holding a Kindergarten family orientation evening for all registered children and their families for the 2024-2025 school year at the end of May or beginning of June. Further information will be placed in May's newsletter.

Welcome to St. Nicholas Catholic Tigers! Our Graduating Class of 2035!

Solar Eclipse Monday, April 8th ~ 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with Path of Totality from ~ 3:18 p.m. - 3:21 p.m.

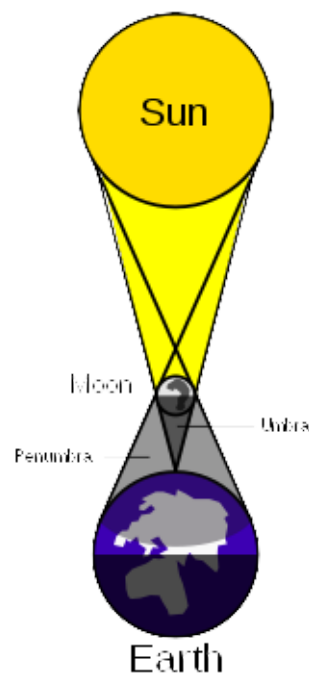
What is a Solar Eclipse?

Basically, it is when the moon moves in between the earth and the sun. The moon will then block the entire sun from our usual view for a very short period of time.

The last total solar eclipse in Ontario was in 1979. The next is supposed to happen in 2099. This solar eclipse will be an 'opportunity of a lifetime' for some.

Niagara Falls, Ontario has been identified as the optimal place to witness the total eclipse, or the Path of Totality. The Path of Totality means the path of the moons umbra, or the darkest part of the moons shadow. It is this shadow that will cover the Niagara Falls area in darkness.

You CANNOT look directly at a solar eclipse. It is dangerous to your retina (the back of your eye). **Please never look directly at the sun in general.



A solar eclipse can cook your eyes: How to watch safely





April is National Oral Health Month

April is national oral health month! As part of the activities, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is hosting our annual **Attack the Plaque** kids' colouring contest.

The colouring sheet is attached and we would love for you to circulate it to your elementary and middle schools! For more details, including a downloadable colouring sheet, please visit www.cdha.ca/colouringcontest.



Our theme centres around Tooth Tips for kids. Children's preventive oral health is an important message for us, particularly with the continuation of the government's Interim Canada Dental Benefit which is allowing many families who don't have private dental insurance, to have access to essential dental care. Please help us spread this important message to children and their parents. If you can help spread the word through social media, below is a sample post and attached are supporting graphics:

April is oral health month and it's time for @theCDHA's Attack the Plaque colouring contest! It's also a great time to remind everyone to brush their teeth at least twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste (2x2 minutes). #oralhealth4totalhealth www.cdha.ca/colouringcontest

NCPIC Faith Formation/Parent Involvement Thursday, April 11th 5:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Secondary Catholic

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is pleased to invite ALL Niagara Catholic parents/guardians to a Faith Formation/Parent Engagement event on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

Fr. Paul MacNeil will open the evening with Faith Formation for parents with the topic of Family Prayer. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to participate in two workshops presented by **Niagara Region Public Health: Adolescent Brain and Substance Use Prevention, Raising Competent, Confident Kids, or Youth Connectedness-Helping Student Thrive.**

Agenda:

5:00 p.m. - Light Refreshments

5:30 p.m. - Fr. Paul MacNeil - Family Prayer Parent Workshops (workshop options details are included in the attachment)

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Breakout Session 1

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Breakout Session 2

Parents/guardians are asked to register for this event using the link provided in the attached invitation no later than Friday, April 5, 2024.

Childcare will be provided for school age children up to 12 years of age.

Thank you for your continued support of parental involvement in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Parent Involvement NCPIC Flyer.pdf

Download

170.7 KB

Niagara Catholic Accessibility: An Evening Event in Support of Accessibility Awareness. Monday, April 15th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and Conference Centre

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.

Please click [here](#) for event and registration details.

Ministry of Education: Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System

The Ministry of Education is pleased to announce the launch of the Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System. This new resource will provide parents with helpful information that supports them to have a stronger role and actively participate in their children's education. The guide covers a number of subjects such as knowing how their child is doing in school, learning about suspension and expulsion processes, attending a school council meeting or parent involvement committee meeting, and knowing about specialized supports to help all children succeed.

This initiative is part of the government's recent efforts to increase transparency and accountability in our school system.

The full guide can be found at www.Ontario.ca/educationguide.

The attached promotional flyers available in 10 different languages (English, French, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Punjabi, Tagalog, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese and Hindi) include a QR code that links to the full guide.

Thank you for your continued support of parent involvement in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.



Parent Involvement Promotional Flyers.pdf

Download

Call For Nominations: Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Membership 2024-2025

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee acts as an advisory committee to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board and school levels in order to build strong Catholic identity and community, nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic Education, and improve student achievement and well-being for all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three community representatives and to fill the available parent/guardian positions on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please see the three attachments below.

Thank you for your continued support of parent involvement in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Parent Involvement Attachment 1 - NCPIC Nominations 2024-2025.pdf

[Download](#)

194.0 KB

Parent Involvement Attachment 2 - Call for Nominations 2024-2025.pdf

[Download](#)

227.8 KB

Parent Involvement Attachment 3 - NCPIC Community Representative 2024-2025.pdf

[Download](#)

172.3 KB

Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot

Please remember that you are asked not to park or get out of your car when in the Kiss 'n Ride line up. The Kiss 'n Ride is exactly that - a quick kiss as your child(ren) quickly get out of the family car. Or the quick ability for your child(ren) to get into the car and do up their own seatbelts. Please ensure that you have pulled up to the front of the line prior to your child(ren) getting out of the car. After school, staff will support students by getting them to their car safely. If you need to help your child(ren) get in and out of the car, or to assist with the seatbelt, or to help with the putting on or taking off of backpacks, we kindly ask that you park your car in a designated parking spot - away from the flow of traffic.

Our parking lot is small, however the traffic is able to flow well when expectations are followed.

We thank everyone for their cooperation when it comes to the safety of our students and staff when in the parking lot and in the Kiss 'n Ride.

Elementary Dress Code

NCDSB has a dress code of navy and white for all Elementary schools and their students within. Below is an excerpt from the Elementary Standardized Dress-Code Policy 302.6.10:



1.1 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☒ Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3; ☒ Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted); ☒ Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or ☒ Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts. ☒ Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers. Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

1.2 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☒ Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve); ☒ Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve); or ☒ School designed spirit wear polo shirt. The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white. In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

Please see below the policy attached in its entirety.

302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy AOP (1).pdf

[Download](#)

677.8 KB

Big Bear Spiritwear

St. Nicholas Spiritwear is now being offered through Big Bear Spiritwear. Please click onto <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/st-nicholas/> to see the options available for purchase. All St. Nicholas Spiritwear can be worn throughout the year as it is an extension of the school dress code.



Orders placed through Big Bear Spiritwear can either be picked up at their Niagara Falls store or can be delivered to the school for a \$3.00 charge. Items delivered to the school will be sent home with the student in his/her backpack.

No Cell Phone Use While In School

This is a reminder that cell phones are not to be used at school unless under direct supervision of the classroom teacher. Cell phones are not to be used during recesses or lunch breaks. Pictures are not to be taken and under no circumstances can anything, pertaining to any aspect of the school day, be uploaded to the internet. This includes pictures taken on any device aside from



a cell phone. If an emergency arises and a parent needs to get ahold of their child, a call to the school's direct line can be made and Mrs. Winstanley will forward the message.

St. Nicholas Catholic is not responsible for any lost or damaged cell phone/technology that is brought to school. For the younger grades, cell phones are to be kept in a child's backpack. For the older grades, cell phones are to be kept in a child's locker. It is advisable for that child to bring a lock to place on his/her locker.

301.5 - Electronic Communications Systems (Students) AOP (1).pdf

[Download](#)

368.7 KB

Please Keep Us Updated

It is very important that we have the most updated contact information for your child, especially if we need to get ahold of someone quickly in case of an emergency.



Please forward to Mrs. Winstanley any information that has been changed, such as phone numbers, emails and emergency contacts.

Thank you in advance for helping us keep everyone safe.

Please remember there is no school on...

Monday, April 1st - Holy Monday or Monday, April 8th - PA Day

Jacqueline Watson

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters