



# Notre Dame Catholic School



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

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

# April 2024

## Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

In April, our Lenten journey will be just completed. We look forward to the new beginnings all around us that spring has to offer.

*In this season of renewal, we pray in thanksgiving for the many blessings You give us. May our words and deeds today, and always, serve as reminders of the transformative power of Your love. Amen.*

Wishing everyone a month full of good health, laughter and great memories.

All the best,  
E. Roussos

## Monthly Reflection Called by Name: Hear My Voice



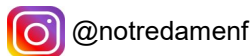
A big part of friendship involves sharing words with one other. Thoughts, ideas, feelings. All of these things, when shared, help a friendship to grow. But sometimes friendship consists of simply being with one another. Though no words are shared, it is still quality time spent with someone we care about. 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."

## 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 Instagram to get the latest updates:



### Our Lady of the Scapular Parish

Website: [www.scapular.ca](http://www.scapular.ca)

Mass Times:

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



**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



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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Alternate Lunch Days

Families will have the option to order lunch for students on select days each month. In April, the school will offer the following alternate lunch days for staff and students:

- Wednesday April 3 - Little Caesar's Lunch
- Wednesday, April 10 - Pasta Fresca
- Thursday, April 18 - Carmine's Pizza Lunch

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

### World Autism Awareness Day-Blue Shirt and Accessory Day



**World Autism Awareness Day** will be held on **Tuesday, April 2**. In support of Autism awareness, students and staff at Notre Dame, and across the Niagara Catholic District School Board, are invited to **wear blue shirts and/or accessories** as part of their dress code for the day. The blue shirt can be a dress code top or a favourite blue top that is appropriate. This is not an out of dress code day - dress code bottoms are required.

### Total Solar Eclipse

For the first time in decades, the Niagara Region will find itself cast beneath the shadow of the Moon on **April 8**. As the Moon passes directly between the Earth and the Sun, we will experience a total solar eclipse. This means that the Moon will completely block the Sun from view for a few exciting minutes. This is truly a once in a lifetime experience as the next total solar eclipse over our part of the world will be in 2079 and then 2106 after that!

### Parent Engagement Evening: 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 Jacques, 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). Please click [here](#) for event and registration details.



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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Kindergarten

#### Kindergarten Open House

The Notre Dame Catholic School Kindergarten Open House was held in February. Families who have children starting their Catholic education journey had a chance to tour the school and see the learning happening in our classrooms up close.

For those families that did not have a chance to stop by the school for our Open House, it's never too late to see the great learning happening in our Kindergarten classrooms. Please contact the school to make arrangements for a visit.

Please look for information about our **Kindergarten Spring Orientation Evening** later this school year.

#### Kindergarten Registration

Register online at [niagaracatholic.ca](http://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!

To complete the registration process, families are asked to send their child's **registration documents** to the school, by either dropping them off at the main office or emailing them to the school at [notre.dame@ncdsb.com](mailto:notre.dame@ncdsb.com).

### Saint Paul High School Transition

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. In the next few months, our students will be visiting Saint Paul to participate in a dodgeball tournament and watch the school's production of Mean Girls: The Musical.

#### Notre Dame Spirit Wear



Notre Dame Catholic School spirit wear has been given a refreshed look. All spirit wear items will be accepted as part of the Notre Dame Catholic School standardized dress code. Families can purchase items directly through our supplier, Big Bear Spiritwear, on their website [here](#).





# 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.