



# St. Andrew Catholic School

April 2024



## School Information

Mrs. M. Ruggi Dietsch - Principal

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/standrew/>

Location: 16 St. Andrew Street Welland L3B 1E1

Phone: 905-732-5663

## Principal's Message

As we enter into the first full month of spring, may we focus on being witnesses of faith through our stewardship of God's gifts. Caring for the environment is the first thing God asks of humanity. In the Book of Genesis we read the stories of creation, how God created everything in the world to be good. He then gave humanity the great responsibility to care for all of His creation and to maintain its goodness (Genesis 1:28). This responsibility is also echoed in Catholic social teachings which reminds us that we are responsible for sustaining the dignity of all God's creation, humanity, as well as the planet. As we focus on continued hope for the world, may we be mindful not only of our responsibility to care for and protect the environment, but also our responsibility to share that hope with those around us.

With the changing seasons and the celebration of Easter upon us, may each family of St. Andrew, share a hopeful spirit and the joy of Jesus' resurrection with family and friends. Have a Blessed Easter Season!

Mrs. M. Ruggi Dietsch



“He has Risen,  
Have faith in him...  
And he will always  
be there for you!”  
“Have a blessed and  
Happy Easter!”

## Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- March 31 - Easter Sunday
- April 1 - Easter Monday (No School)
- April 2 - Autism Awareness Day - wear blue
- April 3 & 4 - NRP Presentations by class Gr. 4 - 8
- April 4 - Dental Mobile Bus
- April 5 - Hot Dog Day
- April 8 - P. A. Day (no school for students)- Solar Eclipse
- April 9 - Catholic School Council Meeting 6 PM
- April 11- Grade 8 Confirmation
- April 12 - Pizza Day
- April 14 - Grade 2 First Communion
- April 16 - Junior Girls' & Boys Basketball / Chess Tournament
- April 19 - Alternate Dress Day
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 26- Pasta Day
- April 30 - School Leadership Symposium



## First Holy Communion

The Grade Two students are excited about celebrating their First Holy Communion this year. This Sacrament will be celebrated at St. Andrew the Apostle Church on Sunday, April 14. We thank the Grade 2 teachers, Mrs. DellaSmirra, Mr. Dosa and Mr. MacLeod for preparing our students to receive their First Holy Communion. The Mass will begin at 11 am.



## Confirmation

The Grade 8 students will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 11 at 7 PM. Thank you to our Grade 8 teachers, Mrs. Hominuk and Miss. Scodellaro for preparing our students to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.



## World Autism Day is Tuesday, April 2, 2024

St. Andrew Staff and Students are encouraged to wear blue as part of their attire on Tuesday. This effort can help to raise awareness in support of initiatives being developed locally or provincially to increase the understanding and acceptance of people with Autism around the world. Autism Ontario has launched their [Celebrate the Spectrum Campaign](#).



## 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 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) and includes light snacks, refreshments and door prizes. Please click [here](#) for event and registration details.

Registration for this event will be due no later than April 10, 2024





NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
Accessibility

FREE  
EVENT!

All Niagara Catholic parents, guardians, staff  
and community partners are invited to attend!

Light snacks and refreshments provided

DOOR  
PRIZES!

Limited Space! [REGISTER HERE](#) Before April 10!



### MICHAEL JACQUES

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.

### RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION

The words we use carry meaning and power. 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.



**APRIL 15, 2024 • 6:00PM – 8:00PM**

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE • 327 ONTARIO ST., ST. CATHARINES



Niagara Catholic  
Parent Involvement  
Committee

*You're Invited!*

## Family Faith, and Learning WORKSHOPS

**Thursday, April 11, 2024**

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL  
460 LINWELL RD., ST. CATHARINES**

Choose two workshops presented by Niagara Region Public Health

Click on the icons for further details



**RAISING  
COMPETENT,  
CONFIDENT KIDS**



**YOUTH  
CONNECTEDNESS:  
HELPING  
STUDENTS THRIVE**



**ADOLESCENT  
BRAIN AND  
SUBSTANCE USE  
PREVENTION**

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER**

5:00 pm Light Refreshments • 5:30 pm Fr. Paul MacNeil Family Prayer

6:00 pm Breakout Session 1 • 7:00 pm Breakout Session 2

Childcare Available (school age children up to 12 years of age) • Workshop Raffles

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025**

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board.

The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets the on first Thursday of the month on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed.

### **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2024-2025 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to **Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES**

To be eligible for election/appointment as a parent/guardian representative to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, a person:

- must be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a school of the Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- must support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board; and
- must fully participate in the annual Commissioning Ceremony of NCPIC members.

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2024-2025 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership are as follows:

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet 2 positions Parent/Guardian Representatives

Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln 2 positions Parent/Guardian Representatives

Thorold/Merritton 2 positions Parent/Guardian Representatives

Niagara Falls 4 positions Parent/Guardian Representatives

St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake 3 positions Parent/Guardian Representatives

Welland/Pelham 2 positions Parent/Guardian Representatives

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website. Please click on the link: [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](#).

Please send nomination forms to: Catholic Education Centre 427 Rice Road Welland, ON L3C 7C1 Attention: Yvonne Anderson or by email to: [yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com](mailto:yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com)

All forms were sent to Parents through School Messenger.





## Your Child's Education

**A parent guide to Ontario's school system**

Your voice is important in your child's learning, and can make all the difference in their academic and personal success. When parents play an active role in their child's education, students are inspired to achieve their full potential.

Ontario is committed to increasing accountability and transparency for parents and families. **Here are ways you can actively participate in your child's education journey:**

- Decide which type of publicly funded school they attend
- Choose learning options, for example, secondary school programs e.g. Specialist High Skills Majors
- Follow what your child is learning in school
- Learn about key dates in the school year
- Opt out of certain learning
- Know how your child is doing in school
- Learn about suspension and expulsion processes
- Attend a school council meeting or parent involvement committee meeting
- Know about specialized supports to help all children succeed

Visit [ontario.ca/EducationGuide](https://ontario.ca/EducationGuide) for more information so you can make informed decisions about your child's education.



ontario.ca/EducationGuide **Ontario** 

# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

## Connecting the Curriculum to Home

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the [Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- **Watch here:** [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions.

## Niagara Ontario Health Team – Events Calendar

The [Niagara Ontario Health Team](#) created an events calendar tool to highlight the diverse activities happening in our region. This initiative highlights the importance of health and wellness. It also serves as a valuable link, connecting community members to resources available in Niagara.

The [calendar](#) makes it easier to find and explore new things to do. It also helps create meaningful connections in our community. Visit today to learn more about what is going on near you!



## Benefits of Risky Play

Did you know that letting kids [play freely outdoors](#), even if it involves a bit of risk, is super important for their growth and well-being? Learn about the benefits of exciting play that might seem a little risky, and how it can help kids develop better physically, mentally, and socially. Let's rethink how we see risks and explore how adventurous play can actually help kids stay healthier and happier in the long run. Join us in creating a world where every child has the chance to thrive! For more information on what it is meant by risky play, check out [Active For Life webpage](#).



## Happy Oral Health Month!

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program offers FREE dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara. Appointments are available for children in:

- Niagara Falls on Tuesdays
- Thorold on Mondays (afternoon and evening) and Wednesdays
- Welland on Thursdays

[Niagara's Mobile Dental Clinic](#) also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment [contact the Dental Program](#) or [book a dental assessment online](#).

## ECO News



**EARTH DAY IS LEG DAY**

On April 22, the best thing you can do for the planet and yourself is skip the car, not leg day.

Join the challenge at [earthday.ca/legday](http://earthday.ca/legday)

**EARTH DAY .CA**

## National GOOS Paper Day

Join students, teachers, workplaces, and families across the country on the first Thursday in April to celebrate **National GOOS Paper Day**.



On this day of action, get creative as you learn about responsible paper use and promote effective ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper.

What is GOOS paper?

**GOOS** stands for **Good On One Side**. GOOS paper is paper that has been used on one side, but is still blank and usable on the other side. Using GOOS paper means ensuring both sides of a piece of paper are used before it is recycled.

A **GOOS paper bin** collects and stores your GOOS paper in a convenient and accessible place to help ensure it can be used easily. Get creative and decorate your GOOS bins with a "goose" theme or other eye-catching styles.



# Niagara Nutrition Partners

## Niagara Nutrition Partners

At St. Andrew School, we offer breakfast every morning and snacks to all students throughout the school day. Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for their support each year!

Please consider donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain this program throughout the year. Please Donate through School Cash Online. This will be open on School Cash Online all year.

## Called By Name

Our Niagara Catholic's new theological theme for 2022-2026 will be "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2022-2023 Called by Name: You are Mine

**2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice**

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples



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



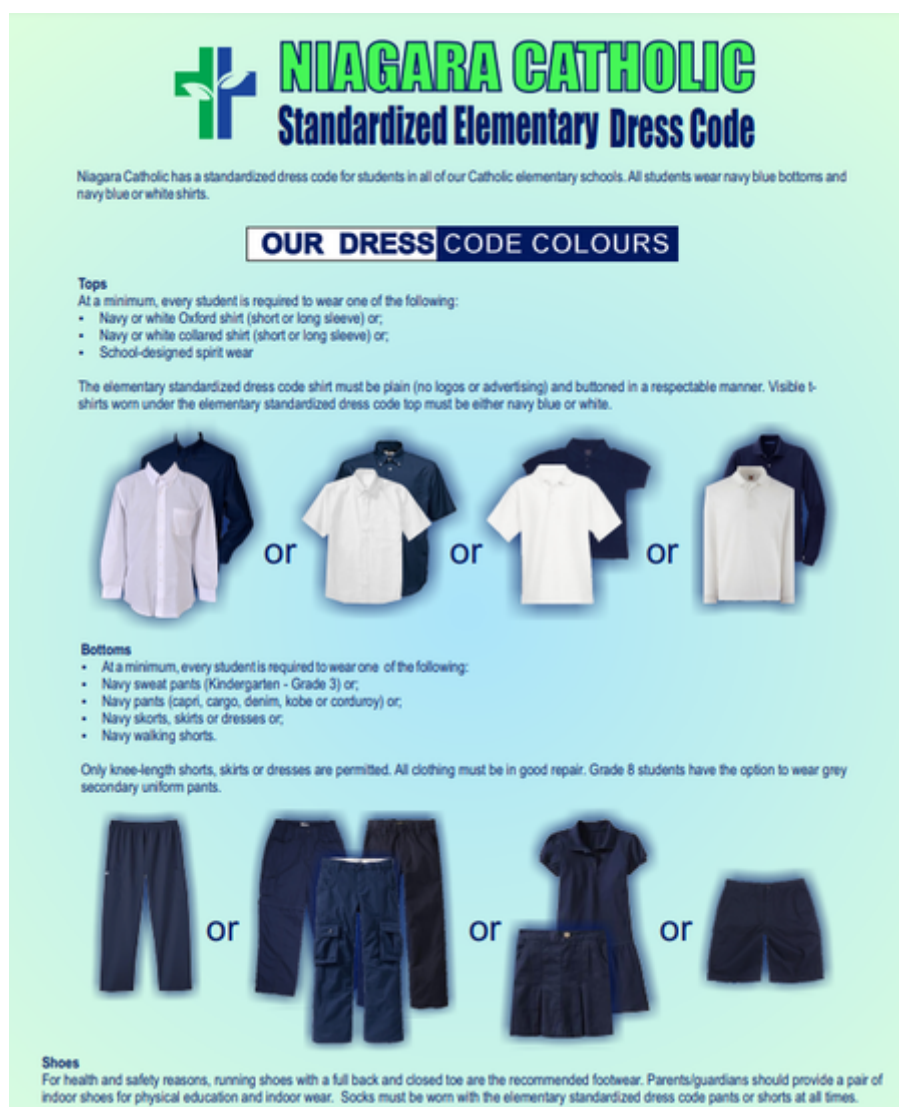
we care about. In our friendship with God it is the same. Sometimes in prayer we don't know what to say. In those moments, we can simply be with God and recognize His presence with us. We can learn from the words of a simple peasant who explained his prayer to his parish priest, St. Jean Vianney: "I look at Him and He looks at me."

## Standardized Dress Code

A reminder that students are expected to adhere to Niagara Catholic's Standardized Dress Code. An additional copy of the Dress Code is attached below. According to the Standardized Dress Code, the following items are **not permitted**:

- Black Pants
- T-shirts of any kind (spiritwear exempt)
- Faded or torn Jeans. (Jeans must be dark blue and in good condition)
- Shorts and Skirts must be knee length

Your cooperation is important and appreciated.



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC**  
**Standardized Elementary Dress Code**


Niagara Catholic has a standardized dress code for students in all of our Catholic elementary schools. All students wear navy blue bottoms and navy blue or white shirts.

**OUR DRESS CODE COLOURS**

**Tops**  
At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy or white Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy or white collared shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School-designed spirit wear


The elementary standardized dress code shirt must be plain (no logos or advertising) and buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.



**Bottoms**  
At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy sweat pants (Kindergarten - Grade 3) or;
- Navy pants (capri, cargo, denim, kobe or corduroy) or;
- Navy skorts, skirts or dresses or;
- Navy walking shorts.

Only knee-length shorts, skirts or dresses are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants.



**Shoes**  
For health and safety reasons, running shoes with a full back and closed toe are the recommended footwear. Parents/guardians should provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear. Socks must be worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

## Indoor Shoes

Please ensure that your child(ren) have a pair of indoor running shoes at school. Students **are expected to change their footwear when they enter their classroom**. This will not only keep the floors dry but also clean. Students that do not have indoor running shoes will not be permitted to participate in gym.

## Student Supervision

Students are able to come into the school at 9:00 am. Please note that supervision is not provided prior to this time.

## Medications & Allergies

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drugs, without written permission from the parent and a doctor. If there is a need for such medication, please contact the school to obtain the forms which must be filled out and signed by both the doctor and the parent. This record is required by School Board Regulations and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the family as soon as possible.

Please remember that St. Andrew Catholic School is an Allergen Aware School. Please do not send products with nuts or nut traces with your child.



## STUDENT ATTENDANCE and SAFE ARRIVAL

St. Andrew Catholic School and all schools throughout Niagara Catholic use the Safe Arrival program to manage student attendance reporting. The Safe Arrival program reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance by making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences. The Safe Arrival program allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

- 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 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.

## REMINDER- No single serve plastics available

Parents are reminded to ensure that their child(ren) have the required utensils needed to eat their snacks/lunches as well as a **reusable water bottle** they can fill at the hydration stations. We are no longer permitted to distribute plastic/styrofoam spoons, forks or cups to students that do not have them.





## School Cash Online

Please ensure that use of School Cash online for the purchase/payment of food days, field trips, donations etc. This is a safe and easy-to-use online program that allows you to make convenient and secure payments from the comfort of your own home. To register, please click [here](#)



**Maria Ruggi Dietsch**

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

