

# Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School

Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic Elementary School  
333 Rice Road, Welland ON, L3C 2V9 905-735-447  
C. Moscato - Principal      F. Wood - Vice Principal  
K. Kinney - Superintendent of Schools

## Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School Mission Statement

*As a community of faith, the mission of Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary School is to work in partnership with the home and the parish to provide a Christ-centered learning environment which allows students to grow spiritually, to strive for academic excellence and to become responsible citizens with a love of learning.*



## *Prayer for April*

*Jesus, thank You for living a sinless life we could not live and dying in our place to pay the price for our sin. Your sacrifice makes it possible for us to know You and have a relationship with You. Give us hearts to seek You more and more, and may we come to more deeply experience Your love and presence in our day to day lives. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.*

## Follow us on Social Media



**@kuskaknights**

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."

## ~~~ Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission Statement ~~~

*We are a Christ-centered Catholic community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.*



# APRIL 2024



## HAPPENINGS

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Catholic School Council meeting will be on Monday, April 15 at 6:00 pm.  
We will meet in Mme Volante's classroom.

All are welcome to attend!



### Sacrament News

#### First Communion – Grade 2's

On April 18th, our Grade 2 students will have the opportunity to rehearse for their First Communion ceremony which will take place on Saturday, April 20th at 2:00pm.



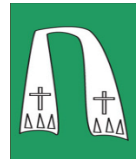
#### Reconciliation – Grade 3's

On Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:45am our Grade 3 students will celebrate the sacrament of First Reconciliation.



#### Confirmation – Grade 8's

Our Grade 8 students will participate in a retreat on Tuesday, April 16th in preparation for their Confirmation ceremony which will take place on Wednesday, May 1st.



***Thank you to everyone who has been working to help our students prepare for these next steps in their faith journey!***



### St. Kevin's Mass Times

Saturday - 5:00pm

Sunday - 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am

*Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.*

*Psalms 116:2*



# APRIL 2024



## HAPPENINGS

### Student Council Elections

On April 12th students will have the opportunity to vote for their Student Council Co-Chairs for the 2024-2025 school year. Best of luck to all our candidates!



### Eco Team

#### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> is Waste Free Lunch week!**

What does a waste-free lunch mean? It's simple! It's all about packing lunches that don't create unnecessary waste. Instead of single-use plastics and disposable items, we encourage everyone to bring reusable food and drink containers, washable cutlery, and cloth napkins.

By choosing a waste-free lunch, you're not just making a small change - you're making a big difference to help REDUCE waste.

Throughout the month of April, we will also be **collecting used batteries and ink cartridges** for an innovative RECYCLING program. Bring them in and the ECO team will take care of ensuring they get to the proper waste facility.

Thank you for your support for a greener future!



### Pasta Night

On Thursday, April 25th, we will be having our Second Annual Pasta Night!

Held at Notre Dame, this fundraiser is in support of our Grade 8 students and their year-end trip to Ottawa coming up in June. Grade 8s will be helping out at the event with greeting our guests, serving, and cleaning.

Invite your friends and family and be sure to reserve your spots by purchasing a ticket through SchoolCash Online by **April 19th**.



### Specialty Lunch Days



Wednesday, April 3



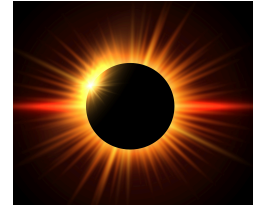
Wednesday, April 10



Wednesday, April 17

## Solar Eclipse

There will be no school on **April 8th**.  
We hope you are able to safely enjoy the historic full solar eclipse happening right over the Niagara region!



## Spring Canteen



On Tuesdays for the month of April we will be having our Spring Canteen.

A variety of sweet treats will be offered for purchase with cash.

Popcorn sales will also continue.



## Grade 7 Vaccinations

On April 9, Grade 7 students will have the opportunity to receive their vaccinations at school. This is offered as a Public Health initiative, so please remember to fill out the Public Health consent form if you would like your child to receive a vaccine on this date.



## World Autism Day

World Autism Day is Tuesday, April 2, 2024 and will be recognized across all Niagara Catholic District Board schools. You are encouraged to **wear blue** as part of your attire on this day.



During the month of April, staff will help raise awareness and acceptance of people with Autism through various class lessons. Check out [celebratethespectrum.com](http://celebratethespectrum.com) if you want to learn more.

## EARTH DAY GREEN/BLUE DAY

On Monday, April 22, we will be having an out of dress code day.

Wear **blue** and **green** to celebrate our God-given Earth!



## Save The Dates!

There are several events coming up within the Niagara Catholic community:

- **April 11 - Do You Think Before You Click?**
    - A night of discussion around the use of social media
    - Guest speaker Jennifer Pellegrini, Niagara Catholic's Communications Officer
  - **April 11 - Family Faith and Learning - NCPIC**
    - Workshops about teenage brain development, as well as social media
    - Presented by Niagara Region Public Health [Register Here](#)
  - **April 27 - Bingo**
    - Upcoming monthly bingo night in support of Alexander Kuska
    - Other upcoming dates are **June 1** and **July 29**
  - **June 11 - Social Networking Safety**
    - Guest speaker Paul Davis from CTV News
- More information in the flyers below. We hope that they will be a benefit to you!**



# DO YOU THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK ?

**DATE:** THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2024

**TIME:** 6:15 – 8pm

**WHERE:** St Kevin Church Hall

Join us for an evening of discussion on:

- How our fear of missing out FOMO, keeps us attached to our devices
- Balancing the benefits and dangers of social media from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching
- Using the 7 commitments from the episcopal letter, “Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious” to engage better on social media

## **Guest Speaker:**

Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer  
Niagara Catholic District School Board

*Everyone Welcome  
Light Refreshments Provided*





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

ACCOUNTABILITY • COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • FAITHFULNESS • INTEGRITY • JUSTICE • STEWARDSHIP



# BINGO NIGHT

**DID YOU KNOW!  
PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING WE DO IS  
DONE AT DELTA BINGO WELAND ONCE  
PER MONTH**

SOME UPCOMING DATES ARE:

Saturday April 27th @ 12:30

Saturday June 1st @ 12:30

Monday July 29th @ 6:30

**IF YOU OR A GRANDPARENT CAN  
HELP WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO  
ADD TO OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS!**

**CONTACT ASHLEY @  
ASHLEY\_STEELE26@HOTMAIL.COM**



*Save The Date!*

*Tuesday June  
11th @ 6 pm*

**SOCIAL  
NETWORKING  
SAFETY**

with PAUL DAVIS  
as featured on CTV NEWS | GLOBAL NEWS



**EMPOWERING  
PARENTS  
IN THE DIGITAL AGE**



# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

## April 2024

### 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.

## Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting The Curriculum to Home

(Parents of Elementary aged students)

With our School Health Nurses

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](#).



## Educational Resources

### Opportunities for Every Student with Play for All



To ensure a thriving intramural program, prioritize student safety and inclusivity. Tailor activities to student preferences, communicate goals clearly, and offer flexibility for participation. Cultivating student leadership is key for long-term success.

Explore [ophea.net/play-all](https://ophea.net/play-all) to discover additional resources, including planning tools and activity suggestions to enhance your students' physical activity throughout the day.

### Student Mental Health Ontario: Wayfinder

Unlock the power of mental health promotion and literacy in your classroom with confidence and ease! [School Mental Health Ontario Wayfinder](#) provides a clear framework for mental health learning in the classroom. Empower your classroom with mental health promotion and literacy tools perfectly aligned with the Ontario curriculum, fostering an inclusive space for students to support each other's mental well-being.

Wayfinder provides:

- A digital guide of lessons and activities with easy-to-follow instructions
- Ready-to-use communication materials to foster home-school connections
- Regular email messages to offer you tips, support and new classroom resources