



SACRED HEART SPECTATOR

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
Proud Member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Principal: Mr. J. Romeo
Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

ISSUE #8 – APRIL 2024

NCDSB THEOLOGICAL THEME: CALLED BY NAME “Hear my Voice” – Monthly Reflection

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.

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION for 2024 - 2025



Plans are in the preliminary stages for the 2024-25 school year. While we await approval from the board office on the number of classes and teachers required, **we ask that you submit any specific requests concerning academic and social grouping placements by email (sacred.heart@ncdsb.com) by May 1, 2024**, to the attention of Mr. Romeo. Many situations unfold from now until the beginning of a new school year. As professional educators working at Sacred Heart Catholic, we will **consider** all requests, but we will base all student placement decisions on what is in the best interest of the entire student grade-level community at Sacred Heart. ***These decisions are made in good faith and based on, but not necessarily limited to, the following considerations: individual needs of students; academic strengths, weaknesses and needs; social and emotional needs of the students; special education needs; resource support requirements and personnel allocation; as well as classroom teacher strengths.***

WORLD AUTISM DAY – Tuesday April 2, 2024

World Autism Awareness Day will be recognized at Sacred Heart Catholic on Tuesday April 3, 2024. The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association has invited all schools to wear blue shirts as part of their attire on that day. 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. At Sacred Heart Catholic all students and staff are invited to wear a blue shirt (*any type of blue shirt, it does not have to be a dress code navy blue*😊) to demonstrate support for autism awareness.

EQAO

EQAO BEGINS IN MAY

Wednesday, May 8, to Wednesday, June 12, 2024 is the Administration window for having the Primary and Junior EQAO. The parents of students in Gr. 3 and 6 will receive more detailed information as to the more exact timeframe school staff intend to run the assessment for students in Grades 3 and 6 by the end of April. We continue to ask that you make every attempt to ensure that your child is at school on time, especially from May 8th - June 12th, and that you do not schedule appointments or vacations during this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school. Thank you for your support.



SACRED HEART SPECTATOR

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
Proud Member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Principal: Mr. J. Romeo
Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

All registrations for Kindergarten 2024 will be completed online. Please visit the Niagara Catholic website niagaracatholic.ca and click on "Register Now" button. Link found here: <https://niagaracatholic.ca/registration/>

If you have a child born in 2020, or you know of someone who lives in our boundary area and they have a child born in 2020, they are eligible for Year One Kindergarten.

SPORTS & CLUBS UPDATE

We thank Mrs. Duchesne for leading our Art club. This takes place twice per week in the School Library for students who signed up. Chess club as also been running during select afternoon nutrition breaks with thanks going out to Mrs. Manders, Mrs. Colavecchia and Mrs. Cardamone for volunteering their time to assist with Chess Club.

Upcoming Activities / Sports:

April 3 – Intermediate Badminton at St. Paul Catholic High School.

April 19 – Chess Tournament at St. Mary Catholic Elementary

April 22 – Intermediate Coed Flag Football at St. Paul Catholic High School (Turf Field)

April 25 & 26 – Junior Girls and Boys Soccer at St. Paul Catholic High School (Turf Field)

HOT LUNCHES & MILK PROGRAM

Hot lunches this month (orders are processed via School Cash Online):

Pizza Day – Thursday April 4, 2024 (orders due April 1)

Sub Day – Thursday April 25, 2024 (orders are due April 22)





SACRED HEART SPECTATOR

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
Proud Member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Principal: Mr. J. Romeo
Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

YARD SUPERVISION REMINDER



Our first bus arrives at 8:35 a.m. Sacred Heart staff begin morning yard duty at 8:35 a.m. and are in the yard until the bell rings at 8:45 a.m. Parents are reminded that students should not be at school earlier than 8:35 a.m. Your cooperation is appreciated.

CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL DEVICES

Cell phones are generally more disruptive than helpful during school hours. We recognize students may require their cell phone for safety and communication purposes for before and after school, but use during school hours is prohibited unless the student acquires permission from their classroom teacher.

"Cell or smart phones, tablets, laptops, audio or video recording devices are prohibited for use by students in all Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools classrooms unless specifically approved by school staff for instructional or co-instructional purposes."

ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE



As you are aware, Niagara Catholic has an Elementary Dress Code for students. Details regarding the Dress Code can be found on the Board's website.

Highlights include the following:

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Early Learning Kindergarten to Grade 3 or;
- Navy Blue Pants (Dress, Cargo, Denim, Kobe, Corduroy style permitted) or;
- Navy Blue Skorts or Dresses or
- Navy Blue Walking Shorts or Capris or;
- Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants. At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items;
- Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School designed spirit wear.

Running shoes are the recommended footwear and socks must be worn.

A reminder that our spirit wear Provider "Big Bear Spiritwear" is open online 24/7 365 days a year to place an order for Sacred Heart spirit wear! <https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/sacred-heart-stars/>



BUS BEHAVIOUR



We are very pleased that the majority of our riders have been showing respectful behavior on the bus. Just a reminder to parents and students that bus transportation is a privilege. Our bus drivers have the important responsibility to transport students safely. Students have the responsibility to abide by the expectations of the driver. *Behavior that compromise the safety of others, or interferes with the right to a*



SACRED HEART SPECTATOR

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
Proud Member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Principal: Mr. J. Romeo
Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

relaxing, enjoyable journey, will be dealt with immediately. Drivers have been made aware to issue reports as they see fit. Reports will then initiate the debriefing process with the student and/or parents. Disciplinary action will be based on the situation. Suspension from bus transportation is one possible consequence. Please take some time to reinforce this message with your child. Often children do not take that into consideration when engaging in inappropriate conduct during travel.

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!



SACRED HEART SPECTATOR

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
Proud Member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Principal: Mr. J. Romeo
Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

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 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.



SACRED HEART SPECTATOR

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
Proud Member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Principal: Mr. J. Romeo
Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

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