



ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

APRIL 2024

Safe Arrival

To report your child absent please use one of the three 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

1-844-287-6287

will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Principal's Message

As we continue through the season of Lent and Easter is upon us, we look forward to the celebration of Easter and the joy and hope it represents. Easter is truly a time of celebration as we see signs of renewed life all around us in nature. With the change in seasons brings us a renewed sense of energy.

At Easter, Jesus brings so much light into the world. The liturgical colour changes from Purple to white for Easter to represent this light. Easter Sunday marks the beginning of 50 days of Easter.

Throughout the month of April, let us see each person in our lives as a gift. Let us focus on caring for all of the families in our lives; at home, at school, at church and the world at large, making the St. James school community a better place to be!

Let us pray,

"Lord, as we gather together as family and friends; we invite you once again into our lives. May the hope of your resurrection color our days. May the promise of your spirit working in us light up our lives. May the love you revealed to us shape our giving. May the truth in your word guide our journeys and may the joy of your kingdom fill our homes.

As we gather together underneath the banner of your life, we thank you for all the wonderful food that we can now enjoy and celebrate your glorious resurrection.

Thank you Lord. Amen."

— Unknown

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. K. Lococo, Principal

YMCA Before and After School Child Care is in your school!

YMCA Before and After School Child Care operates in St. James. Your child can have fun and participate in planned indoor and outdoor activities with their friends while being in a safe, Quality program. Registrations are for five-day-a-week spaces, and you can begin the process by signing up through the Region's waitlist system at: Niagara.onehns.com, or for more information about registration please email: ccregistration@niagara.ymca.ca



Kindergarten Registrations

Registrations for September 2024 are ongoing. Students who have reached the age of four by December 31, 2024 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten. Students who have reached the age of five by December 31, 2024 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten. Please register online at: niagaracatholic.ca.

Dental Screenings in Schools



Niagara Region

In addition to dental screening on April 16th JK/SK students will be offered fluoride varnish.

To participate, parent/guardian will need to provide consent for their child to receive a fluoride varnish application. The online [Fluoride Varnish Consent and Medical History](#) **MUST** be completed by April 9, 2024

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call 905 688 8248 ext. 7208 or Shannon.Walton@niagararegion.ca.

April Food Days

- Thursday 4th — Sub Lunch Day
- Thursday 11th — Pizza Lunch Day
- Thursday 18th — Mandarin Lunch Day
- Thursday 25th — Mexican Lunch Day

St. Denis Youth Group - Grades 6-8

Monday Nights 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. Parents drop-off and go. Sports, Games and Activities with the Sisters and St. Francis High School students. St. James students can join the over 30 St. Denis students already participating.

Spring Draw (April 19th—25th)

It is almost that time again! **SPRING DRAW!!** We are preparing for our second annual Spring Draw, which will take place in April. We are requesting donations of *new toys, games, puzzles, gift cards, etc.* to include in our raffle. Donations should be appropriate for Kindergarten age to Grade 8.



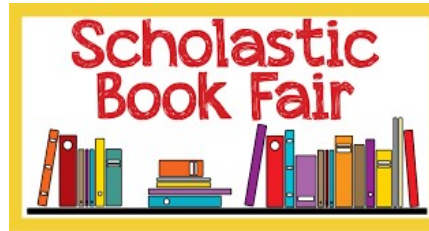
All money raised goes right back to our St. James Community, assisting families in need. We will also have a draw table for parents/guardians wishing to purchase tickets to win a Scratch Ticket board. Students may purchase tickets for their parents; however, *an adult must pick up the Scratch Board in person.*

Thank you so much in advance! Staff, students, parents and grandparents alike enjoyed trying their luck at winning one of the prizes.

Looking forward to seeing you for the Spring Draw!



Thursday
June 20, 2024



The Book Fair will take place from April 2nd-5th in the school library.



On Thursday March 21, 2024 St. James Staff and Students were treated to a presentation by Q-Mack. NBA All-Star Entertainer Q-MACK is on a mission to transform students into "All-Star students" by spelling out what the term "ALL-STAR" really means!

This was a high impact presentation outlining 7 vital character attributes that benefit students in every challenge they'll face in the classroom, the gym, or on the playground.

So just what does it take to become an "All-Star student"?

Well much like becoming an All-Star athlete, these 7 character traits will assist to build an amazing foundation for kids of all ages:

- A-Attitude** (being positive/optimistic)
- L - Leadership** (by example)
- L -Love** (for learning new skills)
- S -Self control** (making positive choices)
- T -Teamwork** (being inclusive)
- A -Accountable** (being responsible for words and actions)
- R -Respect** (for others feelings and standing up against bullying)

Check out Q-MACK's full bio on his website
www.qmack.com



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 for more information so you can make informed decisions about your child's education.





**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



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 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.

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

**LOOKING FOR HOST
FAMILIES!**



SCAN ME



**SCAN THIS QR CODE OR GO TO
HOSPITALITECANADA.COM FOR MORE
INFORMATION!**

HOSPITALITE CANADA LTD. IS SEEKING WELCOMING AND CARING HOST FAMILIES FOR OUR NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD FOR ACADEMIC STUDIES AS WELL AS SHORT-TERM INTEGRATION EXPERIENCES (3-4 WEEKS IN DURATION).

WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE IN THIS MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE BY HOSTING ONE OR TWO OF OUR STUDENTS IN YOUR HOME.

ALL HOST FAMILIES RECEIVE FULL SUPPORT AS WELL AS REMUNERATION TO COVER EXPENSES WHILE HOSTING OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EXCITING EXPERIENCE, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 905-327-5424 OR SEND US AN EMAIL TO ASHLEY@HOSPITALITECANADA.COM

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR FAMILY!

St. Denis Youth Group

Friendship, Faith and a Whole
Lot of Fun!



MONDAYS 7-9 P.M.
Grades 6-8



Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate

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 opeha.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

