



St. Andrew Catholic School

May 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

In May we are surrounded by the beauty of dormant plants beginning to grow, new seedlings spouting out of the ground, and beautiful colourful flowers appearing in gardens. Thus, it is no surprise that May is also the month devoted to Mary, Jesus' mother. She is a role model to all of us because of her purity, love for her Son, and devotion to God's will. During the month of May we will honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. This month, we also celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12th. Wishing all Mothers, Step Mothers, Grandmothers, God Mothers and anyone in that role a Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for all that you do! May God Bless you.



Mrs. M. Ruggi Dietsch

A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

*Please watch over
and support all mothers
on earth and in heaven . . .*

*and help them to know how much
they are loved and appreciated
on Mother's Day and every day.*

RightQuotes4all.Com



Remember!

Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- May 3 - Hamburger - Hot Lunch only online orders
- May 6- 10 Catholic Education and Mental Health Week
- May 8 - Support Staff Appreciation Day
- May 8 - Awards of Excellence 7 pm Brock University
- May 9 - Primary Play in Gym 9:45 am
- May 9 - Junior/Intermediate in Gym 12:45 pm
- May 10 - School Mass
- May 10 - Pizza Day
- May 12 - Happy Mother's Day!
- May 15 - New Kinder Families Orientation 6:00pm
- May 16 - Celebrating Kindergarten through the Arts 4:00pm - 6:00pm CEC
- May 20 -Victoria Day
- May 24 - Track and Field at Notre Dame Gr. 4 - 8
- May 24 - Out of Dress Code
- May 26 - St. Andrew Family Mass and Luncheon 11:00 am
- May 23, 27 & 28 - Grade 3 EQAO
- May 27 - May 31 - National AccessAbility Week
- May 29, 31 & June 3 - Grade 6 EQAO

Rosary Campaign



The Month of May is a special month dedication to the Mother of God. On the first day of May, our school is launching a "Rosary Campaign" to offer up 1000 Rosaries to pray for Peace in all Nations of the World! We don't need to go far away to help people in other countries, who are hungry, poor and suffering from illnesses or living in nations that are at war. We can become missionaries and bring help to all the people in the world by praying for them. So, every day this month, all the students in this

school are encouraged to pray the Rosary at home, or school, or in your free time, for peace in the world. Every day in the month we will record how many Rosaries are prayed.

Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week - "We are called to love"

As a Catholic Community, we see the link between our faith and mental health. This year's Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week theme is, "We are called to love."



The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024 was inspired by the following considerations:

- With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of *"Pilgrims of Hope."* With open hearts of love, we can continue to *"fan the flame of hope"* for a bright future.
- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, *"He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers."*
- The theme of the synod, *"Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,"* invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other's wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God's children are loved unconditionally.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week:

Day 1: As people of hope / Dans l'espérance

Day 2: As people of faith / Dans la foi

Day 3: As people of mercy / Avec compassion

Day 4: As people of justice / Dans la justice

Day 5: As people of joy / Dans la joie

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these

resources, as well as School Mental Health Ontario's website and resources, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Called to love* together.

We hope to see many of you during our school celebrations!

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten Information Evening

All new Kindergarten families registered for the upcoming 2024- 2025 school year, are invited to attend a Kindergarten Information Session on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration Register online at 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 join our St. Andrew Family!

In order to be fully registered to start school in September, all documentation must be submitted. A completed registration package must include:

- Online registration form (if that has not been completed yet, you can do so [here](#))
- Copy of your child's birth certificate
- Copy of a baptismal certificate (the child's or from either parent)
- Proof of address (ex. utility bill, etc.)

Please submit any documentation by visiting the school office or by emailing us at



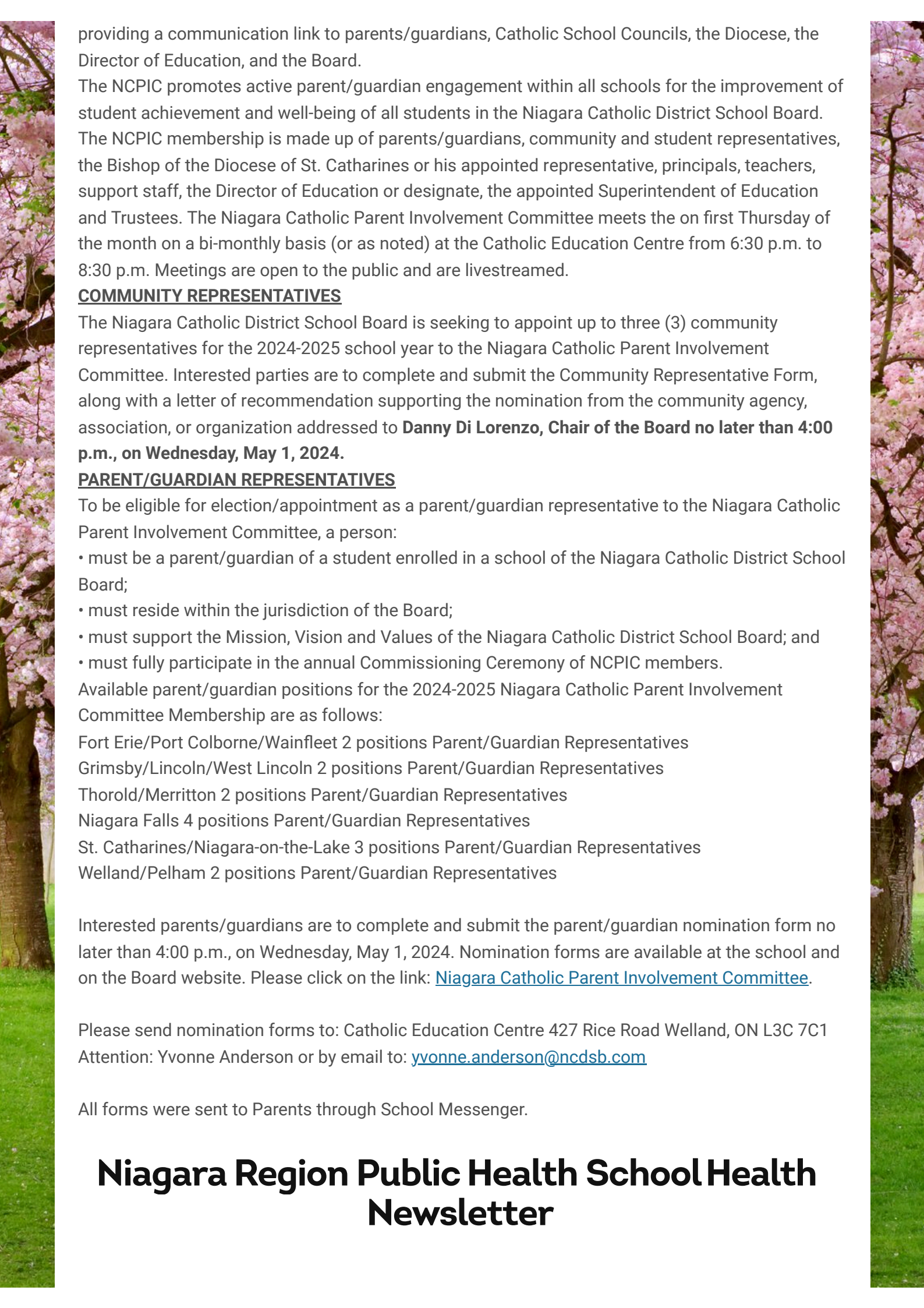
Grade 8 Graduation

Our Grade 8 Graduation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Students and their families will gather at Notre Dame College School for a Graduate Blessing and Award Ceremony.

We are looking forward to gathering to celebrate these wonderful young adults! More information to follow.

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

All forms were sent to Parents through School Messenger.

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

Vision Health

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.



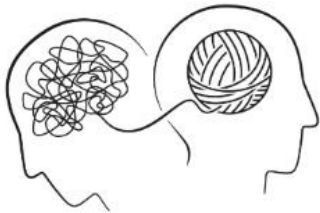
A yearly eye exam is FREE – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see ANY of these signs:

- Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes
- One eye that turns out or in
- Blinking often
- Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
- Turning or tilting the head to the side often
- Reporting blurry or double vision
- Covering or closing one eye
- Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain

For more information on vision screening, please visit

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.



Mental Health Week 2024: A Call to be Kind

Showing compassion toward others can have a huge impact on someone's life. Mental Health Week in Canada runs from May 6 to 12, and this year's theme is focussed on the healing power of compassion. One of the most important ways that we can demonstrate compassion is through active listening without judgment. Actively listening can create a safe space for people to share their thoughts and feelings. You can do this by avoiding interrupting or dismissing their experiences.

Let's all learn to be more present, attentive, and empathetic.

- [Explore how compassion connects us all](#)
- [Learn to safely support someone struggling with their mental health](#)

#CompassionConnects #MentalHealthWeek

Dangerous Nicotine Product Accessible to Children and Youth: Nicotine Pouches

Local health experts are warning of the dangers posed to young people about new flavoured nicotine pouches. There are multiple brands (Zonnic, Zyn etc.) and concentrations of nicotine pouches currently available for purchase in Canada.

Although this product is not intended for those under 18, youth are becoming their main market. These products come in flavours such as berry frost and tropical breeze. Health Canada approved Zonnic last as a quit smoking aid under the country's natural health product regulations, with no restrictions on how it's advertised, where it's sold, or at what age someone can buy it. This means that these products are being sold in local convenience stores and gas stations to youth without any age verification and are found to be stored next to candy and gum.

What's the danger?

Nicotine is a highly toxic and powerfully addictive substance. Children and teenagers are at a higher risk due to the addictive properties of nicotine as brain develops into adulthood. Even using small amounts of nicotine may increase the risk of developing a dependence on nicotine in the future. Please talk to your children about nicotine pouches and other nicotine products to discuss the risks associated with their use.

For more information about these products, visit: [Dangers of Nicotine Pouches - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/nicotine-pouches/dangers-nicotine-pouches.html)

Information on Ticks

Ticks, mosquitos and rabid animals can be a risk as the weather warms up.

- Mosquitoes transmit the [West Nile virus](#) to humans after becoming infected by feeding on the blood of birds, which carry the virus.
- The black- legged (deer) tick transmits [Lyme disease](#) to humans after becoming infected by feeding on the blood of small animals which carry the disease.
- [Rabies](#) is transmitted through saliva from bites and scratches, entering an open cut or wound, or from saliva contacting a mucous membrane, such as those in the mouth, nasal cavity or eyes.



For more information and [tick identification](#), individuals can contact a Duty Officer directly at 905-688-8248 ext. 7590. General tick information can be found on our [Niagara Region Public Health website](#).

ECO News

World Bee Day - May 20

Why do we need pollinators?

Pollinators allow many plants, including many food crops, to reproduce. Indeed, the food that we eat, such as fruits and vegetables, directly relies on pollinators. A world without pollinators would equal a world without food diversity – no blueberries, coffee, chocolate, cucumbers and so much more. They also serve as sentinels for emergent environmental risks, signaling the health of local ecosystems.

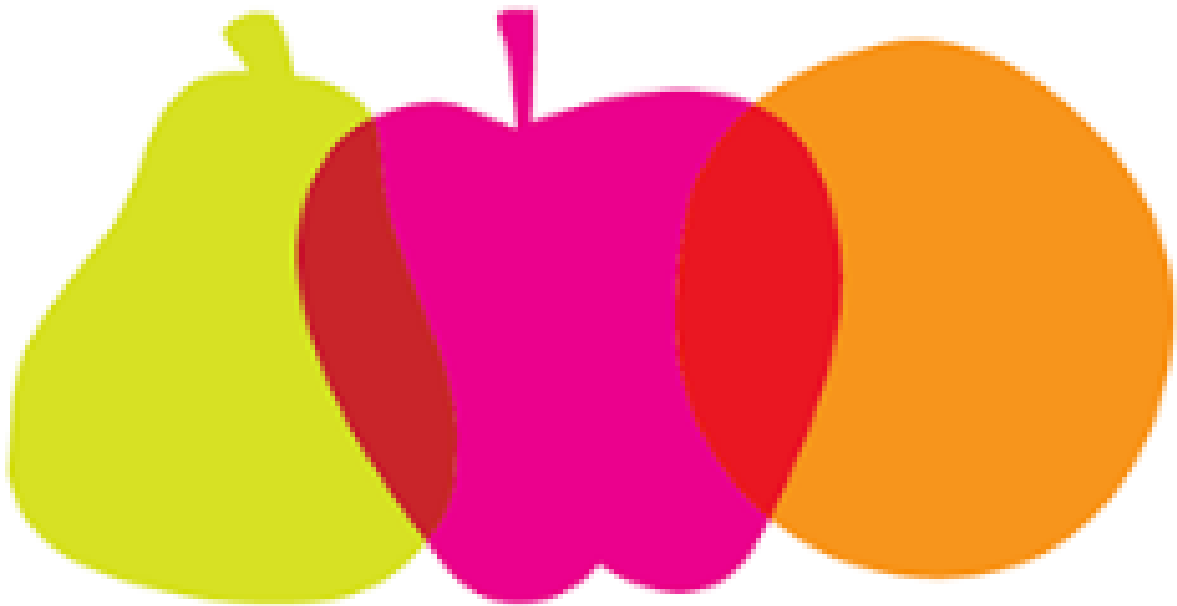
Pollination, a pillar of our ecosystems:

Pollinators not only help ensure the abundance of fruits, nuts, and seeds, but also their variety and quality, which is crucial for human nutrition. Beyond food, pollinators also contribute directly to medicines, biofuels, fibers like cotton and linen, and construction materials.

The vast majority of flowering plant species only produce seeds if animal pollinators move pollen from the anthers to the stigmas of their flowers. Without this service, many interconnected species and processes functioning within the ecosystem would collapse.

Pollination is therefore a keystone process, in both human managed and natural terrestrial ecosystems. It is critical for food production and human livelihoods and directly links wild ecosystems with agricultural production systems.

To Learn More about Bees and why we need them click [here](#).



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



God loves to involve us in His plans to lead people to heaven. He often uses the weakest to lead the strong. Sometimes God speaks to us through other people. But, have you considered that God could use you to bring His message to others? What have you done today to share the love of God with those around you? Spend some time with God today asking Him to help you share His love to those in most need of it.

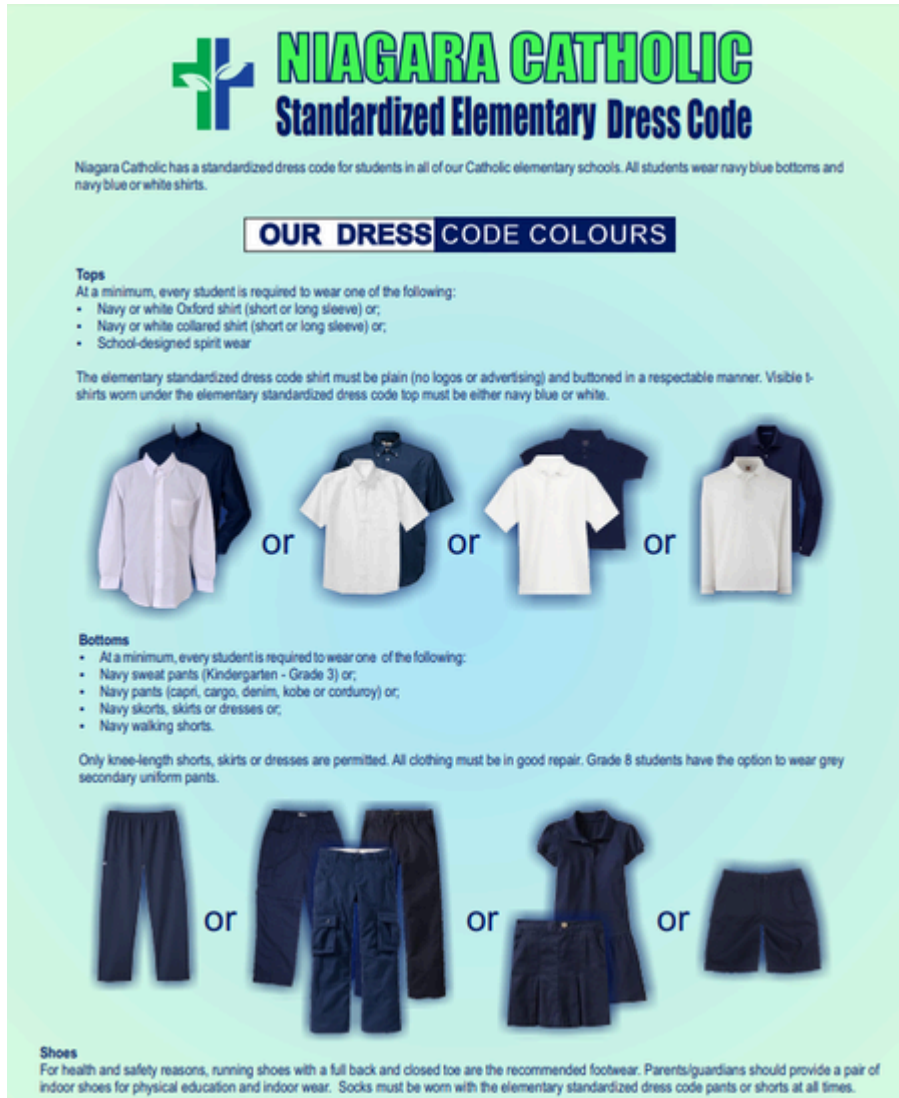
Standardized Dress Code

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 skirts, 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

