



# Notre Dame Catholic School



6559 Caswell Street, Niagara Falls, ON, L2J 1C2

Phone: (905) 358-3861 Email: [notre.dame@ncdsb.com](mailto:notre.dame@ncdsb.com)

Principal: Mr. E. Roussos Superintendent of Education: Mr. D. Massi

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

# May 2024

## Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

As we enter the month of May, spring is in full bloom. During this month, we honour Mary, mother of Jesus. She is our school's namesake, as Notre Dame in French means "Our Lady". We also celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, and aunts for the unconditional support, love and protection they provide to their children and family. Like Mary, they are willing to bear the cross for their children on the path to holiness, charity and compassion. We pray this short novena:

*Mary, Our Mother, by accepting the invitation to bear God's Son to the world, you brought forth new life for all of us. Your faithful acceptance of God's word is our model and inspiration as we strive to make room in our hearts for your Son and bear Him to others. Help us to follow Him more closely, even to the foot of the cross, as you did.*

Looking forward to the many great things happening this month!

All the best,  
E. Roussos

## Called by Name: Hear My Voice Monthly Reflection



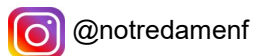
God loves to involve us in His plans to lead people to heaven. He often uses the weakest to lead the strong. Sometimes God speaks to us through other people. But, have you considered that God could use you to bring His message to others? What have you done today to share the love of God with those around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

## Registrations - Join Our Family!

We are always welcoming those families who want to join the Notre Dame Catholic School Community! Please register online on the Niagara Catholic DSB webpage or by clicking [here](#).

### Notre Dame on Social Media

Follow Notre Dame on Instagram to get the latest updates:



### Our Lady of the Scapular Parish

Website: [www.scapular.ca](http://www.scapular.ca)

Mass Times:

Saturdays: 5:00 PM & Sundays: 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00 AM



**We are proud to be a part of the Saint Paul High School family of schools!**

### Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission

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

JUSTICE ♦ COMPASSION ♦ STEWARDSHIP ♦ ACCOUNTABILITY ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ FAITHFULNESS



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Catholic Education Week "We Are Called to Love"

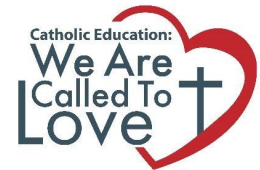
As a Catholic Community, we see the link between our faith and mental health. This year's Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week theme is, "We Are Called to Love."

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!

### Catholic Education Week—School Events

#### **School Mass: Wednesday, May 8, - 9:00 AM @ Our Lady of Scapular Parish**

- Our monthly school mass will be held during Catholic Education Week
- Parents are welcome to join students and staff

#### **Notre Dame Parent Open House: Wednesday, May 8 - 2:00-2:40 PM**

- We extend an invitation to all of our parents to witness Catholic education in action.
- Parents will be able to drop into their child's classroom and experience all the great learning happening.

We hope to see families come together and celebrate our Catholicity during school celebrations!



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Alternate Lunch Days

Families will have the option to order lunch for students on select days each month. In May, the school will offer the following alternate lunch days for staff and students:

- Wednesday, May 1 - Little Caesar's Pizza Lunch
- Wednesday, May 8 - Pasta Fresca Lunch
- Wednesday, May 15 - Subway Lunch
- Wednesday, May 22 - Swiss Chalet Lunch
- Thursday, May 30 - Carmine's Pizza Lunch

All orders can be placed through **SchoolCash Online**. Thank you in advance for your participation.

### Ice Cream Days

On **Fridays in May & June**, all students will have the opportunity to purchase an individual cup of vanilla frozen yogurt as a snack. **Frozen yogurt will cost \$2**. There is no need to pre-order, and students can politely decline if they are not interested. Proceeds from selling the frozen yogurt will go to off-setting graduation costs for our Grade 8 students. Thank you in advance for your support.

### Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week is a Canadian tradition, with communities, schools and workplaces rallying to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. Students at Notre Dame will focus on activities that highlight the connection between our Catholic faith and mental health during the week of **May 6 to 10**.

### Notre Dame Catholic School Council

The Notre Dame Catholic School Council is part of what makes our Catholic school so special, as it gives parents a voice in helping us serve our students. Meetings are held at the school, however a meeting link can be extended to those parents who would like to join from home.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, May 6**. Please contact the school if you are interested in attending!

### Grade 4-8 Health Fair

Our Grade 4-6 students and their teachers will visit Saint Paul HS on **May 22** to take part in a Healthy Living Fair. Students will receive information from a variety of age-appropriate topics that promote life-long health and wellness. More information will be communicated to parents closer to the date.

### Notre Dame Spirit Wear



Notre Dame Catholic School spirit wear has been given a refreshed look. All spirit wear items will be accepted as part of the Notre Dame Catholic School standardized dress code. Families can purchase items directly through our supplier, Big Bear Spiritwear, on their website [here](#).





# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Kindergarten

#### Welcome to Kindergarten - Family Orientation Evening

The Notre Dame Kindergarten team will host a family orientation evening on **May 23 @ 6:00 PM**.

The information session will be for those families who have registered a child to start Kindergarten at Notre Dame in September 2024. Parents will receive an overview of the program for English and French Immersion streams and meet school staff who will be involved in their child's learning. Families who have registered will be emailed further details soon. We look forward to welcoming our future Notre Dame students and their families!

#### Kindergarten Registration

Register online at [niagaracatholic.ca](http://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 have them join the Notre Dame Family!

To complete the registration process, families are asked to send their child's **registration documents** to the school, by either dropping them off at the main office or emailing them to [notre.dame@ncdsb.com](mailto:notre.dame@ncdsb.com).

### Saint Paul High School Transition

Our Grade 8 students are well into their transition from being part of the Notre Dame Family to joining the Saint Paul Catholic High School Community. School administrators Mrs. Majka and Mr. Folinazzo have visited to introduce students to the excellence they can expect when attending Saint Paul High School.

Our students will be visiting Saint Paul to watch the school's production of Mean Girls: The Musical. **We congratulate our Grade 8 students Jorja Miller and Mia Monteleone who have roles in the performance.**

#### NCDSB Summer School

The Niagara Catholic DSB offers students the opportunity to earn high school credits by taking courses in summer school. For Grade 8 students, it gives them a head start on earning credits towards their Ontario Secondary School High School Diploma, as well as an opportunity to build connections with other students. **You can find more information about the NCDSB summer school program and register for courses by clicking [here](#).**



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Catch the Spirit Award of Excellence



The expectations for students in our Catholic schools combine faith with knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and actions. As we work together to help students “reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit”, the Niagara Catholic “Catch the Spirit Student Award of Excellence” has been established to honour student representatives of leadership rooted in justice and service. The student representative chosen shows a commitment to their faith and demonstrates outstanding qualities in a variety of areas.

**The recipient of this year’s award at Notre Dame Catholic School is Maria Kurian.** Maria will be receiving her award at the Celebrating Excellence Ceremony on May 8 at Brock University. Congratulations Maria!

### Grade 8 Graduation

Save the date! Grade 8 Graduation will be held on **Thursday, June 20 at 5:00 PM**. More information will be shared over the course of this month. Stay tuned!



### Educational Field Trips

Classrooms are booking year-end educational field trips. Please be mindful on the day of the trip and consider the weather and location when preparing your child for the day. Some things to consider are running shoes for walking and activities, a hat and sunscreen if it is sunny, layers if the weather is unpredictable, a water bottle for hydration and a lunch in reusable containers.

Consent forms will be sent home through SchoolMessenger closer to the date of the Field Trip, and any payment for a trip can be made through School Cash Online. If you have any questions about your child’s trip, please reach out to the classroom teacher.

### “21st Century Learning” and the Use of Classroom Learning Tools (incl. cell phones)

21st Century learning refers to developing learning, literacy and life skills in our students as part of the classroom experience. In order to fully prepare them for modern work environments, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills will be emphasized during classroom activities. Teachers will ensure that students have all the required learning tools necessary for them to be successful each and every day. Our Electronic Communications Systems Policy will be updated for next school year.

As currently stated in the Electronic Communications Systems Policy, all school and personal electronic devices are permitted in Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary school classrooms for instructional purposes only. The expectation is that students will use NCDSB’s electronic communications systems for educational purposes. Students who carry cell phones when travelling to and from school, for safety reasons, are reminded they are not allowed to use their cell phones to call home or text message once they are on school property. **All cell phones must remain off and put away during the school day unless noted by the classroom teacher! Students are asked to please use the student phone in the office if they are not feeling well or wish to contact home.**



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Emergency Medical Protocols

At Notre Dame, we work cooperatively with families in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy educational environment for all students. We recognize that students who are at risk because of medical concerns such as **allergic reactions, diabetes, epilepsy, intolerances, asthma and/or seizures** require an intervention plan for their needs to be met and to reach their full potential at school.

If your child requires a specific plan of care, please contact the school at your earliest convenience so we can ensure his or her safety while in our care.

### Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for your children, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SCHOOL CASH ONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:  
<https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

### School Messenger - Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. School Messenger allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently using the **mobile app**, a **website**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This process allows the school to verify student attendance and notify parents of an unreported student absence efficiently.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will contact you to get a reason for the absence. Calls will continue until you choose an option to explain your child's absence. **PLEASE** use the following information to report your child's absence: mobile app, online: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff thank you so much for your generosity!!! We look forward to continuing our school fundraising through our partnership. Last year, funds raised through volunteering allowed the school to purchase classroom TV displays, classroom resources and physical education equipment to enhance student learning



**The school is looking for parent volunteers to assist during our assigned times at Delta Bingo (Tuesday afternoon).** If any parent would like to assist with fundraising, please contact the school.