



# St. Patrick Catholic School



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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JUNE 2024

Principal: Mrs. I. Ricci Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

4653 Victoria Ave. Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 4B8

*"We are proud to be part of the St. Paul Catholic Family of Schools"*

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe that we are entering into the final month of the school year. I have been truly blessed and honored being with the St. Patrick Community since September 2021. The parents, staff, and students have certainly made me feel very welcome from Day 1. I thank all of you for allowing me to be a part of this awesome community for the past 3 years. Effective September 2024, I would like to welcome, Ms. Maria Romano to St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School as your new Principal.

I would like to first of all thank all the parents for entrusting me with your most valuable treasure, your children. Your support and faith has enabled us to learn, grow and accomplish a great deal together. During their time at school, your children were very blessed to be nurtured and cared for by our dedicated and awesome staff at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School.

I would like to thank our dedicated Catholic School Council. Under the leadership of our chair, Mrs. Trish McGilvery, she ensured that many events and initiatives occurred throughout this school year.

Thank you to the dedicated teachers and support staff who day in and day out nurture and work together for the academic, emotional and spiritual growth of all of our students.

Thank you to Mr. Roma, our school secretary, who goes above and beyond in all that he does. He continues to work tirelessly in meeting the needs of all students and staff.

I would also like to thank our custodial staff, Mr. McGean and Ms. Albanese, who day in and day out worked tirelessly in ensuring that our school is clean.

Thank you to Father Gerard who has deepened our understanding of our Catholic faith and personal sense of spirituality and continues to lead all staff and students on their spiritual journey.

I will truly miss the entire St. Patrick community and all of the wonderful relationships I have made through the years.

I wish Ms. Romano all the best as she begins her journey at St. Patrick.

Many blessings and adventures to you and your families this summer!

*Mrs. Ricci*

## YEAR END MASS-Families are Welcome to Attend

Our final year end mass will be on June 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Parents are welcome to attend.

## FATHER'S DAY PRAYER JUNE 16th

On behalf of the school community of St. Patrick, I would like to wish all of our Fathers a very Happy Father's Day and a sincere thanks for your care, support and nurturing.

### Father's Day Prayer

*God,  
Bless all the fathers in the world, we ask  
that You guide them to be good role models  
and loving to their children. We also that  
You help them to be a father like You are.  
Give them grace and patience to handle  
situations in a loving way.*

**AMEN**

## NEW BELLS TIMES 2024-2025 at ST. PATRICK

Starting Sept. 3rd, 2024 St. Patrick will have new bell times.

As you may be aware, St. Patrick is a school that has several students who take the bus to school. Each year Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) in collaboration with Niagara Catholic DSB review efficiencies in providing transportation services to students. This is done in conjunction with Niagara Catholic Secondary schools as well as with DSBN. As a result of this year's review, for the 2024-2025 school year there will be a change to the bell times at St. Patrick School and we wanted to communicate the changes as soon as possible so families are aware and can plan accordingly. These changes will not impact the length of instructional time that students have in their classes.

**Beginning in September we will start our day at our regular time 9:05 a.m.**

**(Morning supervision will begin at 8:50 a.m.)**

**The dismissal bell time will be a bit later and change from 3:15 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.**

Please note that these bell time changes will impact bus pick up and drop off times and will be communicated from NSTS during the regular process for the 2024-2025 school year and will be made available on the NSTS Portal in mid-August. NSTS will communicate more specific timelines closer to the end of this school year.

## EQAO 2024

Student's in Grade 3 and Grade 6 will have EQAO testing. Testing will be completed all on-line using chromebooks. More information will follow closer to the date for those families that have children in Grade 3 and Grade 6.

EQAO Grade 6 and Grade 3: May 27 to June 7

PLEASE make sure your child is at school and on time for the testing days.

## ORGANIZATION CHART FOR 2024-2025

The tentative organization chart for St. Patrick Catholic School for September 2024. Some changes can still occur. This is a tentative organization.

**ELKP -Mrs. Damiano/Mrs. Lubocki**

**Grade 1-Mrs. Villegas**

**Grade 2-Mrs. Szick**

**Grade 3/4-Mrs. Zitano**

**Grade 4/5-Mr. Pascoe**

**Grade 6/7-Mr. Basilone**

**Grade 7/8-Mr. Curcio**

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION FOR 2024-2025

### How Can Parents Help?

Please trust our professional judgment to make good pedagogically sound decisions regarding your child's class placement for September. We are well educated professionals with your child's best interests at heart. Talk positively and hopefully to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students, discuss the value of new friendships and fresh starts. With some large and small numbers in many grades, and Ministry caps in the primary division, we still may be faced with a combined grade classroom in September. This is a reality with declining enrolment across the Board.

A combined grade is no different than a single grade classroom where there are children at many different learning levels. All teachers use differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all learners in their classrooms.

Guidelines that we consider may be one, some or all of the following:

**Learning style/social needs**

**Work habits**

**Special program needs**

**Behaviour**

**Gender balance**

In all class situations, present and possibly receiving teachers meet with the Principal and Education Resource Teacher to make the final decision. We are looking forward to another wonderful school year with your support.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL UPDATE 2023-2024

Thank you to our wonderful parents and staff for contributing in all our Catholic School Council meetings this school year.

The support we received and all of the amazing fundraising efforts were very much appreciated.

### Profits from CSC Fundraising:

Mom's Pantry (Fall): \$568.61

Candy Grams (Feb): \$263.00

Spring Raffle (April): \$4635.00

Ice Cream (Apr-June): To be announced

Pizza (Oct-June): To be announced

Subs (Oct-June): To be announced

Big Red Meat (May): \$1315.00

**PLAYDAY and SCHOOL LUNCH**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> (am)**

On June 25<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a Playday/School lunch for the students at St. Patrick School. Our Catholic School Council will be assisting with this morning. The NIKE organization will also be supporting the Play Day activities.

Thank you to the Catholic School Council for hosting this event for our students. An Ice cream truck will arrive in the morning and each student will receive a free ice cream cone free of charge.

**ECO SCHOOL MESSAGE FOR JUNE**

Thank you Mrs. Szick and Mme. Lennox for your love of the ECO program and your instrumental role as lead teacher in this school wide initiative. We are making a difference.

Thank you to our wonderful staff for the beautiful front gardens we planted this spring.

**BIG RED MEAT and HOT DOG LUNCH**  
**FUNDRAISERS**

Thank you everyone that helped and contributed to our final BIG RED fundraising event of the school year. We were able to raise approximately \$1315.00.

Thank you to Mrs. McGilvery and our Catholic School Council for helping and organizing this fundraiser.

Our Hot Dog Lunch was also a success. All monies for this event helps with our Grade 8 Graduation costs this year. We raised \$910.

Way to GO!!!! So thankful for the generosity and support that our school community shows.

**TRACK and FIELD**  
**Family of Schools and Board Meet**

Our school Track and Field day was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Oakes Park for Grde 4-8 students. It was a great day!

Students that are moving on to the Family of School Board Track Meet will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Oakes Park. The NCDSB Board Meet will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Niagara Olympic Club in St. Catharines. Good luck to all of our students.

**BOOK FAIR**  
**MAY 28-MAY 30**

St. Patrick School will be hosting a Scholastic book fair. Profits from book fairs will be used to buy new books for our school library.

It will be a great opportunity for students to buy new books that they can read during the summer months. The book fair will be held on:

**\*Monday May 27<sup>th</sup> (PREVIEW for students) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30**

**\*Tuesday May 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30**

**\*Wednesday May 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**\*Thursday May 30 from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

All students will be attending with their class on Monday, May 27 to preview the selections. On the following days, only students wishing to purchase will be sent to the book fair by their teacher. We will be accepting **CASH, MAJOR CREDIT CARDS or DEBIT cards only.**

If you wish to attend with your child, please come to the office to check in. Thank you in advance, for supporting our school library.

**GRADE 8 GRADUATION**

We are pleased to announce that our Grade 8 students will be graduating on Monday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Church. They will have their after party at Margaritaville on Fallsview Blvd. Congratulations to all our of graduates this school year. Wishing you success as you enter high school next year. Thank you to Mr. Curcio for organizing all events this school year leading up to graduation.

**PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE JUNE 2024**

**Check your Immunization Records and Travel Health Notice**

If you are planning to travel, add these actions to your planning checklist to help make your trip a healthy one.

1. **Make sure you and your children are up-to-date with vaccinations.** Staying up-to-date with vaccinations is important all year round. It is especially important before travelling.
  - When travelling, you may be at risk for vaccine preventable illnesses. [Check your immunization records](#) or talk to your health care provider.
  - Learn more about [where to get vaccinated](#). Remember to report vaccinations to Public Health for children 0 – 17 years of age. Report

[online](#) or call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

2. **Review the Public Health Agency of Canada's [travel health notices](#).** These notices outline potential health risks to Canadian travelers and ways to help reduce them. Stay informed as you plan your travel.

### 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. To learn how to protect your family, visit [Reduce the Risk of West Nile Virus - Niagara Region](#).
- 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. To learn how to protect you and your pets, visit [Protect and Prevent Ticks - Niagara Region](#).
- [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](#).

### Head safety – for bikes and other wheels

With warmer weather and summer break just around the corner, more kids will be outdoors taking part in activities, such as biking, skate boarding or roller blading. A [properly fitted and correct helmet](#) can cut the risk of a serious head injury by up to 85%. This means four out of five brain injuries could be prevented if every cyclist wore a helmet.

- Bike [helmets](#) should be replaced after five years or a crash where the cyclist has hit their head
- It's not safe to use a [second-hand helmet](#)
- Baseball hats, big hair clips and headphones should never be worn under a helmet

The human skull is just approximately one centimeter thick, so it is important to remind children to always protect their head when being active. To make sure a helmet fits right, follow the 2V1 Rule (image courtesy of [Parachute Canada](#))

### Food Literacy

Want to get your kids excited about food? Food literacy is more than just what's on your plate. It's about loving everything to do with food! Picture your child confidently picking out fresh veggies, cooking healthy meals, and knowing how to keep food safe and budget-friendly.

Food isn't just about eating—it's about enjoying different kinds of food, tasting delicious flavors, and making special memories with family.

Here are some fun things you can do with your kids this summer to help them learn more about food:

- **Kitchen Adventures:** Cook together, try new recipes, and let your kids help with chopping, stirring, and tasting.
- **Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt:** Turn a trip to the grocery store into a game where you look for foods from different groups or colors.
- **Grow Your Own Garden:** Start a small garden and teach your kids about planting, taking care of plants, and harvesting their own veggies.
- **Food Tasting Party:** Have a party where your kids can try new fruits, veggies, cheeses, and talk about how they taste and feel.
- **Cultural Food Tours:** Explore foods from around the world through virtual or real tours, learning about new flavors and cooking styles.
- **Visit a Local Market:** Take a trip to a farmers' market, where your kids can meet the vendors and learn about where food comes from.

These activities not only teach kids about food but also make them love cooking, eating, and discovering new foods!



### Educational Resources

#### Welcome to Kindergarten – Public Health Resources

When children are starting kindergarten it is important that that parents are aware of the following information regarding:

- Childhood [immunizations](#) and vaccines required for school
- [Oral health](#)
- [Vision health and eye exams](#)
- Hand hygiene

- Sleep
- Nutrition

This video is available with additional information for parents. [Welcome to Kindergarten video!](#)

Public Health Nurses are available to attend 'Welcome to Kindergarten' events, schools call 905-688-8248 ext. 7379 or email [healthyschools@niagararegion.ca](mailto:healthyschools@niagararegion.ca) to schedule a nurse at an upcoming event.

### OPHEA – Outdoor Education Toolkit

With the beautiful weather quickly approaching [Outdoor Education Toolkit](#) was developed to enrich and promote a culture of safety-mindedness, increase teacher awareness, confidence, and preparedness to teach outdoor education safety and risk management, and increase student awareness, confidence, and preparedness about outdoor education safety and risk management.

### Blue the Butterfly Pedestrian Safety

Thinking about a walk to school event with the warmer weather? Consider using the Blue the Butterfly Pedestrian Safety video to support your event. [CLICK HERE](#)

Blue's tips include:

- Walking to school reduces cars on the street which is good for safety and the environment, and walking in groups can be fun.
- Before you start walking, check the weather and dress properly.
- Walk where motorists expect to see you, like on a sidewalk or pathway.
- Stay alert, pay attention and listen for traffic.
- Use your pointer finger to express your intention to cross a street to motorists and obey the traffic signals.
- Show everyone respect while walking, including to fellow pedestrians and property.

Remember, most students who travel to school on the bus are pedestrians on their journey to the bus stop and can benefit from watching this video too! Visit [Pedestrian Safety Program for Primary Grades \(nsts.ca\)](#)

The Niagara Catholic EarlyON Child and Family Centres and Early Years Team are hosting our second annual FAM JAM Community Event for all families with young children Infants to Grade 2 and newcomer families. FAM JAM will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the MacBain Community Centre, 7150 Montrose Rd, Niagara Falls. FAM JAM is a free, fun-filled morning of activities for families to enjoy with their young children. There will be EarlyON outdoor play program, book giveaways, StoryWalk, Mobile Closet free shopping, face painting, community resources, and refreshments. Various community partners will be participating in this event to provide information and resources for all families and newcomer families. Some partners include - Mobile Closet, Niagara Falls Public Library, Niagara Region Public Health – Niagara Parents, Niagara Firefighters Association and services available to newcomer families.