



St. Alexander – Newsletter



26 Hwy 20 E,
Fonthill,
ON, L0S 1E0
905-892-3841

Principal: Mr. M. Venzon
Vice Principal: Mrs. C. Pozzobon
Superintendent: Ms. Kim Kinney
Parish Priest: Fr. Paul MacNeil

*St. Alexander Catholic Elementary is proud to be part
of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools*

JUNE 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Called by Name: "Hear My Voice"

Have you ever tried talking to someone in another room? It can be difficult to hear what the other person is saying because of all the walls and obstacles in the way. Sometimes we put obstacles up that make it hard for us to hear God's voice. God never moves away from us, but we can turn away from Him. Even still, God is never far from us. He loves us and wants to lead us back home. One of God's ways of removing these obstacles is by forgiving us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The words we hear from the priest are the words of Jesus: "I absolve you of your sins." Let us give thanks to God for His mercy and take advantage of this great gift of God's forgiveness.

Another school year has come and is almost gone... Farewell to our Grade 8 Graduates! The Graduation will take place at St. Alexander Parish on Monday, June 24th at 5:30pm. We wish you all of God's blessings on the next step of your journey in Secondary Education.

Thank you to our Catholic School Council Chair Kristin De Divitiis, and to all of our Catholic School Council members for your dedication throughout the school year. Thank you also to the staff of St. Alexander for all that you have done, and continue to do for the students. One last thank you to Fr. Paul for continuing to be our spiritual leader throughout the school year, and for being consistently present each morning in our school for all of our students and staff.

On behalf of the St. Alexander Staff, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely

Mr. M. Venzon

CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024-25

All information pertaining to class placements will not be available until late August or early September.

Combined (split) classes are a reality. They are a result of having too many students for one class and not enough for two. Sometimes combined classes are chosen as the most appropriate classroom organization for program delivery. There will be combined/split classes this September.

Please be aware that staff spend many hours compiling class lists and we do our best to ensure every child is placed in the most appropriate class. As you can appreciate, it is not an easy process. Thank you for your understanding and support. Please do not approach teachers with your requests.

Students will find out who their teachers are in late August or early September. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

It is still not too late to register your child for KINDERGARTEN (age 4 as of December 31, 2024) for the September 2024-25 school year. We encourage all families to register as soon as possible. This helps to ensure proper staffing is in place for the new school year. Please share this information with any friends, family and/or neighbours who have a child that is ready to start school in September 2024.

For registration, you are reminded to bring in the child(ren)'s: Birth Certificate; Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate and/or Baptismal Certificate of the child(ren)'s parents Proof of Residence within school boundaries; for example, a utility bill. If applicable, original Landed Immigrant/Permanent Residence documentation, and the passport of the country of origin, indicating the date of entry into Canada.

END OF THE YEAR SCHOOL MASS

All parents and guardians are invited to our end of the school year mass that will be led by Fr. Paul on Wednesday, June 12th at 10:00am at St. Alexander Parish. We hope to see you there!

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMUNITY BBQ GATHERING

The Knights of Columbus will be assisting us with hosting a year-end family get together and BBQ here at St. Alexander School on Tuesday, June 18th from 4:00 - 7:00pm. We will have burgers, hotdogs and refreshments for everyone. More details will be sent as we approach the BBQ!

Our hope is that families and staff members will gather, and kids can play and have fun together. We hope to see everyone there!!!

We are excited to announce that during our school barbecue on June 18th, we will be holding a raffle featuring themed baskets! To create these baskets, each class has been assigned a specific theme and we kindly ask for your donations to help make them wonderful. Please see the list of items that was emailed, needed for each themed basket. We will be accepting donations until June 12th. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions to this fun and community-building event!

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

The Grade 8 Graduation Liturgy and Diplomas / Awards Ceremony will take place at St. Alexander Parish on Monday, June 24th at 5:30pm.

We would like to wish all of our Grade 8 Graduates prayers and blessings as they finish off the school year and head to their next adventure in high school!

PA DAYS

There are two PA Days in June. The first day is Friday June 7th and the second is Friday June 28th. There is no school for students on these days.

The last day of school for students is Thursday June 27th!

We look forward to seeing everyone back at St. Alexander on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024!

REPORT CARDS

Final report cards will be available the week of June 24th, 2024 in the Parent Portal.

CONFIRMATION

Our Grade 8 students received the sacrament of Confirmation on May 9th. The students demonstrated that they were very well prepared to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Congratulations to the grade 8 students!

A very special thank you to Mr. Mari, Mrs. Letourneau, Mrs. Colangelo, Mrs. Stevenson and Fr. Paul for helping the students prepare along the way!

PURSE BINGO SUCCESS!

A huge thank you to our Catholic School Council Members, to Amici's Banquet and Conference Centre, and to all that came out for our first ever Purse Bingo in May! We raised over \$6200 for the students at St. Alexander and had a fun time doing it!

The night was a huge success and we are grateful for everyone that put so much effort into making this happen!

BALANCED DAY – STARTING SEPTEMBER 2024

St. Alexander Catholic Elementary will be moving to a Balanced Day Schedule for the 2024-25 school year.

The balanced day consists of 300 minutes of instruction, just like a regular school day. The difference is in how the 300 minutes are divided.

With the balanced/alternative school day, students have two (40 minute) breaks, each consisting of a nutrition portion and outdoor play. Traditional school schedules consist of two 15 minute breaks and a 40 minute lunch.

Please see the schedule below that will give you more information about the balanced day, as well as the information attached that includes tips for packing your child's meals for the 2 eating periods.

School time adjustment / transportation

Each year, Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) reviews efficiencies in transportation services for eligible students.

This collaboration is done in cooperation with both boards served by NSTS.

The review for the 2024-2025 school year is now complete. We are sharing this information to advise you of a change in bell times at St. Alexander to allow you as much time as possible to plan for the change.

Beginning in September 2024 we will have a change to the start and the end of the day (10 minute increase), with the bell times as follows:

Start of day 8:30am (previously 8:35am)

Dismissal - End of day 2:50pm (previously 2:45pm)

Please note that these bell time changes will impact bus pickup and drop-off times. This will be communicated by 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.

Here are the times that correspond to our new daily schedule:

8:15-8:30 a.m. - Morning supervision will begin (when students can be dropped off)

8:30 a.m. - Entry Bell **(Start of day - new for September!!)**

8:30-8:40 a.m. - National Anthem / Prayers / Announcements

8:40 - 10:40 a.m. - Instructional block #1

10:40 - 11:20 a.m. AM Nutrition Break

- 10:40 - 11:00: K - Gr. 3/4 Outside (Recess), Gr. 4 - 8 Inside Eating
- 11:00 - 11:20: K- Gr. 3/4 Inside Eating; Gr. 4 - 8 Outside (Recess)

11:20 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. - Instructional block #2

12:40 - 1:20 p.m. PM Nutrition Break

- 12:40 - 1:00: K - Gr. 3/4 Outside (Recess), Gr. 4 - 8 Inside Eating
- 1:00 - 1:20: K- Gr. 3/4 Inside Eating; Gr. 4 - 8 Outside (Recess)

1:20 - 2:40 p.m. - Instructional block #3

2:40-2:50 p.m. Closing Exercises / Prayer

2:50 p.m. Dismissal Bell

Please see the attached file that provides further information as well as some tips / suggestions for how to prepare & pack for the Nutrition breaks.

Feel free to contact me at St. Alexander to ask any questions or to discuss (905) 892-3841.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mr. M. Venzon
Principal



SUMMER SCHOOL 2024
INTERNATIONAL AND
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES
ELEMENTARY ALL CLASSES IN PERSON

JULY 2-26
9:30AM - NOON



*Study language,
 cultural heritage, and traditions!*

**ST. CATHARINES
 HOLY CROSS**

Catholic Secondary School

- RUSSIAN
- UKRANIAN (PM)
- SPANISH
- ARABIC
- ITALIAN

**GRIMSBY
 BLESSED TRINITY**

Catholic Secondary School

- SPANISH
- POLISH

**NIAGARA FALLS
 SAINT MICHAEL**

- ARABIC
- CHINESE
- GUJARATI
- HINDI (PM)
- ITALIAN
- JAPANESE
- PUNJABI
- SPANISH
- URDU (PM)

NOTES:

- IILE Program is only available to students who are currently enrolled in Grades JK-8
- Students must have an Ontario Education Number (OEN) to register for this program
- AM classes are filled on a "First Come" basis • PM classed for some languages "may" be formed if required



Register online at www.summerschoolniagara.ca

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

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!