



# September 2024

## St. Kevin Catholic School



**Principal:** Mr. G. Marchio      **Superintendent:** Mrs. Kim Kinney  
**Parish Priests:** Rev. Jinto Puthiyidathuchalil, CSC, Fr. Arockia Sunil Josaphath, CSC  
 182 Aqueduct Street, Welland, ON, L3C 1C4  
 905-734-7709

### Welcome Back 😊

Welcome Back! The staff of St. Kevin Catholic School extends a sincere welcome to everyone in the St. Kevin community. We especially want to offer a warm welcome to those who are new to the school, whether from another school, or coming to school for the first time.

As your principal, I wish to express my continued commitment to you and to the staff of the St. Kevin Catholic School community, to work with you and our staff in providing the best possible Catholic Education for your children. I look forward to meeting you and am confident that together we will enhance the already established best practices and traditions of excellence very much embedded in the St. Kevin School history. I hope to build on the partnerships within the community with home, school and church, in providing our children with a solid foundation for growth in their spiritual, emotional, academic and physical lives.

The staff at St. Kevin has been diligently and enthusiastically preparing for what will prove to be I'm sure, another successful and productive school year. As partners, we want to provide the best opportunities for our students to learn and broaden their knowledge base. By continuing to create a positive school climate, making sure there is communication between home, school and parish; and making sure that our school discipline is firm, fair and consistent, we will create a fantastic learning environment for all our students. Together, we are building a community based on the gospel values. We hope through the words and actions, others will see God's loving presence in the world. As a community of Christian believers, we ask God's blessing on all our students and their families, our staff and all who are within our community.

G. Marchio  
Principal

### St. Kevin Catholic School Staff 2024-2025



Kindergarten:	Mrs. Casasanta Mrs. Raso Ms. Celetti Mrs. Hamann/ Mrs. Fraser Mrs. Swayze (ECE)	Grade 7:	Mr. Maletta
Grade 1:	Mrs. Maletta	Grade 7/8:	Mrs. Buccione
Grade 1/2:	Mrs. McLaughlin	Grade 8:	Mrs. Caporicci
Grade 2:	Mrs. Mascio	ERT:	Mr. Gallo
Grade 3:	Mrs. Hale	FSL:	TBA, Mme. Mann
Grade 3/4:	Mrs. Matyas	PTM:	Mr. Hale
Grade 4:	Mrs. Joyce	Librarian:	Mr. Schuler
Grade 5:	Mr. Watson	EA:	Mrs. Langelaan, Mrs. White Mrs. Geremia, Mrs. Lustri, Mrs. Fasan
Grade 5:	Mrs. Sweitzer	CYW:	Mrs. Perron, Mrs. Armenti-Sadonnoja
Grade 6:	Mr. Sorella	Caretakers:	Mr. Yakubowski, Mr. Doucet
Grade 6:	Mrs. Stock	Secretary:	Mrs. Coatsworth
		Principal:	Mr. Marchio



### ~~~ Mission Statement ~~~

*"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."*

## Prayer for a New School Year

Dear Jesus,

At the beginning of this new school year, teach us to be your hands and your feet where we are; teach us to love as you love us; At the beginning of this new school year, help us to know and live our FAITH, so that You may be honoured and glorified through our actions, words, thoughts and deeds.



Amen



**OPENING SCHOOL MASS: SEPT. 17 – 10:00 A.M.**

**St. Kevin Church**

## St. Kevin Newsletters & Calendars 2024-2025

In accordance with board communications and our ECO school initiative, starting the month of September, monthly newsletters will be available on the board website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca)

CLICK ON schools / elementary / St. Kevin Catholic/ newsletter. Please ensure your email address is listed on the Student Information form. This will enable us to forward the newsletter and calendar containing valuable information and updates regarding school activities, issues and information directly to your homes via email as well.

Thank you for your co-operation with this initiative.

## \*\*\*School Day Schedule (NEW)\*\*\*

8:20 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Staff on Morning Duty

8:30 a.m. Morning Bell Rings

10:00 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. Nutrition Break #1  
(20 min indoor/20 min Outdoor)

12:40 to 1:20p.m. Nutrition Break #2  
(20 min indoor/20 min Outdoor)

2:50 p.m. Dismissal

## School Cash Online

Parents are asked to sign up for our convenient payment program - **SCHOOLCASHONLINE**. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school. **To register, please go to:** <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com>. This year for any school activities or events that require a payment I am asking that no money be sent to the school and to please use "School Cash" as the method of payment. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

School  
Cash  
Online

## Student Supervision

- Please note all academic periods are 40 minutes in length based on a 5 day cycle.
- All students are supervised during recess and lunch periods.
- Morning supervision begins at the arrival of the first bus which is 8:20 a.m. and concludes with bus supervision at 2:50 p.m.
- We ask parents not to drop off students at the school before supervision begins. **Please arrive no earlier than 8:20 a.m.**
- If the student arrives after the 8:30 a.m. bell, they are to ring the bell at the front door to be allowed to enter.



## Safe Arrival

Please use one of the following options:

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 that in the Settings area of the app.
3. *The current toll-free number 844-287-6287 will still allow you to report your child absent.*

**\*\* If you do not report your child absent the system will continue to call you until you confirm. The best way to ensure the system does not call you constantly is to report the absence in advance or confirm on the first system call. Thank you for your cooperation with this!! \*\***

### Visitors at St. Kevin

I would like to thank everyone in advance for their patience and understanding. We at St. Kevin are going to need your cooperation in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

If you need to pick up your child please inform the office prior to doing so. This is important for student safety. Thank you for your co-operation in communicating with our staff.

If it is absolutely essential that a parent/guardian drop something off for their child(ren), ring the bell at the front entrance and wait for assistance. Our office staff will be ready to assist you.



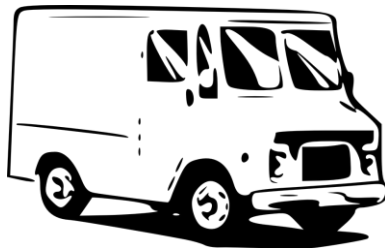
### Construction at St. Kevin

Every year the Niagara Catholic District School board invests in improving each individual school. This year our school will be receiving renovations to our washrooms. As the improvements are happening the primary/junior washrooms will be closed to students for at least the beginning of the school year. Alternate washrooms in the school will be available for student use. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work through making our school a better place!



### Back to School Food Truck & Meet the Teacher Night – September 26, 2024 3:30 – 6:30p.m.

As we approach the beginning of a new school year we would like to invite families to our back to school food truck and meet the teacher night. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for organizing the evening for our families. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 26<sup>th</sup>!



### National Day of Truth & Reconciliation – September 30, 2024 (Orange Shirt Day)

**Orange Shirt Day** is the story of Phyllis Webstad, an Indigenous woman who shared her experience at an Indian Residential School through the children's book, *The Orange Shirt Story*. By participating in Orange Shirt Day, we recognize the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential School system in Canada. The first time Orange shirt day was recognized in Canada was September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Since that time **Orange Shirt Day** has grown into a national awareness among schools, businesses, and communities.

In June 2021, the Federal Government of Canada designated September 30<sup>th</sup> as the **National Day for Truth & Reconciliation**. While this addresses Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliations *94 Calls to Action*, it coincides with an established day that was created by Survivors of Indian Residential Schools. Students will recognize this day and wear ORANGE on **September 30<sup>th</sup>!**



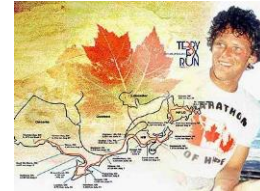
### **School Photo Day**

St. Kevin students will have their pictures taken on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Retakes are scheduled for Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in case you miss the original date. Please bring those wonderful smiles!!



### **Terry Fox Walk**

The annual Terry Fox Walk has become a classic Canadian tradition every fall at St. Kevin School as we come together as a community to fundraise for cancer research. We will wear red and white and walk to support cancer research on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>!



### **Anaphylaxis**

At St. Kevin Catholic School, we continue to have several students with Anaphylaxis – a severe life threatening condition caused by an allergic reaction to certain food products (i.e.) PEANUTS, dairy, medications, latex products, inhalers and insect stings from bees or wasps. Residue on any material that has been touched by hands that have not been properly washed may also trigger a severe allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis requires immediate first aid (Epipen) and immediate medical intervention.

Classroom teachers who have children with Anaphylaxis are working hard to prevent accidental exposure to products that trigger life-threatening reactions. We will also be forwarding home a letter informing all parents of the presence of an anaphylactic child in the school and requesting that all parents co-operate by not sending to their classroom specific foods for lunch or snacks that could trigger a life threatening reaction for the Anaphylactic student.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and co-operation regarding this life threatening matter.

### **Insurance Forms**

Early in the school year a Student Accident Insurance Policy form will be sent to you via email. If you choose to take out insurance for your child(ren), please return the form by mail directly to the Insurance Company.

### **Lockers/Shared Spaces**

Students will be able to use the lockers in the school. Shared spaces such as the Library (when complete) and Gym will be in full use.

Shared materials/equipment will be permitted. Staff will remind students of the importance of hand hygiene after using shared materials, particularly when shared materials cannot regularly be cleaned. Students are permitted to bring equipment from home to use at recess.

### **Catholic School Council**

Welcome Back St. Kevin Catholic families! I have been informed that the St. Kevin Catholic School Council is always busy planning and organizing for all the things that make St. Kevin Catholic School so special. Our first meeting will be an in person meeting on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. At our first meeting we will be electing a Council Chair-person, as well as our Parent Reps.

### **Bikes, Skateboards, Scooters Safety**

As we have been having wonderful weather this year, children will be enjoying the opportunity to ride their bikes/scooter/skateboard to school. **Please remind your child to always walk their bike or scooter on school property.** Students are required to wear helmets and are encouraged to lock their bikes while on school property. Any bike/scooter/skateboard will not be stored inside the school. Students must use the bike rack outside. Please remember to lock your belongings.

### **Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee** **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is a regional body of representative stakeholders that supports the Mission of Catholic Education and the Mission of the Niagara Catholic District School board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees.

*For more information, about the NCPIC please visit our website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca)*



## Standardized Dress Code

A friendly reminder that, all schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board, follow a standardized dress code. Simplified, the dress code requires students to wear a white or navy shirt with a collar and navy bottoms - pants, shorts or skirts. For specific requirements, please visit Niagara Catholic's website ([click here](#)) or contact St. Kevin Catholic with any questions. It is our goal to work with you, and to support and alleviate any concerns you may have.

Students may wear St. Kevin Catholic School Spirit Wear! Samples of items are located on Big Bear Spirit Wear website (<https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/>) Click schools, then elementary spirit wear for your viewing. Please also refer to the flyer at the end of the newsletter

### Ryan's Law - Asthma Friendly Schools

Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) is an important step to support the health and well-being of students diagnosed with asthma in Ontario schools. During the past school year the Niagara Catholic District School Board has created an Asthma Policy. If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, please contact the school office to provide information about your child's asthma medication. You will be required to complete and submit the Niagara Catholic Student Asthma management Plan for your child. Any student under the age of 16 years will be permitted to carry and administer his/her asthma medication at school with your consent. A student 16 years or older is not required to have his/her parent's or guardian's permission to carry the asthma medication.

The Ministry of Education website has resources on asthma that can be found at

<http://www.edu.govon.ca/eng/healthyschools/anaphylaxis.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 905-734-7709.

### Heart Healthy School

St. Kevin Catholic School has been a Heart Healthy School for several years. Our students are learning a lot about how to be healthy and fit. Heart Healthy schools focus on working with parents and children to learn more about healthy lifestyles and to make changes that will support healthy hearts now and in the future. We're planning to continue our focus on fitness activities, healthy snacks and lunch foods and a commitment to no smoking. If our children can learn now how to keep themselves healthy and can begin to practice the life strategies to keep them healthy, they will have a much stronger chance of living a long and healthy life. We hope you will support our efforts to become even more heart healthy. Encourage active, outdoor play instead of computer games and TV shows. For snacks, send fruits, vegetables, grains and yogurt or cheese, instead of pop and chips. Together we hope to improve the health of our children now and for a lifetime.



### Medic Alert's No Child Without Program is at St. Kevin Catholic School

The *No Child Without* program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend St. Kevin Catholic School and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership;

Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet

Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.

Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**

Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca). To register your child you will need a *No Child Without* brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the *No Child Without* program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.

## **Bus Safety**

At the Stop	Be 5 to 10 minutes early, and stand on the inside of the sidewalk/ shoulder away from the roadway.
When the Bus Arrives	Line up in a straight line, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open, and never touch the outside of the bus.
Getting on the Bus	Get on the bus one at a time, hold the handrail as you climb the stairs, and go directly to your seat and get settled.
Riding on the Bus	Sit with your back to back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap, and use your quiet speaking voice so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving.
Getting off the Bus	Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop, only get off the bus at your school or at your bus stop, look for your parent/ guardian before you get off the bus if that is your routine, and always tell the bus driver if you do not see your parent/ guardian at the bus stop waiting for you if that is your routine or if you missed the stop.
Crossing in Front of the Bus	Watch and wait for the bus driver to signal to you to cross the road once it is safe to do so.

## **Rowan's Law Day – September 25, 2024**

The last Wednesday in September every year is Rowan's Law Day (#RowansLawDay) – a day to engage students, staff, coaches, and parents/guardians in activities that increase awareness about concussions and to share Rowan Stringer's story.

Rowan Stringer loved rugby. A competitive and keen athlete, she was captain of her high school's team. Tragically, in May 2013, 17-year old Rowan died as the result of head injuries she sustained while playing rugby. In the week before her last game, Rowan was hit twice while playing, likely sustaining a concussion after each blow. Her concussions went unreported, and she continued to play. Rowan suspected something wasn't right—she texted a friend about her condition and used Google to search for information about concussions. When she was hit again in her final game, Rowan suffered what is known as Second Impact Syndrome—catastrophic swelling caused by a second injury to a brain still healing from previous trauma. Rowan collapsed on the field on May 8, 2013, and died four days later.

## **UNDERSTANDING CHANGES COMING TO ALL SCHOOLS**

Earlier this spring, the Ministry of Education issued new requirements for school boards to follow to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in our schools.

The revised PPM 128 addresses issues including the use of cell phones and vaping. PPM 170 outlines the Ministry of Education's expectations for communication between home and school.

All Niagara Catholic schools will follow these Ministry of Education directives.

## **CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS**

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

## **CIGARETTES, VAPING, OR NICOTINE, CANNABIS, OR ALCOHOL USE AT SCHOOL**

Another measure coming into effect in September to protect the health and well-being of students is the installation of sensors to detect vaping in schools.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act bans the use of any tobacco, nicotine, or e-cigarette (vape) on school property. The changes to PPM 128 strengthen the enforcement of consequences for students who use or share cigarettes or other tobacco products, nicotine products, e-cigarettes (vapes) at school.

Anyone under the age of 19 is prohibited from buying or possessing alcohol or cannabis. These substances, and any illegal drug, are prohibited on school property.

The new rules require school boards to develop a policy to handle any prohibited items that are surrendered, if one does not exist already. The policy must comply with federal and provincial regulations.

To ensure compliance with the provincial regulations Niagara Catholic's Facilities Services team will install equipment to detect the use of cigarettes or e-cigarettes in schools this year.

These expectations are outlined in the Board's Electronic Communications Systems Administrative Operating Procedures for students, and the Board's Code of Conduct AOP.

We ask parents to please speak to your children about these new provincial rules and support your child's teacher(s) and principal in enforcing them.

### **QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR COMPLAINTS: UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS**

Finally, the Ministry of Education has given school boards new requirements on how we communicate with parents who have questions, concerns, or complaints.

This new guidance builds upon our established practice for resolving issues, including giving parents a timeline for a response. This is outlined in the process below. This information will also be shared on the Parents section of the Board website and school websites in time for the start of the new school year.

Niagara Catholic's Multi-Year Strategic Plan prioritizes transparency in communication with families and stakeholders as a key priority. Our Complaints Resolution Policy, first passed in April 1998, addresses the steps families must take to resolve an issue at their child's school. PPM 170 ensures commitments the provincial government made in Your child's education: A parent guide to our school system are fully addressed.

Parents/guardians should expect a response to a concern or complaint within two business days. If an inquiry needs more time, you will be given an estimated time for a detailed response at the end the second day.

If you have a question about a classroom-related matter, such as curriculum, homework, classroom behavior, or specific incidents, please contact your child's teacher.

If you cannot resolve the issue at the classroom level and/or have a question about school procedures, extracurricular activities, or safety concerns, please contact the school's vice-principal or principal.

For issues unresolved at the school level or issues related to Niagara Catholic policies, procedures, resource allocation, or other concerns, please contact the Superintendent of Education assigned to your child's school.

In keeping with the Board's commitment to accessibility, parents and guardians have a right to expect information will be delivered in clear, easy-to-understand language.

### **RESPECTFUL INTERACTION AT ST. KEVIN**

St. Kevin is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community. Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated. While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

# St. Kevin Spirit Wear

## 50/50 Full-Over Hooded Sweatshirt 13.5 oz.

Printed Full-Size CELTIC Cross Logo on front



Youth #185 008 \$31.00  
Adult #185 000 \$32.00

\*Add \$3.00 for 2XL G  
Add \$4.00 for 3XL & 4XL  
Price includes Tax

Adult Sizes  
XSm Sm Med LG XLG 2XLG 3XLG 4XLG

Embroidered with CELTIC Cross Logo on left chest

## Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt

Youth Sizes  
Sm Med LG XLG

Ladies' Sizes  
XSm Sm Med LG XLG 2XLG 3XLG

Adult Sizes  
XSm Sm Med LG XLG 2XLG 3XLG 4XLG



Youth #88181Y \$27.70

Ladies' #78181 \$27.70

Adult #88181 \$27.70

Same Price for all Sizes  
Price includes Tax

Available Colours: White & Navy

## Gildan 50/50 Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt 13.5 oz.

Embroidered with CELTICS Cross Logo on left chest



Youth #186008 \$34.00  
Adult #186000 \$35.00

\* Add \$3.00 for 2XLG  
Add \$4.00 for 3XL & 4XL  
Price includes Tax

Youth Sizes  
XSm Sm Med LG XLG  
Adult Sizes  
Sm Med LG XLG 2XLG 3XLG 4XLG

## ATC 100% Polyester Dri-Fit Short Sleeve T-Shirt

Printed on Front & Back as Shown

Athletic wear and Designated Spiritwear Days only. This is not an allowable Dress Code item.



Youth #Y350 \$26.00  
Adult #A350 \$27.00

\* Add \$3.00 for 2XLG  
Price includes Tax

Youth Sizes  
XSm Sm Med LG XLG  
Adult Sizes  
XSm Sm Med LG XLG 2XLG 3XLG 4XLG

## Gildan DryBlend 9.4 oz. 50/50 Jersey Polo

Embroidered with CELTIC Cross logo on left chest

Available Colours: White, Navy, & Kelly Green



Youth Sizes  
Sm Med LG XLG

Adult Sizes  
Sm Med LG XLG 2XLG 3XLG 4XLG

Youth #88008 \$15.00

Adult #88000 \$16.00

\*Add \$3.00 for 2XLG  
Add \$4.00 for 3XL & 4XL  
Price includes Tax

## 100% Acrylic Roll-Down Togue (No Cuff)

Embroidered with St. Kevin's Green Shamrock

See the 186 AD



Light Pink



Black

#4244 \$11.30

Price includes Tax

## Ball Cap

Embroidered CELTICS Text Logo on Front & Green Shamrock on Back as shown.



ATC Brand Adult #A130 \$26.90  
Youth #Y130 \$26.90

Price includes Tax

Black Adjustable



Front of Hat Embroidery



Back of Hat Embroidery

Printed with 1-Colour St. Kevin's Shamrock Logo on Left Leg

Athletic wear and Designated Spiritwear Days only. This is not an allowable Dress Code item.



Navy Only

Youth #Y3525 \$22.50

Adult #A3525 \$22.50

\* Add \$3.00 for 2XLG  
Price includes Tax

Youth Sizes  
Sm Med LG XLG

Adult Sizes  
XSm Sm Med LG XLG 2XLG

Order On-Line at [www.bigbearspiritwear.com](http://www.bigbearspiritwear.com)

No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Customized Products

Print or Embroidery Design subject to change | Product brands may be substituted

Sizing Charts available at each product online | Delivery to your School Option Available



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