

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

September 2024 Newsletter



## St. Peter Catholic Elementary School

Principal - Mr. Kevin Lamb

Secretary - Ms. Rita Colling

Catholic School Council Chair - Mrs. Candice Foley

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### Principal

Mr. Kevin Lamb



## Principal's Message

We begin this school year with anticipation and excitement of greater achievements and continued success.

We ask for God's blessing upon us as we begin our journey together.

We hope that your summer was restful, filled with excitement and memorable times together. We extend a very special welcome to

our new kindergarten students and to the new families and students who have moved into our school community.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to our caretaking staff; Mr. Lee and Mrs. Corby, who have worked extremely hard to get our school ready to receive students, the school is in great shape!

We welcome the opportunity to work with families, St. Julia's parish as well as other community groups to provide fulfilling experiences for our students, developing their educational, social and spiritual growth throughout this year. We're all looking forward to a great year together.

Sincerely,  
Mr. K. Lamb  
principal

## Staff List

Mr. K. Lamb – Principal  
Mrs. R. Colling – Secretary  
Mrs. N. Lorenzi – K  
Mrs. D. Warner – ECE  
Ms. L. McIntyre – K  
Mrs. V. Di Felice – Grade 1  
Mrs. M. Dikic - Grade 2  
Ms. T. Verone – Grade 2/3  
Mr. C. Langkamer -Grade 3/4  
Mr. D. Royer – Grade 4/5  
Mrs. J. Marr -Grade 5/6  
Mrs. G. Broadley - Grade 6/7  
Mr. B. Russell– Grade 7/8  
Mrs. T. Welychka Grade 8  
Mme. R. Afonso–FSL  
Mme. J. Millar–FSL  
Mme. R. Pisani -FSL  
Mrs. E. Amadio -ARTS  
Mr. P. Koscis-PTM  
Ms. L D'Addario– ERT  
Ms. J. Carroll – CYW  
Ms. A. Morgan – MLL  
Mrs. T. Saporito– EA  
Ms. R. Baylor – EA  
Ms. M. Pennetta – EA  
Mr. R. Sawyer– EA  
Mrs. S. Minniti – EA  
Mer. R. McCausland- EA  
Mrs. C. Byng–Librarian  
Mr. D. Lee–Caretaker  
Mr. J. Robichaud–Caretaker



**Balanced Day: Remember our new start times and format of the day. School begins at 8:30 a.m. Ten minutes earlier than last year.**

Supervision begins at 8:15 a.m.  
Morning Bell rings at 8:30 a.m.  
Nutrition Break #1 10:40 a.m. - 11: 00 a.m.  
Outside Recess 11:00 a.m. -11-20 am

Nutrition Break #2 12:40 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Outside Recess 1:00p.m. -1:20 p.m.-

Dismissal remains the same at 2:50 p.m.



Supervision begins 15 minutes prior to the morning bell and concludes 10 minutes after dismissal. Outside of these timeframes, there is no schoolyard supervision. Thank you to the many families who ensure that their child(ren) arrive to school during supervised times.

Please note that school begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. Students who arrive after the 8:30 a.m. bell must report to the office for a late slip. Thank you for your continued support.

Arrival of all Kindergarten students will take place in the Kindergarten gated area. Kindergarten students who are bussed, will be met by staff and safely walked from the bus to their gated area upon arrival. The reversal will happen upon dismissal.

All other students upon arrival to school will proceed to the Playground area.

## **PPM 128 Cell Phone Use in Schools**

Dear Parents,

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.

### **\*\*Please Note**

If a teacher sees a cell phone that is not stored out of view, students will be required to hand in their device in for the instructional day. The cell phone will be placed, by the student, in a secure storage area designated by the principal.

School boards are now required to disable access to social media platforms on school networks and board devices. This is intended to limit the number of interruptions in class and to benefit the mental health and well-being of students. Niagara Catholic already blocks access to some social media sites. Now all will be unavailable to students on the board network during the school day.

## **Catholic School Council**

The St. Peter Catholic School Council is an excellent vehicle for parents and community members to become more involved in the school. The CSC acts as an advisory body to the principal and the



school board and performs other important roles in the school such as fundraising and event organization. The council meets approximately four times per year. All parents/guardians may attend council meetings. A member of the community can either nominate parents or self-nominate should they wish to serve on Council in an executive role or member of Council. Please consider volunteering, your efforts will definitely benefit our students. Our first council meeting is September 17th at 6 pm. Please contact the office if you require more information or are interested in attending.



## School Cash Online

School Cash Online is a convenient and secure way to pay for school events for your children. It is easy to register and takes less than 5 minutes! Please go to [niagaracatholic.ca/parents/school-cash-online](http://niagaracatholic.ca/parents/school-cash-online) for information and registration instructions. Registered parents can see their payment history, print receipts and receive email notifications whenever new student fees are posted. Things such as food days, class trips and fundraisers are some examples of items that you can conveniently pay for on School Cash Online, as cash and cheques are not accepted as payment. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

## St. Peter Open House

Be sure to mark **Tuesday, September 24th** on your calendar, as a time to meet as a community and become familiar with your child's classroom. We will be holding an Open House from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for students, parents and staff to get to know each other and then allow parents/guardians to familiarize themselves with the expectations of their child's academic/social program for the current year.

More information to follow!

## Food Days

Our specialty lunches this month are scheduled for September 12th-Subway, 19st-Pizza, and the 26th-Pita Pit. All food items can be purchased using school cash online.



## SCHOOL ENTRY

In compliance with the Safe Schools Act, a security card access system is installed. All entry doors are locked.

Students arriving after the entry bell are considered late and must enter through the main office entrance and receive a late slip.

We ask that you please consider scheduling your child(ren)'s appointments (ie. medical, etc.) before or after school if possible, in order to minimize classroom interruptions. Often times, the same classroom is interrupted several times in one day.

If you must pick up your child for an earlier dismissal – please report to the office. For attendance and safety purposes, you will be asked to sign your child out. We will notify the classroom teacher to send your child to the office. Students will not be dismissed from the classroom for earlier dismissal without notification from the office that the parent is waiting in the office (not in the car). Always send a note to the teacher to inform them when they can expect you.

If you are delivering anything for your child (books, lunch etc.) please label it and leave it at the office and it will be delivered for you. If you let your child know to expect a lunch, he/she can pick it up at the office at the lunch bell.

End of the day dismissal is a very busy time. The safety of all our children is important and we need to monitor people within the school. Adults who are picking up children at the end of the day are not to wait in the halls to meet their children. Please wait for the child(ren) outside of the school at the exit doors. If you must see your child's teacher please wait until the halls have cleared after signing in at the office.

Students are dismissed at the end of the day from their assigned exit doors. For safety reasons, students who do not take the bus are reminded to walk home immediately following dismissal and not remain playing in the yard after school.

Be prepared as a family, make plans for rainy day procedures. Students do not call home to get a ride.

Students who are not regular bus students may not take a bus home to visit a friend after school. Students ***may not*** change the bus they take home to go to another destination.



## National Day For Truth and Reconciliation: Orange Shirt Day-September 30th

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 Orange Shirt Day occurred on September 30th, 2013 as Chief Fred Robbins saw Phyllis' story as a way of bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. 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 30th as the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. While this addresses Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation's 94 Calls to Action, it coincides with an established day that was created by Survivors of Indian Residential Schools. As a Board we can acknowledge the Federal statutory day, but for school and student activities, for the present time, it remains "Orange Shirt Day" as a way of respecting the grass root Indigenous movement.

## NCVLE

### Niagara Catholic Learning Environment (NCVLE):

Families are advised that the [NCVLE](#) will serve as the standard virtual platform for all classes throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Families can access the NCVLE for their child(ren) by clicking on the hyperlink above and selecting the ***'student login'*** option. Students and families are encouraged to click on the hyperlinks below to access and explore the [refresher on accessing the NCVLE](#) prior to the start of school. Please note that classroom teachers will also be spending time reviewing this concept with students during the first few weeks of school. Students and families are also reminded of the importance of accessing assistance through the [student](#) and [parent](#) support hub pages. Families are invited to click the hyperlinks above for direct access.



## Head Lice

Head lice continues to be an ongoing issue, especially in school-aged children.

Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with whether you have clean or dirty hair, or the cleanliness of your home.

Check your child weekly. Look for:

Lice: - adult is 1/8" (1-3 mm.) long

- brown or black or gray

- on or close to the scalp

Eggs: - tiny, dark coloured or white (darker coloured eggs are (Nits) especially likely to be alive)

- oval shape

- glued to hair shaft (especially near to the scalp),

behind ears, back of head and under bangs

If you find lice or nits:

- **Call the school** so a head lice notice can be sent home with classmates.
- Check everyone in the house.
- Talk with your doctor if someone is pregnant, breast-feeding, is under the age of 2 or has asthma, allergies or seizure disorder.
- Treat everyone who has lice on the same day using a head lice product.
- Be sure to follow directions carefully. Do a second treatment as advised.
- Remove all eggs or some may hatch and the problem will continue and spread to others.
- Good lighting and a fine tooth comb are needed.

Vacuum your house and wash clothing and bedding used the last 3 days. Remind your children not to share combs, brushes, hats, head-bands etc.

NRPH - 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 x 7379



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

## School Dress Code

Niagara Catholic has had a standardized dress code in our elementary schools since 2012. It consists of solid navy blue pants, shorts, skirt or blouse, and a solid navy or white top with a collar. We ask all students to follow the dress code. Please do not send your child to school in black or grey clothing or shirts that have Team logos on them. Polka dots, stripes, etc. are also not part of the dress code. If you are having difficulty finding clothing please contact the school directly. Our spirit wear provider is Big Bear Spirit Wear in Niagara Falls who deliver orders to the school. You may want to check the new St. Peter Athletic shorts offered this year. <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/>

## [Big Bear Spiritwear – School Uniforms, Spritwear, Gradhoodies, School Apparel](#)

Big Bear Spiritwear is moving to a new and larger location at 6182 Dixon Street, Niagara Falls, ON, starting September 1st. Orders can be picked up at 6893 Oakwood Drive, Unit 1 until August 31st.

[www.bigbearspiritwear.com](http://www.bigbearspiritwear.com)

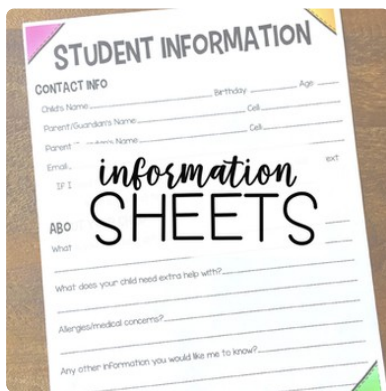
## Picture Day

For your advanced planning our individual school pictures will take place on Monday October 21. A digital flyer will be sent by the company closer to the date.



## Student Information Forms





## **IMPORTANT!**

Each September we send home student information forms in the first few days of school and ask them to be returned with updated information; e.g. address, telephone, email changes. The forms this year will be a distinct orange colour. These forms are critical in making sure we have updated contact information for all students which allows clear communication and helps our safety protocol.

## **School Masses**

To strengthen our faith and meet as a community our students gather several times each year to celebrate the Eucharist. Please check the monthly calendar for the dates and locations of the school masses. Our opening mass will be held on Tuesday, September 12th at 10 am. Parents/guardians/grandparents/family are always welcome to attend. Our opening mass will be held at St. Julia's church. St. Julia's has also scheduled grade-specific masses on certain weekends where St. Peter students will help with different parts of the mass. We hope you are able to join us on these occasions.

## **Visitors To The School**

All visitors / volunteers to our school **MUST** sign in at the office and sign out when leaving. Visitors (including parents) in the halls will be asked by staff to report to the office. We ask for your co-operation with this routine for the safety of all the children.

## **Bus Transportation**

Bus information can be found on the transportation website at [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) or on the NCDSB website at [www.niagararc.com](http://www.niagararc.com). You will need your child's OEN Number (on their report card) and their Date of Birth. We ask for your patience during the first weeks of school as wrinkles will be worked out as soon as possible. <https://www.nsts.ca/bus-zone/back-to-school-transportation>



## **Public Health Reminder**

**It's back to school time again. Is your child's immunization up to date?** The Immunization of School Pupils Act is a law to protect the entire community. Changes have been made to this law to improve the health and safety of Ontario's school children. **To**

**attend school, your child is now required to be immunized for:**

- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)**
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough)**
- **Meningococcal Disease**

**Dose requirements and the time between shots have also been updated for the following:**

- **Tetanus**
- **Diphtheria**
- **Polio**
- **Mumps**

## The requirements for measles and rubella have not changed.

For parents of children under the age of 18,

### REPORT YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION ON TIME!

1. **LOCATE** your child's immunization record. If it is missing, contact your child's family doctor or other health care provider who has immunized your child.
2. Have your doctor **CHECK** your child's immunization record and give any immunizations that are missing or book an appointment at a Niagara Region Public Health immunization clinic.
3. **REPORT** any immunizations your child receives to Public Health.

Contact Public Health at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 or online at

[www.niagararegion.ca/vaccines](http://www.niagararegion.ca/vaccines)

## Terry Fox Walk/Run

On Friday September 27 St. Peter students will be participating in Terry Fox Walk. Donations for the event will be posted on school cash online. Students and staff will be encouraged to wear red shirts or shirts with a Canadian theme.



## Anaphylaxis Alert

As you are aware, the Niagara Catholic District School Board has in place a policy concerning ANAPHYLAXIS – i.e. life-threatening allergies. We have children in our school who suffer extreme allergic reactions to bee stings and certain foods (all nuts and nut products as well as sesame products as well as other foods). Specifically, we have several students in our school who will begin to suffer an extreme reaction by ingesting these products.

Our community is encouraged to be sensitive to the real threat that products containing **nuts and nut** products pose to these children. While there is no Board wide ban on peanuts or peanut butter, we would appreciate your cooperation in not sending peanut products in lunches and snacks with your children. We look for your support in making our school environment safe for all of our children.

## SAFE ARRIVAL/SCHOOL MESSENGER

Please use the Safe Arrival system to report all absences and lates for your child. You can report an absence by:

PHONE - 1-844-287-6287

ONLINE: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

APP: SchoolMessenger



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## FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@st.peterces



**Kevin Lamb**

Kevin is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters