



Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School

Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic Elementary School
333 Rice Road, Welland ON, L3C 2V9 905-735-4471
C. Moscato - Principal F. Wood - Vice Principal
K. Kinney - Superintendent of Schools



Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School Mission Statement

As a community of faith, the mission of Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary School is to work in partnership with the home and the parish to provide a Christ-centered learning environment which allows students to grow spiritually, to strive for academic excellence and to become responsible citizens with a love of learning.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Prayer for September

Father, thank you for the gift of a new school year and all the new memories and growth it will bring. Thank you also for each student and staff member that You have placed here and the unique perspectives and gifts that they bring to our school. Please calm any anxieties we may have entering this new year and help us to extend Your kindness and compassion to each other each and every day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Follow us on Social Media



@kuskaknights

The staff of Alexander Kuska is back and ready to begin a great year! We welcome back our returning families and also extend warmth to the families who are joining us for the first time. We pray that this year will be one of growth - spiritually, mentally, socially and academically. The continued partnership of home, school and church will provide our children with a strong foundation.

We welcome input from all members of our community, so that we can continue to grow in a positive way. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working together to make this a wonderful year!

~~~ Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission Statement ~~~

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



SEPTEMBER 2024



HAPPENINGS

Respectful Interactions at Alexander Kuska

Alexander Kuska is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all to work, learn and assist with our school community. Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward staff, students or community helpers will not be tolerated. While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions, it is the expectation that all staff, students, 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.

NEW Bell Times - 2024/25

****ENTRY BELL - 9:10 am****

Nutrition Break #1

11:20 am - 11:40 - Grade K - 3/4 outside
Grade 4/5 - 8 inside

11:40 am - 12:00 - Grade K - 3/4 inside
Grade 4/5 - 8 outside

Nutrition Break #2

1:20 pm - 1:40 - Grade K - 3/4 outside
Grade 4/5 - 8 inside

1:40 pm - 2:00 - Grade K - 3/4 inside
Grade 4/5 - 8 outside

****DISMISSAL - 3:30 pm****

Morning Supervision

Student safety is our first priority. Please keep the following procedures in mind:

Morning supervision begins at the arrival of the first bus at 8:55 AM. Please do not drop off before 8:55 AM. Remain outside with your child until supervision begins. All students are supervised during nutrition breaks and recess.

So we can accurately track student arrival, if any student arrives after the 9:10 AM bell, they are to ring the doorbell at the front door and check into the office before going to their classroom.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring safety for all of our students.

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but show yourself as a model to those who believe in word, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

- 1 Timothy 4:12 -



September 2024



Happenings

Alexander Kuska Staff

Kindergarten - Mme Gagliardi/Mme Letourneau
Mrs. Dyson/Mrs. Newton
Mrs. Inneo/Mrs. Bassi
Mrs. Fabiano

Grade 1 Mme Root
Mrs. Mullins

Grade 1/2 Mme Carrey
Mr. G. Moccia

Grade 2/3 Mme Purdie
Mrs. Briggs

Grade 3/4 Mme Mantesso
Mrs. Melo

Grade 4/5 Mme Miller
Mrs. K. Moccia

Grade 5/6 Mme Arscott
Mrs. Gallo

Grade 6 Mr. Bernardi

Grade 6/7 M Hart

Grade 7 Mrs. Mater

Grade 7/8 Mr. Fishleigh

Grade 8 Mme Volante
Mr. Naso

Secretaries - Mrs. Demers Ms. Barrett

EA - Mr. Lafortune Mrs. Barbieri Mrs. Koch
Mrs. Richards Mrs. McDougall

Intervenor - Mrs. Studdy

Librarian - Mrs. Bosnich

CYW - Ms. Roesch

Caretakers - Mrs. Grenier
Mrs. Allegro
Mr. Tisi

Music - Mrs. Bartok

ERT - Mr. Raso

PTM - Mr. Brady

P&P/Core English - Mr. Stranges

FSL - Mme Fini

Meet the Teacher & Curriculum Night

Curriculum night will take place on **Thursday September 19, 2024 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** We will have three x 20 minute info sessions in the classrooms. This informative evening provides parents with an opportunity to meet the classroom teacher and learn about the curriculum and classroom expectations. Hope to see you there!



Dress Code & Spirit Wear



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 more info, click [here](#). To order Alexander Kuska spirit wear (Grad hoodies, polo shirts, toques, etc) visit [Big Bear Spirit wear](#) to order.





SEPTEMBER 2024



communication

SafeArrival - Absence Notifications



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

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 a mobile app, a website, or an interactive

toll-free phone line to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This time savings makes it faster and more efficient to account for all students and their safety.

If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will be able to rapidly contact you by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to get a reason for the absence. Calls and contacts will continue until you choose an option to explain the absence.

PLEASE continue to call and advise the school of your child's absences, late arrival or early dismissals by using the mobile app, online <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287.

Extended Absences

You can mark your child absent for a maximum of 6 consecutive days via SafeArrival. If your child will be absent for more than 6 days, please notify the main office.

If your child will be absent for more than 15 consecutive days, you will need to submit notification of the dates in writing to the main office. You may be provided with a Program of Study for your child to work on during their time away.

Payment for Specialty Lunches & Activities

Parents are asked to 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. This system is used to purchase items such as food for speciality lunch days and to pay and grant permission for field trips.

To register, please go to:

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

September Specialty Lunch Days



Wednesday, September 11



Wednesday, September 18



Wednesday, September 25



SEPTEMBER 2024



HEALTH & SAFETY

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.

Riding on the Bus - Sit with your back to the back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap. Younger bus riders should choose a seat closer to the front of the bus. Use a 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. 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. Also, make sure you tell the driver if you missed your 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.



****IF THERE ARE ANY ISSUES ON THE BUS, LET THE BUS DRIVER KNOW RIGHT AWAY****

Emergency Medical Protocols



At Alexander Kuska, 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 fullest potential at school. **** You must have Dr. signed forms if your child requires any medication to be administered 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 during the school day.

Anaphylaxis

At Alexander Kuska, 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, fruit, 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.



Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this life-threatening concern.



SEPTEMBER 2024



coming soon

Catholic School Council

The Alexander Kuska Catholic School Council is already busy planning and getting organized for all the things that make Kuska a great place to be! Our first meeting will be on **Monday, September 23 at 6:00 pm**. At our first meeting, we will be electing a Council Chairperson. There is a place for everyone on the Alexander Kuska Catholic School Council. Get involved, share your ideas and make a difference! Self-nomination forms will be emailed to families in early September.



Terry Fox Walk - On Thursday, September 26, we will be participating in the Terry Fox walk. All students are encouraged to wear red, white or Canada clothing to celebrate this Canadian hero. More info will follow.



Picture day - Lifetouch Images will be at school on Friday, September 27 for picture day! Bring your best smiles!

Truth & Reconciliation day - Students and staff are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on **Monday, September 30, 2024**, in support of Truth and Reconciliation day. We encourage you to order shirts from Pegasus School Images, as all proceeds will be shared between the Orange Shirt Society and Woodland Cultural Centre. The shirts can be ordered [here](#) for \$15.



All orders must be placed by midnight, Monday, September 16 for all shirts to be delivered to schools on time.

Kuska Fall
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 8TH, 2024
4 TO 6 PM

FOOD TRUCKS AND FALL
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL!

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

September 2024

Eyes Ready for the School Year!

Proper vision is important for a student's learning and social development. A full eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist) is the best way to ensure a healthy eyes and good vision.

The Eye See...Eye Learn® program is for students in junior and senior kindergarten to have a full eye exam (covered by OHIP) with a participating optometrist. If a child needs glasses, they will receive a free pair donated by Plastic Plus, Modern Optical Canada and the participating optometrist. For children aged 19 and under, OHIP covers the cost of a complete annual eye exam and any follow-up assessments that may be required.



A yearly eye exam is recommended – [find an eye doctor near you](#).

For more information, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>

Safely Packing Lunches

1. Clean

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before preparing any meal
- Make sure you sanitize countertops, utensils and any lunch boxes or lunch bags
 - For surfaces and lunch boxes/bags: mix 2.5 ml (1/2 tsp) of bleach with 1 L (4 cups) of water.
 - Apply to surface and let stand briefly.
 - Rinse with clean water and air dry or use a clean towel.
- Wash raw fruits and vegetables before eating

2. Keep Cold Food Cold

- Meat, chicken, seafood, eggs, and dairy products must stay cold to stay safe. Use frozen packs to keep food at or below 4°C (40 F).
- Use an insulated lunch bag and place freezer packs between foods that need to stay cold. Refrigerate the night before to get your lunch bag off to a cool start.

3. Keep Hot Food Hot

- Hot food must stay hot at above 60°C (140°F). Use insulated containers and keep them closed until ready to eat or take your food cold and reheat it



For more information visit

https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/food-safety/default.aspx

Grade 7 Immunization Campaign

Niagara Region Public Health's school-based vaccination clinics will begin in September for the following publicly funded [routine school vaccinations](#):

- Meningococcal
 - Single dose
 - [Required for school attendance](#) under the Immunization of School Pupils Act
- Hepatitis B (HB)
 - 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
 - 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history



Parents/legal guardians of grade 7 students will receive an information package and instructions on how to submit their completed consent form. Parents/legal guardians must complete the consent form whether their child is receiving **all**, **some**, or **none** of the vaccines. More information will be provided through your child's school.

Active School Travel

Back to school means restarting morning drop off and afternoon pick up routines. This year take the stress out of driving and consider active school travel instead! Active school travel is any mode of transportation that is powered by humans – walking, biking, and scootering for example. There are several benefits of active school travel for your children:



- More people walking means fewer cars and cleaner air around the school
- Kids who walk, bike, or roll to school arrive alert and ready to learn
- Active transportation to school counts towards daily physical activity needs for your children
 - And much more!

To help build confidence and participate in active transportation safely, consider reviewing the resources below:

- [Blue the Butterfly](#) – a pedestrian safety video for families
- [Cycle Safety Virtual Bike Rodeo](#) – education and training for safe cycling featuring skills like putting on a helmet, using hand signals, and doing shoulder checks