

St. Andrew Catholic School

November 2024

School Information

Principal: Mrs. M. Ruggi Dietsch

Superintendent of Education: Mrs. K. Kinney

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/standrew/>

Instagram: @standrewjags16

Location: 16 St. Andrew Street Welland L3B 1E1

Phone: 905-732-5663

Principal Message

Lest We Forget

REMEMBRANCE
DAY



November is often recognized as the month of Remembrance, a time to honour and pay tribute to those who have made sacrifices for our freedom and peace. On November 1st, we observe All Saints' Day, a day to remember and celebrate the lives of Saints. This is followed by All Souls' Day on November 2nd, where we remember and pray for all the souls of the departed. Additionally, November is a period of reflection and recognition for our Indigenous communities. Treaty Recognition Week, observed from November 4th to 8th, provides an opportunity to learn about and acknowledge the treaties and agreements that shape our nation. On November 7th, we celebrate International Inuit Day, honouring the rich culture, heritage, and contributions of the Inuit people. On November 8th, we mark Indigenous Veterans Day, showing our gratitude and respect for the Indigenous individuals who have served in the First and Second World Wars. Finally, on November 11th we commemorate Remembrance Day, to acknowledge the courage and sacrifices of those who fought and continue to fight for peace. Lest we forget.

Mrs. Ruggi Dietsch

God of Love and Justice,
today we remember all men and women who died in defense of
out country and its freedom.
Help us to honour their sacrifice
through out prayer and actions for peace in our world.
Send your Spirit to help us to let go of misunderstandings,
hatred and prejudice
so that we may grow together as one family.
Guide our steps in the way of peace
we ask this prayer through Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Author Unknown

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be published in the Niagara Catholic Parent Portal on Tuesday, November 12th. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in person on Thursday, November 21st from 4:00 pm -7:00 pm



To book an appointment with your child(rens) teachers, please use the online booking tool below:

<https://standrew.schoolappointments.com/>

This booking tool will be open from November 2 to November 20 at 9:00 am.



School Appointments – Parent Instructions

1. Go to our school appointments web site for your school.
<https://standrew.schoolappointments.com>
2. Register for an account by clicking the "**REGISTER**" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "**Register Now**" button.
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "**Add a Student**" button. Click the "**Insert New**" button to add more children.
4. Click the "**date**" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with and the "**View Calendars**" button. Use the "**Ctrl**" or "**Command**" key to select multiple staff to view at the same time. 
5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments to make your bookings. 

PICTURE RETAKES



Edge Photography will be in on November 12th to retake photographs of students that were either absent on October 16th or that parents have requested another photograph taken.

First Communion Inscription Mass

There will be a First Communion Mass at St. Andrew Church on Sunday, November 24th at 11:00 AM. Please ensure that you attend this Mass if you wish to have your child participate in First Holy Communion. If you have not yet returned your Registration Package please do so before Friday, November 8th.



Grade 8 Confirmation Meeting



There will be a Grade 8 Confirmation Meeting on Monday, November 18 at 6:00 PM in the School Library. If you wish to have your child receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please attend the mandatory meeting.

St. Andrew Catholic School Council

There will be a St. Andrew Catholic School Council meeting on Tuesday, November 26th at 6:00 pm in our school library. All are welcome.

Halloween Dance a Thon - Thank you!

Thank you to our St. Andrew Catholic School Council and the Student Council, Mrs. Ciccone and Mrs. Levert for organizing our Halloween Dance a Thon. Our students had a great time! Thank you for purchasing glow items, snacks and making donations for a chance to win our one of two Bike and Helmet prizes and a Craft Basket. Combined, these fundraisers have raised over \$3000 to support our improving and updating technology initiative. Our Draws took place on October 31. Congratulations to our winners:

1. Holly - Bike and Helmet
2. Vader - Bike and Helmet
3. Daniel- Craft Basket

Called By Name: Follow Me

Our Niagara Catholic's new theological theme for 2022-2026 will be "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2022-2023 Called by Name: You are Mine

2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples What does it mean when we "follow" someone on social media? When we do this we are saying we want to know more about them, to see how they live, how they act, what they say. But what we see on social media isn't always reality. It's often hidden behind filters, edits, and multiple takes. What if instead of "following" in this way, we choose to follow someone who only shows us what is real and what is true? Jesus is calling us to follow Him, to live our lives according to the Gospel and to share His love with those around us. So the question is, who will you choose to follow today?



National Child Day



November 20th, 2024, marks the 35th Anniversary for National Child Day!

This year's theme, #8MillionEmpowered, highlights our collective goal to empower all 8 million kids in Canada by defending their rights and ensuring they have the support to thrive. Children and youth are not merely future dreamers, but present-day innovators, leaders and changemakers. They are setting the stage for a brighter, more inclusive Canada with compassion, courage and conviction. Empowered young people can make a difference *now*,

not just someday.

National Child Day is a time to honour Canada's commitment to children's rights, as part of the global World Children's Day movement.

The United Nations adopted the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC) on November 20, 1989. Canada joined in 1991, making a commitment to ensure that all children are

treated with dignity and respect and have every opportunity to reach their full potential. This commitment includes:

- Providing children opportunities to have a voice (speak out and be heard)
- Protecting children from harm
- Ensuring children's basic needs are met

St. Andrew Balanced Day Schedule

9:05 am Supervision Begins

9:15 am Entry Bell

9:15 am-11:25 am Instructional Block 1

11:25 am -11:45 am Recess

11:45 am -12:05 Nutrition Break1

12:05 am- 1:25 pm Instructional Block 2

1:25 pm - 1:45 pm Recess

1:45 pm-2:05 pm Nutrition Break2

2:05 pm - 3:25 pm Instructional Block 3

3:35 pm Dismissal

Respectful Interaction at St. Andrew

St. Andrew 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.

Cell Phones at School



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. This involves the use of cell phones and vaping.

At St. Andrew, students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will not be required to use cell phones for academic purposes. Therefore, there is no need for these students to bring a cell phone to school. Each classroom as well as the main office, has a telephone for issues that require a more immediate response.

Grade 7 & 8 students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning.

Any student that requires a cell phone for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs are permitted to use their cell phone as necessary with prior permission.

At St. Andrew, each Grade 7 & 8 teacher will have a place for students to store their phone for safe keeping during non-instructional times. 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. If a student refuses to hand in their personal mobile device, the Ministry requires that the student be sent to the principal's office. Consequences for failing to hand in their phone is at the principal's discretion.

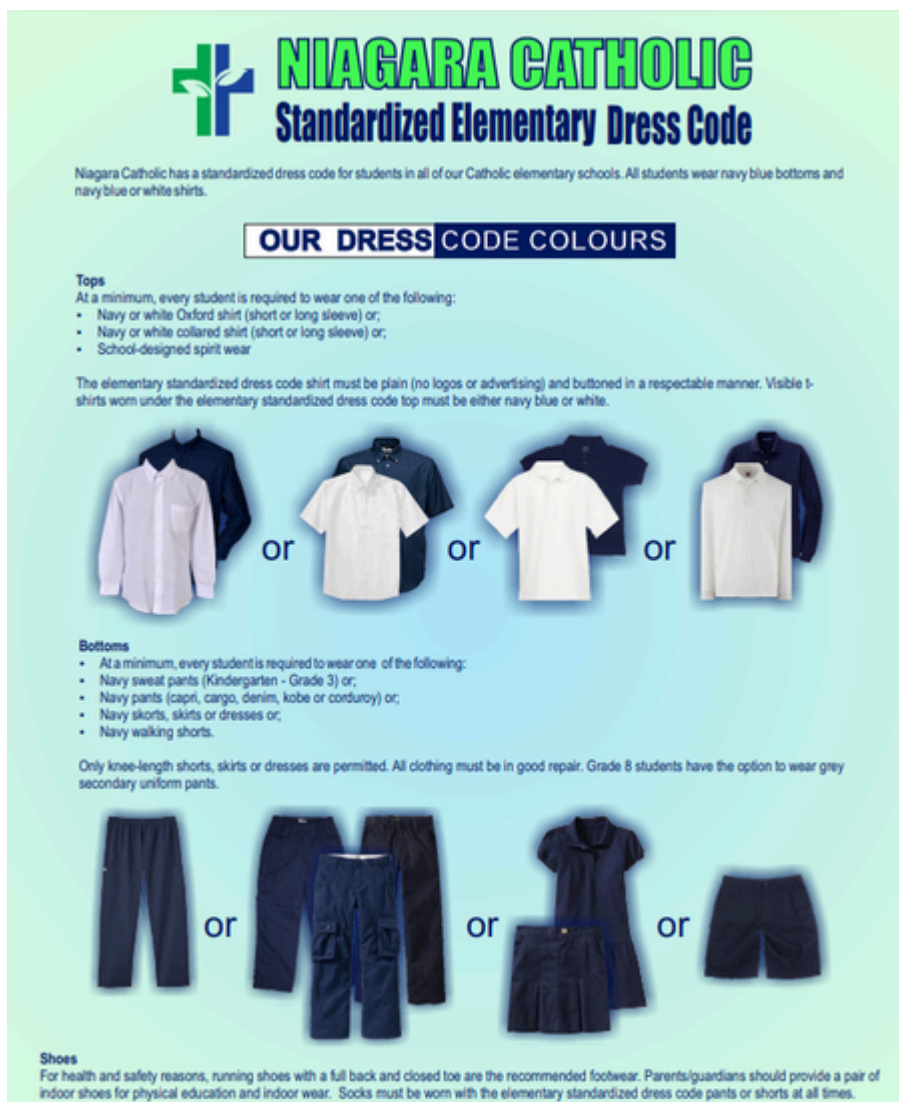
School boards are now required to disable access to social media platforms on school networks and board devices. This is intended to limit the number of interruptions in class and to benefit the mental health and well-being of students. Niagara Catholic already blocks access to some social media sites.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

Standardized Dress Code

A reminder that students are expected to adhere to Niagara Catholic's Standardized Dress Code. An additional copy of the Dress Code is attached below. According to the Standardized Dress Code, the following items are **not permitted**:

- Black Pants
- T-shirts of any kind (spiritwear exempt)
- Faded or torn Jeans. (Jeans must be dark blue and in good condition)
- Shorts and Skirts must be knee length

Your cooperation is important and appreciated.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
Standardized Elementary Dress Code


Niagara Catholic has a standardized dress code for students in all of our Catholic elementary schools. All students wear navy blue bottoms and navy blue or white shirts.

OUR DRESS CODE COLOURS

Tops
At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy or white Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy or white collared shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School-designed spirit wear


The elementary standardized dress code shirt must be plain (no logos or advertising) and buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.



Bottoms
At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy sweat pants (Kindergarten - Grade 3) or;
- Navy pants (capri, cargo, denim, kobe or corduroy) or;
- Navy skirts, skirts or dresses or;
- Navy walking shorts.

Only knee-length shorts, skirts or dresses are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants.



Shoes
For health and safety reasons, running shoes with a full back and closed toe are the recommended footwear. Parents/guardians should provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear. Socks must be worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

ST. ANDREW JAGUARS 2024-2025 SPIRITWEAR

Cotton/Poly Jersey Style Polo Shirt

Embroidered with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Left Chest



White



Navy

Youth #8800B \$20.49
Adult #8800 \$20.49

Available Colours: Navy & White

Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt

Youth #88181Y

Ladies' #78181

Adult #88181

Embroidered with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Left Chest



Navy



White



Navy

\$29.95
Same Price for all Sizes

Available Colours: Navy & White

50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Printed with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Front



Navy



Dark Heather



Navy

Youth #18500B \$32.95
Adult #18500 \$34.95

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

50/50 Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Embroidered with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Left Chest



Navy



Dark Heather



Navy

Youth #18600B \$39.95
Adult #18600 \$42.95

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

Order On-Line at www.bigbearspiritwear.com

No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Personalized Products

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



6182 Dixon Street
Niagara Falls, ON, L2G 2L6
Ph: 905-357-7132
csr@bigbearspiritwear.com



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

Big Bear Spirit Wear, a board-approved supplier for spirit wear items will now supply St. Andrew School Spirit Wear. They offer a wide range of dress-code approved items through their online store at: <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com> Students are allowed to wear the Jaguar hoodie to school and these are a worthwhile purchases for the cold weather months. **Please label all clothing**

items that come to school so that we can return all misplaced items to the correct person. Please note items may not yet be visible on the website.

ECO Schools

Waste Free Wednesdays

Every Wednesday is Waste Free Wednesday. Students are encouraged to pack lunches in reusable containers.

Medications & Allergies

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drugs, without written permission from the parent and a doctor. If there is a need for such medication, please contact the school to

obtain the forms which must be filled out and signed by both the doctor and the parent. This record is required by School Board Regulations and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the family as soon as possible.

Please remember that St. Andrew School is an Allergen Aware School. Please do not send products with nuts or nut traces with your child.



Nut Free School Lunches and Tips for Packing Lunches

The challenge for all parents is to send foods that are nutritious and nut free and that will keep our kids energized and alert at school all day. They also need to be tasty, so that our kids will actually want to eat them! Those can feel like competing goals at times. Here are tips for making school lunch easier:

1. Try to include a variety of colours and textures to make the food appealing to kids. You want them to actually eat what you've packed!
2. Use up those dinner remnants. Brown rice can be tossed with black beans and served at room temperature. Cooked pasta can

be transformed into a pasta salad. Chicken can be sliced and wrapped up in a tortilla with lettuce and veggies.

3. Include a sweet treat that is healthier than pre-packaged foods. Homemade granola bars, whole wheat muffins, or even homemade doughnuts are fun treats that are worlds better than anything you can buy at the store!
4. No matter what, always make sure lunch is balanced by including fruit, vegetable, protein, and carbohydrate!

Student Attendance and Safe Arrival

St. Andrew School and all schools throughout Niagara Catholic use the Safe Arrival program to manage student attendance reporting. The Safe Arrival program reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance by making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences. The Safe Arrival program allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

- 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 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 Push Notifications in

the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.

3) The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Please do not call the school to report your child's absence.

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter



Head Lice

Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes

sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

YOUTH VAPING PREVENTION

Caring adults have an important role to play in helping kids make decisions about their health. Vaping is harmful and addictive, so we must empower young people with the right health information and refusal skills to ensure they don't start vaping.

Vaping risks include:

- Addiction to nicotine – nicotine changes how the youth brain develops affecting learning, memory, concentration, and impulse control.
- Exposure to cancer-causing chemicals and metals
- Lung damage
- Increased stress and anxiety
- Increased likelihood of smoking cigarettes

In November, elementary schools across Niagara Region will be receiving vaping resources for grade 7 and 8 classrooms. To compliment the in-class education, we encourage parents and caregivers to learn about vaping and tips on how to talk to your kids about it. For more information, or to download the parent/caregiver Let's Talk About Vaping resource visit:

www.notanexperiment.ca/parents

EpiPen® AND AUTO-INJECTORS

During the school day, your child will be in contact with many staff members and other children, moving around to different locations inside and outside. Remember to check if your child's EpiPen® Auto-Injectors are up to date (not expired).

Check out [Food Allergy Canada - elementary school](#) for some great tips and [resources!](#)



PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS THIS RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SEASON

Infections like COVID-19, flu and RSV increase in the fall and winter months.



While anyone can get very sick, infections can be especially devastating to the most vulnerable in our community. This includes older adults and people with underlying medical conditions.

There are simple actions we can take to help protect ourselves and others. Use layers of protection:

- Stay up to date with vaccinations
- Stay home if sick
- Consider wearing a mask (for example, based on the setting, your personal risk factors, or comfort level)
- Keep up good hand hygiene – use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into the upper sleeve
- Regularly clean and disinfect high touch surfaces
- Keep indoor air fresh and circulating

Learn more on [our website](#) or [check out our downloadable resource](#).

NIAGARA PARENTS

[Niagara Parents](#) provides a variety of services to help you raise a happy and healthy family. Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse instantly in whichever language they are most comfortable speaking.

Services offered:

- Questions or concerns about parenting, your child's health, or pregnancy.
- Parenting classes, breastfeeding support, prenatal appointments and more.
- Postpartum support
- Links to services within the community

Connect with a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. through phone, live chat, video call, or email. Live chat is available in 90 different languages.

Find Niagara Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for different activities you can do with your kids, relevant resources and virtual events for parents.

REMINDER- No single serve plastics available

Parents are reminded to ensure that their child(ren) have the required utensils needed to eat their snacks/lunches as well as a **reusable water bottle** they can fill at the hydration stations. We are no longer permitted to distribute plastic/styrofoam spoons, forks or cups to students that do not have them.



Indoor Shoes

Please ensure that your child(ren) have a pair of indoor running shoes at school. Students are expected to change their footwear when they enter their classroom. This will not only keep the



Providing supports & services to help you raise a happy and healthy family

Connect with Niagara Parents

Live chat or speak with a public health nurse in **90 different languages available:**

[niagararegion.ca/parents](#)
905-884-7555
or 1-888-505-8074 ext. 7555

parents@niagararegion.ca

[Niagara Parents](#)

[niagaraparents](#)

Niagara Region

floors dry but also clean. Students that do not have indoor running shoes will not be permitted to participate in gym.

Before School Supervision

Please be advised that before-school supervision does not begin until 9:05 am. Also note, if you are dropping off your child after 9:15 am they will need to go in the main entrance.

Parking Lot Procedures



- Parents dropping off children are to use the parking lot at the back of the church and walk their child to the gate.
- Parents are not to block buses.
- Please note that students must enter through their proper entrance at the back of the school unless they are arriving late (after 9:15 am).
- If you are walking your child to school please use the gate on the south side of the building (Baseball Diamond). Please do not walk between the buses and the school.

School Cash Online

Please ensure that use of School Cash online for the purchase/payment of food days, field trips, donations etc. This is a safe and easy-to-use online program that allows you to make convenient and secure payments from the comfort of your own home. To register, please click [here](#)
All lunch orders are to be ordered through School Cash Online.



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters