

# DECEMBER 2024

## We are all called by name to grow with God!

*December's Reflection: In the Gospel we hear the calling of Jesus' Apostle Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector and just like now, tax collectors weren't especially popular. But this didn't stop Jesus from calling Matthew to be His Disciple. Jesus saw the potential in him and this was enough for Matthew to leave his job and immediately begin following Jesus.*

*Jesus sees the potential in each of us, despite the mistakes we make. By choosing to follow Jesus, we are turning away from Sin and striving to become the saints He calls us to be.*

The first three months of the school year have been filled with great spiritual, academic and social growth for all students at St. Joseph. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to students and staff members for their dedication towards excellence. I would also like to thank all parents, grandparents and families for their ongoing support of Catholic education and developing the positive partnership that must exist to achieve success. It was so nice to see so many families come to our family-school conferences!

In the month of December we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Just as our love often seems to grow as we await the arrival of a loved one after a time apart, during Advent we likewise have an opportunity to grow in love for Jesus, the celebration of whose birth we await this month. Each Monday, as noted on the calendar, we will have student led Advent liturgies in the library. Families are always welcome to join us in prayer.

May Advent be a reminder to all of us that, though Jesus came to us over 2,000 years ago, He continues to come to us in the Eucharist. May we always be eager to love Christ by preparing ourselves for the many ways that He enters into our daily lives. May your Christmas season with family and friends be as bright as the star of Bethlehem and be blessed with endless joy. On behalf of the students and staff, I wish every family a peaceful and joyous Christmas season!

*Mrs. S. Walsh ~ Principal*



*Christmas is not so much about opening presents, as opening our Hearts.*

*Love The Lord Your God.*



# St. Joseph NEWS

*We are proud to be a part of the Lakeshore Catholic and St. Michael Family of Schools.*



## AN ADVENT PRAYER

God of light, hope, peace and joy; Look upon us in love,  
And fill us with the Spirit of Jesus

That we may love you and serve you!



Protect us during this advent season, And keep us watchful in prayer

As we await the coming our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who is the light of the world. And who lives and reigns with you

And the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. AMEN

## THANK YOU!

We want to send out a heartfelt, enormous **THANK YOU** for your support of our daily breakfast program. With your help, we are able to continue providing nutritional snacks to our students every day!! Each and every morning, an average of 100 snacks are distributed to our students, ensuring they are fueled for their day. Your thoughtfulness, your generosity will help us sustain our **Breakfast A La Carte** program. Our weekly food days continue to support our Breakfast A La Carte program and without them! Thank you families for supporting our food days and breakfast program!



## January Food Days

**ALL** January food days will open on **January 1, 2025**

including Hot Dog Day Feb 5th & Pizza Day Feb 7

Friday Pizza Days: January 10, 24 & 31

Wednesdays: Jan 8 - Waffle Day, Jan 15 - Crafted Day,

Jan 22 - Salad Day, Jan 29 - Chicken Fingers & Fries Day.

Friday, Jan 31 - Tuck Shop Day.



## JOY DAY



On **Tuesday, December 3rd**, our St. Joseph Elves will be busy bringing Christmas to life in our school. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be busy decorating their doors and classrooms, bringing our faith to life through art. Students are invited to dress in their favourite red and green outfits.

## Deck the Halls with Toiletries

Through our Catholic faith, we learn that all people are entitled to the dignity of food, shelter and clothing. It is our St. Joseph Catholic School community mission to help provide for families in our community that may go without during the month of December. We wish to ensure our families have a healthy celebratory Christmas with their loved ones. At this time, we would like to express our gratitude for the generosity that is regularly shown by the members of our community. Our St. Joseph family will be collecting as many toiletry items as we possibly can to aid in our Advent mission.

We will gratefully accept donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss or pics, deodorant (male & female), razors, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, soap, bubble bath, body lotion etc. Drive begins: **December 4th to December 13th.**

**The class who collects the most will win: Hot Chocolate & S'mores!**

## Special Education Advisory Committee - SPOTLIGHT



**Agency Highlight:** Niagara Children's Centre

**Website:** [www.niagarachildrenscentre.com](http://www.niagarachildrenscentre.com)

### What they do:

Niagara Children's Centre supports children and youth to reach their communication, developmental, physical and behavioural goals through high quality, strengths-based and family-centered services. NCC offers speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and a variety of other specialized programs, supports and services. It also offers programs for families that support skill teaching to help their child, empowerment and family-to-family support.

For more information on how to become involved in the Centre's fundraising events including "Help Kids Shine" Month (May) and the Superhero Run every fall, check out the NCC website!



# Family Christmas Cheer Event

December 16, 2024

Please join us at Our Family Christmas Cheer open house from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Families will have an opportunity to create Christmas ornaments in the Kinder room, Primary classrooms, and Junior classrooms. Our Intermediate classroom will magically turn into a Festive Christmas Candy Shop where you will be able to purchase hot chocolate, cookies and other delicious treats (**Please bring cash for our Christmas Candy Shop**). You will also have an opportunity to win IceDog tickets, free luncheons, spirit wear and a chance to be principal for the day. Our classrooms will be filled with the recorded sounds of children singing. We will also be welcoming some special guests in the library. Please find your Christmas sweaters, toques and festive wear and join us for the fun filled night of Merry Family Christmas Cheer!



**OSSD Night & APP INFORMATION** for Grade 8 parents and students @ Lakeshore Catholic High School on Tuesday, December 3 at 6pm

Growing with God! Growing with God! Growing with God! Growing with God!

LAKESHORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUSE

WED. DEC. 4

DOORS OPEN 6PM PERFORMANCES 6:30

Drama Performances by Drama Class & Mamma Mia Cast  
Musical Performances by Jam Band, Concert Band, Choir & Drumline  
Art Show  
Craft Sale  
Bake Sale

**PERFORMANCE ADMISSION**  
**\$5**  
(SCHOOL CASH OR AT DOOR)

ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF FOOD AND NEW TOYS FOR THE LCHS TOY AND FOOD DRIVE



## FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

### ROUTINE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATIONS



Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up to date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on schedule.

Learn more about the [vaccinations for children in school](#) and which vaccine(s) your child may need on our [website](#).

All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

*Please note, you **do not** need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.*

### GIVING BACK

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for the community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara Region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:

A charitable organization affiliated with your church

[St. Vincent de Paul](#)

[Community Care](#)

[Newark Neighbours](#)

[Salvation Army Community and Family](#)

[Services](#)

[Pelham Cares](#)

[The HOPE Centre](#)

[Project SHARE](#)

[Grimsby](#)

[Benevolent](#)

[Fund](#)

[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)

[Open Arms Mission](#)

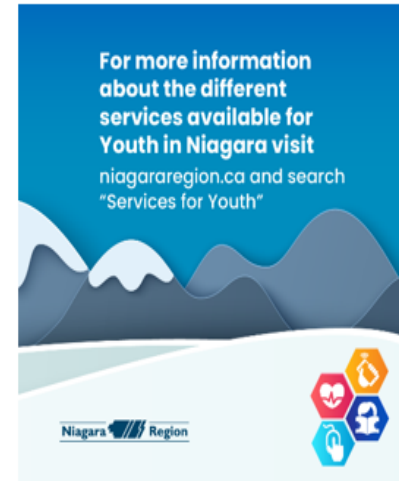
[United Way Niagara](#)

[Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)



### HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:



**1. Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.

**2. Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.

**3. Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.

For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

### DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!



Looking for a safe and welcoming space to relax, learn, and connect? Libraries offer more than just books—they're a free resource for promoting mental wellbeing, accessing technology, and engaging with your community. Whether you're seeking a quiet spot to unwind, attending a workshop, or discovering new hobbies, your library has something for everyone. Visit your local library today!

Learn more about libraries in your area and the services they offer by visiting: [Public Libraries Niagara](#).

