

Safe Arrival

To report your child absent please use one of the three methods listed below:

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 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

1-844-287-6287

will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

DECEMBER 2024

We are a CHRIST-CENTERED CATHOLIC FAITH community that celebrates diversity and FOSTERS SPIRITUAL GROWTH inspiring ALL to Reach their FULL potential in MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

ACCOUNTABILITY • COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • FAITHFULNESS • INTEGRITY • JUSTICE • STEWARDSHIP

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we approach the joyous season of Advent and Christmas, I am filled with gratitude and anticipation. December is a time of reflection, celebration, and giving, and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a Catholic community to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our school has been a bustling hive of activity this term, with students engaging in both academic and extracurricular pursuits with enthusiasm and dedication. From the lively Christmas classroom activities and festive classroom decorations to the thoughtful acts of kindness during our Advent charity drives, the spirit of the season is truly alive in our halls.

This month, we continue to focus on the virtues of hope, peace, joy, and love. As we light each candle on the Advent wreath, we remind ourselves of the importance of these virtues in our daily lives. Our faith calls us to be a light for others, and I am proud of the many ways our students have embodied this call through their actions and deeds.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our dedicated staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to provide a nurturing and faith-filled environment for our children. Your efforts are deeply appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas with our families and loved ones, let us remember the true meaning of this holy season. May the birth of Christ bring you peace, joy, and hope. I wish you all a blessed and restful holiday season and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

K. Lococo

Christmas Draw

The Grade 3/4 students are holding a **Christmas Draw** to raise money for families in need. A selection of gift items will be on display just outside the main office. You and/or your child will have the opportunity to purchase tickets at **\$1.00 each** for a chance to win a prize. Tickets will be sold from Wednesday, December 4th until Wednesday, December 18th and prizes will be announced Thursday, December 19th! Tickets will be sold after school until 4:00. Come on in and have a look - you might even see something YOU like!!

Thank you for your continued support!

December Food Days

Thursday 5th	Mandarin Day
Thursday 12th	Sub Day
Thursday 19th	Pizza Day
Friday 13th	Hot Dog Day

Picture Retake Day
Monday December 2, 2024

REMINDER

SPORTS UPDATE

Volleyball

Congratulations to all the senior girls and boys volleyball teams for another amazing season. Your level of play was outstanding and your commitment at practice was impressive. Both the boys and girls represented St. James so well both on and off the court at the tournaments. They were up against challenging teams and had some amazing rallies and wins.

Your growth and improvement this season as a team and individually on the court was something to celebrate and be proud of. Thank you senior boys and girls for your show of sportsmanship, your level of dedication at practice and athleticism on the court! For those of you heading into high school next year, keep up that same effort as you get involved in sports. Way to go Skyhawks!

Congratulations to Boys Team: Lehmann, Lachlan, Carson, Nicco, Jacob, Ross, Nic, Nino and Connor
Congratulations to the Girls Team: Ruby, Serafina, Micaella, Olivia, Alyssa, Sophia, Eden, Lauren and Allie

MEDICATION

For safety reasons, no child is to bring any form of medication to the school. If medication is necessary there is a form that must be filled out by your Doctor to indicate dosage, instructions, etc., and the prescription container clearly labelled with the names (child, parent, doctor), phone numbers and must be left at the office. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.

Cell Phone use for Students

If you are providing your child(ren) with a cell phone as part of their communication and safety tools as they transit from home to school and back, be advised that all cellphones must be placed in their backpack for the instructional day. If you are texting your child during the day—please expect them, to only get the message at dismissal time (3:25 p.m.). ALL communication must go through the main office.

If students are using their cell phones as a personal device for research, teacher will direct them to access their cell phones. Please be advised that students have access to a school Chromebooks everyday. Therefore, it should not be necessary to use a cellphone for research purposes.



ELF The Musical

St. James students will be attending the performance on Tuesday December 3, 2024.



St. James School Spirit Wear

<https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/St-james-skyhawks>

School Cash Online

To login to SchoolCash Online to make payments or complete various forms go to:

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Anaphylaxis Awareness and Action Plans

All classroom at St. James are peanut, tree nut, sesame, sea-food, coconut pineapple, avocado and egg safe classrooms. No peanuts, peanut products, tree nuts or raw/cooked eggs are allowed at any time. We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, peanut products and/or eggs. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or eggs for breakfast/lunch at home.

We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safe-

Cold Weather

Cold weather is on the way. Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children need hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots, labeled with their names.

On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canadian Weather Information Line and follow Niagara Catholic District School Board guideline.

Kiss 'N' Ride

We ask drivers to please "kiss and drive" straight through the outside lane of our school lot to avoid blocking the arriving and departing busses.

If you are using the "Kiss 'N' Ride" drop off lane Do Not exit your vehicle. This is strictly meant to pull up so that your child(ren) can exit the vehicle and you can drive off thereby ensuring a continuous flow of traffic.

If you need to assist your child(ren) out of the car, please park your vehicle in a parking spot and walk them across the parking lot.

When entering the parking lot, please Reduce speed. Remember to keep children close to you when walking in the parking lot. It is very busy and we want to make sure everyone is safe.

Last year we had a designated cross area painted in front of the school. Staff monitor this designated crossing so please utilize this crossing rather than walking between parked and moving cars in the designated drop off lanes.

Everyone's safety is of utmost importance. Crossing moving traffic between cars poses a safety risk to all.

NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

December 2024

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](#).

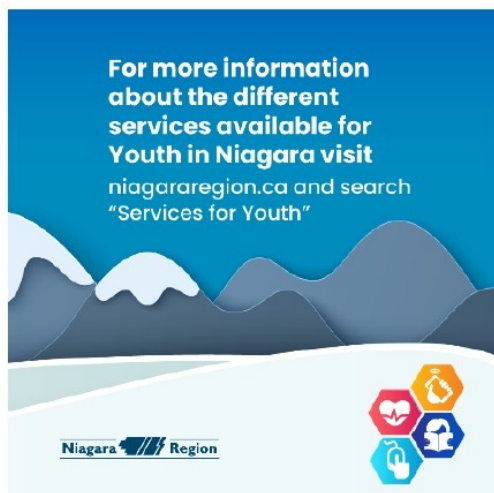
All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [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.*

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](#).

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](#)

