



SACRED HEART SPECTATOR

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
Proud Member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Principal: Mr. J. Romeo
Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

ISSUE #4 – DECEMBER 2024

On behalf of the staff of Sacred Heart Catholic School, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your continued generosity. Your gifts of time, effort and most of all the gift of having the privilege of teaching your children, is precious. Also, please accept our deepest wishes for a peaceful, holy and safe Advent and Christmas holiday. We are so blessed to be a part of this community and as educators and support staff, we feel honoured to be a part of the students journey towards success. Merry Christmas to you and your family!



Thank you,

Mr. J. Romeo.

PURSE BINGO FUNDRAISER – THANK YOU!!!



On behalf of members of our Catholic School Council we would like to thank our Sacred Heart Parent Community and their friends and family for making our Purse Bingo Fundraiser event a huge success. We couldn't have done it without members of Council, Community partners, family members and so many others. It is most benefiting for our students here at Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary. We also want to send out a huge THANK YOU to those who sponsors who contributed towards the purses that were played for as well as the Raffle Table prize table!!!

Purse Sponsors

Bricon construction
Greater Niagara Boating Club
Sid Grabell Contracting
Capcon Contracting
Canadian Mail Exchange
Gilson's Auto Repair
Sorrento Bakery
Chippawa Legion
Sabina's Grocery & Postal
Chippawa Volunteer Firefighters Association

Raffle Prize Table Sponsors

Card up the Yard
Riverside Tavern
Niagara Helicopters
Grumpy Grammas
Betty's restaurant
Cher Khan
Lapennaco Liquidation
Dawgpound Tattoos
Chippawa Foodland
Sal's Pizzeria
Grottola's Salon & Spa

ADVENT LITURGIES

Each Monday during the Advent season we will have a different class leading a Virtual School Liturgy.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSURE

A reminder to all of our families that the school will be closed Monday December 23rd 2024 to Friday, January 3rd, 2025. Enjoy the Christmas Break! Classes resume Monday, January 6th, 2025.



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Calling: Parents, Grandparents and other Family Members!!!

Sacred Heart School Choir and Cast proudly presents:

The Star

A Musical Play

By Anne Frawley-Mangan &
Michael Mangan

Performed in the Sacred Heart Gymnasium

Wednesday, December 11 @ 2:00 p.m. &

Thursday, December 12 @ 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Admission: A non-perishable food donation for our community

HOT LUNCHES & MILK PROGRAM



Hot lunches this month (orders are processed via School Cash Online):

Pizza Day – Thursday Dec 5, 2024 (orders are due Dec 2)

Sub Day – Thursday Dec 12, 2024 (orders are due Dec 9)

ANGEL TREE TOY CAMPAIGN

An Angel Tree has been placed in our community which holds angels representing children (and families) in our community who are in need and would benefit by the community coming together to prepare Christmas baskets. This year there is a greater need than in past years.

In teaching the concept of giving rather than receiving, we are asking if you can, please bring in a newly purchased gift for children within the ages of 5-12 years. Please do not wrap the gift. Your child can bring the unwrapped gift to their classroom.

We would appreciate it if you could possibly have the purchased gift at the school by **Monday Dec.16, 2024**. We thank you for your continued support in assisting us in teaching your child the importance of helping others less fortunate than us and the importance of giving from our heart.





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FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an optional program.

All 5 French Immersion Catholic Elementary Schools will accept registrations for Grade 1 along with Kindergarten for September 2025.

Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten
- Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Kindergarten
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Kindergarten

Transportation

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2. Designated Family of Schools French Immersion schools can be located at the following link www.niagaracatholic.ca

French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

- On-line open pre-registration window for students **new** to French Immersion in September 2024: **Monday, January 13th, 2025 at 7:30 a.m.** through to **Friday, January 31st, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**
- Pre-registrations outside of this window will not be considered.
- There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program.
- Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp.
- Please visit www.niagaracatholic.ca and click the first thumbnail-Registration. Then, click the Let's get you registered! link at the bottom of the page.
- An account must be created first through edsembli CONNECT to access the registration forms. This account can be created ahead of time.

Selection Process

In accordance with the Board's Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy #301.1, there are a limited number of spots available for students entering the program. Eligible spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis for each elementary French Immersion school site. Applicants will receive notification by **Monday, March 3rd, 2025** to inform them if their children have been placed in the French Immersion program **OR** if their children have been placed on the school's waitlist. Applicants who have not received notification by **March 3rd, 2025** are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.



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M&M FOOD MARKET

WINTER SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Benefitting
Sacred Heart

Join us on
Thursday, December 12th
from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

M&M FOOD MARKET
6225 Thorold Stone Road, Niagara Falls, ON

- Shop at our store and your school earns 10% of every purchase.
- Almost everyone purchases groceries, so this can be a great way for families and school supporters to actively support their school.
- Please share this Special Invitation with friends, family members and neighbours.

WINTER WEATHER AND WINTER RULES

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the winter season will be a normal thing each day. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn, i.e., boots, gloves, hats, scarf, etc. As is always the case, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form. Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please remember that snow is nice to look at, but should be left on the ground.

CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOL & SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS

To minimize distractions, students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off or onto silent mode during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning, for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off or on silent and have them stored away. Social media platforms on school networks and board devices will be disabled. 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.

CIGARETTES, VAPING, OR NICOTINE, CANNABIS, OR ALCOHOL USE AT SCHOOL

To protect the health and well-being of students, the NCDSB will be installing sensors to detect vaping in schools. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act bans the use of any tobacco, nicotine, or e-cigarette (vape) on school property. Anyone under the age of 19 is prohibited from buying or possessing alcohol or cannabis. These substances, and any illegal drug, are prohibited on school property.



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COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME & SCHOOL—QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

The Ministry of Education has given school boards new requirements on how to communicate with parents who have questions, concerns, or complaints. This information will also be shared on the Parents section of the Board website and school websites in time for the start of the new school year. The process is outlined below:

- Parents/guardians should expect a response to a concern within **two business days**.
- If parents have a question about a classroom-related matter, such as curriculum, homework, classroom behavior, or specific incidents, please contact the child’s teacher.
- If the parent cannot resolve the issue at the classroom level and/or have a question about school procedures, extracurricular activities, or safety concerns, please contact the school Principal.
- For issues unresolved at the school level or issues related to Niagara Catholic policies, procedures, resource allocation, or other concerns, please contact the Superintendent of Education assigned to Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School.

PAYING FOR ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers the safest, fastest and most convenient way to pay for activities at school. It is a safe and easy way to pay for things like school trips and hot lunch days. Online payment will be the only way to pay for school activities this year.

You can register @ <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com>. If you have questions or concerns, you are asked to please give us a call at the school.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE



As you are aware, Niagara Catholic has an Elementary Dress Code for students. Details regarding the Dress Code can be found on the Board’s website.

Highlights include the following:

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Early Learning Kindergarten to Grade 3 or;
- Navy Blue Pants (Dress, Cargo, Denim, Kobe, Corduroy style permitted) or;
- Navy Blue Skorts or Dresses or
- Navy Blue Walking Shorts or Capris or;

• Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants. At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items;

- Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School designed spirit wear.

Running shoes are the recommended footwear and socks must be worn.



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NEW SPIRITWEAR PROVIDER!!



Please note that Bigbear Spiritwear will now be supplying Spirit wear and dress code items that will be available for sale via their website.

The direct link to our online page on BigBear's website is:
<https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/sacred-heart-stars/>

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.



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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](#)