

# St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School



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



## December 2024 Newsletter



### Family Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Help us to live in that love together as a family this Advent.

Prepare our hearts for Christmas. Bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.



**#Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us,**

*and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return.*

Dear Parents, Guardians & Students,

This Advent season provides time for all us to prepare for the coming of our Saviour. We are reminded through the Christmas story of the many sacrifices the Sacred Family made for all of us during their journey to Bethlehem. This Advent season gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance and magnitude of the Nativity Story. It is through the miracle of Christ's birth that we are called to follow in His footsteps. Mary and Joseph were guided by a star to the town of Bethlehem where Jesus Christ was born. That star lives in our hearts and guides us in our everyday life. During December, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School will be celebrating the Advent/Christmas season in a variety of ways. Four classes will be leading our Advent Liturgies this year. Thank you in advance to Miss Orsini (Gr. 1), Mrs. Vacca (Gr. 1/2), Mr. Porga (Gr. 5/6) and Mrs. Ramunno (Gr. 4/5) for leading us in prayer during Advent. From December 2nd-13th, St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting adult mittens and adult socks in support of our outreach project Socks and Snacks. Staff and SVDP families are also supporting OLOS Church and the St. Vincent de Paul Society by sponsoring 15 needy children this Christmas season. Please donate \$1.00 or \$2.00 on School Cash Online to support these local families. On December 6, we will have Joy Day and our popular Decorate Your Door Challenge, where students will be decorating the halls, classroom doors and classrooms with student work that reflects our faith and the spirit of Christmas. Students are to come in dress code but can wear Santa hats, reindeer antlers, or any Christmas accessories for the day. On December 10th, families are invited to attend our Advent Family Mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Church at 7:00 p.m. Our CSC will be hosting Christmas Family Fun Night on December 11th. Christmas Carols for students will be on December 16th. Finally on December 20th, we will have Red and Green Day. Students will participate in activities that enhance curriculum at their grade level all month!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!  
Mr. Romano - Principal



## NO JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Since December and January are shorter months for us at school, as usual, there will be no January newsletter. The January calendar will be sent home through School Messenger and will be made available online.

## WINTER PLAYGROUND RULES



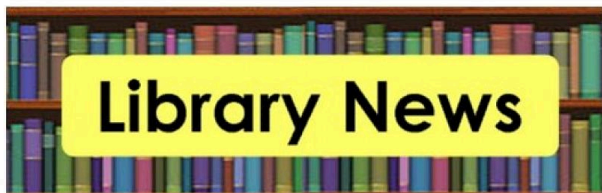
Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the winter season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn when outdoors (i.e., boots, gloves, etc.). Students must wear indoor shoes in their classroom and in the gym as wearing wet shoes inside is a safety concern. Students should be reminded that although building snow structures is allowed and encouraged, throwing and kicking snow is not. Thank you for your support in this matter.



## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The last day of school is Friday, December 20th, at regular dismissal time. Students return to school on Monday, January 6th, 2025. Enjoy this wonderful season with your family and friends and stay safe.

## LIBRARY NEWS



Have you seen the wonderful books that are in the library! To see all the wonderful titles and search the Destiny library program from home, go to <http://destiny.ncdsb.com>. You can search the catalog without logging in or, to see what books you have signed out, place up to five holds on books you wish to reserve, or recommend titles to friends and classmates, log in using your personal username and password. "Check out" something to read and share over the holidays!

## THANK YOU NNP



Thank you to Niagara Nutrition Partners for providing healthy snacks for our students each and every month. Thank you to our support staff and our NNP leader Tobias for preparing and delivering nutritious snacks to each of our classrooms every day. Thank you also to DeVries Fruit Farm and the volunteers of First Ontario Credit Union for the farm to school apples!



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2025

If you have not yet registered your child to attend St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, we urge you to come in and register- at your earliest convenience. Or register on-line at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca). Registering at this time, assists us with planning for the new school year. You will also need to provide your child's Birth and Baptismal certificates and Immunization Record to complete registration. Also, proof of your home address (e.g. current Phone/Tax/Utility bill) is needed. If you know of a family who might be interested in joining our family next year, have them reach out to us at the school by calling at 905-356-7505. New families are encouraged to join us for our Kindergarten Open House and Registration Day, which is set for Monday, February 3, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join our St. Vincent de Paul family!



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11th, the students in Mrs. Mascia's Gr. 8 class led us in our Remembrance Day Liturgy. Thank you to all the students who read and presented during the liturgy. It was a great way to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace.



## BULLYING AWARENESS & PREVENTION WEEK

On Wednesday, November 21st, staff and students gathered together as a community of faith in a special liturgy and assembly for Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Students reflected on what it means to be a peaceful community, an inclusive community, a respectful community, and a community of kindness. Students learned how they can be an "Up stander" to help keep St. Vincent de Paul a loving and safe learning environment. Special thanks to Miss Botell and her team.

BE A BUDDY NOT A BULLY!"



## PROJECT PLAID

Thank you to Ms. Cullen for leading our Project Plaid campaign for Pathstone Mental Health. Thank you to all the families who donated on School Cash Online to participate in the Inside Out Theme Day. Thanks to your participation, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School is proud to present a cheque to Pathstone for an outstanding \$484.00! THANK YOU SAINTS!



# BOYS AND GIRLS INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL TEAMS SHINE AT NCDSB TOURNAMENTS!



Intermediate Girls NCDSB Volleyball Champions

On November 20th, our boys' volleyball team competed diligently at the NCDSB Volleyball Tournament. They made it to the semi-finals, facing St. Theresa in two hard-fought games. Although they narrowly missed advancing, their effort, sportsmanship, and teamwork were outstanding! A big shoutout to our boys' team members: Christian O., Travis G., Jaxson S., Jaxon S., Gabriel S., Avery S., Layken C., and Keyrose J.



Intermediate Boys Volleyball team in action  
Third Place Finish

On the girls' side, our team competed at Holy Cross on November 25th and demonstrated incredible perseverance, skill, and teamwork, ultimately winning the entire tournament! This is a tremendous accomplishment for our school, and we couldn't be more proud. Congratulations to our girls' team members: Sarah K., Sophia L., Elisa C., Kylie F., Lucia S., Natalia S., Mia C., Kaitlin S., and Lila D. We also want to thank our assistant coaches, Briana, Skylar, and Vanessa, and head coaches Mr. Spiotti, Mrs. Mascia, and Mr. Romano, for their guidance and support in leading the teams to success.

Both teams represented our school with pride, showing what it means to play with heart and determination. Congratulations to all players and coaches for their hard work and achievements!

## CONGRATULATIONS JUNIOR GIRLS & BOYS TRIPLE BALL TEAMS



Junior Girls Triple Ball Champions

On November 13th, our Boys and Girls Triple Ball Teams competed in the Family of Schools Tournament. The girls played their tournament at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Niagara Falls. The girls showed tremendous sportsmanship and skill, winning the Small School Tournament. Congratulations to coach Mrs. Reich and the members of the team: Annabelle R., Maken H., Liyanna K., Penelope R., Kailyn T., Gabriella G., Avery F., and Malea H. Thank you to assistant coaches Mia C., Elisa C. and Kylie F. Congratulations girls! You continue to make us very proud. Thank you to all the volunteer drivers and to the parents for cheering us on to victory! Go Saints!



Junior Boys Triple Ball  
2nd Place Finish

The boys also showed tremendous skill and teamwork as they competed in the Family of Schools Tournament at St. Paul High School. Coached by Mr. Porga, the boys ended up losing a hard fought championship game, finishing in second place. Team members included Emmitt S., John K., Brendan D., Jackson D., George P., Gianluca W., Keegan R., A.J. S., Austin A., and Max W. Way to go boys! You continue to make us very proud. Thank you to all the volunteer drivers and to the parents for cheering us on! Go Saints!

# **dowhatyoucant** **RECIPIENTS FOR THE MONTH OF** **NOVEMBER**

On Tuesday, November 26th, we had our monthly Spirit Assembly where we acknowledged many teams, clubs and individuals. We also announced the recipients of the #dowhatyoucant award as well as the St. Paul High School Students of the Month. Congratulations to:

**Kindergarten: Ms. Cullen and Mrs. Sottile's Class**  
**NOAH R.**

**Kindergarten: Mrs. Sirianni and Mrs. Blakely's Class**  
**MAVEN G. (not pictured)**

**Kindergarten: Mrs. D'Aiuto's Class**  
**DAVID S.**

**Grade 1: Miss Orsini's Class**  
**ASHTON S.**

**Grade 1/2: Mrs. Futino Vacca's Class**  
**CHRIS M.**

**Grade 2/3: Miss DeBlasis' Class**  
**CHARLOTTE L.**

**Grade 3: Mrs. Reich's Class**  
**LOGAN K.**

**Grade 4/5: Mrs. Ramunno's Class**  
**PHOENIX C.**

**Grade 5/6: Mr. Porga's Class**  
**MAKENA H.**

**Grade 6/7: Mr. Spiotti's Class**  
**GABRIEL S.**

**Grade 8: Mrs. Mascia's Class**  
**NITZANA C.**

**St. Paul Students of the Month**  
**JAZMINE E. & KYLIE F. (not pictured)**



# Catholic School Council



## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School Council invites you to be part of your child's education, school and community. We are looking for parents like you to be part of our team where you can contribute ideas, provide input, and assist in planning and taking part in some upcoming events here at St. Vincent de Paul. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please email us at [svdpcsc@outlook.com](mailto:svdpcsc@outlook.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

## PARKING LOT AND KISS AND RIDE SAFETY



For the safety of our students, parents/guardians are reminded to please leave the bus lane open before and after school. The bus lane is closest to the school and marked with diagonal white lines. The middle lane is for kiss and ride where students can be dropped off and picked up. At the end of the day parents/guardians in the kiss and ride lane are asked to stay in their car while staff bring children directly to them. The Kiss and Ride lane has been extended and now wraps around the school near the NSTS entrance. Please continue to move your car forward once space has been made ahead of you. It is imperative that we keep the cars out of the intersection of Kalar Road and Thorold Stone Road. The third lane (closest to Kalar) is to drive through once children have been picked up. Please do not block the through lane or the cross walk. All families are always welcome to park their cars at the south end parking lot if they wish to get out of their cars to pick up their children at their respective doors. Please continue to hold your little ones' hands as you walk to your parked vehicles in the parking lots. Thank you for keeping our children safe!



## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

[ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com](http://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com)

Why use School Cash Online? It is a secure payment that can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from the comfort of your own home. While we sometimes do have cash options for initiatives, this easy to use method allows for various payment methods. It is the safest way to purchase items for your child. It also saves you time. You can manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place. Please adhere to the deadlines set in School Cash Online as we will not be opening items up after the closing date. It is very difficult to change the numbers we submit to our providers each month. Thank you for your understanding.

Paying for school items just got easier!  
Sign up to get started today.

### What is SchoolCash Online?

SchoolCash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees.  
[Learn more](#)



Register

Sign In

## SAFE ARRIVAL

Please continue to submit your child's absences online through Safe Arrival. All absences must go through the office. Please complete your child's absence before 8:15 a.m.



## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Parents and students are reminded to adhere to the Elementary School Dress Code Policy. All dress code bottoms must be navy blue or dark denim. We will continue to offer spirit wear options for purchase through Maddalena Uniforms. Our virtual store is ALWAYS OPEN!

### 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.



## DECEMBER HOT LUNCH DATES

December 3 - Weko Sushi

December 5 - Carmine's Pizza

December 7 - Subway

December 12 - Carmine's Pizza

December 17 - Weko Sushi

December 19 - Carmine's Pizza

Please mark those dates on your calendar if your child is to receive an order. Please ensure you check your School Cash Orders to confirm you have ordered for your child.

## SOCKS AND SNACKS December 2-13



We are also partnering with the outreach organization Socks and Snacks. Socks and Snacks is a registered non-profit organization which assists those most in need in Niagara. We are collecting adult mittens and gloves this Advent season so that we can do our part to keep our locals warm during the winter months. Please consider donating some ADULT mittens/gloves this year. Our Socks and Snacks drive will also run from December 2-13. Adult mittens/gloves can be dropped off in our main foyer and placed on or below our Christmas trees.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity this Advent season. God bless you all!

## OLOSC CHRISTMAS ANGELS December 2-13

This Christmas season, in partnership with the St. Vincent de Paul society and Our Lady of the Scapular Church, St. Vincent de Paul families and staff will be sponsoring 15 needy children through the Christmas Angels initiative. We are hoping to collect \$1.00 or \$2.00 from each child at St. Vincent de Paul. Please visit School Cash Online before December 13th so that we can purchase the gift/toy before the deadline. Thank you so much for your support and generosity of those who are most in need this Christmas season. A BIG THANK YOU to Mrs. Zahn and Mrs. Chudy for doing the shopping!



The St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School Council Fundraising Committee proudly presents...



# Christmas Family Fun Night



## 'SANTA'S BAKE SHOP'



DECEMBER 11, 2024



5:00-8:00 P.M.

FOOD

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

VISIT FROM SANTA  
CLAUS

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR

PERFORMANCE  
FROM OUR PRIMARY  
STUDENTS

PIZZA FOR SALE

SELFIE  
STATION

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

BASKET  
RAFFLES

CHRISTMAS CHEER

50/50  
DRAW

COOKIE  
DECORATING  
STATION

REFRESHMENTS





# Family Advent Mass

## Our Lady of the Scapular Roman Catholic Church

### FAMILY ADVENT MASS Tuesday, December 10

Families are invited to join the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School family at our annual Family Advent Mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Church on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. It is an opportunity for us to come together as a community and celebrate mass with Father Greg.



### OUR LADY OF THE SCAPULAR CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS

Families are invited to join the Our Lady of Scapular community for 9:30 am Sunday mass on December 8th and then participate in the special Family Advent Adventure taking place in the church hall. This Family Faith & Fun event will feature special refreshments and activities for kids and their parents/guardians that will remind all involved that the birth of the baby Jesus is the reason for this Season!

A special Parish Family Skate will take place on Monday, December 30th from 2:30 -3:30 pm at the Gale's Centre (4171 Fourth Ave, Niagara Falls). Non-obligatory cash donations for the Our Lady of the Scapular's Society of St. Vincent De Paul will be collected at the event, should you choose. So, mark the date on your Christmas Break calendars!



### STUFFY SALES FOR OLOSC THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to all the families for supporting our Stuffy Sales Drive for Our Lady of the Scapular Church. Thanks to the support of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School, 156 stuffies were sold and a total of \$468.00 was raised for Our Lady of the Scapular Church. Thank you to our Gr. 8 leaders for selling the stuffies to our students: Adria A., Avani S., Nitzana C., Dionne Z., and Alyssa M.

## Christmas at Our Lady of the Scapular

### Christmas Masses

Children's Mass - Dec. 24 @ 5pm  
Christmas Eve - Dec. 24 @ 7:30pm

Midnight Mass - Dec. 25 @ 12am

Christmas Mass - Dec. 25 @ 9:00am & 11:00am

### New Years Masses

New Years Eve - Dec. 31 @ 5pm

### New Years Day

9:00am & 11:00am



# St. Paul High School Fundrasier



## POURING FOR A PURPOSE

Fundraiser for Saint Paul Catholic High School

### Making a Difference Together.

At AMO Estate Winery, love, community, and giving back are at the heart of what we do. This holiday season, we're excited to partner with Saint Paul Family to support education. For every bottle purchased, \$10 will go directly to the school's co-curricular programs, making it the perfect gift that gives back!

Visit [amowines.ca](http://amowines.ca) to place your order.

At checkout, click the special instructions box and type **STPAUL10** in the order notes.

(Do not enter it in the promo code section, as the \$10 per bottle donation will be processed after the order is complete.)



Place your orders from November 18th to December 4th and allow 24 hours for processing.

Orders are available for pickup:  
Wednesday to Sunday, from 11 AM to 6 PM.

With every wine purchase of 6+ bottles, enjoy 25% off a tasting experience for two at AMO Estate Winery.

976 York Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0  
(289) 547-9696



# Direction of School Support

## School Support Designation

As a property owner in Ontario, you are required to support a school board, even if you do not have children or your children are not currently attending school. By default, your school support is directed to your municipality's English Public School Board.

In the case of a residential property occupied by tenants, they can direct the school support for that property.

Property owners, occupants, and tenants can select which school board they choose to support. Additionally, you will be able to vote in the next municipal election for trustees for the school board that you choose to support.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is legislatively required to collect school support information and provide it in the assessment roll to every municipality and school board.

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## Changing your school support online



Based on your eligibility, property owners and tenants registered with MPAC can view and update the school support designation online.

To learn more about eligibility requirements or change your school support designation, please visit [mpac.ca/schoolsupport](https://mpac.ca/schoolsupport) or scan the QR code.

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## What if I have difficulty updating my school support online?

A step-by-step guide is available on [mpac.ca](https://mpac.ca) which will help users navigate MPAC's school support portal. Alternatively, you can obtain the Application for Direction of School Support (ADSS) Form from [mpac.ca](https://mpac.ca) or from your school board's office. To register or for further assistance with the online school support tool, you can contact MPAC's Customer Contact Centre at **1-866-296-6722** or **1-877 889-6722 (TTY)**.

## Municipal Property Assessment Corporation contact information:

1340 Pickering Parkway, Suite 101  
Pickering ON L1V 0C4  
Email via: [mpac.ca/ContactUs](mailto:mpac.ca/ContactUs)

## 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](#).

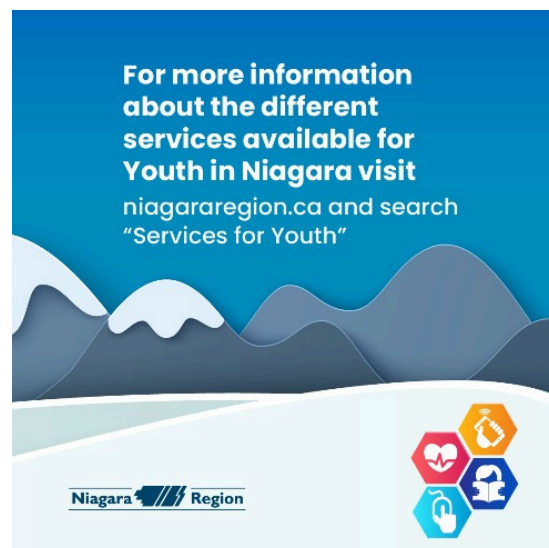
All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it: [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)

- [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](#)

[Grimshy](#)

[Benevolent](#)

[Fund](#)

[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)

[Open Arms Mission](#)

[United Way Niagara](#)

[Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)

