



St. Denis Catholic School

December 2024



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



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DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Address

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Principal

Mrs. Victoria Wegelin

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St. Denis Bell Times

School Begins 9:10 a.m.
First Break 11:20 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Second Break 1:20 p.m. -2:00 p.m.
Dismissal 3:30 p.m.

December 2024

Principal's Message



The first three months of this school year have been filled with many exciting accomplishments! I applaud each of our students and staff members for their dedication to academic excellence. We are all working hard to ensure that our St. Denis School community is second to none!

We are so very fortunate to have Father Stephen Bruzzese spiritually guide us this year! We are grateful for all of his wisdom that he shares with all of our students.

The wonderful season of Christmas is once again upon us. Let us not forget the true spirit of Christmas, a time of worship, sharing and caring as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

December will be a very busy time but please take a few minutes to enjoy the little things that make your life so special. Enjoy family activities such as reading a Christmas story, singing Christmas carols with your family and attending mass.

On behalf of the entire Staff, I wish you and your family the joy and peace of this very Holy Season and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mrs. V. Wegelin
Principal

Advent 2024

Advent is a period of simple living and extra prayer. This liturgical season provides all of us with the opportunity to prepare our hearts, minds and spirits for the coming of Jesus, our Saviour. We call this Advent, which comes from the Latin word for "coming". What is it that is coming? What we wait for is the coming of Jesus Christ. We mark this time of waiting in a number of ways: by opening the doors of an Advent calendar, by the lighting of the Advent wreath candles, by listening to the readings of the Gospels. We are invited to enter the readings of the Gospels. We are invited to enter the silence listening to the gentle voice of Jesus calling us to him. Take this time to pray, to listen, to play and to love one another. Enjoy your journey to Christmas!

During Advent we can talk about what the Christmas season means to us. We can help with the preparations. Once we start doing these things, it may become easier to keep a peaceful Advent. Our Advent celebrations will be held on December 3rd, December 9th, December 16th, and December 19th. I would like to thank Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. Schenck, Ms. Konieczny and Mrs. Lee along with their students for preparing our Advent celebrations!





Called by Name-Follow Me 2024-2025

Have you ever tried to speak to someone who was distracted? Maybe they were listening to music, reading a book, or on a phone. Distracted people don't realize that they should be paying attention. They don't know what they should be listening out for. God speaks to us every day, but sometimes we get so busy and distracted that we forget that we should be listening. Maybe we

don't know what we should be listening for, since God's normal way of speaking to us is not with an audible voice. God speaks to us in so many ways. Through the Bible, through the Mass and Sacraments. He moves our hearts, sometimes with a sensible joy. He speaks to us through the events of our lives, and through the mouths of other people. Take some time today to pay attention. How have you seen God's hand in your life this day, this month, and this year?

[December 2024 Calendar - Click Here](#)

Monthly Award Winners - November 2024

Every month our teachers recognize a student in their class who has demonstrated excellence in a particular area based on one of the eight Catholic Graduate Expectations. These expectations are; A discerning believer, an effective communicator, a reflective, creative and holistic learner, a collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Congratulations to this month's recipients listed below.



Mrs. Lee's Class -Piper E.
Ms. Schenck's Class -Julian W.
Ms. Konieczny's Class -Christopher N.
Ms. DEttorre's Class -Harper D.
Mrs. Foster's Class -Bentley P, Eve D.
Mrs. Jackson's Class -Judith H.
Mr. J. Biamonte's Class -Ben P., Thomas C.
Mr. Sutton PTM Class -Michael P.
Mr. Hasting's Class -Elizabeth M.
Mrs. La Valle's Class -Averee T., Tatius T.
Mr. O'Connor's Class -Christopher L.
Miss MacSporrán's Class -Issac B.
Mr. Riddell's Class -Leucille C.
Mme Bonin's French JR Class -Samuel C. S.
Mme Bonin's French INT Class -Valeria R.R.

Mrs. Biletski's Music Class -Mariia B.
Mrs. Wegelin - Principal's Award -Eris W.

Congratulations to all winners! You are amazing!

Intermediate Volleyball



Congratulations to our Intermediate Girls Volleyball team! The girls team competed well at the Niagara Catholic District School Board tournament held at Niagara College. The girls played well and showed great sportsmanship throughout the whole tournament! They lost their first game but came back extra strong and ended up playing in the championship game! The girls received a medal for placing second! Thank you to Mr. Riddell for his great coaching skills! Go Saints Go!

Girls Team: Josephina A., Leucile C., Rylee K., Abby L., Shyla L., Tara E., Holly W., Daria B., Valeria R.R.

Congratulations to our Intermediate Boys Volleyball team! They represented St. Denis well at the Niagara Catholic District School Board tournament held at Loretto Catholic School in Niagara Falls. Every game they displayed their volleyball skills and great sportsmanship! Thank you to Mr. O'Connor for coaching our great team!

Boys Team: Atticus H., Kaidyn L., Issac O. A., Murtaja M. Murtaqa M., Adam J., Antun A.,

Junior Girls and Boys Triple Ball Tournaments

November 15 and November 18, 2024

Our Junior Girls and Boys Triple Ball teams will be competing in the Saint Francis Family of Schools tournaments. On Friday, November 15, 2024 the Boys Junior Triple Ball tournament was held and the Girls Junior Triple Ball tournament was held on Monday, November 18, 2024.

The Girls team defeated all the schools and lost in the semi-finals against St. Ann Catholic School. The girls came home with a second place medal! Go Saints Go! The Boys team competed and displayed great sportsmanship every single game.



Thank you to Mr. Biamonte and Mrs. La Valle for coaching our great teams.

Girls Team: Layla L., Grace G., Dylan T., Avaree T., Alexa M.Z., Anna P., Isabel S., Scarlett C., Anna B., Dahlia L.

Boys Team: Gabriel A., Elias H., Drew B., Covenant I., Chris L., Kingston M., Xandrei S., Tatus T., Jacob W., Petar Z.

Kindergarten-Grade 3 Play Performance



December 2, 2024

Our Kindergarten to Grade 3/4 students will be attending a play titled, "Goodnight Moon and Runaway Bunny." This event will take place at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. Goodnight Moon is a celebration of familiar nighttime rituals, while The Runaway

Bunny's pretend tale of leaving home evokes reassuring responses from his loving mum. The themes in the plays are rituals, bedroom as a safe space, unconditional love, creativity and imagination.

Please ensure that your child is dressed for the weather as there is a short walk to and from the bus.

Jon Hansen-Speaker/Parent Presentation

December 4, 2024

Jon Hansen is an inspirational speaker, coach, and veteran teacher who has amassed over 1.3 million followers on TikTok and has been featured on CEC News, CBC Radio, The Winnipeg Sun, and Live with David Meltzer. Jon's inspirational videos for students have been viewed more than 250,000,000 times. Jon is known for his motivational messages and videos that help students to live their best lives. His message is always one of hope and possibility.

Parent Presentation December 4, 2024 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. St. Denis Library

Jon will be speaking on "**Teenage Social Media: Unusual Insights and Tips from a Parent, Teacher, and TikToker.**" He is a dynamic speaker and educator who has honed a unique understanding of the challenges and opportunities within this digital realm.

The learning outcomes for this presentation will be:

- Harnessing the Positive
- Creating Supportive Networks
- Implementing Practical Strategies
- Interactive Q & A

Please come out to the school to and listen to this great speaker! Free babysitting will be provided at the school during the presentation.

Jon Hansen Information

ELF- The Musical Performance

December 5, 2024



On Thursday, December 5, 2024 the Grade 4-6 classes will be attending the live performance of Elf, The Musical at the Greg Frewin Theatre. This wonderful live performance centers around a wonderful Christmas story. It will be truly an exciting experience for all of the students. Students have an opportunity to advance

order a special snack for this performance. Only preorders are accepted as there will not be any purchasing of snacks on the day of the performance.

ChoirFest

December 9, 2024

The St. Denis Catholic School Choir will be singing Christmas songs at the Seaway Mall in Welland. This will be happening on Monday, December 9, 2024 from 10:40 a.m. -11:10 a.m. Please note that this is an estimated time slot for our school to perform.

Parents and guardians are invited to come to the mall to see our students perform. Thank you to Mrs. Bonin and Mrs. Jackson for organizing this special event for our school.



St. Denis Primary Christmas Concert



December 10, 2024

The primary students and staff are working hard on their Christmas live performance! This special event will be held in the school gym at 12:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. **Please select one show to attend.** We are trying not to overcrowd our gym so each

family may only bring four guests to a show. Students are encouraged to wear the dress code clothing during the day on December 10th then for the 6:00 p.m. performance students are able to wear their Sunday best for the night time performance.

Thank you to the entire staff for working so hard on this concert! More information will follow as this date comes closer!

St. Denis Catholic School Council Christmas Lunch

December 11, 2024

On Wednesday, December 11, 2024 the St. Denis Catholic School Council will be subsidizing a Christmas Pasta Lunch for every student in our great school! If your child would like to enjoy a hot pasta lunch with a roll/butter on this special day, you will place an order on School Cash Online starting on November 25, 2024 and ending on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.



Students will be able to choose from pasta with butter, pasta with sauce or pasta with sauce and meatballs. Gluten Free Pasta and Meatballs will be available, please specify on your online order if this is what you would like your child to have, so we can ensure we have enough gluten free lunches ordered. We are asking for a contribution of \$2.00 per lunch.

Students will be asked to bring to school a plastic container that we can use to serve their pasta in and a plastic fork as well. Thank you to our Catholic School Council members who will be assisting on this day serving this hot lunch to all of our students!

Student Nutrition Program (SNAC)

We are once again excited to be offering this program at St. Denis Catholic School! Our school will be receiving a grant to provide healthy snacks to our students. This year the program will be a grab and go program with all of the snacks being prepackaged and delivered to the classrooms in the morning as a mid-morning snack.



The last day for SNAC will be Friday, December 13, 2024. This program will resume in January.

Food Days for December 2024

Pita Day Orders due on **Monday, November 29, 2024.**
Pita Day-Friday, **December 6, 2024**

Pizza Day Orders due on **Friday, December 6, 2024.**
Pizza Day-Friday, **December 13, 2024.**



Saint Francis Hockey Game-Grade 8



December 18, 2024

Our Grade 8 students have been invited to attend a varsity boys hockey game by Saint Francis Catholic High School. Snacks will be provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience one of the exciting events that happen at high school! Go Phoenix Go!

Red and Green Day!

December 20, 2024

We are asking our students to dress in their favorite red and green outfits on this special last day before the holidays begin. Show your St. Denis School spirit!!



EcoSchool Information



Wednesday Waste Free Lunches

Every Wednesday, we are asking for families to try to reduce the amount of garbage that we create from our lunches. Also, just a friendly reminder to bring a reusable water bottle to school.

We continue to be aware of how we can help keep our school environment clean.

Thank you to Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Biamonte for organizing this on behalf of our school!

St. Denis Catholic School Council

Cob's Bread Fundraiser Update

Thank you to all of the parents of our community who supported our Cob's Bread Fundraiser! As a school we sold 245 cards and raised \$3062.50.00 for our school. The money raised will be used to purchase technology for our school.

Grade 8 Poinsettia Fundraiser

Thank you to all of the parents who purchased a poinsettia or porch pot! We were very excited to sell 140 plants. We raised just over \$924.46 that will be used to pay for the Grade 8 graduation. Thank you again for your ongoing support!



Twelve Days of Christmas Fundraiser

Our Twelve Days of Christmas fundraiser is well under way! For the first twelve school days of December we are drawing one winning ticket each day! All proceeds raised from this fundraiser will support all of the students at our amazing school! Thank you for all of your support for our great school! Thank you for all the donations that we received to ensure that this fundraiser was a success!

Thank you to:

**Burtnik Printing
Cotton Construction**

A very special thank you to all of our Council members for ensuring that this fundraiser ran smoothly! Thank you to all of the families who were able to sell tickets for this raffle! We appreciate your ongoing support!

Dressing for Cold Weather



With the arrival of cold weather, parents are reminded to send children to school dressed for the weather. Warm hats, mitts, scarves, boots, heavy coats and snow pants will allow your child to enjoy the outside comfortably during recesses. Extra pairs of socks and pants tucked into backpacks also come in handy. Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes to wear inside the school.

Emergency School Closing

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to let our parents know the procedure that will be followed.

If bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, the children **will not** be picked up after school at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is your responsibility to pick up your child at the end of the day.

When transportation services are cancelled, **only the school remains open**, and it is the responsibility of the parent to determine whether or not it is safe for a student to walk to and from school.

In inclement weather, listen to your local radio station for announcements. CJRN (Niagara Falls) 710 AM, CKTB (St. Catharines) 610 AM, SPIRIT (Welland)

Procedures Relating to Inclement Weather AFTER the School Day Begins:

- A) Transportation is cancelled and the school is kept open.
- B) Transportation is cancelled and the school is closed.

At this point, the safety of our children is our prime concern. The school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary **after children have arrived at school**. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The



All this is to honour the birth of the One, That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.
So to all of my friends, lest Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them, who gave me this job.”



School Cash Online

Register for School Cash Online

Please click on the button below for instructions to register for School Cash Online. The easy, safe way to pay for school items and events.

School Cash Online Registration Instructions - Click



Safe Arrival / School Messenger

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL WITH ANY CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES.

Please use the Safe Arrival system to report all absences and lates for your child.

You can report an absence by:

PHONE - 1-844-287-6287

ONLINE: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

APP: SchoolMessenger



NCDSB Dress Code

NCDSB Dress Code The following serves as a reminder for families as the warmer weather approaches and if dress code purchases are being made. Students must wear the elementary standardized dress code items properly and in compliance with the expectations throughout the school day and at all activities

and events as representatives of the school and/or Board. It is the expectation that students wear the elementary standardized dress code as a condition of attendance in an elementary school within the Niagara Catholic District School Board at a minimum, if the elementary student is not in compliance with the mandatory elementary standardized dress code, parents and guardians will be contacted to bring the required dress code items to school.

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
- Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted)
- Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or · Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts.
- Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers. Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

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

The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.

In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

Running shoes are the recommended footwear with a full back and a closed toe. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: <https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/policies-protocols-docs/policies/> (Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy)

St. Denis Spirit Wear - Available Now!

We are very pleased to let you know that Big Bear Spirit Wear is our spirit wear provider and will be supplying our school with customized school dress code "gear". Big Bear is a board approved supplier located in Niagara Falls. Families are able to order single items or many as they would like. Finished product are delivered to the school between 7 - 21 days after orders are placed.. Please use the button below which will take you directly to the St. Denis Catholic School Ordering page at Big Bear Spirit Wear.



Order St. Denis Spirit Wear - Click Here



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Victoria Wegelin
Victoria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

