

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

JANUARY 2025

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 and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a blessed and joyful Christmas season. As we step into 2025, I am filled with gratitude for our wonderful school community and excited for the opportunities this new year brings.

Reflecting on the Past Year

2024 was a year of growth and achievement for our students. From academic successes to spiritual growth, our children have shown remarkable resilience and dedication. I am particularly proud of their participation in community service projects, which truly embody the spirit of our Catholic values.

Looking Ahead

This January, we have several exciting events and initiatives planned:

1. **Catholic Schools Week (January 28 - February 3):** A week dedicated to celebrating the unique value of Catholic education. We have a series of activities planned, including a special Mass, and community service projects.
2. **Winter Sports Programs:** Our basketball teams are gearing up for their seasons. Let's support our athletes as they demonstrate teamwork and sportsmanship.
3. **Academic Enrichment:** We will continue to focus on enhancing our curriculum with new STEM projects and the implementation of our Math and Literacy Action Plans. Our goal is to foster a love of learning in every student.

Faith and Community

Our faith is the cornerstone of our school. This month, we will be focusing on the virtue of **charity**. Through classroom discussions and activities, we aim to instill in our students the importance of giving and kindness.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make 2025 a year of growth, faith, and joy for our students. May God bless you and your families in this new year!

K. Lococo

Kindergarten Open House

The Kindergarten Open House will take place on Wednesday February 5, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **This is for students "NEW" to the school for 2025-2026.**

REMINDER

January Food Days

Thursday 9th	Pizza Day
Thursday 16th	Antipasto Day
Thursday 23rd	Sub Day
Thursday 30th	Mandarin Day



St. James Christmas Choirfest

On Thursday December 12th the St. James Choir travelled to the Pen Seaway to perform at the Niagara Catholic District School Board Choirfest.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. O'Shea would like to recognize Archie R., Clyde O., Avery S., Laila S., Rory F., Isiah M., Hunter S., Sullivan N., Anna C., Emma W., Connor T., Cora G., Enzo L., Charlotte B., Ella R., Aria S., Emma B., Noah D., Scarlet O. Emery M., Juanita C.R., Jasmin V., Morgan R., Dorian R., Madeline K., Olive O., Scotia A., Paolo B. Levi A., Cecilia D., Antony A., Giselle V., Celine K., Maite R., Ella L., Taio M., Farrah C., Knox M., Atlas B., Livia R., Zion G-H., Isla C., Okwari D.

St. James staff and students thank Mrs. O'Shea and Ms. Smith for all your support to the choir and representing St. James at Choirfest!

Christmas Draw Winners

St. James Christmas Draw Winners List

Lion Unicorn Beanie Boo—Isabella (Grade 2)
 Heart Hat and Mitten—Olive (Grade 4)
 Webkinz Black Bear—Lucy (Kindergarten)
 Hair Accessories—Jasmin (Grade 5)
 Colouring Book Set—Alessio (Kindergarten)
 Wisdom, Faith, and Miracle Set—Ella (Grade 5)
 Velvet Colouring Sheets—Eden (Grade 5)
 Stainless Steel Mug—Cashel (Grade 2)
 New York State Championship Sweater—Mia (Grade 4)
 KinderMix Set—Alina (Grade 1)
 Harry Potter Trivial Pursuit gift pack—Isabel (Grade 4)
 LCD Writing Tablet—Johnny (Kindergarten)
 Foil Fun activity set—Jesse (Grade 1)
 Pencil Nose Game—Avery (Grade 3)
 Sketch It Nail Pens—Juanita (Grade 2)
 Cookies and Milk for Santa—Mrs. Frisoli
 Christmas Squishmallow—Cecilia (Grade 3)
 Monopoly Rivals Edition—Clyde (Grade 5)
 Kris Le Tang Bobblehead—Jack (Grade 5)
 ESPN Football—Connor (Grade 7)
 Animal Crossing Lego Kit—Mason (Kindergarten)
 Nike Arm Band—Maddie (Grade 6)
 Cinderella and Carriage—Abby (Kindergarten)
 Giant Teddy Bear—Chloe (Grade 4)
 Fairview Lanes Bowling Gift Certificate—Paolo (Grade 1)
 Gaming Guide Books—Zoe (Grade 3)
 Montreal Canadiens gift set—Laila (Grade 3)
 Gumball Machine—Noah (Grade 5)
 Soundmate Ear Buds—Jaedee (Grade 7)
 Bonus Pack Lottery—Nathan (Grade 2)
 Homemade Elf Hat—Enzo (Grade 1)

Christmas Door Decorating Winner

The competition was fierce, and every classroom did an amazing job spreading holiday cheer with their creative and festive designs. A big round of applause to everyone who participated—you made our school look magical!

The winner of the 2024 Christmas Door Decorating Contest is...Mrs. Buordolone's Grade 6/7 class with the most overall votes! Mrs. McInerney's grade 1/2 class is the primary winner and Mrs. D'Andrea's grade 5/6 class is the junior winner.

Your creativity and holiday spirit truly stood out. Congratulations!

Poster and Literacy Contest Results

Thank you to all St James Skyhawks who entered the poster and literary contest this year. We thank you for your thoughtful participation and taking time to stop and remember. We have exciting news to share about our artistic entries! We have 12 winners from St. James, which is a new record for our school!

Congratulations to our **primary** participants:

3rd place **Morgan R.** and 3rd place for **Austin O.**

2nd place **Cecilia D.** and 2nd place for **Noah K.**

1st place **Isla G.** and 1st place for **Avery S.**

Congratulations to our junior participants:

3rd place for **Madison C.**

2nd place for **Adelyn W.**

1st place for **Brayden M.** and 1st place for **Shae S.**

Congratulations to our intermediate participants:

2nd place for **Serafina M.**

1st place winner was **Rhea P.**

Amazing job Skyhawks! Thank you to all of our students for sharing your artistic talents with the community. We wish our first place winners additional luck as their artwork is entered at the next legion level of competition. Stay tuned for the results.



**St. James School
Spirit Wear**

[School Cash Online](#)

To login to SchoolCash Online to make payments or complete various forms go to: <https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Please ensure your payment processes and verify to prevent your child from having to come to the office as they have no lunch.

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.

Anaphylaxis Awareness and Action Plans

All classroom at St. James are peanut, tree nut, sesame, seafood, 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 safety of all students. Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.

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 you 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.

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.

Online Safety Reminder

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we continue to embrace the digital age, it's crucial to ensure our children navigate the online world safely and responsibly. At St. James Catholic Elementary School, we are committed to fostering a secure and supportive learning environment, both in the classroom and online.

Why Monitor Online Activity?

1. **Safety First:** The internet is a vast resource, but it also contains content that may not be suitable for young minds. Monitoring helps protect children from inappropriate material and social media conflict.
2. **Digital Footprint:** Children may not fully understand the long-term impact of their online actions. Guiding them helps ensure they create a positive digital footprint.
3. **Cyberbullying:** By staying informed about your child's online interactions, you can help prevent and address any instances of cyberbullying.
4. **Academic Focus:** Monitoring online activity ensures that children use their screen time productively, focusing on educational content and school assignments.

Tips for Parents:

Set Clear Rules: Establish guidelines for internet use, including time limits and approved websites.

Communicate Openly: Encourage your child to talk about their online experiences and any concerns they may have.

Use Parental Controls: Utilize available tools and apps to help monitor and restrict online activity.

Stay Informed: Keep up-to-date with the latest online trends and potential risks.

Together, we can create a safe and enriching online environment for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Indoor/Outdoor Footwear

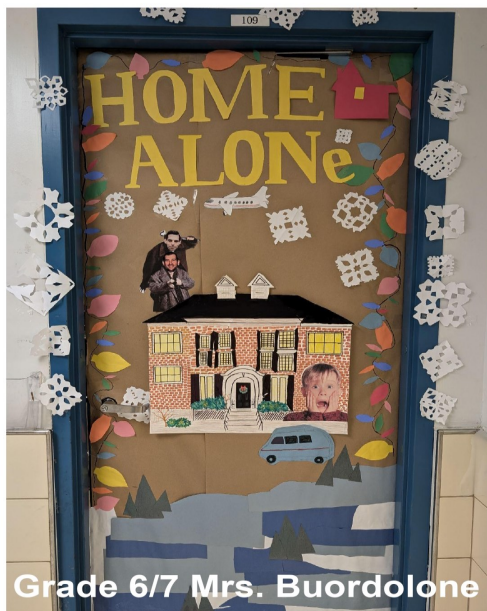
Parents are reminded to send a pair of indoor shoes with their child to the school starting January 8th. This will allow for cleanliness in our school and fore caretaking staff to focus on sanitization of surfaces. We thank everyone for their cooperation with this matter.

Cell Phone Use for Students

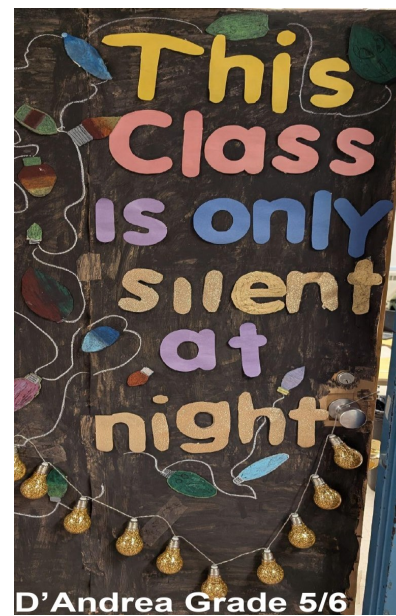
If you are providing your child(ren) with a cell phone as part of their communication and safety tools as they transit from home to school and back, be advised that all cellphones must be placed in their backpack for the instructional day. If you are texting your child during the day please expect them, 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.

Mrs. Prada
Grade 7/8



Grade 6/7 Mrs. Buordolone



D'Andrea Grade 5/6



Mrs. Timmins
Grade 3/4



Mrs. Martinelli
Grade 3/4



Mrs. Smith Grade 1



Mrs. McNerney
Grade 2/3



Mr. Soukop Grade JK/SK



Mrs. O'Rourke &
Mrs. Ali Grade JK/SK









NEW YEAR'S EVE

GAME

POST-GAME SKATE WITH THE ICEDOGS!

DECEMBER 31ST

6PM PUCK DROP

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC BY
GALAXY DRIVE



Petes

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

January 2025

Access and Update Your Child's Immunization Record


Niagara Region Public Health would like to remind parents and guardians to keep their children's immunization record up to date. This can easily be completed by using [Immunization Connect](#).

Immunization Connect is a quick, confidential, and secure system where you can access your child's vaccination record and report vaccines.

Report every time your child receives a vaccine directly to Public Health with *Immunization Connect*. **Health care**

providers do not do this for you.

Visit niagararegion.ca/vaccines for other ways to report vaccination information to Public Health.



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SCAN QR CODE for more immunization information

Wintertime Well-Being

As the weather changes and days get shorter, many people, including children and youth, may feel more anxious, depressed, or tired. It's essential to be mindful of our emotional well-being. Beat the winter blues and check out these simple activities to boost your and your child's mood.

- [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](#)
- [Easy and Fun Mental Health Activities for Home](#)
- [Active Play ideas - Active4Life](#)

Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. **Gear Up:** Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.
2. **Choose Safe Hills:** Pick tobogganing hills that are marked as a safe place and free from objects such as trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. **Follow Etiquette:** Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. **Think Safety:** Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.
5. **Stay Visible:** If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.

Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland!

