



# St. Nicholas Catholic

January 2025

## Happy New Year

Please remember that school starts back on Monday, January 6, 2025. Supervision begins at 8:10 a.m. with the entry bell ringing at 8:25 a.m.

Always remember that students learn best when they are on time.

### St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School

Home of the Tigers

**Mission Statement:** To educate each student to his/her full potential in a community formed and guided by Catholic beliefs and traditions.

**Motto:** "Journey Together On The Road To Discovery"

St. Nicholas Catholic is proud to be a part of the Denis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools.

*Go Tigers Go!*

**Principal:** Mrs. Jackie Watson

**Secretary:** Mrs. Kim Winstanley

**Catholic School Council Chair:** Ms. Paprzycki

**Superintendent:** Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

**Parish:** Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Father Benjamin Weber, Father Paul Mc Donald

**Email:** [st.nicholas@ncsb.com](mailto:st.nicholas@ncsb.com)

**Location:** [149 Church St, St. Catharines, ON, Canada](#)

**Phone:** [905-685-7764](tel:905-685-7764)



## Called By Name - Come Follow Me: Reflection #5

In the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus teaching his disciples saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven" Jesus called the disciples, as He calls each of us, to follow Him by living the Beatitudes. Jesus IS the Beatitudes. Looking at Him you see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, and to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say, "Come, follow me!" He does not simply say, "Do what I say." He says, "Come, follow me!"



## School, Home, Parish

St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools is associated with the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Parish Priests are Father Ben Weber and Father Paul McDonald.

Weather pending, we walk to church once a month for mass with Father Ben, usually the third Thursday of the month for a 10:00 a.m. start. Each class is responsible for the readings and for celebrating mass along side Father.

Our current masses are as follows:



January 23rd - Thank you to Mr. McGowan and his Grade 6/7 class for celebrating January's mass with us.

February 20th, March 5th (Ash Wednesday), March 20th, April 17th, May 15th and June 19th.

We will also host in-school liturgies for Advent and Catholic Education Week. These dates and times will be posted on the monthly calendars.

All are always welcome to join in our celebrations, both at church and the school.

School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation was on December 13th and will happen again on March/April. This will be held at school for students only who have already received.

Grade 8 Confirmation will be held on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8th at the 11:30 a.m. mass.

Grade 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation will be explained by Father directly and is to be received prior to the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Grade 2 Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be on a Saturday mass at 4:30 p.m., either May 10th or May 17th.

Grade 2 and 8 parent information regarding the Sacraments is released directly from the church.

Grade 8 Graduation - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at Club Roma. Information to follow later.

Please understand that dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, the St. Nicholas Family community will be notified whenever possible.

## To Report Your Child Absent, Please Do Not Call The School

### SafeArrival:

To report your child absent prior to the start of the school day (before 8:25 a.m. of the day being called in for), please use one of the 3 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 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

## Not Feeling The Greatest?

Flu and cold season is upon us and many of our students are already feeling a little under the weather. If your children are not feeling well, it may be a good idea to keep them home. This way they can rest, get better faster and rejoin their classmates and friends.

Thank you for keeping everyone healthy, happy and illness-free.



## Snow Day/Bus Cancellations

As a reminder for families who are familiar with the process outlined in our [School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure AOP](#) – and as information for those who are new to the school in Niagara or Niagara Catholic – the decision to cancel buses is made by Niagara Student Transportation Services very early in the morning, based on the current and forecast conditions to ensure students are safe throughout the day. NSTS makes its decision with bus companies and consults agencies such as Niagara Regional Police about whether buses are safe on the roads. They communicate the decision to the local school board directors of education, who decide whether to open schools or keep them closed for the day. Niagara Catholic communicates decisions about bus and/or school cancellations by 6 a.m. You will find the information in the following places:



· On the Board website – a red banner appears on the main page when buses and/or schools are cancelled

· The Board's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages

· Local radio and TV stations and newspaper websites

Most often, buses are cancelled but schools remain open. If you choose to keep your child at home due to inclement weather, **you must report their absence using the appropriate code through Safe Arrival**. We advise parents that Niagara Region Public Health continues to caution against mixing cohorts, which means that we cannot put classrooms together this year to ensure proper supervision of students. If, for some reason, a school does not have adequate coverage in place to ensure the safety of students while at school, an individual school **may** be closed.

Please keep in mind that driving a car is much different than a bus, and even though roads seem fine to drivers in personal vehicles, the conditions (such as snow drifts) may make it impossible for school buses to navigate through neighbourhood streets, particularly if they are not ploughed.

As well, we remind families that buses can be cancelled if the temperature falls to a point where stop arms and other mechanical parts required for the safe operation of the vehicle may freeze.

We understand that may be frustrating for parents on a bright, cold, snow-free day, but the safety of students is the top priority of the school bus companies, NSTS and Niagara Catholic and if the buses cannot operate safely due to the cold, transportation will be cancelled.

Living between two lakes can mean completely different weather in parts of Niagara. Occasionally, that leads to bus cancellations or school closures in one part of Niagara due to weather, while the rest of the region is unaffected. We encourage you to please check our website and social media feeds for accurate information to ensure that what you are reading online applies to you.

If the entire system is shut down, we will call, email and text your family using School Messenger by 6 a.m. to advise you it's a snow day. You do not need to report your child's absence from school, as schools are closed.

## Grade 8 Graduation Pictures: Ready, Set, Smile

Guess what Grade 8s? The time has come for you to be immortalized - well, at least your face.

That's right, it's Grad picture time?

When: Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Where: Gym or Library

What to wear: Ladies, always best with a white collard shirt;

Gentlemen, white dress shirt and tie

Retakes: None, seriously there will be no retake day so please show up.



## Kindergarten Second Fluoride Application

Parents/Guardians,

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be visiting our school on May 2, 2025 to provide FREE fluoride varnish to JK/SK students. This service is recommended to keep teeth healthy and help prevent cavities. Your child may be eligible for dental services through [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#).



Did you know Niagara's drinking water does not have fluoride added? To learn more about the importance of fluoride, review the attached documents or visit the [Fluoride Varnish Program](#) webpage.

To provide consent for your child to receive a dental screening and fluoride varnish, please complete the online [Dental Program Medical History and Consent Form](#) by April 25, 2025. Choose "School (JK or SK Dental Screening and Fluoride Varnish)" when asked where your child is receiving dental services.

To speak to a public health dental professional, call 905-688-8248 ext. 7399 or [live chat](#) with the Dental Team. Translation services available.

To help us improve our services, please complete our 3 minute online [Fluoride Varnish Survey](#).



**Dental Parent Letter JK and SK.pdf**

[Download](#)

717.0 KB



**The Facts on Fluoride Varnish.pdf**

[Download](#)

1.1 MB

## French Immersion On-Line Open Pre-Registration For September 2025

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](http://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](http://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.

### **St. Nicholas Catholic Book Vending Machine Story**

The staff and students of St. Nicholas Catholic have been blessed to have been chosen as the first book vending machine school between both NCDSB and DSBN.

On Tuesday, December 10, 2025 we celebrated our Start 2Finish Vending Machine with introductions and a special opening by our Indigenous Team, followed by speeches by Dr. Brian Warren and our Director of Education Camillo Cipriano. After the ribbon cutting, our Student Council Prime Minister, Lola B., along with our Grade 1 student Ben S., chose their inaugural books. Once the books dropped down, Dr. Warren had a little fun with a read aloud.

Throughout this week, all students were given a coin and were able to select a book of their choice to take home - free of charge.

At this point in time, there are enough books for another round of drops. This spring we will be given another five hundred or so books, for a third and fourth round of drops.

Thank you to all for this unbelievably wonderful gift. And a huge thank you goes out to our Librarian Lead, Ms, Danielle Black, who not only selected St. Nicholas Catholic, but was also an integral part of the book selection.





## Gingerbread Night

Our fourth annual Gingerbread Night was a huge success. Thank you to all staff and students who helped to set up and clean up. A special thank you goes out to our Student Council who helped to set up, support throughout and clean up at the end. Way to go Council. All of you are awesome!



## Catholic School Council Update

Our Catholic School Council has been very busy in organizing various fundraisers to help support all of our students.

We are very proud to state that our Big Box Card Fundraiser was a success. Sixty-five boxes were sold for a total profit of \$715.00.

Our COBS fundraiser was a success as always. We sold 52 cards and made a profit of \$12.50/card.

HOWEVER, the wonderful and amazing owner of COBS on Fourth Ave. Mr. Marko Bukovec, has donated all proceeds back to the St. Nicholas Catholic Family. That means we made a profit of \$1,300.00.

Thank you Mr. Bukovec.

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Flowers will happen in the Spring.



Another successful Christmas Shoppe was run this year on December 12th and 13th and we raised \$1,216.00.

This money will be used for an end of year experience for all of our students, such as a trip to Queenston Heights for a BBQ and sports day. (Please note this is just an example.)

Thank you for all of your continued support.

## Sports Corner

A lot will be happening this coming new year in regards to our sporting events.

We have both Junior and Intermediate Basketball late winter followed by Intermediate Flag Football late spring. Exact dates and tryout schedules will be announced once we know.

Our Track and Field has been scheduled for Friday, May 23, 2025 at the Niagara Olympic Club and we will be sharing the filed once again with the students from St. Denis Catholic. The FOS and Board Track and Filed meets will be held in early June.

So many events happening and so much for our Grades 4-8 to look forward to.



## Denis Morris Catholic High School Open House - Thursday, January 9, 2025

To all Grade 8 Students/Parents and Guardians,

Denis Morris Catholic High School, 40 Glen Morris Dr., will be hosting their fabulous Open House the evening of January 9th for both parents/guardians and students.

Future Reds - come spend the night getting to know staff, looking some sports and clubs the high school has to offer, as well as sitting back and being entertained by the DM Cheerleaders, band members and perhaps even a few members of the Drama Club.

## Hot Lunches

We have posted all of our hot lunches from January to March on school cash.

January 10th - Pizza

January 24th - Firehouse Subs

February 7th - Pizza

February 21st - Chicken Fingers

March 7th - Pizza

March 28th - Meatball Subs

Please note that all lunches need to be paid by their due dates. Hot lunches cannot be paid for on the day of delivery.



## Public Health

Monthly Newsletter for Parents



## Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot

Please remember that you are asked not to park or get out of your car when in the Kiss 'n Ride line up. The Kiss 'n Ride is exactly that - a quick kiss as your child(ren) quickly get out of the family car. Or the quick ability for your child(ren) to get into the car and do up their own seatbelts. Please ensure that you have pulled up to the front of the line prior to your child(ren) getting out of the car. After school, staff will support students by getting them to their car safely. If you need to help your child(ren) get in and out of the car, or to assist with the seatbelt, or to help with the putting on or taking off of backpacks, we kindly ask that you park your car in a designated parking spot - away from the flow of traffic.

Our parking lot is small, however the traffic is able to flow well when expectations are followed. We thank everyone for their cooperation when it comes to the safety of our students and staff when in the parking lot and in the Kiss 'n Ride.

## PPM 128 Cell Phone Use in Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),



### Elementary

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Please note that all cell phones need to remain in backpacks or lockers. If your child does have a locker, it is suggested that s/he bring a lock. Cell phones are not to be kept in back pockets, in the pouch of hoodies, in desks, or anywhere visible.

If a child does have his/her cell phone out, they will be directed by the classroom teacher to go to the office where the phone will be locked in the safe. The cell phone will either be returned at the end of the day, or will be returned to the parent/guardian when they come to pick it up.

Thank you

## Big Bear Spiritwear

St. Nicholas Spiritwear is now being offered through Big Bear Spiritwear. Please click onto



<https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/st-nicholas/> to see the options

available for purchase. All St. Nicholas Spiritwear can be worn throughout the year as it is an extension of the school dress code.

Orders placed through Big Bear Spiritwear can either be picked up at their Niagara Falls store or can be delivered to the school for a \$3.00 charge. Items delivered to the school will be sent home with the student in his/her backpack.

## Anaphylaxis Awareness

All schools within Niagara Catholic are peanut and tree nut free.

### Allergy Aware School



At St. Nicholas Catholic, we have students with life threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to peanut and/or tree nut products. We ask that you please read labels carefully ensuring that all lunch products are peanut and tree nut free. That includes products that 'may contain' or are packaged in a facility that uses peanuts and/or tree nuts. For more information on anaphylaxis, visit [www.anaphylaxis.ca](http://www.anaphylaxis.ca).

We work very hard at preventing accidental exposure. We ask that you please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed his or her hands after eating peanuts or peanut products for breakfast/lunch while at home. It is also very important that we have common rules throughout the school. The teachers will explain the importance of the following health and safety routines to the students in their classrooms:

- 1) Wash hands with soap and water/hand sanitizer before and after eating,
- 2) Do not bring in food that contains, or possibly contains peanuts/tree nuts
- 3) Do not share food with other students
- 4) Do not accept food from other students, especially if you have an allergy
- 5) Dispose of all food waste properly

If your child has an allergy or is anaphylactic, please ensure that the office is aware and that the proper medical forms have been completed. All medication signed off on by a doctor will be housed safely at the school during the duration of the school year. Please check the expiration date of all medication prior to bringing in.

## Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools

Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2015 is an important step to support the health and well-being of students diagnosed with asthma in Ontario schools.



**If your son/daughter has been diagnosed with asthma, please contact the office to provide information about your son/daughter's asthma medication.**

**You will be required to complete and submit the Niagara Catholic Student Asthma Management Plan for your student.**

Any student under the age of 16 years will be permitted to carry and administer his/her asthma medication at school with your consent. A student 16 years or older is not required to have his or her parent's or guardian's permission to carry his or her asthma medication.

The Ministry of Education website has resources on asthma that can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/anaphylaxis.html>.

**Please Keep us Updated**

Communication thru emails:



A reminder that information and updates will be regularly sent out via email. Please ensure that your current email address is on file at the office. Likewise, monthly calendars, newsletters and on-line paraphernalia such as class trip information can be found on our school's website.

**\*Please understand that if we do not have your current email address, you will not receive information, you will not be able to access information such as report cards, through the parent portal, nor will you be able to access school cash on-line.**

**Always keep us apprised of email changes.**

**Thank you**

**Respectful Interaction Framework**

St. Nicholas Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.

Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated.

While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.



Thank you

**PA Day on Friday, January 17, 2025. No school on this day.**

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**Jacqueline Watson**

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

