



January 2025

St. Kevin Catholic School

Principal: Mr. G. Marchio **Superintendent:** Mrs. Kimberly Kinney

Parish Priests: Rev. Jinto Mathew Puthiyidathuchalil, CSC & Fr. Arockia Sunil Josapath, CSC
182 Aqueduct St., Welland, ON, L3C 1C4
905-734-7709

Happy New Year!!

As we begin a new year, I extend my warmest wishes to each of you. The dawn of a new year is a time for reflection, gratitude, and hope. It is a moment to thank God for His countless blessings and to seek His guidance for the journey ahead.

In the spirit of our Catholic faith, let us embrace this new beginning with hearts full of love, compassion, and a renewed commitment to our shared mission. May we continue to grow in faith, knowledge, and service, always striving to reflect the light of Christ in all that we do.

I pray that this year brings you and your families abundant joy, peace, and prosperity. May the Holy Spirit inspire us to support one another, to cherish our community, and to work together towards a brighter future.

Happy New Year! May God's grace be with you always.

With blessings and best wishes,

Mr. G. Marchio
Principal

**Happy
New Year!**



Food Days

Pizza Days ~ January 16, 2025
January 30, 2025
Popcorn ~ January 7 & 21, 2025

Professional Activity Day

Friday January 17th, 2025
No School for Students

Alternate Dress Day

Friday, January 31st, 2025

~~~ Mission Statement ~~~

"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 and spirit."

Justice Compassion Stewardship Accountability Community Integrity Faithfulness

New Year Prayer

Lord, may I serve you and my neighbour with energy and good cheer.

I pray you will help me make the right choices and may I always choose out of love.

May I treasure these moments today, never taking them for granted.

May I have faith to know you are near even when I don't feel your presence, and please give me a sense that you are at my side in all I do.



Thank You! Thank You!

Thank You for the Donations! On behalf of the staff and myself at St. Kevin Catholic School, we would sincerely like to thank you for the generous and kind donations from families within our community. Many families had a wonderful Christmas because of your generosity at this time! Great job Celtic community!



Catholic School Council

Thank you to Catholic School Council for all of their efforts this past year. It was a great year filled with community events and funds were raised for the school to enhance technology. Thank you to everyone for their support.

The St. Kevin Catholic School Council will meet again on January 28th, 2025 at 6:00pm in the school library.

Royal Canadian Legion Poster Winners!

In the month of November students at St. Kevin Catholic School participated in the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day poster contest. There were several entries and the students below were recognized for their efforts! Thank you to Mr. Watson for organizing the student artwork and providing this opportunity to our students through The Legion. Job well done Celtics!

Congratulations: *Goodnews, Sam, Nana & Romain*

Bell Let's Talk

Bell Let's Talk Day launched in 2010 with a focus on building awareness, acceptance and action in mental health. Since this launch, Canadians have taken the conversation around mental health to remarkable heights, making it clear that mental health matters.

Dedicated to moving mental health forward in Canada, Let's Talk Day promotes awareness and action with a strategy built on four key pillars: fighting the stigma, improving access to care, supporting world-class research and leading by example in workplace mental health.

Therefore, Bell Let's Talk Day on *January 22nd, 2025*, focuses on supporting ourselves and others.

Visitors to the School

This is a gentle reminder that all parents are required to report to the main office upon entering the school. For the safety and security of our students, parents are not permitted to walk the hallways freely. Thank you for your cooperation with this!



School Closures and Bus Cancellations

The winter weather will soon be upon us, and that means increased chances for bus or school cancellations in all or part of Niagara.

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 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 [NCDSB 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. If you are keeping your child at home on a day when schools are open, or if schools are closed, you may wish to access asynchronous learning resources during the day. These resources are available [here](#).

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.

Although weather systems do blow through without warning, we usually have some idea that bad weather is coming and we encourage families to be prepared for this, especially if parents have to work while children are at home.

If your child is staying home due to a bus cancellation or a school closure, they will have the opportunity to participate in asynchronous learning from home. [Click here](#) for Kindergarten, Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Secondary literacy, numeracy, and other subjects for students to keep up with work if that is what you choose to do. Please note that participating in this work is voluntary, and should be considered as reviewing or reach-ahead work, rather than teacher-led new learning.

Secondary students may also review any classroom work or reach ahead where possible if they choose to do so.



St. Kevin Catholic School Family Christmas Night

Thank you very much to our Catholic School Council for providing our school a meaningful community building activity. The students enjoyed an evening of decorating cookies, listening to Christmas Carols, reading Christmas stories, colouring Christmas pages, enjoying hot chocolate and of course the opportunity to meet with Mr. & Mrs. Claus! Much planning and organizing goes into these types of events and our school community is appreciative of the efforts. On behalf of Catholic School Council Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Winter Recess 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, i.e., boots, gloves, etc. With the number of students at our school, 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. The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season: No throwing of snowballs, no kicking or throwing snow or snowing other students. No breaking of snow structures. Please be advised that students engaging in these types of behaviours will be dealt with immediately. If it continues, parents will be contacted and further consequences will come into effect.

French Immersion Registration September 2025-2026

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 2025: 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.

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](#).

Access and Update Your Child's Immunization Record

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.

SCAN QR CODE for more immunization information

Niagara Region

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.

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!

