

St. Andrew Catholic School

February 2025

School Information

Principal: Mrs. M. Ruggi Dietsch

Superintendent of Education: Mrs. K. Kinney

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/standrew/>

Instagram: @standrewjags16

Location: 16 St. Andrew Street Welland L3B 1E1

Phone: 905-732-5663

Principal's Message

"Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:8)

February is a month synonymous with love, friendship, compassion and giving. Throughout the month of February, let us remember not only to fall in love with Jesus, but remain in love with Him seeking to know more about Him each and every day.

This month we celebrate the virtue of Love. Christian love is rooted in a committed friendship with God. We can express our love for God by being of service to our fellow human beings. Sometimes this virtue is called charity. Jesus' greatest act of love for us is His supreme sacrifice in dying on the cross to bear our sins.

As Christians we are invited to 'Let all that you do be done in love' (1 Cor. 16:14). We practice love when... we are helpful to a classmate, a family member or an animal in need; notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend; take time to show we care; forgive others when they make mistakes; and reach out in the broader community to share our gifts and talents. As we journey

through this month of February, may we practice the virtue of love with all we meet in our daily lives.

Mrs. M. Ruggi Dietsch

Black History Month

Every February, we participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. The Theme this year is Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; A Future to Build.

Throughout the month students will participate in a number of activities that will be showcased on our Instagram Account @standrewjags16.

The Government of Canada website contains resources for Black History Month, including how Black history came to be recognized in Canada and information about Black history organizations and educational resources. Please visit the link for more information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



Kindergarten Open House

A colorful poster for a Kindergarten Open House. The title "St. Andrew CES Kindergarten Open House 2025-2026" is at the top. Below it, the date and time "Thursday February 6, 2025 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m." are listed. The poster features several images of children: a boy jumping over a pencil, a girl reading, and a group of children at a table. There are also icons for "PLAY", "LEARN", and "ENJOY". The registration link "https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/" is at the bottom. The poster is made with PosterMyWall.com.

St. Andrew CES
Kindergarten
Open House
2025-2026

Thursday February 6, 2025
9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PLAY

Children born in 2021

LEARN

ENJOY

Register at:
<https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/>

Made With PosterMyWall.com

Important Dates

Please note the following dates:

- Kindergarten Open House - Thursday, February 6th - 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
- Pizza Day - Friday, February 7th
- Kids Helping Kids - February 10 - 21 (more information below)
- BIG BOX Fundraiser set to begin on February 10 - February 24th - more information to come
- Bus Safety Presentations - Tuesday, February 11th
- Report Cards - Posted to the Parent Portal - Wednesday, February 12th
- IEPs and Alternative Reports - Sent home - Wednesday, February 12th
- Notre Dame College Hockey Game for Grade 4-8 (**wear green, navy & gold**) - Monday, February 10th
- Valentine's Day Celebrations (**wear red, white and pink**)- Thursday, February 13th
- Chili Day - Thursday, February 13th
- PA Day - Friday, February 14th
- Family Day (no school) - Monday, February 17th
- Catholic School Council Meeting - Tuesday, February 18th
- Guest Speaker- Rochelle Bush - Freedom Trail - Friday, February 21st
- Pink Shirt Day - Wednesday, February 26th
- Pasta Day - Friday, February 28th



Term 1 Report Cards

Term 1 Reports for students will be posted on the Parent Portal on February 12, 2025. IEPs will be sent home. Although no formal interviews are scheduled, as always, teachers and parents may request an interview at an agreeable date/time to celebrate the many successes over the course of the term.

If you require a printed copy of your child's report, please contact the classroom teacher by February 10th.



French Immersion

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 10 - 21, 2025

Please make your donation through the
Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online



KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 10 - 21, 2025

Please make your donation through the
Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online

Niagara Catholic's 27th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 10-21, 2025.

This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education.

Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Creative Hair Day.

Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online. For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org.

To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website:
niagarachildrenscentre.com

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 10 - 21, 2025

Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online

St. Andrew Catholic School	
Monday, February 10, 2025	100th Day of School Wear Green, Navy and Gold ND Hockey Game Grade 4-8
Tuesday, February 11, 2025	Creative Hair Day
Wednesday, February 12, 2025	Jersey Day
Thursday, February 13, 2025	Wear Red/Pink/White Valentine's Day Celebration
Friday, February 14, 2025	PA Day
Monday, February 17, 2025	FAMILY DAY
Tuesday, February 18, 2025	Opposites Day
Wednesday, February 19, 2025	Hat Day
Thursday, February 20, 2025	Scavenger Hunt Day
Friday, February 21, 2025	Shine Bright Dress Day - Wear Bright Colours

Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Annual Benefit Gala

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ANNUAL BENEFIT

Gala

WITH HONOURARY GUEST
MOST REVEREND GERARD BERGIE, D.D.

and presentation of the
Niagara Catholic Education
AWARD OF DISTINCTION

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED AND PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS

\$100 Per Person · Thursday March 27, 2025 · 6:00 PM
Club Roma Event & Conference Centre

Payment can be made [online here](#) or by cheque using the form below.
Cheques payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE)
Payment must be received by March 18, 2025
• \$30 tax receipt available upon request •

Name _____	#Attending _____	Payment \$ _____
Email _____	Phone _____	
Dietary Requests _____		
Table Assignment Request - Please list the names or groups _____		
Please send cheque and form to: Anna Pisano, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Rd., Welland, ON L3C 7C1		





For further information
call 905.734.0240 ext. 214
or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community. Check out our [School Health webpage](#) for some important links and supports:

- [Childhood illnesses of diseases and public health significance](#)
- [Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods](#)
- [Dental Screening](#)
- [School-aged vaccines](#)
 - Parents and legal guardians of junior and senior kindergarten registrants and students new to Ontario are asked to report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#).

Is your child due for vaccines?

Go to [Immunization Connect](#) to review your child's immunization history and check the **Immunizations Needed** section for missing vaccines.

If your child is missing any vaccines, book an appointment to get them vaccinated. Vaccines are available at healthcare providers' offices, walk-in clinics or Public Health vaccination clinics.

Bring your yellow card or immunization record print out from [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](#) to each vaccine visit. This will help you and your health care provider keep an up-to-date record of which vaccines have been received.

Can't find any immunization records? Here are some [tips](#) to help you.

- **Previous healthcare providers** will keep records for a limited time. Also check with local health units, your pharmacist, and any urgent care clinics, as well as hospital emergency departments.
- **At home** – Close family members such as parents or guardians may have copies of your childhood immunizations in old papers, including baby books and school or camp forms.
- **Schools, colleges, universities or other post-secondary institutions** may still have records for you or your child.
- **Previous employers**, including the military, may still have records from your employment.
- If your family is having trouble with locating or transferring immunization records, please [contact the Vaccine Team](#) and a nurse will discuss what needs to be done. Translation services are also provided.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

- From **February 1st to 7th 2025** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) and eating disorder groups nationwide that come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre "Transform the Narrative" Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day, also known as Anti-Bullying Day, is on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Throughout February and the year, [CKNW Kids' Fund's Pink Shirt Day](#) raises awareness and funds for programs promoting children's self-esteem. This year the theme is: LET KINDNESS GROW. Wear a pink shirt on this day to stand against bullying and contribute to creating a kinder, more inclusive world. Let victims know they're not alone; help and support are available. For more ways to get involved visit <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/get-involved>.



Family Day

Family Day is coming up on Monday, February 17th and it's a great chance to spend time with loved ones. Whether it's starting a new tradition like a family hike, playing outdoors, trying a nutritious recipe, or enjoying a fun board game together, this Family Day can be all about building lasting memories and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

To support you in making Family Day a meaningful occasion, we invite you to explore local programs and events to make the most of the day and keep your family active, engaged, and healthy!

- Explore an EarlyON centre, providing free, high-quality drop-in programs for children from birth to six years of age. Click [here](#) to access their family day calendar!
- The local Performing Arts Centre has a full day of exciting events for all ages. Check out their [schedule](#) and enjoy a variety of activities happening throughout the day.
- Visit the Merriton Community Centre on February 15th for their annual Family Fun Day
- Find a new adventure spot in a [regional walking or hiking trail](#)
- Check your [local public library](#) for free family day activities

Winter Walk Day

On Wednesday February 5th join schools across Ontario to celebrate [Winter Walk Day](#). While the cold air and snow might tempt you to drive, walking in winter can be enjoyable with some extra precautions. Here are tips for a safe and comfortable winter walk:

- Keep hands, head, and ears covered. Be sure hats and scarves do not block hearing or vision.
- Wear mittens, they keep hands warmer than gloves.
- Wear warm, waterproof boots with good treads for better traction on snow and ice.
- Wear wool or insulating clothing to help retain body heat.
- Beware if the temperature falls below -25 °C or if the wind chill is -28 °C or colder. This is when exposed skin freezes in only a few minutes.
- Change wet clothes as soon as possible - tuck extra socks and mitts into backpacks.
- Keep wearing sunscreen - yes, you can still get a sun burn in winter.
- Add reflective tape or tags on coats and backpacks.



Source: Green Communities Active & Safe Routes to School, Way to Go! School Program and Go for Green.

Check out Ontario Active School Travels [Winter Walk Day](#) webpage for promotional materials, resources, and activities below to help you celebrate WWD in your community! We're looking forward to seeing everyone in their cozy winter wear!

Snow Safety At St. Andrew

Please remind your child(ren) about snow safety while at school.

- 1) Snow is to stay on the ground and never to be thrown.
- 2) Students are not permitted to play on the ice.
- 3) Snow structures are to be no taller than the child's waist.
- 4) If you are unsure about the weather and if the school is open or if transportation may be cancelled, please tune in to a local radio station, or check the website [niagaracatholic.ca](#)
- 5) If you need assistance in providing your child with warm winter gear, please contact the school and we will do what we can to be of assistance.

Called By Name

Our Niagara Catholic's new theological theme for 2022-2026 will be "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2022-2023 Called by Name: You are Mine

2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples



"Come, follow me!" These words of Jesus are an invitation for each and every one of us. How can each of us better follow Jesus right where we are today? How can we become missionaries encouraging each other to look up from the table, let go of our sins and see the finger of Jesus pointing at each of us personally beckoning us to hear the command call?: "Come, follow me!"

St. Andrew Balanced Day Schedule

9:05 am Supervision Begins

9:15 am Entry Bell

9:15 am-11:25 am Instructional Block 1

11:25 am -11:45 am Recess

11:45 am -12:05 Nutrition Break1

12:05 am- 1:25 pm Instructional Block 2

1:25 pm - 1:45 pm Recess

1:45 pm-2:05 pm Nutrition Break2

2:05 pm - 3:25 pm Instructional Block 3

3:35 pm Dismissal

Respectful Interaction at St. Andrew

St. Andrew 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.

Cell Phones at School

Earlier this spring, the Ministry of Education issued new requirements for school boards to follow to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in our schools. This involves the use of cell phones and vaping. At St. Andrew, students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will not be required to use cell phones for academic purposes. Therefore, there is no need for these students to bring a cell phone to school. Each classroom as well as the main office, has a telephone for issues that require a more immediate response. Grade 7 & 8 students who bring their cell phones to school



must have the phone stored out of view and turned off during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning.

Any student that requires a cell phone for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs are permitted to use their cell phone as necessary with prior permission. At St. Andrew, each Grade 7 & 8 teacher will have a place for students to store their phone for safe keeping during non-instructional times. If a teacher sees a cell phone that is not stored out of view,

students will be required to hand in their device in for the instructional day. The cell phone will be placed, by the student, in a secure storage area designated by the principal. If a student refuses to hand in their personal mobile device, the Ministry requires that the student be sent to the principal's office. Consequences for failing to hand in their phone is at the principal's discretion. School boards are now required to disable access to social media platforms on school networks and board devices. This is intended to limit the number of interruptions in class and to benefit the mental health and well-being of students. Niagara Catholic already blocks access to some social media sites. Now all will be unavailable to students.

ECO News

Our ECO Team wants to help better the environment and try to reduce waste and single-use plastic. Each Wednesday we are encouraging our St. Andrew community to pack a waste free lunch! This may include a reusable water bottle, packing snacks in containers or using reusable cutlery. These small initiatives can help protect our Environment! Thank you, from the ECO Team.

Easy Litterless Meal Ideas

1. Store sandwiches in reusable food containers.
2. Pack a Thermos with leftovers.
3. Cut up veggies and fruit and put them in a reusable container.





Niagara Nutrition Partners

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Niagara Nutrition Partners (NNP) is a not-for-profit program that was established in 1998 and is a Region-wide initiative that offers support and coordination for student nutrition programs.

At St. Andrew School, we offer snacks to all students throughout the school day. Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for their support each year!

We are asking parents to consider donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain this program throughout the year. Please Donate through School Cash Online. This will be open on School Cash Online all year.

Standardized Dress Code

A reminder that students are expected to adhere to Niagara Catholic's Standardized Dress Code. An additional copy of the Dress Code is attached below. According to the Standardized Dress Code, the following items are **not permitted**:

- Black Pants
- T-shirts of any kind (spiritwear exempt)
- Faded or torn Jeans. (Jeans must be dark blue and in good condition)
- Shorts and Skirts must be knee length

Your cooperation is important and appreciated.



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.

OUR DRESS CODE COLOURS

Tops

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy or white Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy or white collared shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School-designed spirit wear

The elementary standardized dress code shirt must be plain (no logos or advertising) and buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.



Bottoms

- At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:
- Navy sweat pants (Kindergarten - Grade 3) or;
- Navy pants (capri, cargo, denim, kobe or corduroy) or;
- Navy skirts, skirts or dresses or;
- Navy walking shorts.

Only knee-length shorts, skirts or dresses are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants.



Shoes

For health and safety reasons, running shoes with a full back and closed toe are the recommended footwear. Parents/guardians should provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear. Socks must be worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

Spirit Wear

ST. ANDREW JAGUARS 2024-2025 SPIRITWEAR

Cotton/Poly Jersey Style Polo Shirt

Embroidered with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Left Chest



White



Navy

Youth #8800B \$20.49
Adult #8800 \$20.49

Available Colours: Navy & White

Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt

Youth #88181Y

Ladies' #78181

Adult #88181

Embroidered with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Left Chest



Navy



White



Navy

\$29.95 Same Price for all Sizes

Available Colours: Navy & White

50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Printed with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Front



Navy



Dark Heather



Navy

Youth #18500B \$32.95
Adult #18500 \$34.95

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

50/50 Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Embroidered with St. Andrew Jaguars Logo on Left Chest



Navy



Dark Heather



Navy

Youth #18600B \$39.95
Adult #18600 \$42.95

Available Colours: Navy & Dark Heather

Order On-Line at www.bigbearspiritwear.com

No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Personalized Products
Sizing Charts available at each product online | Delivery to your School Option available



6182 Dixon Street
Niagara Falls, ON, L2G 2L6
Ph: 905-357-7132
csr@bigbearspiritwear.com



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

Big Bear Spirit Wear, a board-approved supplier for spirit wear items will now supply St. Andrew School Spirit Wear. They offer a wide range of dress-code approved items through their online store at: <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com> Students are allowed to wear the Jaguar hoodie to school and these are a worthwhile purchases for the cold weather months. Please label all clothing

items that come to school so that we can return all misplaced items to the correct person. Please note items may not yet be visible on the website.

Indoor Shoes

Please ensure that your child(ren) have a pair of indoor running shoes at school. Students are expected to change their footwear when they enter their classroom. This will not only keep the floors dry but also clean. Students that do not have indoor running shoes will not be permitted to participate in gym.

Student Supervision

Students are able to come into the school at 9:00 am. Please note that supervision is not provided prior to this time.

Safety - Drop Off & Pick U

Morning Drop-Off: Please be advised that parents are not to use the front driveway for drop-off until after 9:20 AM. This restriction is necessary to avoid congestion and ensure the safety of our students and staff, as it allows our buses to operate without obstruction. Additionally, students should not be using the front door in the morning; they are to go to their assigned doors for entry until 9:20 AM.

Afternoon Pick-Up: If you need to pick up your child between 2:45 PM and 3:30 PM, kindly park on the road. This will enable our special education buses to maneuver in and out of the driveway without any issues.

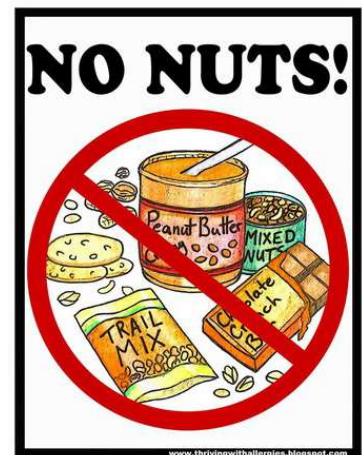
Your cooperation in following these guidelines is greatly appreciated and will contribute to a safer environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Medications & Allergies

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drugs, without written permission from the parent and a doctor. If there is a need for such medication, please contact the school to obtain the forms which must be filled out and signed by both the doctor and the parent. This record is required by School Board Regulations and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the family as soon as possible.

Please remember that St. Andrew Catholic School is an Allergen Aware School. Please do not send products with nuts or nut traces with your child.



Nut Free School Lunches and Tips for Packing Lunches



The challenge for all parents is to send foods that are nutritious and nut free and that will keep our kids energized and alert at school all day. They also need to be tasty, so that our kids will actually want to eat them! Those can feel like competing goals at times. Here are tips for making school lunch easier:

1. Try to include a variety of colours and textures to make the food appealing to kids. You want them to actually eat what you've packed!

2. Use up those dinner remnants. Brown rice can be tossed with black beans and served at room temperature. Cooked pasta can be transformed into a pasta salad. Chicken can be sliced and wrapped up in a tortilla with lettuce and veggies.

3. Include a sweet treat that is healthier than pre-packaged foods. Homemade granola bars, whole wheat muns, or even homemade doughnuts are fun treats that are worlds better than anything you can buy at the store!

4. No matter what, always make sure lunch is balanced by including fruit, vegetable, protein, and carbohydrate!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE and SAFE ARRIVAL

St. Andrew Catholic School and all schools throughout Niagara Catholic use the Safe Arrival program to manage student attendance reporting. The Safe Arrival program reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance by making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences. The Safe Arrival program allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

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 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.

REMINDER- No single serve plastics available

Parents are reminded to ensure that their child(ren) have the required utensils needed to eat their snacks/lunches as well as a reusable water bottle they can fill at the hydration stations. We are no longer permitted to distribute plastic/styrofoam spoons, forks or cups to students that do not have them.



School Cash Online

Please ensure that use of School Cash online for the purchase/payment of food days, field trips, donations etc. This is a safe and easy-to-use online program that allows you to make convenient and secure payments from the comfort of your own home. To register, please click [here](#)



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters