



ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

FEBRUARY 2025

The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

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.

Principal's Message

As we step into the month of February, I hope this message finds you and your families well. This month is filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and community building at our school.

Faith and Community: February is a special month as we celebrate the Feast of St. Valentine, a reminder of the importance of love and kindness in our lives. Our students will be participating in various activities that emphasize these values, including a special Mass and classroom projects focused on acts of kindness.

Academic Excellence: Our teachers are dedicated to providing a rich and engaging curriculum. This month, we will be focusing on literacy and numeracy skills, with a special focus on Lexia and Knowledgehook programs. We encourage you to support your children by reading with them at home and practicing math skills in everyday situations.

Black History Month: February is also Black History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians. Our school will be displaying a Diverse Saints Quilt, classroom activities and classroom discussions have been planned to educate our students about the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Valentine's Day: On Friday February 14, 2025 we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day of love and devotion. Activities for Valentine's Day will take place within each classroom. Valentine's Day cookie orders will be delivered to students from Student Council on Thursday 13th. Please do not send your child with food and/or candies on this day as it poses a risk to the students in our school with allergens. Your respect of the safety and well-being of St. James students is appreciated.

Anti-Bullying Awareness Day: Anti-Bullying Awareness Day will be taking place on Wednesday February 26, 2025 and students are encouraged to wear pink on this day. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of bullying and promoting a culture of respect and kindness. Let's continue to work as a team and do our part to make St. James a bully behaviour free place.

Kids Helping Kids: The St. James staff and students will be supporting the "Kids Helping Kids" campaign running from February 10, 2025 to February 21, 2025. The planned events are included on page 3 of newsletter. Donations can be made directly through SchoolCash Online. We ask that student participating in the various out of uniform activities donate a quarter or a loonie for each of the days if feasible.

Reminders

PD Day: February 14, 2025 – No school for students.

Family Day: February 17, 2025 – School closed.

Staffing Update

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Lianne Major to the St. James Staff. Mrs. Major will be taking over for Mrs. Martinelli in our Grade 3/4 Class for the remainder of the School Year. Mrs. Martinelli will return in September 2025.

Mr. K. Lococo, Principal

Report Cards

Term One Reports will be available on the parent portal during the week of February 10, 2025.

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/reportcards>

Please be advised that parent-teacher conferences for this term will be at the request of the teacher and/or parent(s)/guardian(s).

Teachers will be making a request to the parents of students for whom they feel an interview would be necessary. After the Report Cards are made available, parent(s)/guardian(s) may also request an interview by contacting the teacher to arrange a convenient time.

February Food Days

Thursday 6th — Pizza Lunch Day
Thursday 13th — Chicken Finger Lunch Day
Thursday 20th — Sub Lunch Day
Thursday 27th — Mexican Lunch Day

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](#).

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday **February 26, 2025** is **PINK SHIRT DAY**. Each year, on **Pink Shirt Day**, we encourage everyone to wear something **pink** to symbolize that we as a society will not accept bullying anywhere.

Take the message and remember it all year long.

Indoor/Outdoor Footwear

Parents are reminded to send a pair of indoor shoes with their child to the school. 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.

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 guidelines.

Staff will direct students inside should weather conditions require under the inclement weather policy.

Catholic School Council

Virtual Meeting Monday February 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
<https://meet.google.com/yjc-kwsv-hkv>

Professional Activity Day

This is a friendly reminder that on Friday February 14, 2025 is a designated Professional Activity Day for Niagara Catholic Staff. Therefore, there is no school for students on this day.

Family Day

Niagara Catholic schools and Catholic Education Centre will be closed on Monday February 17, 2025 to observe Family Day. The purpose of Family Day is to emphasize and celebrate the importance of families taking time to be together.

Valentine's Day

As part of the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser, we invite all students to dress in red, pink and/or white on February 13, 2025.

Valentine's Day activities will be theme based activities in individual classroom. We are requesting that students **DO NOT** bring in an food items on Valentine's Day to distribute. This will ensure a minimal disruption to the learning environment as well as ensure our Anaphylaxis students are not inadvertently exposed to an allergen.

Students will have the option to purchase and have sent to a classmate a Valentine's Day Cookie(s), or to purchase one for themselves.

The cost of the Valentine's Day Cookie will be \$2.00. Classroom teachers will distribute the ordering sheets to students. The form is to return completed with a toonie to process the order. Ordering sheets and funds are to be brought to the Valentine Cookie ordering table during lunch. A member of Student Council will be at the table to process the request and answer any questions.

Orders will be taken during lunch periods between Monday January 20, 2025 to Monday February 10, 2025 by 12:40 p.m. at our Student Council Table.

UPCOMING EVENTS

T-Shirt Design Contest—students have been working hard on their designs. Selection process will include Student Council and Staff. The winner will be announced in February. **Stay Tuned!**

Krispy Kreme—we will be selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts in April/May with delivery to be May 13, 2025. We will be selling a dozen doughnuts for \$15.00 on SchoolCashOnline. There will be a limited total quantity available and sold on a first come first serve basis. A School Messenger Message will be sent prior to the opening of sales.

Hot Lunch Days—We are introducing Burrito Boyz on Thursday February 27, 2025 as a new hot lunch option. Stay tuned as we currently working on some additional options for the students. Hot Dog Days will return in March and/or April.

Gymnasium—Throughout the last few months we have been working with Board Office staff and Engineers on a update to the current school gymnasium. Updates will include: all new mats, wall padding, flooring, painting, adjustable basketball nets and HVAC changes. This work will impact the availability of the gymnasium for students. We will advise the school community when we have a tentative timeframe of the work commencing. We are very excited for the updates to the facility.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

FEBRUARY 10TH—FEBRUARY 21ST, 2025

Support Kids Helping Kids. Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids Link at School Cash Online.



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: [Niagara Children's Centre](#)

Week of February 10, 2025

- 10th Sports Team Jersey Day
- 11th Hawaiian Luau Day: All Hawaiian shirts and Hawaiian Accessories
- 12th Mismatched Shoe Day
- 13th Red and White Day for Valentine's Day
- 14th PA DAY—No School

Week of February 17, 2025

- 17th Family Day—No School
- 18th Students Dress as Teachers Day
- 19th 2000's Dress Day
- 20th Colour Challenge Day
Kindergarten - Green • Grade 1 Yellow • Grade 2/3 - Orange • Grade 3/4 - Red • Grade 5/6 - Blue • Grade 6/7 - Purple • Grade 7/8 - Pink
- 21st Pajama Day

Rocks and Rings 2025!

The Canadian Curling Associations “**Rocks & Rings**” program came to our school on Friday January 24, 2025 for a full day of fun activities for our students to be introduced to Curling.

The students had a great time learning the game of curling and even got to tests their skills in the gym!

YMCA Before and After School Child Care is in your school!

YMCA Before and After School Child Care operates in St. James. Your child can have fun and participate in planned indoor and outdoor activities with their friends while being in a safe, Quality program. Registrations are for five-day-a-week spaces, and you can begin the process by signing up through the Region’s waitlist system at: Niagara.onehns.com, or for mor information about registration please email: ccregistration@niagara.ymca.ca



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

February 2025

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](#)

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

