

# ST. DENIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

February 2025



## Address

175 Carlton St.  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 1S1

## Principal

Mrs. Victoria Wegelin

## Phone/Fax/Email

P 905-682-4156  
F 905-684-9586  
E [st.denis@ncdsb.com](mailto:st.denis@ncdsb.com)



## St. Denis Bell Times

School Begins 9:10 a.m.  
First Break 11:20 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  
Second Break 1:20 p.m. -2:00 p.m.  
Dismissal 3:30 p.m.

## February 2025

### Principal's Message

February is the month with heart and we at St. Denis Catholic School have plenty of it! At this time I would like to thank Father Stephen who spiritually guides us all.

Our annual "Kids Helping Kids" campaign allows us to help the children in our region by raising funds for the many services that are provided for them at the Niagara Children's Centre. Exciting



events and activities will be held all week starting February 10, 2025. It will be an exciting week at our school.

Our Kindergarten Open House will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you know a family that has a child that will be starting school, please recommend our great school!

I am very excited to announce that we will be getting a new score clock in our gym! Thank you to the NCDSB for supplying this for our great school!

God bless,  
Mrs. V. Wegelin  
Principal

[February 2025 Calendar - Click Here](#)

[February 2025 Niagara Region Health Newsletter](#)

## Called By Name: Hear My Voice 2025

Our theme this school year is "Called by Name: Hear My Voice." And while our theme is about God's call to us, it should also serve as a reminder of our call to Him. Each day God says to us, "let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet" (Song of Solomon 2:14). God doesn't want to talk *at* us; He wants to have a conversation *with* us. Have you given Him the pleasure of hearing your voice yet today?



## Monthly Award Winners-January 2025

Every month our teachers recognize a student in their class who has demonstrated excellence in a particular area based on one of the eight Catholic Graduate Expectations. These expectations are; A discerning believer, an effective communicator, a reflective, creative and holistic learner, a collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Congratulations to this month's recipients listed below.



Mrs. Lee's Class -**Eleanor.L and Evin.Z**  
Ms. Schenck's Class - **Meadow B.K**  
Ms. DEttorre's Class -**Johnny.B**  
Ms. Konieczny's Class - **Chase.V and Sophia.A**

Mrs. Foster's Class - **Nolan.W and Nash.B**  
Mr. Biamonte's Class -**Rafaela.L and Nervein.C**  
Mrs. Jackson's Class -**Tayla.E**  
Mr. Sutton PTM - **Alina.B**  
Mr. Hasting's Class - **Valeria.A.L**  
Mrs. La Valle's Class - **Anna.B and Abrielle.P**  
Mr. O'Connor's Class -**Fiona Prebianca**  
Miss MacSporran's Class - **Sophie.E and Murtaqa.M**  
Mr. Riddell's Class - **Kayden.L and Rylee.K**  
Mrs. Bonin's French Class JR - **Tatius.T**  
Mrs. Bonin's French Class INT - **Holly.W**  
Mrs. Biletchi Music Class - **Baraka.O**  
Mrs. Zanon- **Gibson.M**  
Mrs. Wegelin - Principal's Award - **Elizabeth.R**

**Congratulations to all winners! You are amazing!**

## **Sports News**

### **Niagara Classic Intermediate Boys Basketball Tournament**

Congratulations to the Intermediate Boys Basketball Team! They played so well against some incredible teams! The entire team displayed great sportsmanship, courage and St. Denis spirit as they competed through every game. The team never gave up and it was super impressive! The referee commented to the coach that our boys were respectful, polite and good sports. Thank you to Mr. O'Connor for coaching our team and to Miss MacSporran for organizing the tournament. Great job boys!

**The NCDSB Boys Intermediate Basketball tournament will be held on Monday February 24, 2025 at Saint Michael High School in Niagara Falls. Go Saints Go!**

**Antun A. , Santiago G.V., Johnny H., Aidan L., Makai M., Zachary S., Corbin S., Salim T., Pathrose A., Atticus H., Luca L.P., Ayden M.**



### **Niagara Classic Intermediate Girls Basketball Tournament**

Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls Basketball Team! The team played outstanding in the entire tournament. The team had a hard fought loss against St. Kevin's losing only by 1 point in the last minute of the game. This game was very intense right down to the last minute. Everyone was very impressed by their basketball skills, courage and strength. Thank you to Mr. Riddell for coaching our team and to Miss MacSporran for organizing the tournament. Great job girls!

**Josie A., Leucile C., Ciara F., Oyin O., Tara E., Abby L., Abbigale B., Nailah M., Elizabeth M.**



## Black History Month



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.

The theme for Black History Month 2025 is **Black Resistance**. The Government of Canada website contains resources for Black History Month: [Click Here](#)

## Lockdown Drill



**February 4, 2025**

All Niagara Catholic elementary schools are required to conduct two practice lockdown drills annually. Parents will be notified prior to the lockdown drill through SchoolMessenger. The practice drill will ensure that staff and students are informed and follow emergency response procedures in the event of an actual incident.

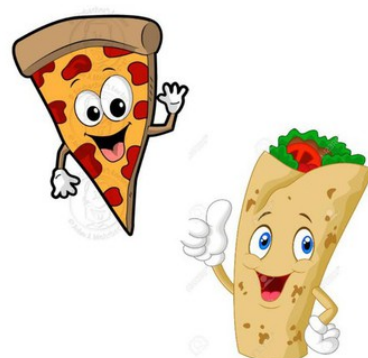
## Food Days for February 2025

Pita Day Orders due on **Monday, February 3, 2025.**

Pita Day - **Friday, February 7, 2025.**

Pizza Day Orders due on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025.**

Pizza Day-Friday, **February 21, 2025.**



## Winter Walk Day

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

Get ready to celebrate on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025** when hundreds of schools across Ontario will #JourneyOutside to mark Winter Walk Day, a reminder that active school travel can be an all-season option. Visit Niagara Student Transportation Services for active school travel tips or contact [HealthySchools@niagararegion.ca](mailto:HealthySchools@niagararegion.ca) for more details.



## Kindergarten Registration/Open House February 5, 2025

### Year 1 Kindergarten Registration

Registration will be held all throughout the school year.

Children who will be 4 years old by December 31, 2025 (born in 2021) and who live within the St. Denis Catholic School's boundaries are eligible to enroll for Year 1 Kindergarten. Your child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate and proof of address are required at the time of registration.

Children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2025 and who live within the St. Denis Catholic School's boundaries are eligible to enroll for Year 2 Kindergarten. Your child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate and proof of address are required at the time of registration. Only students who have not attended Year 1 need to be officially registered. Those students currently attending the Year 1 program will be automatically enrolled in the Year 2 class.

If you know of neighbors and/or relatives who live in our school community, please encourage them to visit St. Denis Catholic School and enroll their children in a Catholic School. Our flourishing community needs active support from its members.

### Kindergarten Open House



### **Kindergarten Registration Open House: Wednesday February 5, 2025 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

Parents and children are invited to drop in on this day to register their children to our wonderful school.

## Kids Helping Kids Campaign



**February 10 - 13, 2025**

"Kids Helping Kids" is now into its 27th year as a fundraising educational program in support of the Niagara Children's Centre.

Niagara Children's Centre had its beginnings in the early 1950's and at the present time, provides treatment for more than 3,300

children with physical, developmental or communicative delays and disabilities from all 12 municipalities in Regional Niagara. Because of the generosity, care and compassion of those who make up the Niagara Catholic District School Board, necessary funding is generated through various projects that enable therapists at Niagara Children's Centre to help so many children.

Thanks to the "Kids Helping Kids" fundraiser, life-changing success stories occur on a regular basis at the Centre. **Donations can be made in School Cash Online until Friday, February 28, 2025.**

**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](mailto:jim.marino@nfce.org).**

### Monday, February 10th

- Jersey Day/Sports Day!
- Lucky Daily Draw!

### Tuesday, February 11th

- Brightest Day! (Wear your brightest colors!)
- Lucky Daily Draw!

### Wednesday, February 12th

- Dress as your favorite character/actor/person!
- Lucky Daily Draw!
- Lucky Draw for Principal for part of the day!

### Thursday, February 13th

- Outrageous Red, White and Pink Day!
- Lucky Daily Draw!
- Grand Prize Basket Draws - 1 per division!
- Principal for part of the day!

## 100th Day at St. Denis!



### February 10, 2025

The 100th Day of School is a symbolic celebration of students' achievements during the academic year. The special day centers around the number 100, which helps develop learners' understanding and recognition of numbers up to 100. Our Kindergarten and primary classes will enjoy this special day!

## Term 1 Report Cards



### February 11, 2025

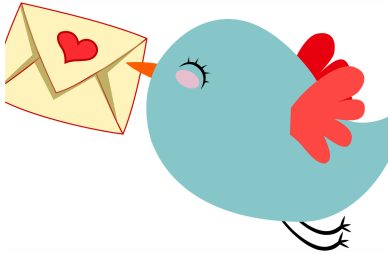
Term 1 report cards will be posted in the parent portal. Parents are encouraged to read and review with their child their academic progress to date. Parent/Teacher interviews will be by request this term.

## Valentine's Day

### Thursday, February 13, 2025

This year, St. Denis Catholic School will be celebrating Valentine's Day on **Thursday, February 13, 2025!** Special events will be taking place in all classrooms. A special treat will be given to all students as well! **Our Elementary Student Council will be selling candygrams starting Wednesday, January 29, 2025 and will be sold daily until Friday, February 7, 2025. Candygrams will be \$1.50 each. Students can send a candygram to a friend and they will be delivered on Thursday, February 13, 2025.**

Students can even send the candygram to themselves! All money raised will support our Grade 8 Graduation.



## P. A. Day

**Friday, February 14, 2025**

A professional activity day will be held on this day. There will be no school for students.



## Family Day

**February 17, 2025**

This is a holiday organized by the government. The Niagara Catholic District School Board and schools will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025 to observe the statutory holiday known as Family Day. This day occurs on the third Monday in February of each year. The purpose is to emphasize and celebrate the importance of families taking time to be together. Please enjoy the day and time off with your loved ones! There will be no school on this day!



## Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book-Michael Jacques

**February 25, 2025**

Michael is a young adult who lives and works in the Niagara Region of Ontario, Canada. He is a determined, compassionate and talented individual who has written his first book. Michael has autism and an intellectual disability and is a passionate public speaker. He has presented to students at the secondary, college and university levels, as well parents and teachers, about the importance of belonging and inclusion. He sits on the board of Community Living Ontario, through which he advocates for individuals like himself. Michael hopes to write many more books and continue to make an impact in the world through his stories. Michael will be presenting to Grade 1-8 students. Thank you to the St. Denis Catholic School Council for providing this opportunity for our students.



## Pink Shirt Day

**February 26, 2025**

Our 2025 Pink Shirt Day theme is all about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to

school. It all starts with small gestures - a kind word, an offer of support or understanding. If we plant enough, pretty soon, more will be sprouting up all around us! By sprinkling these seeds of empathy and compassion, we can work towards a world without bullying and "Let Kindness Grow" through all of our kindness community gardens. The Pink Shirt Day campaign recognizes the importance of unity, inclusivity, and diversity of all people. Wear pink on this day to school! All year long our goal at St. Denis is to create students who are kind to others!



On **February 26, 2025** join others worldwide in raising awareness! Information for families and schools about about is available from the Ministry of Education.

**Bullying - We Can All Help Stop It - Click Here**

## Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Annual Benefit Gala

Thursday, March 27, 2025

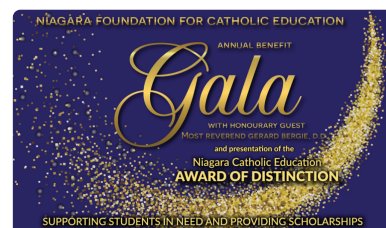
### NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

Supporting Niagara Catholic District School Board students in need and scholarships. This event will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, Club Roma Event Centre, 6:00 pm. Tickets \$100/person

Online payment can be made at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) or by cheque payable to the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE) by March 18, 2025.

Mailing address: 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON L3C 7C1 -- Attention [Anna.pisano@ncdsb.com](mailto:Anna.pisano@ncdsb.com)

**Please contact the St. Denis School Office if you are purchasing a ticket for this event.**



## Student Nutrition Program (SNAC)



Niagara Nutrition Partners

We are once again excited to be offering this program at St. Denis Catholic School! Our school will be receiving a grant to provide healthy snacks to our students. This year the program will be a grab and go program with all of the snacks being prepackaged and delivered to the classrooms in the morning as a mid-morning

snack.

**Our SNAC Program will continue daily throughout the month.**

## EcoSchool Information

### Eco-School News

As part of our **GREEN Niagara Catholic** eco-program, the St. Denis Eco Team has prepared some Eco-Initiatives and events for our school in the month of February.



### **Waste Free Wednesday's continue...**

At. Denis students are encouraged to decrease the amount of garbage produced to help our earth. Students are encouraged to bring reusable containers in their lunch every Wednesday.

### **National Sweater Day Tuesday, February 4, 2025!**

Each year on the first Thursday of February, Canadians to turn down their heat and turn up the sweater to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation. On Thursday February 6th students will be encouraged to wear a cozy sweater as classroom temperatures are slightly and comfortably adjusted to conserve energy for the day.



### **St. Denis is taking part in the Staples Recycling Program**

Across Canada, Staples has successfully diverted over **2 million** writing instruments from ending up in landfills. If all writing instruments recycled through this program were connected, they could **travel up the CN tower nearly 700 times!**

St. Denis is doing their part! We are collecting all brands of used pens and pen caps, mechanical pencils, markers and marker caps, highlighters and highlighter caps, permanent markers and permanent marker caps. These writing instruments will be brought to Staples and in conjunction with TerraCycle they will be cleaned and separated by material type. The materials will then be recycled into raw formats that manufacturers use to make new products.

Look for the recycle boxes located throughout the school!

We continue to be aware of how we can help keep our school environment clean.

Thank you to Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Biamonte for organizing this on behalf of our school!

## **St. Denis Catholic School Council**

Our School Council is looking forward to an exciting year! Plans are underway for various activities which will help enhance the educational experiences of our students. This will promote a very positive and proactive partnership within our wonderful community.

**Congratulations to the members of our School Council!**



**Chair: J. Burtnik**

**Council Members: C. Bartlett, P. Boyko, J. Delgadillo., S. Egbedeyi, B. Humble, S. Huckins, K. Janes, C. James, M. Rakonjac, C. Locke, M. Iorio, T. Wadeson.**

**Teacher Rep: Mrs. Lee**

We are very excited with the support that we received from our community for the Twelve Days of Christmas Fundraiser! We were very happy to announce that we raised \$4330.00. With this money and some of the money raised last year in our Spring Cha-Ching Fundraiser we covered the cost of the Christmas Pasta Lunch. We are also purchased 22 touchscreen Chromebooks at the school that will be placed in a classroom to assist students with their daily work. We also purchased four new televisions that were placed to four classrooms to replace Smartboards that had worn out.

**NEW FUNDRAISER!!! SPRING CHA-CHING!!!**

Our school community did such a great job with the Twelve Days of Christmas Fundraiser, we are going to try another raffle fundraiser at our great school!

The Catholic School Council will be organizing a **Spring Cha-Ching Fundraiser!!** This will be done in the month of March. This will be exactly as the Twelve Day of Christmas Fundraiser except it will be for 10 days. At this time, we are looking a donation of \$100.00 from any business that could be used fundraiser. For 10 days, someone will have the chance to win \$100.00 every day! Throughout the month of February , we are going to collect donations and hopefully we will collect enough donations to run this very special event to raise money for our school. We are hoping to support our Grade 8 graduation and again supplement our technology at our school. More information will be coming! **Tickets will be sent home on Monday, March 17, 2025 for the students to sell and will be due back on Friday, March 28, 2025.** If you do know someone who owns a business and can make a donation, please drop it off at the school office. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Dressing for Cold Weather



With the arrival of cold weather, parents are reminded to send children to school dressed for the weather. Warm hats, mitts, scarves, boots, heavy coats and snow pants will allow your child to enjoy the outside comfortably during recesses. Extra pairs of socks and pants tucked into backpacks also come in handy. Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes to wear inside the school.

## Winter Playground Rules

### Winter Playground 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 snowball throwing.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season:

- \* No throwing snowballs
- \* No kicking or throwing snow
- \* No breaking of forts

Remember if you are wearing a mask outside when playing in the snow, if the mask gets wet it will need to be replaced with a new one.

Please be advised that students engaging in these types of behaviors will be dealt with accordingly. If this behavior continues, parents will be contacted and further consequences will come into effect.



## Emergency School Closing

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to let our parents know the procedure that will be followed.

If bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, the children **will not** be picked up after school at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is your

responsibility to pick up your child at the end of the day. When transportation services are cancelled, **only the school remains open**, and it is the responsibility of the parent to determine whether or not it is safe for a student to walk to and from school. In inclement weather, listen to your local radio station for announcements. CJRN (Niagara Falls) 710 AM, CKTB (St. Catharines) 610 AM, SPIRIT (Welland)



Procedures Relating to Inclement Weather AFTER the School Day Begins:

- A) Transportation is cancelled and the school is kept open.
- B) Transportation is cancelled and the school is closed.

At this point, the safety of our children is our prime concern. The school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary **after children have arrived at school**. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The option, you as a parent, have chosen on the Emergency School Closing Form will apply to all emergency dismissals.

## Register for School Cash Online



[School Cash Online](#)

Please click on the button below for instructions to register for School Cash Online. The easy, safe way to pay for school items and events.

[School Cash Online Registration Instructions - Click](#)

## Safe Arrival / School Messenger



PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL WITH ANY CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES.

Please use the Safe Arrival system to report all absences and lates for your child.

You can report an absence by:

PHONE - 1-844-287-6287

ONLINE: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

APP: SchoolMessenger

## NCDSB Dress Code



NCDSB Dress Code The following serves as a reminder for families as the warmer weather approaches and if dress code purchases are being made. Students must wear the elementary standardized dress code items properly and in compliance with the expectations throughout the school day and at all activities and events as representatives of the school and/or Board. It is the

expectation that students wear the elementary standardized dress code as a condition of attendance in an elementary school within the Niagara Catholic District School Board at a minimum, if the elementary student is not in compliance with the mandatory elementary standardized dress code, parents and guardians will be contacted to bring the required dress code items to school.

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Early Learning Kindergarten to Grade 3
- Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted)
- Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or · Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts.
- Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers. Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve)
- Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve); or
- School designed spirit wear polo shirt.

The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.

In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

Running shoes are the recommended footwear with a full back and a closed toe. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: <https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/policies-protocols-docs/policies/> (Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy)

## St. Denis Spirit Wear

We are very pleased to let you know that Big Bear Spiritwear will be our spirit wear provider and will be supplying our school with customized school dress code “gear”. Big Bear Spiritwear is a board approved supplier located in Niagara Falls. Families are able to order single items or many as they would like. Finished product are delivered to the school once every few weeks and the timeline for filling an order is 7-10 business days (sometimes less). Please



use the button below which will take you directly to the St. Denis Catholic School Ordering page at Big Bear Spiritwear.

[Big Bear St. Denis Spirit Wear - Click Here](#)



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Niagara Catholic District  
School Board



**Follow us on Social  
Media.**



**Instagram**  
niagaracatholicdsb  
st.denis\_ces



**Victoria Wegelin**  
Victoria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



love!