



# February 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

### Called By Name: Follow Me

As we enter the month of February, a time often associated with love and kindness, I am reminded of the profound love that is at the heart of our Catholic faith. This month provides us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the love that God has for each of us and how we can share that love with others in our school community and beyond.

In the teachings of Jesus, love is the greatest commandment. We are called to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. This message of love is central to our mission at St. Kevin Catholic School, where we strive to create an environment that reflects the love and compassion of Christ.

Throughout this month, we will be focusing on various activities and initiatives that promote love, kindness, and service. Our students will be participating in “Kids Helping Kids” which encourages them to show love and care for others, whether through acts of kindness, community service, or simply being a good friend.

May this month be filled with love, joy, and blessings for you and your family. Let us continue to work together to nurture a community that reflects the love of Christ in all that we do.

Mr. G. Marchio  
Principal



#### Kindergarten Open House

Tuesday, February 4, 2025  
9:30 – 6:00 p.m.

#### Kids Helping Kids

February 10 – 21, 2025  
Please see newsletter for details

#### Food Days

Pizza ~ February 13, 2025  
Subway ~ February 27, 2025

#### Professional Activity Day

Friday, February 14, 2025  
No School for Students

#### Family Day

Monday, February 17, 2025  
School Closed

#### Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 26, 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

## Valentine's Prayer

I said a Valentine prayer for you  
and asked the Lord above  
to fill your heart and bless your soul  
With the precious gift of love.  
I asked Him for sincere love  
The kind that's meant to stay  
Just like the generous love  
You give to those you touch each day.  
I prayed for love from family  
And from every cherished friend  
Then I asked the Lord to give you  
His love that knows no end.



## Kindergarten Open House

St. Kevin Catholic School will be hosting a Kindergarten Registration/Open House on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to meeting you and your child and to welcome you to the St. Kevin Celtic family!

If you have any questions please call 905-734-7709.

Please be reminded that families are able to register anytime on line:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



## Term One Report Cards

The first term provincial report cards for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will be posted on the parent portal ***the week*** of February 10<sup>th</sup>. The report card is an evaluation of your child's progress with the curriculum expectations. Please take the time to discuss learning issues with your child, and schedule an appointment to speak to your child's teacher if necessary. Communication and cooperation between home and school positively influences student achievement. Parent/Teacher conferences are available upon teacher and/or parent request. If you are requesting an interview, please contact your child's classroom teacher by Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE A HARD COPY OF THE REPORT CARD PLEASE CONTACT THE MAIN OFFICE.** Thank you for your continued support.



## Black History Month

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

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:

[Click Here !](#)



## School Closures and Bus Cancellations

The winter weather is 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.



## **Kids Helping Kids 2025**

Niagara Catholic's 25th 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](mailto:jim.marino@nfce.org) To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website.

**Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Creative Hair Day / Creative Hat Day, Principal for the Day Tickets available  
(3 tickets for \$1.00 – purchase through School Cash Online)  
The winner will be announced on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Board Game & Popcorn Day: bring a toonie to buy a bag of popcorn. All funds raised will support our Kids Helping Kids Campaign.

**Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Jersey Day (Worn over the uniform)

**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** ~ Red/White/Pink Day ~ Celebrating Valentines Day

**Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** ~ Professional Activity Day (No School for Students)

**Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Family Day! School is closed

**Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Valentine Candy Jar Game  
(3 tickets for \$1.00 – purchase through School Cash Online)  
Primary, Junior, and Intermediate Winners will be drawn  
Winners announced on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>

**Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ Comfy Cozy Day/Silly Socks Day

**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Principal for the Day Winner announced  
Tropical Day – Alternate Dress Code Day – wear bright colours or tropical accessories

**Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY  
Announce Valentine Candy Jar Winners

- All Weekday Dress Up Activities + Three Tickets for the Valentine's Candy Jar for ONLY \$5.00 per student or families with 3 or more students, \$10.00 per family.
- Principal for the Day tickets can be purchased through School Cash Online only until Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> (3 tickets for \$1)
- Additional tickets for the Valentine's Candy Jar can be purchased on School Cash Online only until Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. We cannot accept cash.
- All proceeds are donated to Niagara Children's Centre & Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education.

**REMEMBER TO FOLLOW ST. KEVIN SCHOOL ON INSTAGRAM!**



**Instagram: stkevinschoolwelland**



## Pink Shirt Day

When: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Bullying can come in many forms (such as physical, verbal and cyber) and sometimes be hard to see. Signs that a student might be a target of bullying can include:

- Low attendance at school or at other activities
- Feelings of anxiousness, fearfulness, irritability or unhappiness
- Low interest in activities and poor performance at school
- Loses things, needs money or reports being hungry

On **February 26<sup>th</sup>**, join others worldwide in raising awareness of bullying by wearing a pink shirt to school. See <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>



## "From the HeART" Art Exhibition

We would like to celebrate *Chisom U. (3M)*, *Spencer R. (Gr.2M)*, and *Michael M. (Gr.8)* whose artwork was selected to represent St. Kevin at the annual celebration of elementary student artwork called From the HeART.

This exhibition is a non-adjudicated show and will be on display February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Seaway Mall. After the event, submissions may also be selected to be on display at the Catholic Education Centre in order to celebrate our young artists. Each artist will receive a certificate of recognition.

Thank you to *Mrs. Mascio* for leading this endeavor at our school!



## School Basketball

Congratulations to both the **girls' and boys' basketball teams** for playing hard, showing incredible teamwork, and demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Your dedication and effort made us all proud!

A special shoutout goes to our **boys' basketball team**, who brought home the championship trophy after an incredible comeback victory against St. Alexander! It was a thrilling game, and your resilience and determination were truly inspiring.

Another highlight of the tournament was the recognition of the "**Rising Stars**"—a title awarded to one player from each team across the tournament. For our school, we're thrilled to announce that the **Rising Star for the girls' team is Kenzie R.** and for the boys' team is **Noah L!** Congratulations, Kenzie and Noah, for your amazing performances and leadership on the court.

Thank you to all the players, Mr. Maletta & Mrs. Stock, and parents who supported the teams. Let's continue to cheer them on for the rest of the season!

Go Celtics! 🏀

## Safe Schools: Consistent Absences

Parents are required to ensure children who are enrolled in school attend regularly. Absences must be reported and considered reasonable as outlined in the Education Act Part II School Attendance 21.(2). Students with persistent absences or a pattern of absences may be subject to the attendance protocol referral process:

- 1) Teacher Contact
- 2) Principal Contact via meeting/letter
- 3) Referral of student case file to Stay in School Coordinator when all other steps have been exhausted the Stay in School Coordinator will be involved with attendance concerns – this may involve community resources. Thanks for your support.



# 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 and diseases of 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 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

