



ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

MARCH 2025

615 Geneva Street St. Catharines, ON.
(905) 934-3112

Principal: Mr. K. Lococo

School Secretary: Mrs. C. Dionne-Taylor

Superintendent: Mr. J. Zaroda

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bruzzese

A proud member of the Saint Francis Catholic High School Family of Schools

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.

ON THE CALENDAR

World Down Syndrome Day - March 21, 2025

Shrove Tuesday - March 4, 2025

Ash Wednesday Mass - March 5, 2025 with Father Stephen

Graduation Photos - Thursday March 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

March Break - March 10, 2025 to March 14, 2025

Team Canada Para Olympics Hockey Game - March 26, 2025

SPRING DRAW - March 21, 2025 to April 3, 2025

HOT LUNCH DAYS

Thursday March 6, 2025 - Pizza Day

Thursday March 27, 2025 - Mandarin Day

Thursday March 20, 2025 - Burrito Boyz

Friday March 28, 2025 - Hot Dog Day

Friday March 28, 2025 - Booster Juice

SPORTS

Boys Intermediate Basketball Tournament - Monday March 3, 2025 at St. Paul Catholic High School

Junior Girls Basketball Tournament - Tuesday March 4, 2025 at St. Denis Catholic Elementary School

Junior Boys Basketball Tournament - Thursday March 6, 2025 at St. Denis Catholic Elementary School

MORNING SUPERVISION REMINDER

Students should not be beyond the gates of the school until 8:50 a.m. Parents are reminded that students should not be at school earlier than 8:50 a.m. Your cooperation is appreciated.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Recently, we have observed an increase in the number of vehicles speeding through our school parking lot. We understand that mornings can be hectic, and time is of the essence. However, the safety of our students, staff, and visitors must remain our top priority.

We kindly remind all drivers to adhere to the following guidelines to ensure a safe environment for everyone: Travel at 30 km or less, Be Vigilant, Follow Traffic Markings, Park in Designated Areas

ST. JAMES NEWS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

S. JAMES SPIRITWEAR

Please note that Bigbear Spiritwear will now be supplying Spirit wear and dress code items that will be available for sale via their website. Please access [St. James Skyhawks direct link](#).



School Apparel - Gradhoodies



ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESSCODE

The Niagara Catholic DSB has a Standardized Elementary Dress Code in place for students in elementary schools. All students are to wear navy bottoms and navy blue or white shirts. For more detailed information, please view the NCDSB flyer [here](#).

CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS

To minimize distractions, students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off or onto silent mode during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning, for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off or on silent and have them stored away.

Social media platforms on school networks and board devices will be disabled. 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 on the board network during the school day.

WINTER WEATHER EXPECTATIONS

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the winter season will be a normal thing each day. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn, i.e., boots, gloves, hats, scarf, etc. As is always the case, 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. Please remember that snow is nice to look



CONSENT FORMS

Each year students have the opportunity to join in many learning activities here at school or on educational field trips. The school is asking that parents complete the following consent forms (found on School Cash Online), to ensure the school has the necessary information to keep your child/children safe.

Parent Consent - Student Personal Information (all K-8 students) - This form allows us to know parent preferences when it comes to using a child's information (ie. images, etc) in school publications such as social media posts, class photos and the school yearbook.

NCDSB Athletic Participation /Acknowledgement of Risk Form (Gr. 4-8 students only) - This form explains risks associated with participation in activities happening on school property and allows parent to indicate preferences regarding a child's participation in day-to-day activities (ie. intramurals, sports team tryouts, etc).

Educational Field Trips and activities happening off school property will have a separate consent form sent home.

ST. JAMES NEWS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for our students, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SchoolCash Online. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school. To register, please go to: <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

ANAPHYLAXIS AWARENESS

All classroom at St. James are peanut, tree nut, sesame, seafood, coconut, pineapple, avocado and egg safe classrooms. No peanuts, peanut products, tree nuts or raw/cooked eggs are allowed at any time. We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, peanut products and/or eggs. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or eggs for breakfast/lunch at home.

We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safety of all students. Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.

STUDENT AWARE INTERNET FILTER

This is just a reminder to families that all Niagara Catholic schools use a software program called "Student Aware". This program enables schools to monitor its student internet traffic while using Board internet devices. The "Student Aware" program will be identifying and notifying school staff when students access online websites related to suicide, violence, abuse and/or other dangerous activities that could be injurious to themselves and/or others. When high-risk incidents are identified, the occurrence will be investigated and school administration will respond accordingly to support student mental health and well-being.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE PROTOCOL

While in the middle of the winter season, and as we hope that it doesn't come to this, it is important to remind all of our parents of the Emergency School Closing Protocol. The Niagara Catholic District School Board will make every attempt to keep schools open during periods of inclement weather. Only in exceptional circumstances will schools be closed part way through the day. In these rare cases, we will follow the procedure and prior information collected regarding the picking up of your children. If your contact information or pick-up arrangements have changed, you are asked to please contact Mrs. Dionne-Taylor at the office so the necessary updates can be made. Announcements concerning school closures or cancellations will be made on all local radio stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. You can also check the Board website at www.niagaracatholic.ca as well as the board's social media accounts.

NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Please use the following link to access the information from Niagara Region Public Health aimed at parents of school aged children.

Access the March Newsletter from Public Health [Here](#).

