



St. Ann April Flyer

St. Ann Catholic Elementary is part
of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools



APRIL, 2025

EASTER

Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic Church because it is the completion of Holy week that ends with the resurrection of Jesus. Easter celebrates the beginning and foundation of Christianity. Jesus was raised from the dead, and it goes to show that He conquered sin and death.

Our Intermediate Student Council will be coordinating a Food Drive from April 1st to 15th. Thank you for your continued support.



The Easter season will begin on Sunday, April 20, 2025 and continue for fifty days ending on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8, 2025.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

For families who have a child for Kindergarten (age 4 as at December 31, 2025) for September, 2025 school year start, we encourage you to register as soon as possible. This helps to ensure proper staffing is in place for the new school year. Please share this information with any friends, family and/or neighbours who have a child that is ready to start school in September 2025.



We are very excited to have more students join our St. Ann family and the extended family of Niagara Catholic.

For registration, you are reminded to bring in the child(ren)'s:

- ☐ Birth Certificate;
- ☐ Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate and/or Baptismal Certificate of the child(ren)'s parents and/or guardian (if applicable);
- ☐ Proof of Residence within school boundaries; for example, a utility bill.

If applicable, original Landed Immigrant/Permanent Residence documentation, and the passport of the country of origin, indicating the date of entry into Canada.

SCIENCE FAIR

The following students participated in the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Brock University on the weekend of March 28th – 29th, 2025. Congratulations and good luck at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025!



Top Juvenile (Gr. 5-6) Projects

1. Leela T./Elia K. *Green Gone Wrong*
2. Giorgia C. *To Fizz or not to Fizz*
3. Emmett S. *In Rocky Waters*
4. Scarlett M. *Crystal Clear*
5. Gabriel B. *Electrolyte Power*

Top Junior (Gr. 7-8) Projects

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Carlee B./Emma B. | <i>Toothpaste Tango</i> |
| 2. Elia C. | <i>You Are What You Breathe</i> |
| 3. Sofia I. | <i>The Power of Perception</i> |
| 4. Will B./Adrian V./Paige M. | <i>Gaming: Retro vs. Modern</i> |
| 5. Evie B./Paige D./Bea M. | <i>Beat the Heat</i> |

GRADUATION

Our Grade Eight Graduation Committee is requesting that all grade eight parents save the date of Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 for the Grade Eight Graduation Ceremony. More details will follow.



CHESS TEAM

Throughout January, February, and March, a junior and intermediate chess club has been running in the library at lunch time. The chess teams were determined from a play down tournament of both the junior and intermediate clubs! The chess team travelled to St. Mary, N. Falls, for their tournament on March 26th, 2025. Enjoy these photos of the St. Ann Chess team!



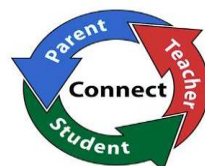
MATHLETES TEAM

Throughout March, an intermediate mathletes team has been practicing in the library at lunch time. The mathlete team travelled to Holy Name Catholic School in Welland, for their tournament on March 27th, 2025. Enjoy this photo of the St. Ann Mathletes team!



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Library. The meetings for the Catholic School Council will be noted on the April calendar. All are welcome!



LANGUAGE (READING) CORNER

Parents almost universally recognize the importance of learning to read, seeing it as a key link to success in school and a vital way for children to develop their full potential, both academically and personally.

To understand how kids learn to read, and in order to advocate effectively for their own children and the needs of children in their communities, parents need to understand the **science of reading**, which refers to scientifically validated techniques shown to ensure that the majority of children will learn to read proficiently.

“The science of reading” refers to two related concepts: the study of how the brain learns to read, and to methods for teaching reading that high-quality scientific studies have shown to be effective.

A key component of scientifically based literacy instruction is instruction in **phonological awareness** and **systematic phonics**.

Phonological awareness includes skills like rhyming, alliteration, identifying syllables, and blending syllables together. It also includes phonemic awareness, which is the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words. Individual sounds are called phonemes. Phonemic awareness skills are critical for learning to read. Children practice these skills through activities such as removing the /k/ sound from the word “cat” and substituting the /r/ sound to make “rat.” Through rhyming, substituting, and manipulating sounds in other ways, children get ready to learn to read.

Systematic phonics refers to the process of teaching children to associate sounds (phonemes) with letters (also called graphemes). In English, there are often multiple ways to spell phonemes. For example, the sound /k/ – the symbol for the sound at the beginning of the words “cat” and “ketchup” – can be made with the letters c-, k-, and even sometimes ch-, as in “architect.” Systematic phonics involves learning these letter-sound correspondences in an organized, step-by-step way that reflects the findings of high-quality research studies.

The sound-letter connection is how children learn to read effectively. When all children are taught phonological awareness skills and systematic phonics directly, most can learn to read effectively and at or above grade level, and with moderate additional support, almost all children can learn to read proficiently.

MATH CORNER – Counting: Order Irrelevance Principle

The order in which items are counted is irrelevant. Students have an understanding of order irrelevance when they are able to count a group of items starting from different places. For example, counting from the left-most item to the right-most and visa versa.



While the **order irrelevance principle** may seem obvious to adults, many students hold the misconception that the order you count objects does matter until as late as grade 4. Explicitly teaching this principle is important. It should also be noted that just because a child is strong in this principle, they may still be weak in other counting principles.

Strategies that Support Student Learning

- Counting sets of items from **left-to-right, right-to-left, top-to-bottom** and **bottom-to-top**.
- Counting sets of unique items (different colour, shape, etc.) in a variety of orders.

If you observe:

- A child counting a set of toy cars...

Consider:

- Asking if they can predict how many cars there would be if they started counting from a different spot.

Music Trivia Night

April 25th

Featuring Niagara's Name That Tune with Lee!

Doors open at 6:30pm, game starts at 7:00pm

Fire Station #2
766 Welland Road

Tickets	Tables of 8
\$25	\$200

Pizza and snacks provided

Cash bar available

Purchase Tickets at School Cash Online

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Steven.Ward@ncdsb.com or call 905-892-3942.



Donations Welcome

Deadline to drop off donations April 17th

Funds raised go to support field trips and educational upgrades



NOMINATION FORM NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) PARENT/GUARDIAN MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026



The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board. The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month, on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public, livestreamed and recorded.

Parent/Guardian Membership

To be eligible for election/appointment as a parent/guardian representative to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, a person:

- must be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a school of the Board,
- must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board,
- must support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, and
- must fully participate in the annual Commissioning Ceremony of NCPIC members.

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2025-2026 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership:

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Thorold/Merritton	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Niagara Falls	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Welland/Pelham	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form **no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025**. Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website, or by clicking on the link: [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](#).

Please send nomination forms to: Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Road
Welland, ON L3C 7C1
Attention: Yvonne Anderson
or by email to: yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com



“Called By Name: Follow Me”

“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.”

