

# St. Nicholas Catholic

April 2025

For optimal learning, please come to school on time. Our day starts at 8:25 am



## St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School

Home of the Tigers

**Mission Statement:** To educate each student to his/her full potential in a community formed and guided by Catholic beliefs and traditions.

**Motto:** "Journey Together On The Road To Discovery"

St. Nicholas Catholic is proud to be a part of the Denis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools.

*Go Tigers Go!*

**Principal:** Mrs. Jackie Watson

**Secretary:** Mrs. Kim Winstanley

**Catholic School Council Chair:** Ms. Paprzycki

**Superintendent:** Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

**Parish:** Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Father Benjamin Weber, Father Paul Mc Donald

**Email:** [st.nicholas@ncsb.com](mailto:st.nicholas@ncsb.com)

**Location:** [149 Church St, St. Catharines, ON, Canada](#)



## Called By Name - Come Follow Me: Reflection #8

In Mark's Gospel, we read about Jesus and the rich man, who asked what he had to do to inherit eternal life. The rich man explained that he had kept all the commandments, but "Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me'" (Mark 10:21). The rich man chose not to

follow Jesus because he loved his many possessions. Our hearts were made for God. In order to follow Jesus, we need to set aside the things that take His place in our hearts. Jesus wants to be the King of our whole heart, not just part of it. Like his call to the rich man, Jesus asks each of us to let go of everything that gets in the way of us following Him. Take a moment today to pray and ask Jesus to reveal any areas of your heart that need His healing touch and to help you fully entrust them to Him. By identifying and surrendering these parts of our hearts, we allow Jesus to transform us from within.



## School, Home, Parish

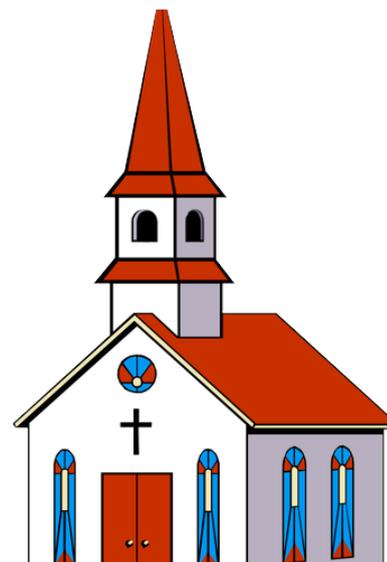
St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools is associated with the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Parish Priests are Father Ben Weber and Father Paul McDonald.

Weather pending, we walk to church once a month for mass with the Fathers, usually the third Thursday of the month for a 10:00 a.m. start. Each class is responsible for one of the readings and for celebrating mass along side Father. Our current masses are as follows:

April 17th - thank you to Mrs. Marotta and her 4/5 class for celebrating mass with Father.

May 15th Mrs. Rathee's Empower class

June 19th - Staff who will be leaving St. Nicholas Catholic this year.



We will also host an in-school liturgy for Catholic Education Week on Monday, May 5th at 12:45 p.m. and will be celebrated by our Student Council.

All are always welcome to join in our celebrations, both at church and the school.

School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation for Lent will take place on the morning of Friday, April 11th. This will be a special Reconciliation for not only the children who have already received, but for our Grade 2s who will be receiving their First Holy Communion next month. Congratulations to our Grade 2s who will be receiving.

Grade 2 Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, May 25th at the 10:00 a.m. mass.  
Grade 8 Confirmation will be held on June 8th, Pentecost Sunday, at the 11:30 a.m. mass.

Grade 8 Graduation - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at Club Roma. Information to follow later.

Please understand that dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, the St. Nicholas Family community will be notified whenever possible.

## **To Report Your Child Absent, Please Do Not Call The School**

### SafeArrival:

To report your child absent prior to the start of the school day (before 8:25 a.m. of the day being called in for), please use one of the 3 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 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.**

## **Hot Lunches**

The remaining hot lunches for this school year (WOW) have been added to school cash on-line.

Days are as follows:

April 11th - Pizza Day

April 25th - Chicken Finger Day

May 2nd - Hot Dog Day

May 16th - Pizza Day

May 30th - Sub Day

June 13th - Pizza Day



Please understand that all lunches need to be ordered prior to, and cash cannot be accepted the day of.

Thank you

## **Sports Corner**

Welcome to Junior Handball season.

Our Boys' and Girls' teams have been selected and practices will get underway this week.

Tournament play will take place at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, 81 Rykert St. in St. Catharines on April 29th for the Girls and April 30th for the Boys.

Parents/Guardians, if you are able to drive, please let the coaches know.

Thank you

Thank you to coaches Grant and McGowan for all of their time and hard work.

May - Intermediate Flag Football and in school Track and Field

June - FOS and Board Track and Field



## So Much Fun Had at Chess

St. Nicholas Catholic Chess Club and Team:



The NCDSB Chess Tournament week was a thrilling spectacle of strategic brilliance and intense competition. Held at St. Mary Catholic Elementary in Niagara Falls, the event attracted top players from every Catholic elementary school within the Niagara region, each vying for the coveted divisional champion. The atmosphere was electric as experienced players engaged in fierce battles of wits, showcasing their understanding of the game and their ability to anticipate opponents' moves. In a stunning display of skill and composure, one of our students on the intermediate team achieved top honours during his day of play. Although his team did not advance to the final elimination rounds, Andy L. emerged victorious and undefeatable across his seven matches as the St. Nicholas Catholic number 1 seed for the competition. Way to go Andy!! Intermediate team members include Andy, Martin, Deavoi, Lola, Lucas, and Tai'yha. Our junior team players include Mason, Artem, Aila, Stephen, and Edwin.

So much fun for all involved. Congratulations team.

The tournament was not just a competition but a celebration of the timeless art of chess. Our weekly chess club meetings will continue on Day 2 lunch break until further notice, and all interested players are welcome to join, visit, play, and have fun.

## Lockdown Drill: Monday, April 14th

We will be conducting a practice lockdown drill with all staff and students on Monday, April 14th. These simulations give students and staff an opportunity to implement our School and Board Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety of all students and staff should an emergency situation occur.

If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Thank you

## Catholic School Council is Happy to Announce Their Last Fundraiser - Krispy Kreme Doughnuts

They're baaack!! Krispy Kreme Doughnuts will once again be sold at St. Nicholas Catholic - just a little earlier this year.

For \$12.00 a box, you can get twelve ooey, gooey, sweet and delicious Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and you can get them before Mother's Day.

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts will go on sale through school cash on-line, Friday, March 28th.

Last day to order will be Sunday, April 27th.

Orders will arrive at St. Nicholas Catholic the afternoon of Thursday, May 8th.



All proceeds will go towards the purchasing of technology.

On behalf of Catholic School Council, thank you to all of our families for your continued support.

## Public Health Newsletter for April

Elementary newsletter for families



**April 2025 - Elementary.pdf**

[Download](#)  
247.1 KB

## Call For Nominations: Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Membership 2025-2026

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee acts as an advisory committee to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board and school levels in order to build strong Catholic identity and community, nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic Education, and improve student achievement and well-being for all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three community representatives and to fill the available parent/guardian positions on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please see attachments below.



**Parent Involvement NCPIC Nominations 2025-2026 (5).pdf**

[Download](#)  
671.1 KB



**Parent Involvement NCPIC Nomination Form for Parents and Guardians 2025-2026.pdf**

[Download](#)  
232.3 KB



## **Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot**

Please remember that you are asked not to park or get out of your car when in the Kiss 'n Ride line up. The Kiss 'n Ride is exactly that - a quick kiss as your child(ren) quickly get out of the family car. Or the quick ability for your child(ren) to get into the car and do up their own seatbelts. Please ensure that you have pulled up to the front of the line prior to your child(ren) getting out of the car. After school, staff will support students by getting them to their car safely. If you need to help your child(ren) get in and out of the car, or to assist with the seatbelt, or to help with the putting on or taking off of backpacks, we kindly ask that you park your car in a designated parking spot - away from the flow of traffic.

Our parking lot is small, however the traffic is able to flow well when expectations are followed. We thank everyone for their cooperation when it comes to the safety of our students and staff when in the parking lot and in the Kiss 'n Ride.

## **PPM 128 Cell Phone Use In Schools**

Elementary Schools:

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please note that all cell phones need to remain in backpacks or lockers. If your child does have a locker, it is suggested that s/he bring a lock. Cell phones are not to be kept in back pockets, in the pouch of hoodies, in desks, or anywhere visible.

If a child does have his/her cell phone out, they will be directed by the classroom teacher to go to the office where the phone will be locked in the safe. The cell phone will either be returned at the end of the day, or will be returned to the parent/guardian when they come to pick it up.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

## **Elementary Dress Code**



NCDSB has a dress code of navy and white for all Elementary schools and their students within. Below is an excerpt from the Elementary Standardized Dress-Code Policy 302.6.10:



1.1 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☐ Navy Blue sweat pants for students in 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.

1.2 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one 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.

Please see below the policy attached in its entirety.



**302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy.pdf**

[Download](#)  
227.6 KB

## Big Bear Spiritwear

St. Nicholas Spiritwear is now being offered through Big Bear Spiritwear. Please click onto



<https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/st-nicholas/> to see the options

available for purchase. All St. Nicholas Spiritwear can be worn throughout the year as it is an extension of the school dress code.

Orders placed through Big Bear Spiritwear can either be picked up at their Niagara Falls store or can be delivered to the school for a \$3.00 charge. Items delivered to the school will be sent home with the student in his/her backpack.

## Anaphylaxis Awareness

All schools within Niagara Catholic are peanut and tree nut free.

**Allergy Aware School**



At St. Nicholas Catholic, we have students with life threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to peanut and/or tree nut products. We ask that you please read labels carefully ensuring that all lunch products are peanut and tree nut free. That includes products that 'may contain' or are packaged in a facility that uses peanuts and/or tree nuts. For more information on anaphylaxis, visit [www.anaphylaxis.ca](http://www.anaphylaxis.ca).

We work very hard at preventing accidental exposure. We ask that you please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed his or her hands after eating peanuts or peanut products for breakfast/lunch while at home. It is also very important that we have common rules throughout the school. The teachers will explain the importance of the following health and safety routines to the students in their classrooms:

- 1) Wash hands with soap and water/hand sanitizer before and after eating,
- 2) Do not bring in food that contains, or possibly contains peanuts/tree nuts
- 3) Do not share food with other students
- 4) Do not accept food from other students, especially if you have an allergy
- 5) Dispose of all food waste properly

If your child has an allergy or is anaphylactic, please ensure that the office is aware and that the proper medical forms have been completed. All medication signed off on by a doctor will be housed safely at the school during the duration of the school year. Please check the expiration date of all medication prior to bringing in.

### **Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools**

Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2015 is an important step to support the health and well-being of students diagnosed with asthma in Ontario schools.



**If your son/daughter has been diagnosed with asthma, please contact the office to provide information about your son/daughter's asthma medication.**

**You will be required to complete and submit the Niagara Catholic Student Asthma Management Plan for your student.**

Any student under the age of 16 years will be permitted to carry and administer his/her asthma medication at school with your consent. A student 16 years or older is not required to have his or her parent's or guardian's permission to carry his or her asthma medication.

The Ministry of Education website has resources on asthma that can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/anaphylaxis.html>.

### **Please Keep Us Updated**

Communication thru emails:

A reminder that information and updates will be regularly sent out via email. Please ensure that your current email address is on file at the office. Likewise, monthly calendars, newsletters and on-line paraphernalia such as class trip information can be found on our school's website.



**\*Please understand that if we do not have your current email address, you will not receive information, you will not be able to access information such as report cards, through the parent portal, nor will you be able to access school cash on-line.**

**Always keep us apprised of email changes.**

**Thank you**

## Respectful Interaction Framework

St. Nicholas Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.

Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated.

While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.



Thank you



There will be no school on Friday, April 4th - PA Day,  
or on Friday, April 18th - Good Friday,  
or on Monday, April 21st - Holy Monday.

Have a Blessed Easter everyone.

**Jacqueline Watson**

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

