

St. Alexander – Newsletter



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Principal:
Vice Principal:
Superintendent:
Parish Priest:

Mr. M. Venzon
Mrs. C. Pozzobon
Ms. Kim Kinney
Fr. Paul MacNeil

*St. Alexander Catholic Elementary is proud to be part
of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools*

APRIL 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

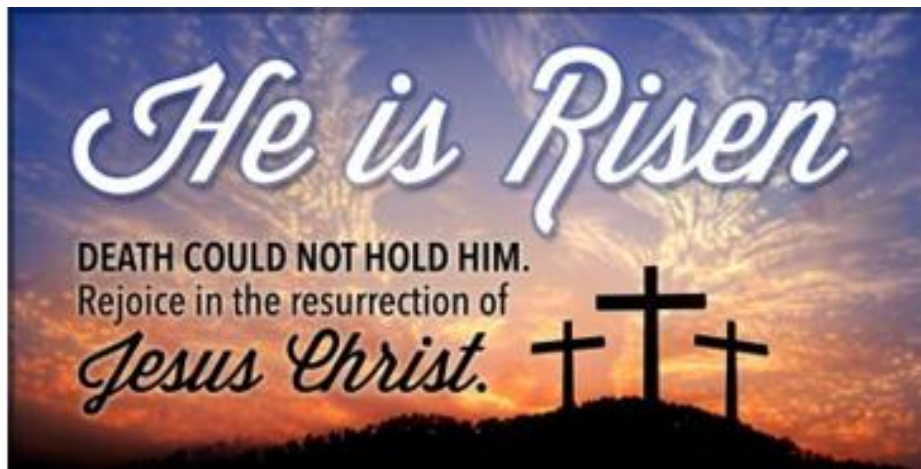
Called by Name: "COME FOLLOW ME"

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.

As spring has sprung, let us take time to look around at the beauty of creation, as flowers and animals seem to wake up and help us to realize that no matter how busy we get, we should always make time to stop and smell the flowers and marvel at the beauty that God has given us in the world.

Sincerely,

Mr. M. Venzon



PURSE BINGO!!!

We are extremely excited to let you know that St. Alexander will once again be hosting a Purse Bingo Fundraiser at Amici's Banquet and Conference Centre on Thursday, May 15th. Please see the details below and save the date for an evening of fun that will directly benefit the students of St. Alexander!!!

As soon as the Purse Bingo is posted on the Amici's website, you can book at <https://www.amicisbanquetcentre.com/social-events>

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR ANYONE WILLING TO MAKE A CASH DONATION OR A PURSE DONATION FOR OUR PURSE BINGO! PLEASE EMAIL US AT st.alexander@ncdsb.com if you would like to donate!!

Thank you for your generosity!

Looking ahead - 2025/2026 - Class Placements

During the months of April and May, staff will be meeting to discuss and create student groupings for next year. Students will be placed with others whom they will be most successful. A great deal of time and effort is spent determining the composition of classes. When organizing class groupings, attention and diligence is required by the classroom teachers, resource teacher, vice principal and principal. A variety of factors are seriously considered when establishing classes. Creating a successful learning environment for all students is a goal we aim to achieve. Some of the criteria considered include: abilities, individual needs, behaviour, work habits, age, learning styles, class size and boy/girl ratio. Please note that requests for specific classroom teachers will not be considered.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP? Talk positively to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students, please discuss relationship building and new friendships

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE FOR PELHAM CARES

We are continuing into April with our Lenten Food Drive for Pelham Cares. A big thank you to all the generous donations we have received so far!. This goes a long way to assist many families in the Pelham area!

WAY TO GO HUSKIES!!!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We encourage all families 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. Alexander Family and the extended Family of Niagara Catholic.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27th, beginning at 5:30pm here at St. Alexander School. All parents are welcome and there is no experience necessary - just a desire to make St. Alexander Catholic School the best that it can be!

LOCKDOWN DRILL

All Niagara Catholic elementary school are required to conduct two practice lockdown drills annually. Our lockdown practice for Term 2 will take place on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025, and will ensure that staff and students are informed and follow emergency response procedures in the event of an actual incident. The practice will take approximately five (5) minutes and at no time will students or staff be in any potential threat or danger.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Many of our primary students are excited about celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year.

This year we have 2 dates based on different classes that are having First Communion.

Miss Principi First Communion Rehearsal: Children will be at the church on **Friday, April 25th at 1:00 pm** for a rehearsal.

Miss Principi First Confession: Children will make their **First Confession on Friday April 25th at 5:00 pm** in the Church. Things will begin at 5:00 pm with a very short prayer service, and children will be able to go to confession for the first time to one of the available priests.

Miss Principi First Communion Date: First Communion Mass will take place on Sunday, April 27th at 2:00 pm at St. Alexander's Church. The Mass will take a little more than an hour, and all are welcome. There are no restrictions in attendance. Children will be asked to gather in the hospitality room to enter the church in procession.

Mrs. Arsenault / Miss Ricci First Communion Rehearsal: Children will be at the church on **Friday May 2nd at 1:00 pm** for a rehearsal.

Mrs. Arsenault / Miss Ricci First Confession: Children will make their **First Confession on Friday May 2nd at 5:00 pm** in the Church. Things will begin at 5:00 pm with a very short prayer service, and children will be able to go to confession for the first time to one of the available priests.

Mrs. Arsenault / Miss Ricci First Communion Date: First Communion Mass will take place on Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 pm at St. Alexander's Church. The Mass will take a little more than an hour, and all are welcome. There are no restrictions in attendance. Children will be asked to gather in the hospitality room to enter the church in procession.

Dress: There is no dress code for any of the services, but typically parents buy nice white dresses and suits for their children for first communion. It is a very special day for them to look their best



Happy Oral Health Month!

The Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program offers **FREE** dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara.

Appointments are available at the following locations:

Office Location	Day and Time
Niagara Falls Public Health Office 7835 McLeod Rd	Mondays 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Niagara Region Headquarters 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way	Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Welland Public Health Office 200 Division Street	Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



[Niagara's Mobile Dental Clinic](#) also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment [contact the Dental Program](#) or [book a dental assessment online](#).

Let's Talk Vaping

Even for elementary students, there's a good chance that kids have been exposed to vaping—whether at school, through friends, on social media, or in movies and TV shows. From one parent to another, learn the basics about vaping in just 12 minutes.

<https://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents/>



Be Safe for Niagara

It can be overwhelming to try to navigate mental health supports in Niagara. With the [Be Safe app](#), you can get the help you need, when you need it most. Be Safe is a free mobile app that offers information and links to mental health, addiction and suicide prevention resources in Niagara. It helps support you through the process of reaching out when life feels overwhelming.

The Be Safe App in Niagara:

- Allows users to create a digital safety plan
- Informs users about mental health and addiction resources in Niagara
- Helps you be prepared if you find yourself in a crisis

For more information, please visit <https://besafeapp.ca/>

You can download the app on the [App Store](#) or [Google play](#).





CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) 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.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2025-2026 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to ***Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025.***

PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

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 Niagara Catholic District School 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 are as follows:

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. Please click 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