



# ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

MAY 2025

## 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.

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

Principal: Mr. K. Lococo

Superintendent: Mr. J. Zaroda

School Secretary: Mrs. C. Dionne-Taylor

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bruzzese

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

## ON THE CALENDAR

MAY is SPEECH and HEARING MONTH

Celebrating Excellence Awards - May 6, 2025

Student Leadership Symposium (Incoming & Outgoing Student Councils) - May 7, 2025

Scholastic Book Fair - May 12 - May 15, 2025

Krispy Kreme Pickup Day - May 13, 2025

Niagara Region Dental Screening - May 13 to 15, 2025

Balls Falls Journeys Retreat (Grade 8's) - May 21, 2025

PAL Trip (Mrs. Smith & Mrs. McInerney Classes) - May 21, 2025

Happy Rolph's Trip (Mrs. O'Rourke/Mrs. Ali & Mr. Soukop Classes) - May 23, 2025

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

The gymnasium will be undergoing extensive renovations beginning approximately May 1, 2025. Due to the work required the gymnasium will remain closed until November 30, 2025 (Projected Date). Please be mindful of construction vehicles and storage units that will be onsite throughout the construction phase. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## HOT LUNCH DAYS

Thursday May 1, 2025 - Antipasto Day

Thursday May 8, 2025 - Sub Day

Thursday May 15, 2025 - Pizza Day

Thursday May 22, 2025 - Burrito Guyz

Thursday 29, 2025 - Church's Texas Chicken

Friday May 30, 2025 - Booster Juice Day

Friday May 30, 2025 - Hot Dog Day

## SPORTS

Boys Junior Handball Tournament - Thursday May 1, 2025 at Saint Francis Catholic High School

Girls Junior Handball Tournament - Thursday May 1, 2025 at Saint Francis Catholic High School

Girls Intermediate Flag Football - Tuesday May 20, 2025 at Youngs Sportsplex (Welland)

Boys Intermediate Flag Football - Thursday May 22, 2025 at Youngs Sportsplex (Welland)

# ST. JAMES NEWS

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### SPEECH & HEARING MONTH

Throughout the day you talk to family, friends, and colleagues. You use your hearing and speech all the time. You probably take them for granted. Imagine not being able to communicate simple thoughts like "Thank you" or "Tell me a story." For many Canadians with speech and language disorders, this is reality. For them, words don't come easily. But when is the last time you really thought about it? May is Speech and Hearing Month, the perfect time to communicate some important information about hearing and speech. One in 10 Canadians has a hearing, speech, or language problem, a condition that makes it difficult to communicate with others. Anyone, of any age, can have or develop an impairment of the ability to hear, speak, or understand effectively. At any time, illness or accidental injury can impair your ability to hear and talk. Treatment to eliminate or minimize communication problems is available. Speech, language, and hearing disorders are treatable and early detection is a major contributor to speedier recoveries, shortened treatment periods, and reduced costs for individuals and society alike. Early detection of communication disorders is vital! If you suspect a hearing, speech, or language problem, contact a communication specialist such as a Speech-Language Pathologist, Communication Disorders Assistants or Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A listing of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists is available by contacting the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) at 1-800-993-9459 or visit [www.caslpo.com](http://www.caslpo.com). To learn more about the importance of early detection and intervention of communication disorders, and the role of speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communicative disorders assistants visit [www.asha.org/public](http://www.asha.org/public), Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) [www.maymonth.ca](http://www.maymonth.ca) or <https://identifythesigns.org>.



### NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL SCREENING

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be offering dental screening to ALL GRADES on May 13, 14 and 15/25.

A registered dental hygienist will take a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized dental mirror and light. The Healthy Smiles Ontario program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care.

**If you do not want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening, you MUST complete the online School Dental Screening Opt-Out Form or call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 each school year.**

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

**PREVIEW DAY:** Monday May 12, 2025 (Day 5)

**PURCHASING DAYS:** Tuesday May 13, 2025 - 8:45 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.

Wednesday May 14, 2025 - 8:45 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.

Thursday May 15, 2025 - 8:45 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.

### EQAO

**Preparations are underway for the upcoming EQAO Assessments for Grade Three and Six students.** Parents are asked to be on the lookout for Formalized Assessment Days and we ask that students are not absent on the scheduled days. Further Details to Follow.

**MAY 2025**

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### KRISPY KREME



Ordering STOPS May 6, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. we are running the Original Glazed Krispy Kreme doughnut fundraiser. Funds for this event will help offset school trips for each grade.

\$14.00 per 1 dozen of the Original Glazed (Classic) Krispy Kreme Donuts.

You are free to order as many as you wish for friends or family, but please note, there is a limited quantity of doughnuts by the dozen available and once they are sold out, they are sold out! **ONLY 150 LEFT**

We will have them at the school, ready to pick-up on May 13th, 2025. An email to families will go out alerting you when they are ready to be picked up.

### T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

T-Shirt Ordering Closed April 30, 2025 and the order has been submitted to the Vendor for production.

DESIGNER: Lachlan Richea (Grade 7)

The costs of all shirts will be covered by Catholic School Council and funds raised through the Toonie Tuesday Program.

Thank you to all those who participated in the contest.



### 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.**

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### 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](http://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 April Newsletter from Public Health [Here](#).



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### ST. 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](#).

### SCHOOL TRIPS

In accordance with the Safe Schools Act, all volunteers must be approved by the school principal.

The principal is authorized by the Board “to assign to a person who volunteers to serve without remuneration such duties in respect of the school as are approved by the Board and to terminate such assignment as required”. (Safe Schools Act, 2000)

Before volunteering in Niagara Catholic schools, all approved school volunteers (persons having direct and/or regular contact with students, supervising students, and/or participating in approved overnight educational field trips) must:

1. complete and submit the Volunteer Application Form (Appendix A)
2. provide an original Police Vulnerable Sector Check
  - An original Police Vulnerable Sector Check will be required at least once every five (5) years.
  - Approved volunteers will be reimbursed for a Police Vulnerable Sector Check required by the principal and/or the Board. Any additional requirements as a result of the Vulnerable Sector Checks will be the responsibility of the volunteer.
  - When a Police Vulnerable Sector Check is on file and renewal is not required, volunteers must complete and submit an Annual Offence Declaration (Appendix B). The annual offence declaration will stand as a legally binding document, in accordance with Regulation 521/01, as amended by Regulation 322/03.

### 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.

# Communication is...



**Gestures** Seeking information

Expressing your feelings

Reading a book

**Sharing joy**

Connecting with others

**Hugs** Listening to a podcast

Laughing

**Sharing ideas**

Sending an email

Writing reminders

**Communication transcends speech;  
it's the essence of human connection  
and vital to our everyday lives.**

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists have the education and training to assess, diagnose, and treat communication disorders across the lifespan.

**Make a speech-language  
pathologist or audiologist a part  
of your healthcare team today.**



**SAC**  
Speech-Language  
& Audiology Canada

[sac-oac.ca](http://sac-oac.ca)

# Parent Engagement

presentation

## Youth Addictive Behaviours

with Dr. Jean Clinton, MD – Child Psychiatrist,  
Knowledge Translator, and Clinical Professor at McMaster University.



Niagara Catholic  
District School Board



Niagara Catholic  
Parent Involvement  
Committee



**Dr. Jean Clinton** is a child psychiatrist at McMaster Children's Hospital and a senior scientist at McMaster's INCH Lab. She holds appointments in Pediatrics, Family Medicine, and Child Psychiatry at both McMaster and the University of Toronto. With nearly 30 years of experience consulting in child and youth mental health, child welfare, and primary care, she was recently named an education advisor to Ontario's Premier and Minister of Education.

**Monday May 5 • 7-9 PM**  
**Denis Morris Catholic High School**  
40 Glen Morris Drive, St. Catharines

Registration is required for this event as seating is limited.  
Registration will be open until Friday, April 30, 2025.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)