



Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School

Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic Elementary School
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C. Moscato - Principal F. Wood - Vice Principal
K. Kinney - Superintendent of Schools



Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School Mission Statement

As a community of faith, the mission of Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary School is to work in partnership with the home and the parish to provide a Christ-centered learning environment which allows students to grow spiritually, to strive for academic excellence and to become responsible citizens with a love of learning.



Prayer for May

Lord, You teach us that we will reap what we sow. As the world begins to bloom again, may it serve as a reminder to plant ourselves in You, for "Blessed is the man...[whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season..." (Psalm 1:1-3). May we root ourselves deep in Your Word that we may grow in faith and spiritual maturity. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Follow us on Social Media



@kuskaknights

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.

~~~ Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission Statement ~~~

We are a Christ-centered Catholic community that celebrates diversity and fosters



May 2025



HAPPENINGS

Sacraments

First Communion

On Saturday, May 3rd, at 2pm the Grade 2's will celebrate the sacrament of First Communion.



Confirmation

On Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm our Grade 8's will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation.



Congratulations to all students reaching these milestones and to all the teachers who have helped them prepare!

St. Kevin's Mass Times

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 8:30am
10:00am
11:30am



Catholic Education & Mental Health Week

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "Pilgrims of Hope."

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2025 was inspired by the following considerations:

- In February of 2022, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the upcoming 2025 holy year would be "Pilgrims of Hope." "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. (from Vatican News, a short video on the history of the Jubilee/Holy Year: <https://x.com/VaticanNews/status/1783768498885275868>)
- The Holy Father asks us to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many refugees forced to leave their homes. He also summons us, as stewards of Creation, "to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home."
- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement toward a goal, often lived together with others – and that certainly describes Catholic education. Hope – one of the three theological virtues – is grounded in our Easter faith in Jesus' resurrection and renewal; this is what enables us to be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus' name. Pope Francis invites us to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people. Even in challenging times, our eyes are focussed on the future.

Catholic Education & Mental Health Week cont'd

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

Day 1: By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine

Day 2: By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création


Day 3: By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés

Day 4: By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité

Day 5: By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being Pilgrims of Hope together. We hope to see many of you during our school celebrations!

Please see the schedule below:

Date	Teacher	Time	Date	Teacher	Time
May 5	Purdie	12:40	May 7	Mantesso	10:40
	Briggs	12:40		Melo	10:40
May 6	Fabiano	10:45		Miller	10:40
	Root	12:00		Pace	10:40
	Mullins	12:40		Bernardi	10:40
	G. Moccia	12:40		Hart	10:40
	Carrey	12:40		Gagliardi	12:40
	K. Moccia	12:40	May 8	Mater	12:40
	Dyson	2:40		Fishleigh	12:40
				Naso	12:40
				Volante	12:40
			May 9	Arcott	2:30

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising its shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12: 1-2



May 2025



HAPPENINGS

Scholastic Book Fair

It is our pleasure to invite the Alexander Kuska Catholic School Community to take part in this year's Scholastic Book Fair. The proceeds will help fund our goal to replenish the library with new captivating literature. The Scholastic Book Fair will have a large variety of books to please everyone. Students and adults can make their purchases during the following dates and times:



Tuesday, May 6th - 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7th - 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 8th - 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A student invitation flyer that represents only a sample of the many titles available at the Scholastic Book Fair will be sent home with your child(ren). A **Family Event Door Prize** will take place on Thursday, May 8th. This draw will give one of our lucky students and his/her teacher a chance to win \$25.00 worth of books for his/her home, and \$25.00 worth of books for his/her classroom.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with this fundraising event, and look forward to seeing you at our FAIR!

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM SCHOLASTIC:

We have been informed that Scholastic will **NO LONGER ALLOW** for **REFUNDS** or **EXCHANGES**.

ALL SALES ARE FINAL!



May 2025



HAPPENINGS

McDonald's Night

Looking for a way to support Alexander Kuska? How about a visit to McDonald's!

From 5-7pm on Monday, May 12th, the McDonald's location on Niagara Street will be donating 10% of all sales to our school! The donated funds will go towards school initiatives.

Monday, May 12th
McDonalds Night

ALEXANDER KUSKA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**10% of all sales
between
5:00pm - 7:00pm
go back to the
school!**

Drive Thru or Dine In!
McDonalds - 631 Niagara St. Welland



May 2025



HAPPENINGS

EQAO

Grade 3 & 6 students will be completing Standardized testing for Education Quality & Accountability (EQAO) on the following dates:

Grade 6 EQAO: May 26-30

Grade 3 EQAO: June 2-5

Please keep this in mind when booking appointments, vacations, etc.



Student Council Elections

Thank you to all candidates who ran for the 2025-2026 Co-Chairs. All of the speeches were excellent and we are so proud of all who ran.

A special congratulations to Sabrina and Giorgia who were elected as Student Council Co-Chairs for the 2025-2026 school year! We look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish together next year.



Parking Lot

During morning drop off and afternoon pick up, our parking lot is a busy place!

A reminder to only park in places with painted parking lot lines and to be mindful of the buses and the extra space they need to get into the bus lane.

Please be aware of your surroundings to ensure the safety of all of our students.



Dress Code

As the warm weather arrives, please keep in mind the dress code requirements:



Only modest/knee length capris, shorts, skirts, or dresses are permitted



Shoes must have a closed toe (no sandals or slides)



Sweaters must be navy blue or spirit wear, otherwise students will not be able to wear it during class time.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our dress code policy!



May 2025



HAPPENINGS

Easter Food Drive Thank you!

A big thank you to all who donated to our Easter Food Drive! The Hope Centre was very grateful for your generosity. All donations will go towards helping others in our community, which is a great way to practically love our neighbours.



SORA Update



On May 12th, Sora will be adding 200 books across all grade levels for free! These new books will be available to all students until the end of August so that they can enjoy these fun reads over the summer months.

The Sora platform is available to students year-round so they can enjoy great reads anytime, anywhere!



Spring Canteen

For the last 3 Tuesdays of May (May 13th, May 20th, and May 27th), we will be having our Spring Canteen!

On these dates, a variety of sweet treats will be offered for purchase with cash.

Popcorn sales will also continue.



Specialty Lunch Days



Wednesday, May 7



Wednesday, May 14



Wednesday, May 21

REMINDERS

- **Victoria Day** - There will be no school for students on Monday, May 19



May 2025



coming up

Kindergarten Information Night

On Thursday, June 5th parents of incoming kindergarten students are welcome to attend a Kindergarten information session. At this session, parents will be able to meet the teachers, learn about the school and our kindergarten program, and ask any questions you may have.

Following the session, families are welcome to attend our Kuska family BBQ!



Kuska Family BBQ

The Annual Kuska Family BBQ will be taking place on:

Thursday, June 5th from 5:30-7:30



Join us for food, fun, treats, and a chance to celebrate the end of a great school year!

Note: Donations of gently used Spirit Wear can be delivered to the front office during the month of May. All donated Spirit Wear will be available as part of our Spirit Wear swap taking place at the BBQ.



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

May 2025

Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.



A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes | • One eye that turns out or in |
| • Blinking often | • Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes |
| • Turning or tilting the head to the side often | • Reporting blurry or double vision |
| • Covering or closing one eye | • Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain |

For more information on vision screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?



Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community.

Check out our [School Health webpage](#) for some important links and supports:

- [Childhood illnesses and diseases of public health significance](#)
- [Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods](#)
- [Dental screening](#)
- [School-aged vaccines](#)

Parents and legal guardians of junior and senior kindergarten registrants and students new to Ontario are asked to report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#).

Head Lice



Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

NEW Quit Vaping Program for Youth

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is excited to launch [Youth-Vaping, Substance use, and Technology \(VAST\)](#). Youth-VAST is a program for youth in Ontario who are using vaping, substances, or feel like technology is taking up too much of their time. This program brings together existing and new resources across CAMH to deliver virtual services directly to youth and their family.

- Program offered for youth ages 12-21 years.
- Appointments are offered virtually for youth all over Ontario
- Youth will be assigned a care coordinator to create a customized treatment plan
- Individuals can self-refer directly into this program, no physician referral required.



To refer, visit [Youth-VAST](#) to book an appointment. For more information you can email youth.vast@camh.ca.

May is Rabies Awareness Month

During Spring, wildlife activity increases and so does the potential for rabies exposures. Rabies is a serious and fatal disease that affects the brain and spinal cord of mammals, including humans.

To prevent rabies, avoid any contact with wild animals, especially those that appear sick. Although they may seem cute, do not feed wild animals and most importantly, make sure to have your pets vaccinated.



For more information visit

https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/disease-prevent/rabies.aspx