

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

During the week of May 4 to May 9, 2025, we will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is:

Catholic Education: *Pilgrims of Hope*
L'éducation catholique: *Pèlerins de l'espérance*

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.

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week and they are aimed at helping staff and students to reflect more fully on what being *Pilgrims of Hope* means to them. The five sub-themes are:



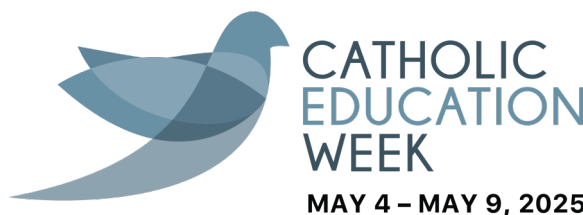
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| Day 1: | By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine |
| Day 2: | By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création |
| Day 3: | By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés |
| Day 4: | By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité |
| Day 5: | By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix |

Catholic Education Week is marked by special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities. I invite you to visit our school during this special week and to participate in any of our activities as we celebrate Catholic Education Week 2025.

Sincerely,



Mr. C. Kerho
Acting Principal



EQAO - GRADE 3 AND GRADE 6

The EQAO assessment is administered to all Grade 3 and Grade 6 students in Ontario's publicly funded school system by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario.

At St. John Bosco, our Grade 3 students will be completing the assessment from May 27—May 29 and our Grade 6 students will be completing the assessment from June 2-4. Parents with children in Grade 3 and Grade 6 are asked to please ensure that your child is in attendance during these times.

This assessment includes a language and mathematics component, along with a student questionnaire and an introductory session that includes a sample test for students. The purpose of the introductory session is to familiarize students with the e-assessment platform and the types of assessment questions. During the assessment, students will complete four language sessions that range from 15 to 35 minutes each, and four mathematics stages that each take about 30 minutes to complete. The administration of the stages and sessions will be spread out in the assessment window.

EQAO assessment questions are directly based on the expectations set out in the Ontario Curriculum, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Therefore, your child does not need to prepare in any special way. Students will complete the assessment in their regular classrooms with their current teachers, and are simply encouraged to do their best and show what they know.

In the fall, EQAO will share individual reports with us for all our students. Once we receive these reports, we will provide you with your child's achievement on the assessment. Your child's results are private and will give you an indication of his or her achievement in relation to Ontario's provincial standard. The standard, or Level 3, represents the range from B– to B+. Meeting the standard means your child has a solid grasp of the required knowledge and skills, which is a good indication that he or she will be ready for Grade 4. The results of the assessment do not affect your child's grades or report card in any way. They do, however, give you information about your child's progress.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Kerho or your child's teacher.

CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARD

The Niagara Catholic "Catch the Spirit Student Award of Excellence" will be held on Tuesday May 6, 2025 at the Central Niagara Community Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This year the award is being presented to Grade 8 student Alexander Hornak. Alexander has demonstrated outstanding qualities in the following areas: involvement in school and Parish affairs, involvement in local community activities, combined with strong leadership qualities and a high degree of academic excellence. Congratulations Alexander!



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 (Born in 2021). We are very excited to have more students join our St. John Bosco Family and the extended Family of Niagara Catholic. We will be having a Kindergarten Orientation Night on May 27th, 2025 from 5:30-6:30 pm. During this time, families will visit the Kindergarten classrooms and get a feel for what a day looks like in Kindergarten! At 6:00pm the new students will be able to ride the bus with their families to experience what September will be like. We hope to see all newly registered students there!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

All of our St. John Bosco community members are invited to join us at mass on Sunday, May 4th at 10:00 am as our Grade 2 students from Mrs. Farnan and Mrs. Gaspari's classes will be receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion. We thank Fr. Peter Walton, Mrs. Farnan and Mrs. Gaspari for their work in preparing our Grade 2 students for this holy sacrament.

BADMINTON TEAM

Congratulations to our Badminton team who competed in the Lakeshore Catholic Family of Schools tournament on Wednesday April 30th. All team members showed competitiveness, co-operation and good sportsmanship while at the tournament. Thanks to our coach Mr. Mastroianni for his time and dedication to the team.



JUNIOR HANDBALL

A big thank you to Mr. Morello for his efforts in coaching our Boys and Girls Jr Handball team. Both teams put in a fantastic effort with the girls losing in a closely contested final game by one goal and the boys narrowly missing the finals. You made all of us proud with your effort!



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:

- | | |
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| • 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



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



Niagara Catholic District School Board
CATHOLIC EDUCATION & MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK PLANNER 2025
Theme: Pilgrims of Hope



Name of School: **St. John Bosco**

	Catholic Education Week	Mental Health Week
Sunday May 4, 2025	First Holy Communion 10:00 am at St. John Bosco Church.	Interactive Bulletin Board (positive affirmations and messages of hope-grade 6/7 to lead.This is a whole week initiative.
Monday May 5, 2025 <i>By honouring human dignity</i>	Destination College Grades 7/8. 12:00 pm Opening Prayer Service-Grade 6/7 class to lead . Recognize students who made their Holy Communion on May 4th. Dr. Jean Clinton 7:00 pm at Davis Morris High School. Music Monday.	Theme: Pilgrims of Hope -honouring human dignity. CYW to lead classes to work in partners sharing positive attributes about eachother.
Tuesday May 6, 2025 <i>By caring for creation</i>	Grade 4 Bible Celebration 9:00AM. 9:30 am Jon Hansen Gr 4-8 Grade 1-3 Rosary Circle. Catch the Spirit Award winner Alexander Hornak	Theme: Pilgrims of Hope when we care for creation. Butterfly activity (origami) -reflect on how we can care for our world, ie recycle. This is to be put on display.
Wednesday May 7, 2025 <i>By responding to the poverties in our world</i>	Student Leadership Symposium. School Mass for grades, 1,2,6/7	Theme: Pilgrims of Hope when we respond to the poverties in the world- students will reflect on the struggles faced by those who are suffering due to poverty by creating a heartfelt prayer. Students create a prayer and/or a prayer wall/book where they can post their writings.
Thursday May 8, 2025 <i>By serving in solidarity</i>	Maker Space Activities in Gym 8:40 am Giammarco / S Morollo 10:20 am Fernan / Gasperi 11:40 am Tammamini / Jacobi 12:20 pm Levesque / Zutt Gr 8 to lead activities	Theme: Pilgrims of Hope when we serve in solidarity. Create a paper chain with likes and dislikes. Attach these together to create one school wide chain.
Friday May 9, 2025 <i>By living as peacemakers</i>	Whole School Community clean up (school yard only). Measure marigold plant and send to the board with a photo of the largest plant.	Theme: Pilgrims of Hope when we live as peacemakers. Create 1 classroom symbol of peace- each student prints their name on it with how they can demonstrate peace in the classroom, school and community.



SUMMER SCHOOL 2025 PHYSICAL EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY SECONDARY CREDIT COURSES

JULY 2-25
8AM-2:45PM
IN-PERSON
CLASSES

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Physical Education registration fee of \$90.00

to cover transportation and excursion fees.

Technology registration fee of \$50.00

to cover materials.

REGISTRATION DUE DATE MONDAY, JUNE 2

NO EXCEPTIONS will be made after this date. Fees to be paid on School Cash Online. **Student admission is NOT final until payment has been received.**

LIMITED ENROLLMENT

Course Cancellation

At times, a summer school course may be cancelled due to insufficient enrolment. Any course that is cancelled will be posted on the summer school website by Friday, June 20, 2025. If your selected course is not cancelled, students are to report to their course on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, as scheduled.

Number of Courses:

One summer school course per student.

Final Examinations

For those courses where a final examination is prescribed as a mandatory assessment requirement, students must write the final examination/ assessment. There will be no exceptions. Final examination/ assessments will take place within the last three days of the course as determined by the classroom teacher and principal.

Summer School Locations

Blessed Trinity Catholic High School,
145 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby

Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School
541 Lake Street, St. Catharines

Lakeshore Catholic High School
145 Janet Street, Port Colborne

Notre Dame College School / Launch Centre for Tech
64 Smith Street, Welland / Seaway Mall, Welland

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School
6525 Carlton Street, Niagara Falls

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for student success. As such, students are expected to attend each day of summer school. These are participation courses. Missing classes may impact their average.

Transportation

Students and their families are responsible for their own transportation to their summer school site. Only students in rural areas will have transportation from a pickup location to the summer school site. Parents are expected to drop off and pick up students from the pickup location.

Student Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in clothing appropriate for the activity and a school setting.

Course Availability

The enrolment in these classes will be capped based on space at each location. Courses will be filled based on date of registration and payment of activity fee.

**REGISTRATION BEGINS
MONDAY, APRIL 14
IN MYBLUEPRINT (WITHIN NCVLE)**

Summer School Head Office

St. John Continuing Education Centre

145 Niagara Street

St. Catharines

905-682-3360

1-866-727-8401 (toll-free)

email: summerschool@ncdsb.com



REGISTRATION CLOSES MONDAY, JUNE 2



See registration details online at www.summerschoolniagara.ca

REGISTRATIONS BEGIN MONDAY, APRIL 14 AT MYBLUEPRINT



SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SECONDARY CREDIT COURSES

ALL CLASSES ARE IN PERSON

JULY 2-25
8AM-2:45PM



PAF20 **Health & Physical Education**

LOCATIONS: Lakeshore Catholic
Saint Francis

An introductory course that emphasizes a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong healthy active living. Learn movement principles to refine skills, enhance personal competence, fitness and health, examine issues related to healthy eating, substance use, and abuse; and apply informed decision-making, conflict resolution and social skills in making personal choices.

PRE-REQUISITE: none
ACTIVITY FEE: \$90

PAI20 **Health & Physical Education**

LOCATIONS: Blessed Trinity, Notre Dame College School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel

An introductory course that emphasizes regular participation in a variety of enjoyable physical activities that promote lifelong healthy active living in a competitive environment. Through the achievement of the Ministry and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations, the student will apply movement principles to refine skills; participate in a variety of activities that enhance personal competence, fitness, and health; examine issues related to healthy sexuality, healthy eating, substance use and abuse; and apply informed decision-making, conflict resolution, and social skills in making personal choices.

PRE-REQUISITE: none
ACTIVITY FEE: \$90

TAS20 **Exploring Technology**

LOCATIONS: Blessed Trinity, Holy Cross, Lakeshore Catholic, Notre Dame (Launch Centre), Our Lady of Mount Carmel

This hands-on course enables students to apply the engineering design process and other technological knowledge and skills introduced in earlier grades. Students will design and safely create prototypes, products, and/or services, working with tools and resources from various industries. As students develop their projects to address real-life problems, they will apply technological concepts such as quality control, and health and safety standards. Students explore opportunities for job skills programs and education and training pathways, including skilled trades that can lead to a variety of careers.

PRE-REQUISITE: none
MATERIAL FEE: \$50

REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, APRIL 14

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions available on the website

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements:

- Summer School credit courses meet all the same Ministry of Education requirements.
- Registration for courses is done through MyBlueprint (Continuing Education Tab) that is found in the student's NCVLE. (Similar to Grade 9 Course Selection).
- Print off the registration form and have a parent/guardian sign it. This signed form must be returned to your Grade 8 teacher.
- Fee payments are made through School Cash Online.



REGISTRATION CLOSING MONDAY, JUNE 2



See registration details online at www.summerschoolniagara.ca