

St. Nicholas Catholic

May 2025

School begins at 8:25 a.m. All benefit when everyone is on time.

St. Nichols 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@ncdsb.com

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

Phone: [905-685-7764](tel:905-685-7764)



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.**

Called By Name - Come Follow Me: Reflection #9

When Jesus says "Come, follow me," He's doing more than just asking us to walk with Him. He is asking us to become a part of something bigger. Imagine you're invited to join an adventure where you learn new things and grow in ways you never thought possible. Following Jesus means we get to learn from Him how to be more loving, forgiving, and courageous. It's like being part of a great story where each of us has a special role. As we follow Jesus, we discover our own strengths and talents and find joy in helping others. So, when we hear His invitation, it's a chance to embark on an exciting journey of faith and make a real difference in the world!



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 Father Ben, usually the third Thursday of the month for a 10:00 a.m. start. Each class is responsible for the readings and for celebrating mass along side Father.

Our current masses are as follows:

May 5th - Liturgy in the gym to celebrate the beginning of Catholic Education Week. Thank you to our Students Council who will be celebrating with us.

May 15th - Thank you to Mrs. Rathee and her Empower Students who will be celebrating with Father.

June 19th will be our closing mass celebrated by staff who will be leaving s this year.

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

Grade 2 First Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 10:00 a.m. mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, May 25th

Grade 8 Confirmation will be held on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8th at the 11:30 a.m. mass.



Grade 8 Graduation - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at Club Roma. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with convocation beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner for staff and students will take place at 7:00 p.m., followed by a dance from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

We ask that you pick your child up promptly at 10:00 a.m. Due to the lateness of the evening, students cannot walk home by themselves.

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



Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week May 4th - 9th

This Year's Mental Health Week Theme is, "Unmasking Mental Health"

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 focused on the future.

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.

On Thursday, May 8th from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., St. Nicholas Catholic will open its doors to our Family Community. We will have artwork completed by our students throughout the year on display in the gym and hallways, our choir will be performing in the gym twice - at 1:00 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m., and our classrooms will be open for a visit and perhaps a fun board game challenge. We hope to see many of you during our school celebrations!



St. Nicholas Catholic CEW MHW Template.pdf

Download
52.9 KB

Catch the Spirit Award Recipient

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to Marri Lavigne who is our 2025 Catch the Spirit Award recipient. Marri is a school community minded young lady who has been an advocate for the needs of all of her peers, no matter what their age or grade. She stands up against bullying and empowers those around her to also take a stance for what is right - not for what is 'popular'. Marri excels in all aspects of her academics and is always willing to help staff and students alike. Marri is also currently serving on St. Nicholas Catholic Student Council.

Marri will be receiving this well deserved award during our Awards of Excellence evening which takes place the evening of May 6th at the Central Niagara Community Centre, 680 York Rd., NOTL.

Congratulations once again to Marri. What a roaring Tiger!

St. Nicholas Catholic Student Senate

What is a Student Senate?

As per policy 100.6.2, the Elementary Student Senate provides a forum for student servant leadership, the exchange of ideas, discussion, consultation, peer mentorship and communication through its Co-Chairs to the Secondary Student Senate, the Student Trustees on the Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Director of Education.

Congratulations and thank you to our St. Nicholas Catholic Student Senate members: Phoenix A., who is our outgoing, graduating member, Tai'yha H.L. who is our appointed member for next year, and Caleb G. who is our newly elected senate member for the 2025-2026 school year.

All three members attended the final Student Symposium for this school year on May 7th at Club Roma.

Tai'yha and Caleb will proudly represent St. Nicholas Catholic next year during all Family of School meetings that will take place at Denis Morris Catholic throughout the year.

Second round of Vaccinations for Grade 7 Students

Thursday, May 8th in the morning.

Grade 7s, please remember to eat a good breakfast, wear short sleeves and bring a book to read while you wait.



Vaccinations for Grade 7 Students.pdf

[Download](#)

194.6 KB

Hot Lunches

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

Days are as follows:

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

St. Nicholas Catholic Sports Corner

Congratulations to our junior boys and girls handball player who had a great showing on April 29th and 30th. What a fun sport to learn and play. Congratulations goes out to all those on the girls team: Sacia, Rachael, Violet, Chloe, Avery, Miah, D'janae, Aila, Savannah, Angela, Mahsa and Abby. And congratulations to all those on our boys team: Danilo, Kyle, Mason, Gabriel, Baraka, Abi, Loic, Bryan, Hanniel, TJ, Subomi and Clinton. Way to play Tigers!



Intermediates are currently trying out for Flag Football which will take place at the end of May. Tournament play will take place at the Sports Complex in Welland. Girls play Tuesday, May 20th and boys play on the 22nd.

St. Nicholas Catholic's Track and Field will be taking place on Friday, May 23rd at the Niagara Olympic Club, 78 Louth St.

Message from the Nagara Olympic Club:

NO buses in the parking lot on Louth St. There is a By-law for NO Parking on grass in St.

Catharines. The DSBN Academy is NOT our parking lot. NO Dogs! In the facility. Concession is

CASH only.
regards,
Sharon

Kids Bowl Free - Free Bowling All Summer!

The **Kids Bowl Free Summer Bowling Program** is available in our community, and we wanted to make sure your family knows about this amazing opportunity!



Each child receives **2 FREE games of bowling every day all summer long** at participating bowling centers. Last summer, over **2.8 million kids** enjoyed this program!

How to Register:

1. Go to www.KidsBowlFree.com
2. Select your state and then choose a participating bowling center
3. Register your children to receive free bowling all summer
4. Sign up for the optional Family Pass so parents, grandparents, and older siblings can join in the fun!

Please remember to click onto 'sign me up' and then click onto 'location'. Scroll down to Canada and then Ontario. Our bowling alley is at the Fairview Mall on Geneva St.

Don't miss out on this fun and affordable way to keep kids active this summer!

P.S. Feel free to forward this email to friends and family who may be interested in joining the fun!

Kindergarten Welcome Night

Calling all graduates of 2036.

We will be hosting our Kindergarten Welcome Night for all incoming Kindergarten Year 1 students for next September on Tuesday, June 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Invitations were sent out last week.

If you have a child who will be starting Kindergarten next year (will turn 4 by December 2025), please join us and learn about the Kindergarten program and what a day in the life of a three/four year old student will look like. New incoming students will meet their classroom peers and end the night by going on a little bus ride throughout the neighbourhood.

A fun and exciting night for all.

Please remember to RSVP to Mrs. Winstanley.

Haven't registered your child yet? You can do that as well through niagaracatholic.ca. Then click onto register a child.

Carousel Players Present...

Hare and the Tortoise

Hare & Tortoise is a delightful adaptation of the classic Aesop's fable, written by award winning UK playwright, Brendan Murray. Our production has been carefully crafted by a team of designers, directors, musicians and actors especially for young people aged 4



to 8, and we at Carousel Players feel privileged to have the opportunity to present this whimsical performance to children in their schools.

The characters in the play have very different approaches to life, as they take care of their garden, go on holiday and watch the seasons change, all while getting ready for their big race. It's a great story to use as a teaching tool to talk to children about how people can be different but still respect each other and be friends.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 will watch the Carousel Players present the Hare and the Tortoise the afternoon of Friday, May 2nd.

Thank you to the Carousel Players and Caravan Funding for subsidizing this entire performance for the students of St. Nicholas Catholic.

St. Catharines Public Library

As in the past few years, Public Library visits will begin in the month of March and will continue until the end of June. These visits will not only lead us into summer vacation, but will also lead us into the summer book clubs that will be open for all students during the summer vacation. Thank you to the Library for once again inviting us into their home.



The St. Catharines Public Library anticipate some of your children will be interested in requesting library cards! They have two options available - students' caregivers can complete [this online form](#) (click link to access) to receive a card or a printable PDF can be requested and sent home. If you wish a printable form, please ask for a copy from your child's classroom teacher. If caregivers are completing the printed form, please make sure to include the grade and the teacher's name so that we can make sure we have the card ready for their specific visit day. As well, this form needs to be returned to school at least one week prior to the class visit.

For our Library visits, we will be leaving the school shortly after 10:30 a.m. and will be returning shortly after noon. The schedule is as follows:

March 4th and May 6th – K-Green and Gd 7/8–Ruberto

March 18th and May 20th– K-Doherty and Gd 6/7-McGowan

April 1st and June 3rd– Gd 1-Grant and Gd 4/5-Heywood

April 15th and June 17th – Gd 2-Diemer, 2/3-Yungblut, 3/4-Carbonara

Public Health Newsletter for Families

May is Vision Month.



May - ELEMENTARY.pdf

Download

151.9 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 Nomination Form for Parents and Guardians 2025-2026.pdf

[Download](#)

232.3 KB



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

[Download](#)

671.1 KB



Parent Involvement NCPIC Nomination Form Community Representative 2025-2026.pdf

[Download](#)

178.7 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.



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.

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.

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.

Allergy Aware School



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

Happy Mother's Day, Sunday May 11, 2025

To all of our wonderful and beautiful Mothers, Step-Mothers, Grandmothers and Maternal Caregivers,

Happy Mother's Day. May your day be filled with love - and everyone doing everything for you!!

"A Mother's Touch"

A mother's touch, so soft and kind,

A gentle hand, you'll always find.

She soothes the hurt, she makes us whole,

A mother's love, a story told.



Happy Victoria Day - Monday, May 19, 2025

There is no school on this day.
Enjoy the fireworks this weekend.



Jacqueline Watson

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters