



St. Patrick Chronicle

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary is part
of the Lakeshore Family of Schools

Principal: Mrs. M. Kish Superintendent: Mr. P. Rocca



May, 2026

ST. PATRICK CHURCH

MASS TIMES: Tuesday – 6 pm
Wednesday – Friday – 8:30 am
Saturday – 5 pm
Sunday – 9 and 11 am

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday and Friday – 8 am to 3 pm

WHATS HAPPENING – THINGS TO KNOW

Children's Liturgy will be offered every Sunday at the 11 am Sunday Mass, starting May 3, 2026 (excluding May 24).

We invite our school community to come out and support our parish through the upcoming Flower Fundraiser. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our church while also adding beauty to your home or garden.

Your participation and support mean so much and help strengthen our faith community.

Mother's Day Flower Sale will begin Thursday May 7 at the Parish Hall beginning at 9:00 am. Sales will continue throughout the weekend until sold out.

May 8th 8:30-6pm
May 9th 8:30-6pm
May 10th 8:30-1:00pm

THE MONTH OF MARY



During the Month of May we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Without Mary giving birth to Jesus, all the events that followed: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection wouldn't have happened. So, it's believed that May (when nature is showing signs of life) is the ideal month to honor the woman who gave life to our Savior. During the last week of May, weather permitting, our school will participate in an outdoor Living Rosary. Mary will be crowned during the presentation.

[A Mother's Day Poem](#)

My Mother, my friend so dear,
Throughout my life you're always near.
A tender smile to guide my way,
You're the sunshine to light my day.
Of all the special joys in life,
The big ones and the small,
A mother's love and tenderness
Is the greatest of them all.



KRISPY KREME TOP SELLERS

We are excited to recognize and celebrate our top sellers from the Krispy Kreme fundraiser! Thanks to their enthusiasm, hard work, and the incredible support from our community, this fundraiser was a great success for our school.



Congratulations to our Top Sellers:

- Cali G
- Lochlan L
- Zane R
- Lucas & Logan C
- Jaxx & Axel P

Your efforts truly made a difference, and we are so proud of you. A heartfelt thank you to **all families and supporters** who participated—your generosity directly supports our students and school activities. We are grateful for our wonderful St. Patrick community!



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the families who have generously donated directly to our school through School Cash Online. Your support is truly appreciated.

These funds allow us to continue investing in important technology upgrades and the purchase of new learning materials that directly benefit our students and classrooms.

If you are still interested in making a donation, the School Cash Online portal remains active and donations are always welcome.

Thank you for your continued generosity and partnership in supporting our school community.

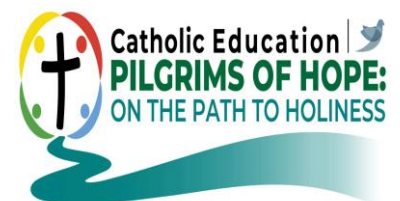
HANDBALL TOURNAMENT



On **Friday, May 1st** our Jr. Girls and Boys Handball teams (Grades 4-6) will be travelling to Lakeshore Catholic High School to participate in the NCDSB Family of Schools Tournament. Good Luck to both of our teams. Thank you to Mrs. Murdoch for coaching and Mr. Caldwell for convening the tournament.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Catholic Education Week will take place from **May 4th - May 8th** with a number of activities planned throughout the week to celebrate this wonderful gift. Please refer to the May calendar. This year's theme is, "**Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness**". A detailed overview will be sent during the May 4th Week at a Glance reminder.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT NIGHT- POSTPONED



Thank you to the families who had planned to attend our upcoming Parent Engagement Night on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**. **Due to low enrollment**, we have decided to move this session to late September and align it with our Meet the Teacher Night.

As this is an informative session, we feel this change will allow for greater participation and ensure families receive the information in a more inclusive and accessible setting.

We are pleased to share that **Detective Chris Balkou** from the **Niagara Regional Police Service**, who works in the **ICE Unit**, will be presenting to our students in **Grades 4–8**. The presentation will focus on **social media use and the ongoing concerns and challenges associated with cell phones**.

We are currently awaiting confirmation of a date between **May 4–8** and will communicate with families once correspondence has been secured.



STUDENT CELL PHONES

In alignment with Ontario's Ministry of Education *Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 128 – Provincial Code of Conduct*, we are asking for your support in limiting the use of personal mobile devices at school. Research and classroom experience consistently show that cell phones are a significant distraction to learning and can contribute to social and behavioural issues during the school day.

Grades 6 and Under (Kindergarten–Grade 6)

Under PPM 128, students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are not permitted to use personal mobile devices during the school day. If a phone is brought to school, it must remain powered off, silent, and out of sight for the entire day, including recess and lunch periods. To support learning, **we strongly encourage families not** to send cell phones to school unless absolutely necessary. If arrangements have been made with the principal for extenuating circumstances, the student phone will be safely stored in the office in a locked cabinet.

Grades 7–8

For students in Grades 7 and 8, personal mobile devices are not permitted during instructional time and must remain out of sight and on silent or powered off unless explicitly authorized by an educator for educational purposes. While older students may carry devices for after-school safety, phones should not be used during class time and can become a distraction and source of conflict if misused.

Staying Connected During the School Day

If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, they may always come to the main office, where staff will support them in making that contact. Likewise, if families need to reach their child during school hours, we ask that you contact the office directly.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in creating a focused, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students. By working together, we can help our children develop healthy boundaries with technology and remain fully engaged in their learning.

BACKROAD BARBEQUE FUNSRAISER

We are excited to invite our parent community to support our May fundraiser with Backroad Barbecue in support of St. Patrick School.



You can use the link below to place your order. All payments are made directly online through the website.

<https://www.backroadtogo.ca/schoolfundraiser>

Please note:

- **All orders must be placed by May 5, 2026.**
- **Pick-up will take place at the store on May 9, 2026, between 1:00–5:00 p.m.**

We kindly encourage you to share this fundraiser with family and friends to help support our school community. "This is a great opportunity to get your orders in time for BBQ season and the upcoming long weekend."

EARTH MONTH BATTERY COLLECTION

We will continue to accept batteries during Earth Month up until May 8th, we will be collecting old batteries to encourage proper recycling. Please bring the old batteries in a ziplock bag. Below is a list of acceptable and unacceptable batteries.



Acceptable batteries

- Standard A, AA, AAA, C, D, 6V, 9V
- Lithium
- Mercury
- Rechargeable batteries (Lithium Ion, Nickel Cadmium, Small Sealed Lead Acid)



Unaccepted batteries

- Car batteries (wet lead acid batteries)
- Leaking batteries

FLAG FOOTBALL

This year our Intermediate Students will once again be participating in the annual Invitational Flag Football Tournament taking place on **Tuesday, May 12th 2026** for the girls and **Wednesday, May 13th** for the boys at the Welland Soccer Dome. Thank-you to Mr. Caldwell for coaching.



VICTORIA DAY



Monday, May 18th, 2026 is Victoria Day. This is an opportunity to enjoy a long weekend with our family and friends.

TRACK & FIELD



This year's track and field school tryout event will take place at Lakeshore Catholic on **Wednesday, May 20th, 2026**. Students in grades 4 to 8 will participate in a number of running events as well as long jump. Grade 7 & 8 students will also be participating in shot put. To help make this a successful event, please pack a number of additional small snacks as well as a water bottle, sunscreen and a hat that they can wear. The students will be outside for much of the day and are encouraged to wear athletic clothing (Out of dress code). Concessions will be sold at the venue. More details to follow. Parents are welcome to attend. The **Family of Schools Track and Field** is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 27th, 2026**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



We would like to congratulate the students who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on **Sunday, May 24th at the 11 am Mass** at St. Patrick Church. The grade 2 students have put a lot of effort into building a stronger connection to God and are now ready to receive this gift of God. If your child is above grade 2 and has not yet received their First Holy Communion or has not yet been baptized but is asking for this, please contact the parish main office.

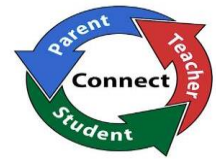
VACCINATION CLINICS: PUBLIC HEALTH



Over 14,000 students in Niagara region still need to provide an up-to-date immunization record or valid exemption to Public Health. To help students catch-up with their immunizations, Niagara Region Public Health is offering vaccination clinics in various locations and many appointments are available. Please book an appointment with Public Health by calling 905-688-8248 ext. 7425. Individuals can also visit the "Where to Get Vaccinated" webpage at niagararegion.ca/vaccines for more information.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Our final meeting for the school year has been changed and will be held on Monday, June 1 at 5 p.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome! The following topics will be covered during this meeting: Technology update, Volunteer AOP, Fundraising Initiatives, Kindergarten Open House & Information around class size and allocation.



EQAO ASSESSMENT 2026

The Grade 3 and Grade 6 Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics will take place from May 5th – June 9th, 2026.

Grade 3 EQAO assessment will be written from **May 26th to May 29th**

Grade 6 EQAO assessment will be written from **June 1st – June 4th**



Parents of our Grade 3 & Grade 6 students are asked to please plan vacations, appointments and/or other absences around these dates as attendance during these assessment times is vital.

Parents may also visit the EQAO site at www.egao.com/Parents/Elementary to look at types of questions and samples of past assessments to provide practice with students at home.

MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH 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 Better Hearing and Speech Month, the perfect time to communicate some important information about hearing and speech.

Hearing and Speech Month is celebrated each May to raise public awareness of speech and language disorders that affect many Canadians. Speech and language disorders can take many forms and can limit academic achievement, social adjustment, and career advancement. An individual may be born with a speech or language disorder, or it may be caused by accidental injury or illness

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.

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter



AODA note: hyperlink addresses are in the [Link Destinations](#) section of this document.

Healthy Eyes, Bright Future

May is Vision Health Month! Did you know that a yearly eye exam is **FREE** for children and youth in Ontario? 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. Book an eye exam with an [eye doctor near you](#) (Link #1).

Contact an eye doctor if you see any of these signs:

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

Students in kindergarten may be eligible to receive a free pair of prescription glasses through the Eye See...Eye Learn® program from participating optometrists. For more information, visit [Vision Health - Niagara Region, Ontario](#) (Link #2).

Mental Health Week

The Canadian Mental Health Association recognizes Mental Health Week from May 4-10 to highlight that social connection is the foundation of overall health and well-being. Together, we

can strengthen mental health, build healthier communities, and help more people feel connected.

To find resources and to learn more, visit the [Canadian Mental Health Association](#) (Link #3).



Welcome to Kindergarten

Do you have a little one starting kindergarten next year?

Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community. Check out the [School Health webpage](#) (Link #4) for important information about:

- Childhood illnesses and diseases
- Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods
- Dental screening
- School-aged vaccines

Parents and legal guardians of kindergarten registrants and students new to Ontario must report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#) (Link #5).

ParticipACTION Community Challenge

Sign up for [ParticipACTION Community Challenge](#) (Link #6) from **June 1-30, 2026!**



What is the Community Challenge?

The ParticipACTION Community Challenge is a national physical activity and sport initiative that encourages everyone in Canada to get active throughout June in search of Canada's Most Active Community.



Link Destination

1. [Eye doctor near you](https://optom.on.ca/find/) (https://optom.on.ca/find/)
2. [Vision Health - Niagara Region, Ontario](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx) (https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx)
3. [Canadian Mental Health Association](https://cmha.ca/) (https://cmha.ca/)
4. [School Health webpage](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/) (https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/)
5. [Public Health](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/vaccinations/reporting.aspx) (https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/vaccinations/reporting.aspx)
6. [ParticipACTION Community Challenge](https://www.participaction.com/programs/community-challenge/) (https://www.participaction.com/programs/community-challenge/)



“One Family in Christ: Know, Love, Serve Him.”

“The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through its charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.”