

# St. Ann Catholic School

## November Newsletter

### PRAYER FOR FALL

**God** give peace.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

### No Visitors in School

In order to limit the number of people in our schools, there will be no parents allowed in the school during the school day unless there is a medical emergency. Parents picking up students will ring the buzzer at the front door and your child (ren) will be brought to the front door. This will be an inconvenience but is necessary to ensure we minimize the number of people in an out of our school

### Catholic School Council

The first Catholic School Council meeting was held on October 27th. Our CSC chair is Joanne Azzopardi. Our next meeting has not been determined. All are welcome to attend. Please see our school website for agenda and minutes. In September, we ordered 40 additional Chromebooks. We will be fundraising in October for an Outdoor Classroom. Please see the message below from our CSC Chair

We have made it through the first 2 months and still looking good!

It might feel like the Catholic School Council is taking it easy this year, but we are working hard. Despite the fact that we are not able to have our usual Friday lunches, Christmas Gift Shop or other fundraisers we are working on fun ways to raise money for our school improvements.

So, keep a look out for the updates! Our next meeting will be in December.

Stay safe,

Joanne Azzopardi  
*St. Ann Parent Council Chair*

### Parental screening

Please ensure that the Parental Agreement for Daily Screening is completed and sent in to the school. Please also ensure that you screen you child daily for the following:

- fever (feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or higher)
- chills
- cough that's new or worsening (continuous, more than usual)
- barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing (croup)

- shortness of breath (out of breath, unable to breathe deeply)
- sore throat
- difficulty swallowing
- runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- lost sense of taste or smell
- pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- headache that's unusual or long lasting
- digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain)
- muscle aches
- extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)
- falling down often
- for young children and infants: sluggishness or lack of appetite

If your child is ill, please do not send them to school and follow up with your family physician.

**Public Health**

# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

Niagara  Region

## For Parents

### Don't Take the Risk This Season: Get Your Flu Shot

It is more important than ever to get your flu shot this year.

The flu shot **won't** protect you from COVID-19. The flu shot **will** protect you from influenza and help keep people out of the hospital. Remember, the flu vaccine still prevents and reduces the severity of the flu, even if it's not a perfect match.

Getting the flu shot won't increase your risk of COVID-19 illness.

#### Where to Get Your Flu Shot

Free flu shots will be available across Niagara. Please make a plan to get your flu shot with your health care provider.

If you do not currently have one, see a list of [family physicians in Niagara who are accepting new patients](#). Flu shots are also available at participating pharmacies (for children five years of age or over) and walk-in clinics. You can also monitor Public Health's [Where to Get the Flu Shot](#) webpage to see if there are any community flu clinics run by community health care providers.

#### More Information

Visit Public Health's [Flu Shot and Activity](#) webpage for more information about the flu.



### What to do if your child has COVID-19 symptoms

Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should NOT enter school or child care. They should return home to self-isolate.

The next steps for children depend on what kind of symptoms they have. For information visit our website <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/reopen/schools.aspx> - scroll down to "Prevention and Protection" and click on "what to do when a child has COVID-19 symptoms."

Adults with any one symptom of COVID-19 should always self-isolate and seek assessment by a health care provider or self-refer for testing. **It does not matter what kind of symptom they have.**

## For School Staff

### Handwashing and Germs Teaching Tool

For background information and learning activities on handwashing and germs visit our teaching tool: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/curriculum/handwashing-and-germs/default.aspx>

This teaching tool is designed for students in Kindergarten to Grade 1 and aims to help students:

- Reflect on how germs and illness are spread
- Practice correct handwashing and hand-rub techniques
- Use correct respiratory etiquette as part of their daily living

### Grade 7 Vaccinations

#### Catch-up for Students Overdue for School Program Vaccines

- As you know, the Grade 7 school immunization clinics were not completed in the spring of 2020 due to school closures in response to COVID-19 and redeployment of Public Health staff
- Before the end of December 2020, Public Health will send a letter to all parents and legal guardians of grade 8 students outlining how to get their child caught up on missed doses

#### Grade 7 Clinics for 2020/2021

- As a result of Public Health's role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff capacity has had to be refocused. At this time, all Public Health school vaccination clinics for the fall are currently cancelled.
- We will reach out as more information becomes available for the remainder of the school year for this year's grade 7 cohort

### Reminders for Infection Prevention and Control

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools, remember the following:

- It's important to make sure that all staff, visitors, and students have completed screening before entry to school every morning. You can find the Ministry of Education School Screening Tool [here](#). Remember that screening should also be a continuous process that happens throughout the day.
- Reminder that physical distancing is one of the most important prevention methods. If you are unable to maintain a safe 2 metre distance from a student, it's important to remember to wear your face shield. Physical distancing should be practiced even when outside of the classroom, particularly in rooms like the staff room.
- Face coverings are an important method of protection for not only you, but those around you. When you are not using your masks or face covering it should be stored properly to prevent the spread of bacteria, viruses, and germs. To store it properly, fold the outside of the face covering in on itself, so only the inside of the face covering is facing outwards. The mask or face covering can then be stored in its own bag or container before placing it into your pocket, purse or vehicle. Discard the bag or clean and disinfect the container after use. For more information, [visit our website](#).
- While it's very important to maintain physical distancing, good hand hygiene, and ensure proper mask usage at school, it's just as important to be practicing it in your personal/social life.

# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter



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### Milk and Hot lunches

There will no opportunity to purchase hot lunches or milk at this time. If this changes, parents will be notified.

### STUDENT EMERGENCY SHEET

Thank you to all parents who have returned your student emergency sheets. Please let the school know if there are any changes to your personal information including changes to email, emergency contacts, phone numbers or custodial arrangements for parents.

### CROSSING GUARD

The City provides a Crossing Guard in front of our school and across from Henley Island. The children must walk across Main Street with the Crossing Guard at all times.

### Lockers

Students will have access to lockers during the winter months. A protocol will be created and will be passed on to parents once it is finalized.

### NUT SAFE SCHOOL

St. Ann is a Nut Safe School. Please be aware that there are children in our school who have severe allergies to nuts and foods containing nut by-products. NASK (**Niagara Anaphylaxis Support and Knowledge**) recommends parents read and become familiar with food labels and check ingredient contents. Please send only foods that are peanut and nut safe.

### Lunch Time

Students will eat in their own seats during lunch. Waste Free lunches are encouraged. Students will bring home waste in their lunch or wait for a staff member to direct them to put garbage in the receptacle.

### SCHOOL CASHONLINE

Niagara Catholic has provided parents with an online payment option for your child's items. We strongly encourage you to register and begin using this great service.

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

### Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear is available online by contacting Big Bear Sportswear and ordering directly from the website. Items will be delivered to the school and distributed to students by school staff.

### ATTENDANCE

**Please ensure that you report your child's absence using the Safe Arrival Program. You may also obtain information for registering for Safe Arrival on the Niagara Catholic District School Board website.**

### PARKING LOT NEWS

Please use the "Kiss and Drive" so your vehicle is not blocking the arriving buses. Please help us keep all children safe as it is our highest of priorities. Together we can continue to keep our children safe. The protocol for dismissal will continue until further notice

- Parent pick up 2:35Pm
- Walkers dismissed at 2:49
- Bus students will be called down as buses arrive

**We ask that you exercise extreme caution when driving in our very busy parking lot, especially during the morning and at dismissal at the end of the day. Parents should be picking their children up at the sidewalk. Students should accompany parents while walking to their cars. We have had several close calls with students running through the parking lot to meet their parents. Let's do our best to keep everyone safe!!**

## **Volunteers**

There will be no volunteers in school at this time. We will allow volunteers as soon as it is safe to do so. Thank you to all who have inquired about volunteering at our school.

## **FIREDRILLS and LOCKDOWNS**

Part of Niagara Catholic's Emergency Protocol is routine fire drills and lockdown drills. In September, St. Ann Catholic completed 2 fire drills and 1 lockdown practice.

## **ANIMALS**

To ensure the safety of all our students, we are enforcing **No Pets on premises** during school hours of operation. Many students are afraid or have allergies to animals. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

## **SEAC**

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board is made up of Association representatives and Trustees whose role is to support students with diverse needs and their families. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board with regards to matters relating to educational programs and services to be implemented in schools for our students who meet this criteria. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings and learn about different programs and supports that are available in special education.

Meetings are currently taken place using Microsoft Teams at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month due to the COVID-19 restrictions. If the format changes, it will be published two weeks in advance of the meeting via appropriate Board supported social media and directly to Committee Members. In the case of a holiday, the meeting would be held on the second Wednesday of the month. If you are unable to attend the meetings and you wish further information, please visit our website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) under Special Education, Special Education Advisory Committee or contact your school Principal who will provide you with a list of representatives and their contact information.

SEAC continuously strives to ensure that the rights of students with diverse learning needs are being met both at the elementary and the secondary level as well as serving as a resource for parents of these children. For further information there are two links: The Special Education Advisory Committee website – [www.seac-learning.ca](http://www.seac-learning.ca); and the Ministry of Education Special Education website

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html) .

## **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation for our Grade 8's will be November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Star of the Sea. Due to Covid restrictions each candidate will be allowed to bring 2 parents. Students will declare a sponsor but the sponsor WILL NOT BE IN ATTENDANCE at the actual ceremony at the church.

## **Picture Day**

Picture Day will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Details will be provided through School Messenger.

## **Spirit Awards**

The next Spirit Awards presentation will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Transportation

It is a parent's responsibility to request the change of programming delivery and to advise NSTS of transportation changes.

1. The Virtual School has a webpage:

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/niagara-catholic-virtual-school/>

2. Further to the comments on the virtual schools, the transition form is available from the banner on the website:

Transitioning between In-Person Learning and Online Remote Learning

Elementary Student Requirements:

Parents/Guardians of elementary students who wish to transition between in-person and online remote learning must complete the Elementary Student Transition Form on or before the 15th of the month for their child change to become effective the first school day of the following month.

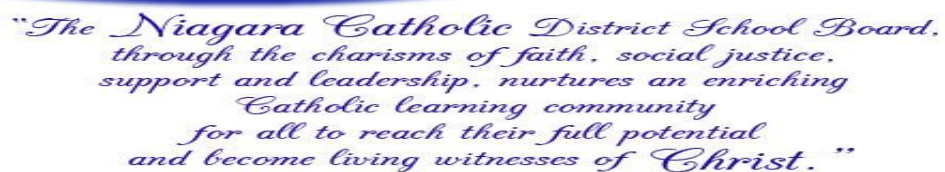
Transition Request Deadline      Start Date

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

February 1, 2021

Transportation Requirements:

Regardless if your child transitions between in-person or online remote learning, if your child is eligible for transportation you must complete the Opt-In / Opt-Out Transportation Request through Niagara Student Transportation Service (NSTS). Read the detailed Back to School Transportation Plan for additional information.



*"The Niagara Catholic District School Board,  
through the 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."*