

January 2021

Newsletter

Online Learning

All St. Ann Students will pivot to
Online- Learning Jan. 4-8th.

Parents should still report absences using School Messenger.

St. Francis Virtual Open House

St. Francis Catholic School's virtual open- house will take place on February 4, 2021.

French Immersion

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an **optional** program. The entry point for September 2021 is either Kindergarten Year 1 or Grade 1, depending on the school site offering the program.

Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

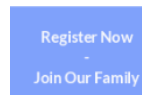
- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten
- Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Grade 1
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Grade 1

Transportation

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2. Designated Family of Schools French Immersion schools can be located at the following link www.niagaracatholic.ca.

French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

- On-line open pre-registration window for students **new** to French Immersion in September 2021: **Monday, January 18th, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.** through to **Friday, January 29th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**
- Pre-registrations outside of this window will **not** be considered.
- There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program.
- An account must be created first through easyRegister.ca to access the pre-registration forms.
- Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp.
- Please visit www.niagaracatholic.ca and click:



Then, click the French Immersion tab for information about the program. Additional pre-registration details will be posted on this site as they become available. Please check the site before the pre-registration window opens.

Selection Process

In accordance with the Board's Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy #301.1, there are a limited number of spots available for students entering the program. Eligible spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis for each elementary French Immersion school site. Applicants will receive notification by **Monday, March 8th, 2021** to inform them if their children have been placed in the French Immersion program **OR** if their children have been placed on the school's waitlist. Applicants who have not received notification by **March 8th, 2021** are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.

Please share the information contained in this memo with parents and community members through the December and January school newsletters, in a letter on school letterhead and posting on the school website. A central message will be sent to families using SchoolMessenger in December.

Please direct questions to Mary Vetere, FSL/International Languages Consultant at mary.vetere@ncdsb.com

or Diane van der Veldt, Coordinator of Student Information Services at diane.vanderveldt@ncdsb.com.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE AND ONLINE REGISTRATION 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Niagara Catholic has shifted to a virtual model for Kindergarten. Kindergarten Open Houses will take place on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021. Times and platforms for each Kindergarten Open House will be determined by the principal. It is suggested that schools create a personalized pre-recorded virtual tour that can be shared with your school community during a school Google Meet or Zoom session as well as shared on your school website.

Given COVID restrictions, all registration for Kindergarten will be online. Schools are to make arrangements for parents/guardians to provide all necessary documentation to complete the registration process. Schools are to consider scheduling appointments to ensure that all guidelines regarding physical distancing and all other safety protocols are maintained, including logging visitors to the office.

Public Health

Healthy Schools Niagara School Health Newsletter January 2020

Happy New Year! It's officially 2020 and I hope everyone had the chance to enjoy your holidays and relax. In this January School Health Newsletter I want to take the time to acknowledge some programs we offer through Niagara Region Public Health and some interesting programs I can implement in your school!

Screen Smart Week! – Coming Soon

Never before has there been such a wealth of knowledge available right at our fingertips. Did you know that over half of elementary aged students own a smartphone? Students must develop the skills to manage screen time appropriately in order to live healthy, balanced lives.

Screen Smart Week is a school based screen time program that encourages students to choose active time over screen time. Schools are encouraged to host a Screen Smart Week at their school to promote healthy screen time behaviors.

Stay tuned for more information regarding Niagara Screen Smart Week!

Niagara Parents

Do you have questions about your child's health or growth and development?

Now you can:

- Call
- Email
- Live Chat With a Public Health Nurse at Niagara Parents.

Nurses are happy to provide reliable advice about; pregnancy, newborn care, behavioural issues, child or parental mental health concerns, and community supports. A Public Health Nurse is available to answer your questions Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm. You are also able to register for many of our clinics and classes at niagararegion.ca/parents. We're with you every step of the way!

Nurse Austin's Healthy School Highlight

Similar to last month, I would like to start highlighting some of the amazing work some of my Healthy Schools Clubs have been working on! I hope it gives you some insight into some of the cool projects we've been working on, and gives some ideas on what we can implement at your school!

January's Nurse Austin's Healthy School Highlight is **The Woodland Wellness Wolves at Woodland Public School!** On December 18th, the Wellness Wolves and I went out to bear the cold weather for our Winter Wellness Walk!

Following our Healthy School's Survey, the students came up with the idea of creating a walk to encourage Physical Activity and Healthy Eating over the Holidays. Students ran, danced, hopped, and galloped their way across the playground to multiple checkpoints where they were asked questions about "Healthy Eating over the Holidays", "Staying Active over the Holidays", and "How to Dress for the Weather". The Students were then encouraged to spin our Activity Wheel and win a prize!

Great work Wellness Wolves!

Start the Year with Clear Vision!

Children who have trouble seeing may struggle to learn and take part in activities at school. Children are often unaware of their own vision problems, so many issues can go unnoticed and untreated. If untreated, some vision problems may affect a child's vision for life.

Eye exams with an optometrist are important to identify and treat any possible vision issues.

Yearly eye exams are **free for anyone under 20 with a valid OHIP card**. Families can find eye doctors in their community by visiting findaneyedoctor.ca

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is January 26th at 6:30 PM.

Our donation fundraiser raised \$1765.00. Thank you to all parents who donated.

We purchased 40 Chromebooks at a cost of \$ 12 136.00. The Board was able to purchase the Chromebooks for a much cheaper price than budgeted; we have a balance of \$9 739.00 left in our lottery account. We have 5 chromebooks left on order from our first purchase. This represents a cost of approximately \$1500.00. The remainder will be spent on technology.