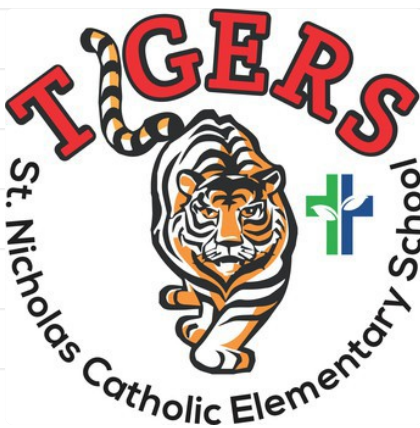


# St. Nicholas Catholic - December

Home of the Tigers!



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## St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School

**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. R. Paprzycki

Superintendent: Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

Parish: Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Father Benjamin Weber

Email: [st.nicholas@ncdsb.com](mailto:st.nicholas@ncdsb.com)

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

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



## The Christmas Season is Upon Us

The temperature is dropping, the snow is falling and Christmas carols are playing on the radio. Welcome to the Christmas season everyone.

Christmas is always a special and magical time of year. Everything seems to twinkle, sparkle and shine. From our Christmas trees, to the lights we've strung outside, to the glitter of the malls and to the radiating smiles from everyone we meet; Christmas is just a sparkly time of year!

And as we prepare for the holidays we are also invited to put a sparkle in our hearts and in our minds as we await the birth of baby Jesus. The virtues of hope, peace, joy and love shine within us as Jesus' birthday draws closer. May we share this heartfelt anticipation and the joyous glow of the Christmas season with our families, friends and all those we come in contact with.

From our families to yours, may you all have a blessed, safe and loving Christmas holiday.

Merry Christmas





## Called by Name: Hear My Voice

### Reflection #4

God invites us to hear His voice. But, how do we go about hearing it? How do we learn to recognize it? God has blessed us with a priceless gift: the Bible. St. Jerome famously wrote that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." We recognize our loved ones' voices because of the many hours we've spent together. Should we expect it to be any different with Jesus? When we read the Gospels, we learn His ways and we hear His voice. Do you have a Bible that has been collecting dust? This is the sign you've been waiting for to pick it up, open up the Gospels, and give them a read. Jesus is waiting for you.



## Home, School and Parish

St Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools is associated with the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Parish Priest is Father Ben Weber.

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:

December 14th - Thank you to Mr. Ruberto and his Grade 7/8 class for celebrating with Father.

January 18th, February 14th (Ash Wednesday), February 15th, March 21st, April 18th, May 16th and June 20th.

School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation is December 7th and April 11th. These will be held at school.

Grade 8 Confirmation: Sunday, May 19th at the 11:30 a.m. mass. Please note, this is a date change.

Grade 2 Sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, May 4th at the 4:30 p.m. mass.

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be an open opportunity in which you can bring your child to the church during any confessional time. Confessions are usually 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grade 2 and 8 parent information letter has already been sent home by Father.

Grade 8 Graduation - Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at Club Roma. Information to follow later.

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



## December 1st: Joy Day

Staff and students will be celebrating the Christmas season by holding 'Joy Day' throughout the school the afternoon of December 1st. During this time classes will decorate their doors and classrooms and then they will enjoy some fun Christmas activities - time permitting. Staff and Students are encouraged to dress in the festive season this day.



## Picture Retake Day and Grade 8 Graduation Photos

Picture retake day will be on Friday, December 8th in the morning.

Grade 8 Graduation pictures will be on Tuesday, January 16th, again in the morning. For graduation pictures, it is best if our young men wear a white collard shirt and a dark tie. For our young ladies, a white collard shirt looks best.



## Hot Lunches

### Pizza Day

Friday, December 1st

Last day to order Wednesday, November 29th

### Feast Of St. Nicholas

Wednesday, December 6th

Pasta and meatballs (optional) for all, at no cost

### Sub Day

Friday, December 15th

Last day to order Tuesday, December 12th

Please note that all food orders are to go through school cash on-line. Money will not be accepted the day of. Thank you

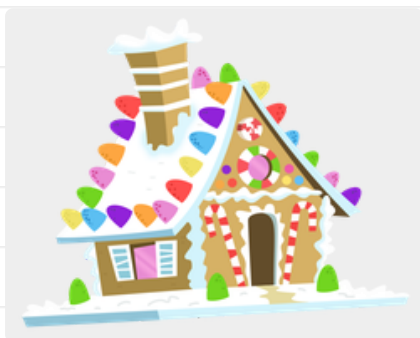


### **Second Block for Ice Cream**

You can prepay for ice-cream for the second half of the school year through school cash on-line. The total cost from January 2024 to March 2024 would be \$22.00.

Friday, January 12th to Friday, March 29th minus March Break is 11 weeks @ \$2.00/week.

We will currently still accept cash the day of.



### **Christmas Family Night: Gingerbread Night**

A fun and festive event for the entire family. In support of St. Nicholas Catholic School Council. Come and decorate a Gingerbread House in the gym on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00/family which includes one Gingerbread House with all the fixings. There will be hot chocolate, snacks and Christmas music throughout the night.

Want to purchase more than one Gingerbread House kit? Of course you can. The cost remains at \$20.00/kit.

Please purchase your Gingerbread House(s) through school cash on-line by December 3rd. Gingerbread Houses will not be sold at the door.





## **Catholic School Council Update**

### Christmas Shoppe

This year's Christmas store will run in the gym on December 14th and 15th. Donations of new and gently used items will be accepted until December 13th.

Do you have a bit of time to volunteer and help support our Christmas Shoppe? Do you love wrapping presents and helping little ones pick out gifts? If so, please join us Thursday, December 14th and/or Friday, December 15th in the gym anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

### COBs Bread Bakery.

A very large thank you goes out to Marko, the owner of COBs Bread Bakery on Fourth Ave., St. Catharines. Marko, once again, has shown his beautiful self by donating all of our fundraising money back to the school. As a result, we have raised \$1,250.00 towards technology for our school. Thank you Marko for your ongoing generosity.

### Mom's Pantry.

On-line ordering for Mom's Pantry just closed. We will determine profits made in the next week of so. Just a reminder that all items purchased will be delivered on Wednesday, December 13th.

### 12 Days of Christmas changed to 12 Days of Spring

Please stay tuned for our Spring fundraiser.

### Nevada Tickets

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may not be aware that St. Nicholas Catholic reaps the benefits of two local stores selling Nevada tickets. The profits made from the sale of these pull tickets comes back to the school. Last year, some of the money was used to augment the end of the year school trips for all of the students. This year, money has been used to purchase new chromebooks for the additional class that was established.

Try your luck and support the school at the same time. It's a win/win for all.

Tickets can be purchased at

Danny's Market, 183 Lake St. and'

Big Bee Foodmart. 134 Lake St.

Please play responsibly. Thank you



## St. Nicholas Catholic Sports Corner...

Junior Boys and Girls Volleyball is now taking place. Congratulations to those who have made the teams. I know everyone has been working hard.

Jr. Girls' Volleyball Thursday, November 30th at St. James Catholic. Semi-finals and finals will be at St. Theresa Catholic;

Jr. Boys' Volleyball Friday, December 1st at St. James Catholic. semi-finals and finals will also be at St. James Catholic.

## French Immersion for the 2024-2025 School Year: Pre-Registration Information

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. The French Immersion 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 2024 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 Kindergarten
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins Kindergarten

### 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](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca).

### French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

- On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2024: Monday, January 15th, 2024 at 7:30 a.m. through to Friday, February 2nd, 2024 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 Edsembli to access 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](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) and click ➤ the French Immersion Registration banner OR ➤ 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 4th, 2024 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 4th, 2024 are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.



## Dental Screening for Kindergarten Year 1 and 2, Grade 2, 4, 7 and 8

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program will be at our school to provide FREE dental screenings to grades JK, SK, 2, 4, 7, and 8 on **December 4th and 5th, 2023**. The screening may allow your child to qualify for [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#) and/or [preventive services](#).

If your child(ren) is not in one of the selected grades and you would like them to participate, please complete the [School Dental Screening Opt-In Form](#).

Dental screenings consist of a quick look in the mouth using a sterilized dental mirror for each child.

- This screening does not replace your child's regular visits with a dental professional
- You will be notified by letter of the screening results

**IMPORTANT:** Please contact us **EACH school year** if you **DO NOT** want your child(ren) to participate in the dental screening by completing our [online School Dental Screening Opt-Out Form](#).

To speak to a public health dental professional, call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7962 or [live chat](#) with the Dental Team.

### Public Health Newsletter.pdf

[Download](#)

361.4 KB

## Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot And Please - Do Not Get Out Of Your Car While Waiting To Drop Off or Pick Up Your Child

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



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.



### Elementary Dress Code: Solid Navy and/or Solid White

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.

#### 302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy AOP (1).pdf

[Download](#)

677.8 KB



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

## Big Bear Spiritwear

St. Nicholas Spiritwear is now being offered through Big Bear Spiritwear. Please click onto <https://www.bigbearspiritwear.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.

## No Cell Phone Use While In School

This is a reminder that cell phones are not to be used at school unless under direct supervision of the classroom teacher. Cell phones are not to be used during recesses or lunch breaks. Pictures are not to be taken and under no circumstances can anything, pertaining to any aspect of the school day, be uploaded to the internet. This includes pictures taken on any device aside from a cell phone. If an emergency arises and a parent needs to get ahold of their child, a call to the school's direct line can be made and Mrs. Winstanley will forward the message.

St. Nicholas Catholic is not responsible for any lost or damaged cell phone/technology that is brought to school. For the younger grades, cell phones are to be kept in a child's backpack. For the older grades, cell phones are to be kept in a child's locker. It is advisable for that child to bring a lock to place on his/her locker.

### 301.5 - Electronic Communications Systems (Students) AOP (1).pdf

[Download](#)

368.7 KB



## Please Keep Us Updated

It is very important that we have the most updated contact information for your child, especially if we need to get ahold of someone quickly in case of an emergency.

Please forward to Mrs. Winstanley any information that has been changed, such as phone numbers, emails and emergency contacts.

Thank you in advance for helping us keep everyone safe.

## Have a Safe and Blessed Christmas Vacation



See everyone back on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 8:35 a.m.



## Jacqueline Watson

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

