



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

St. Andrew Catholic School Newsletter

December 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

ADVENT

Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life. The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian.

First we celebrate Christ becoming human. We view His life and experience and his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning.

When Christ left this earth, He did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps His vision of life before us. When Christ comes again, His presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community. This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ. Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when He comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

SCHOOL NEWS

I am also happy to share with you that I will be retiring at the end of December. Mrs. Maria Ruggi Dietsch is being appointed the new Principal of St. Andrew Catholic School effective January 8, 2024. I will be working with Mrs. Ruggi Dietsch during the next few weeks to ensure a successful transition. I have been blessed to have had the privilege of working with you and your children during my time at St. Andrew and wish you all of the best in the future.

Merry Christmas,

Mr. C. Kerho

MASS AT ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

We look forward to your participation at mass throughout Advent and the Christmas Season at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church.

The schedule for the Christmas Season is as follows:

Sunday, December 24th - 5:00 pm Family Mass

Sunday, December 24th - Midnight Mass 12:00 am

Monday, December 25th - 9:00 am

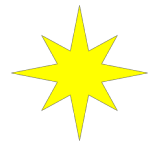
Monday, December 25th - 11:00 am

Celebrating the New Year:

Sunday, December 31st - 5:00 pm

Monday, January 1st - 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Please check www.saintandrewchurch.com for updates.



CHRISTMAS AT ST. ANDREW

If your family (or a family within St. Andrew) needs support this year with gifts or groceries, we ask that you please e-mail st.andrew@ncdsb.com so we can help. We are blessed to be in a very generous community and we are happy to support where we can. Please know that all requests will remain confidential. If you are thinking of a gift for a staff member, we would ask that you consider making a donation to a charity of your choice or to the St. Vincent-de-Paul Society



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT ST. ANDREW

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 13th as we have a great evening planned for our St. Andrew Community! We will begin with an Open House here at the school at 5:30 pm. Parents and students will be invited to come in for a cup of cheer (Hot Chocolate, Coffee) and a chance to visit with parents and staff. There will also be an option for parents to order pizza in advance in case they haven't had a chance to get something to eat before our celebration. At 6:10 pm we will be asking the parents to go over to the church where we will be having an Advent Liturgy and a singing performance from our Kindergarten classes, Mrs. Infusini, Mrs. Naccarato and Mr. Dosa's classes and Mr. MacLeod, Mrs. Dellasmirra and Mrs. Brown's classes. We are very thankful to Fr. Paul for helping out by letting us use the church for our Advent/Christmas celebration. We hope to see you here!!!

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Did you know... each day we serve a healthy meal/snack (a fruit/veggie, grain and/or protein) to students at St. Andrew's school? All students have access to food provided through our nutrition program funded by Niagara Nutrition Partners and contributions from local partners. This program is very beneficial to the growing minds and bodies of our students, and it provides such a positive start to their day. If you would like to support this program, please visit our school's website and click on Cash Online.

*Please note that support provided directly to the school is not eligible for charitable tax receipt for income tax purposes. A charitable tax receipt can only be issued if you donate through the Niagara Nutrition Partner's official website. <https://www.niagaranutritionpartners.ca/give-to-grow>

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The final meeting of 2023 will take place on Tuesday, December 19th at 5:30 pm at Cheers restaurant in Welland. It will be more of a social with some snacks for all to enjoy. All parents are welcome to attend and it will also be an opportunity to meet Mrs. Ruggi Dietsch.

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. 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.

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 2024: **Monday, January 15th, 2024 at 7:30 a.m.** through to **Friday, February 2nd, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**
More information will be available in the January Calendar and Newsletter

WASTE FREE LUNCH WEDNESDAYS

Our ECO Team wants to help better the environment and try to reduce waste and single-use plastic. Each Wednesday we are encouraging our St. Andrew community to pack a waste free lunch! This may include a reusable water bottle, packing snacks in containers or using reusable cutlery. These small initiatives can help protect our Environment! Thank you, from the ECO Team.



WINTER IS COMING

As we enter into the winter season, we all know that the snow will be on its way. We would like your help with a few things.

- 1) Please remind your child(ren) about snow safety while at school. Snow is to stay on the ground and never thrown. If there is ice or students are playing on snow hills, students need to have boots and snow pants. Students are reminded that when playing on snow hills or ice that it is a “knees or butts” rule. That means students must stay on their knees or be sitting on their butt to reduce the chance of falling or injury.
- 2) If you are unsure about the weather and if the school is open or if transportation may be cancelled, please tune in to a local radio station, or check the website niagaracatholic.ca
- 3) More details will be coming out later this month regarding school closures due to weather.
- 4) If you need assistance in providing your child with warm winter gear, please contact the school and we will do what we can to be of assistance.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

With the arrival of winter, we can expect colder temperatures and more snow. The Niagara Catholic District School Board will make every attempt to keep schools open during periods of inclement weather. Only in exceptional circumstances will schools be closed part way through the day. If your contact information or pick-up arrangements have changed, you are asked to please contact our secretary at the office so the necessary updates can be made. Announcements concerning school closures or cancellations will be made on all local radio stations before 6:00 a.m. You can also check the Board website at www.niagaracatholic.ca or choose to follow Niagara Catholic on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

SCHOOL BUS RULES

At the Stop Be 5 to 10 minutes early, and stand on the inside of the sidewalk/ shoulder away from the roadway.

When the Bus Arrives Line up in a straight line, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open, and never touch the outside of the bus.

Getting on the Bus Get on the bus one at a time, hold the handrail as you climb the stairs, and go directly to your seat and get settled.

Riding on the Bus Sit with your back to back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap, and use your quiet speaking voice so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving.

Getting off the Bus Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop, only get off the bus at your school or at your bus stop, look for your parent/ guardian before you get off the bus if that is your routine, and always tell the bus driver if you do not see your parent/ guardian at the bus stop waiting for you if that is your routine or if you missed the stop.

Crossing in Front of the Bus Watch and wait for the bus driver to signal to you to cross the road once it is safe to do so.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

When Charlie Brown yells “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?”, Linus responds by saying, “Sure Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about:”

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2: 8-14

“That’s what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.”





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4 DAYS OF HOLLY DAYS

★ DRESS DOWN THEME DAYS ★

DEC 1: SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS KICK OFF

DEC 8: CHRISTMAS VACATION

DEC 15: THE POLAR EXPRESS

DEC 22: TACKY SWEATER DAY



PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION IN SUPPORT OF
OUR FAMILIES HERE AT ST. ANDREW.
DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON SCHOOL CASH
ONLINE OR A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM.

FOUR DAYS OF HOLIDAYS

As we look forward to celebrating the season of Christmas, we here at St. Andrew are going to get in the spirit by participating in the "Four Days of Holly Days" under the leadership of our Student Council. If you are feeling the spirit, we would welcome any donation through Schoolcash Online. All donations will stay within the St. Andrew community to support families who are in need.

Dec 1– Spirit of Christmas (dress in Christmas colors, clothes or decorations to show Christmas spirit)

Dec 8 - Christmas Vacation (a Hawaiian theme, a tourist going on a trip, a character from the movie)

Dec 15 - The Polar Express (wear your favorite Christmas pyjamas)

Dec 22 - Tacky Sweater Day (find a sweater that screams Christmas, or wear Christmas colors)