



February 2024

St. Kevin Catholic School



Principal: Mr. G. Marchio **Superintendent:** Mrs. Kimberly Kinney

Parish Priests: Rev. Jinto Mathew Puthiyidathuchalil, CSC & Fr. Arockia Sunil Josapath, CSC
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905-734-7709

Called By Name: Hear My Voice

"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) Throughout her life, Mary reflected on the words of Jesus, pondering them in her heart. Mary's heart was and is full of love for Jesus. The words that He spoke to her were not passing things, quickly forgotten. They were opportunities for her to marvel at the Son of God. Mary's example invites us to make time to reflect on the words of Jesus. A simple way of doing this is by praying the rosary. In the rosary, Mary takes us by the hand and leads us closer to Jesus. We learn about the heart of Jesus through the heart of Mary, who pondered His words in her heart.

This month of February we celebrate the virtue of Love. Christian love is rooted in a committed friendship with God. We can express our love for God by being of service to our fellow human beings. Sometimes this virtue is called charity. Jesus' greatest act of love for us is His supreme sacrifice in dying on the cross to bear our sins. As Christians we are invited to 'Let all that you do be done in love' (1 Cor. 16:14). We practice love when we 1) are helpful to a classmate, a family member or an animal in need, 2) notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend, 3) take time to show we care, 4) forgive others when they make mistakes, 5) reach out in the broader community to share our gifts and talents. As we journey through this month of February, may we practice the virtue of love with all we meet in our daily lives.

Mr. G. Marchio
Principal



Kindergarten Open House

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
9:00 – 6:00p.m.

Kids Helping Kids

February 12 – 23, 2024
Please see newsletter for details

Food Days

Pizza ~ February 8 & 22, 2024
Subway ~ February 29, 2024

Professional Activity Day

Friday February 16, 2024
No School for Students

Family Day

Monday, February 19, 2024
School Closed

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

~~~ Mission Statement ~~~

We are a Christ-centered Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

Valentine's Prayer

I said a Valentine prayer for you
and asked the Lord above
to fill your heart and bless your soul
With the precious gift of love.
I asked Him for sincere love
The kind that's meant to stay
Just like the generous love
You give to those you touch each day.
I prayed for love from family
And from every cherished friend
Then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end.



Lenten Season

As we enter the Lenten season at St. Kevin Catholic School we will always reflect in prayer on this most special time in our liturgical calendar. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th and we will celebrate with the distribution of ashes at a liturgy at our school. Grades 4-8 will gather at 12:30 in the gym. Primary classes will have liturgies in their classrooms.

Shrove Tuesday is traditionally celebrated the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Thank you once again to the culinary department at ND for cooking the pancakes for our school. If there are any concerns or allergies please contact the main office. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

We look forward to teaching and learning about the season of Lent until the celebration of Easter in April.

God Bless!



Term One Report Cards

The first term provincial report cards for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will be posted on the parent portal ***the week*** of February 12th. The report card is an evaluation of your child's progress with the curriculum expectations. Please take the time to discuss learning issues with your child, and schedule an appointment to speak to your child's teacher if necessary. Communication and cooperation between home and school positively influences student achievement. Parent/Teacher conferences are available upon teacher and/or parent request. If you are requesting an interview, please contact your child's classroom teacher by Friday, February 24th. ***IF YOU WOULD LIKE A HARD COPY OF THE REPORT CARD PLEASE CONTACT THE MAIN OFFICE.***
Thank you for your continued support.



Kindergarten Open House

St. Kevin Catholic School will be hosting a Kindergarten Registration/Open House on Tuesday, February 6th from 9:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

We look forward to meeting you and your child and to welcome you to the St. Kevin Celtic family!

If you have any questions please call 905-734-7709.

Please be reminded that families are able to register anytime on line:

<https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/landing/registration/>



School Closures and Bus Cancellations

The winter weather will soon be upon us, and that means increased chances for bus or school cancellations in all or part of Niagara.

As a reminder for families who are familiar with the process outlined in our School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure AOP – and as information for those who are new to Niagara or Niagara Catholic – the decision to cancel buses is made by Niagara Student Transportation Services very early in the morning, based on the current and forecast conditions to ensure students are safe throughout the day. NSTS makes its decision with bus companies, and consults agencies such as Niagara Regional Police about whether buses are safe on the roads. They communicate the decision to the local school board directors of education, who decide whether to open schools or keep them closed for the day. Niagara Catholic communicates decisions about bus and/or school cancellations by 6 a.m. You will find the information in the following places:

- On the [NCDSB WEBSITE](#) – a red banner appears on the main page when buses and/or schools are cancelled
- The Board's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages
- Local radio and TV stations and newspaper websites

Most often, buses are cancelled but schools remain open. If you choose to keep your child at home due to inclement weather, you must report their absence using the appropriate code through Safe Arrival. If you are keeping your child at home on a day when schools are open, or if schools are closed, you may wish to access asynchronous learning resources during the day. These resources are available [here](#).

Please keep in mind that driving a car is much different than a bus, and even though roads seem fine to drivers in personal vehicles, the conditions (such as snow drifts) may make it impossible for school buses to navigate through neighbourhood streets, particularly if they are not ploughed.

As well, we remind families that buses can be cancelled if the temperature falls to a point where stop arms and other mechanical parts required for the safe operation of the vehicle may freeze. We understand that may be frustrating for parents on a bright, cold, snow-free day, but the safety of students is the top priority of the school bus companies, NSTS and Niagara Catholic and if the buses cannot operate safely due to the cold, transportation will be cancelled.

Living between two lakes can mean completely different weather in parts of Niagara. Occasionally, that leads to bus cancellations or school closures in one part of Niagara due to weather, while the rest of the region is unaffected. We encourage you to please check our website and social media feeds for accurate information to ensure that what you are reading online applies to you.

If the entire system is shut down, we will call, email and text your family using School Messenger by 6 a.m. to advise you it's a snow day. You do not need to report your child's absence from school, as schools are closed.

Although weather systems do blow through without warning, we usually have some idea that bad weather is coming and we encourage families to be prepared for this, especially if parents have to work while children are at home.

If your child is staying home due to a bus cancellation or a school closure, they will have the opportunity to participate in asynchronous learning from home. [Click here](#) for Kindergarten, Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Secondary literacy, numeracy, and other subjects for students to keep up with work if that is what you choose to do. Please note that participating in this work is voluntary, and should be considered as reviewing or reach-ahead work, rather than teacher-led new learning.

Secondary students may also review any classroom work or reach ahead where possible if they choose to do so.



Kids Helping Kids 2024

Niagara Catholic's 25th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 12-23, 2024. This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Creative Hair Day. Kids Helping Kids is open to students attending in-school and students in our virtual schools. Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online.

For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: Niagara Children's Center.

Monday, February 12th ~ Creative Hair Day / Creative Hat Day, Principal for the Day Tickets available (3 tickets for \$1.00 – purchase through School Cash Online)
Winner will be announced on Feb. 22nd

Tuesday, February 13th ~ Celebrating Valentine's Day, Red, White, and Pink Day! (Alternate Dress Code Day)
Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day (provided by ND)
Popcorn Day: bring a toonie to buy a bag of popcorn. All funds raised will support our Kids Helping Kids Campaign.

Wednesday, February 14th ~ Ash Wednesday, Liturgy 1:15p.m. (Grade 4-8), Primary Classroom Liturgies

Thursday, February 15th ~ Jersey Day (worn over top of uniform)

Friday, February 16th ~ Professional Activity Day (No School for Students)

Monday, February 19th ~ Family Day! School is closed

Tuesday, February 20th ~ Valentine Candy Jar Game
(3 tickets for \$1.00 – purchase through School Cash Online)
Primary, Junior, and Intermediate Winners will be drawn
Winners announced on Feb. 23rd

Wednesday, February 21st ~ Comfy Cozy Day/Silly Socks Day

Thursday, February 22nd ~ Principal for the Day Winner announced
Tropical Day – Alternate Dress Code Day – wear bright colours or tropical accessories

Friday, February 23rd ~ PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY
Announce Valentine Candy Jar Winners

- All Weekday Dress Up Activities + Three Tickets for the Valentine's Candy Jar for ONLY \$5.00 per student or families with 3 or more students, \$10.00 per family.
- Principal for the Day tickets can be purchased through School Cash Online only until Tuesday, February 20th (3 tickets for \$1)
- Additional tickets for the Valentine's Candy Jar can be purchased on School Cash Online only until Wednesday, February 21st. We cannot accept cash.
- All proceeds are donated to Niagara Children's Centre & Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW ST. KEVIN SCHOOL ON INSTAGRAM!



Instagram: stkevinschoolwelland



Pink Shirt Day

When: Wednesday February 28, 2024

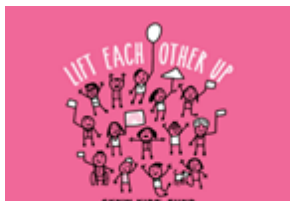
Bullying can come in many forms (such as physical, verbal and cyber) and sometimes be hard to see.

Signs that a student might be a target of bullying can include:

- Low attendance at school or at other activities
- Feelings of anxiousness, fearfulness, irritability or unhappiness
- Low interest in activities and poor performance at school
- Loses things, needs money or reports being hungry

On **February 28**, join others worldwide in raising awareness of bullying by wearing a pink shirt to school.

See <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>



“From the HeART” Art Exhibition

We would like to celebrate *Ashlin N. (3JM)*, *Juana J. (Gr.4J)*, *Addessa B. (6JS)*, and *Elvira V.V. (Gr.7)* whose artwork was selected to represent St. Kevin at the annual celebration of elementary student artwork called From the HeART.

This exhibition is a non-adjudicated show and will be on display February 5th-9th at the Seaway Mall, Hart Court. After the event, submissions may also be selected to be on display at the Catholic Education Centre in order to celebrate our young artists. Each artist will receive a certificate of recognition. Thank you to *Mrs. Mascio* for leading this endeavor at our school!



Black History Month

Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.

The Government of Canada website contains resources for Black History Month, including how Black history came to be recognized in Canada and information about Black history organizations and educational resources.

Please visit the link for more information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



Safe Schools: Consistent Absences

Parents are required to ensure children who are enrolled in school attend regularly. Absences must be reported and considered reasonable as outlined in the Education Act Part II School Attendance 21.(2). Student with persistent absences or a pattern of absences may be subject to the attendance protocol referral process:

- 1) Teacher Contact
- 2) Principal Contact via meeting/letter
- 3) Referral of student case file to Stay in School Coordinator when all other steps have been exhausted Stay in School Coordinator will be involved with attendance concerns – this may involve community resources. Thanks for your support.



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Parents and caregivers may have inquiries about what to anticipate as their children embark on their school journey. Working collaboratively with teachers, support staff, students, and parents, your School Health Nurse strives to create a healthier school community.

Check out our Welcome to Kindergarten video that reviews a few helpful reminders from Public Health!

- English: <https://youtu.be/mkJcbqwxwzzk>
- French: <https://youtu.be/eu20sVNoTOU>

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From **February 1st to 7th 2024** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre and, eating disorder groups nationwide come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre “Transform the Narrative” Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)

Educational Resources

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day, also known as Anti-Bullying Day, is on **February 28, 2023**. Throughout February and the year, [CKNW Kids' Fund's Pink Shirt Day](#) raises awareness and funds for programs promoting children's self-esteem. Wear a pink shirt on this day to stand against bullying and contribute to creating a kinder, more inclusive world. Let victims know they're not alone; help and support are available.

Encourage your school to wear Pink Shirts on the 28th to show that you stand against bullying! For more ways to get involved visit <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/get-involved>.



Winter Walk Day

On **Wednesday February 7th** join schools across Ontario to celebrate [Winter Walk Day](#). While the cold air and snow might tempt you to drive, walking in winter can be enjoyable with some extra precautions. Here are tips for a safe and comfortable winter walk:

- Keep hands, head, and ears covered. Be sure hats and scarves do not block hearing or vision.
- Wear mittens, they keep hands warmer than gloves.
- Wear warm, waterproof boots with good treads for better traction on snow and ice.
- Wear wool or insulating clothing to help retain body heat.
- Beware if the temperature falls below -25 °C or if the wind chill is -28 °C or colder. This is when exposed skin freezes in only a few minutes.
- Change wet clothes as soon as possible - tuck extra socks and mitts into backpacks.
- Keep wearing sunscreen - yes, you can still get a sun burn in winter.
- Add reflective tape or tags on coats and backpacks.

Source: Green Communities Active & Safe Routes to School, Way to Go! School Program and Go for Green.

Check out Ontario Active School Travels [Winter Walk Day](#) webpage for promotional materials, resources, and activities below to help you celebrate WWD in your community! We're looking forward to seeing everyone in their cozy winter wear!

