

St. Denis Catholic

School

February 2024



Address

175 Carlton St.
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 1S1

Principal

Mrs. Victoria Wegelin

Phone/Fax/Email

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St. Denis Bell Times

School Begins 9:15 a.m.
Morning Recess 10:45 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Lunch 12:00 pm -12:40 p.m.
Afternoon Recess 1:40 p.m. -1:55 p.m.
Dismissal 3:25 p.m

February 2024

Principal's Message

February is the month with heart and we at St. Denis Catholic School have plenty of it! At this time I would like to thank Father Stephen who spiritually guides us all.

We thoroughly enjoyed our game in the gym against the IceDogs, a great time was had by all. A school choir did an incredible job singing the national anthem at the start of the hockey game on

Thursday, January 25, 2024.



Our annual "Kids Helping Kids" campaign allows us to help the children in our region by raising funds for the many services that are provided for them at the Niagara Children's Centre. Exciting events and activities will be held all week starting February 12, 2024. It will be an exciting week at our school.

Our Kindergarten Open House will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you know a family that has a child that will be starting school, please recommend our great school!

In February, we will focus on growing in our worship of God as we journey through the season of Lent. Lent is a time many of us give up things like chocolate or television. While these endeavours are certainly noble, this is not what the season of Lent is truly about. It is about reflecting upon the great gift that Jesus gave us when He willingly gave His life for the forgiveness of our sins. He gave up something He couldn't take back! During Lent when we give up something it should be for the same reason Jesus did, out of love. While giving up television is certainly a difficult thing for many of us, and it can be considered a sacrifice of pleasure, it is what we do with that extra time away from the television that is important. By giving up television how are we showing God we appreciate His love, the gift of Jesus' sacrifice? Are we using that time to volunteer, spend time with our family, or go to daily mass? That is how we show God how much we appreciate the gift He gave us, by giving it to others. As we continue our Lenten journey may we always be mindful of God's gift to us and the ways that we can share that love with others.

God bless,
Mrs. V. Wegelin
Principal

[February 2024 Calendar - Click Here](#)

Called By Name: Hear My Voice 2024

Our theme this school year is "Called by Name: Hear My Voice." And while our theme is about God's call to us, it should also serve as a reminder of our call to Him. Each day God says to us, "let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet" (Song of Solomon 2:14). God doesn't want to talk *at* us; He wants to have a conversation *with* us. Have you given Him the pleasure of hearing your voice yet today?



[Public Health February 2024 Newsletter - Click Here](#)

Monthly Award Winners-January 2024

Every month our teachers recognize a student in their class who has demonstrated excellence in a particular area based on one of the eight Catholic Graduate Expectations. These expectations are; A discerning believer, an effective communicator, a reflective, creative and holistic learner, a collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Congratulations to this month's recipients listed below.



Mrs. Lee's Class - Preston G.
Ms. Schenck's Class - Liam S.
Ms. D'Ettoire's Class - Devin B.
Ms. Konieczny's Class - Abigail A. & Baraka O.
Mrs. Foster's Class - Alieya M.
Mrs. Austin's Class - Shayra D.
Mrs. Jackson's Class - Alexa E.
Mr. Sutton PTM - Alexandra S. & Amy P.
Mr. Hasting's Class - Covenant I.
Mrs. La Valle's Class - Gabriel A.
Mr. O'Connor's Class - Joanna J.
Miss MacSparran's Class - Gisele M.
Mr. Riddell's Class - Nicole B.
Mrs. Bonin's French Class JR - Jacob W.
Mrs. Bonin's French Class INT - Maverick C.
Mrs. Biletski Music Class - Gracelynn B.
Mrs. Wegelin - Principal's Award - Covenant I.

Congratulations to all winners! You are amazing!



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

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 theme for Black History Month 2024 is **Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build.**

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

Skilled Trades Promotion Night @ Denis Morris 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

[Click here to view the Skilled Trades Night Poster](#)



Lockdown Drill

Lockdown Drill
February 5, 2024

All Niagara Catholic elementary schools are required to conduct two practice lockdown drills annually. Parents will be notified prior to the lockdown drill through SchoolMessenger. The practice drill will ensure that staff and students are informed and follow emergency response procedures in the event of an actual incident.

Food Days for February 2024

DURING LENT OUR FOOD DAYS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAYS.

Pita Day Orders due on **Monday, February 5, 2024.**

Pita Day - **Friday, February 9, 2024.**

Pizza Day Orders due on **Thursday, February 15, 2024.**

Pizza Day-**Thursday, February 22, 2024.**



Winter Walk Day

Winter Walk Day: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Get ready to celebrate on **Wednesday, February 7** when hundreds of schools across Ontario will #JourneyOutside to mark Winter Walk Day, a reminder that active school travel can be an all-season option. Visit Niagara Student Transportation Services for active school travel tips or contact HealthySchools@niagararegion.ca for more details.



Kindergarten Registration/Open House

Year 1 Kindergarten Registration

Registration will be held all throughout the school year.

Children who will be 4 years old by December 31, 2024 (born in 2020) and who live within the St. Denis Catholic School's boundaries are eligible to enroll for Year 1 Kindergarten. Your child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate and proof of address are required at the time of registration.

Children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2024 and who live within the St. Denis Catholic School's boundaries are eligible to enroll for Year 2 Kindergarten. Your child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate and proof of address are required at the time of registration. Only students who have not attended Year 1 need to be officially registered. Those students currently attending the Year 1 program will be automatically enrolled in the Year 2 class.

Children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2024 and who live within the St. Denis Catholic School's boundaries are eligible to enroll for Year 2 Kindergarten. Your child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate and proof of address are required at the time of registration. Only students who have not attended Year 1 need to be officially registered. Those students currently attending the Year 1 program will be automatically enrolled in the Year 2 class.

If you know of neighbors and/or relatives who live in our school community, please encourage them to visit St. Denis Catholic School and enroll their children in a Catholic School. Our flourishing community needs active support from its members.

**Kindergarten
Open House**



Kindergarten Registration Open House: Thursday February 8, 2024 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Parents and children are invited to drop in on this day to register their children to our wonderful school.



Kids Helping Kids Campaign

Kids Helping Kids Campaign

February 12 - 15, 2024

"Kids Helping Kids" is now into its 26th year as a fundraising educational program in support of the Niagara Children's Centre.

Niagara Children's Centre had its beginnings in the early 1950's and at the present time, provides treatment for more than 3,300 children with physical, developmental or communicative delays and disabilities from all 12 municipalities in Regional Niagara. Because of the generosity, care and compassion of those who make up the Niagara Catholic District School Board, necessary funding is generated through various projects that enable therapists at Niagara Children's Centre to help so many children. Thanks to the "Kids Helping Kids" fundraiser, life-changing success stories occur on a regular basis at the Centre. Donations can be made in School Cash Online until Friday, February 23, 2024.

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.

Monday, February 12th

- Jersey Day/Sports Day!
- Lucky Daily Draw!

Tuesday, February 13th

- Outrageous Red, White and Pink Day!
- Shrove Tuesday!
- Lucky Daily Draw!
- Lucky Draw for Principal for part of the day!

Wednesday, February 14th

- Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 15th

- Western Day!
- Lucky Daily Draw!
- Grand Prize Basket Draws - 1 per division!
- Principal for part of the day!

100th Day at St. Denis!



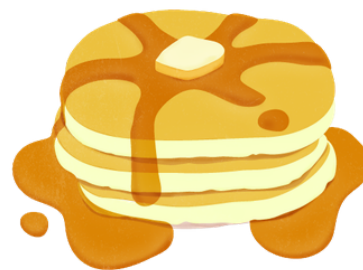
February 9, 2024

The 100th Day of School is a symbolic celebration of students' achievements during the academic year. The special day centers around the number 100, which helps develop learners' understanding and recognition of numbers up to 100. Our Kindergarten and primary classes will enjoy this special day!

Shrove Tuesday

February 13, 2024

On Tuesday, February 13, 2024 Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated at St. Denis Catholic School. Students will be served pancakes as a mid-morning snack. Please make sure that you continue to send with your child snacks and lunch for the day. Thank you to Perkins for donating the delicious pancake batter to our school and for the St. Denis Catholic School Council members who assist with cooking hundreds of pancakes on this special day!



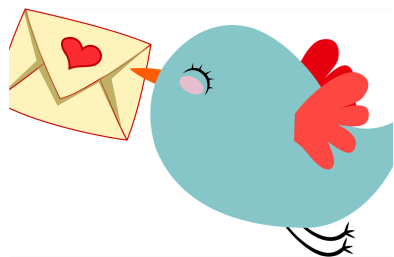
Term 1 Report Cards

Term 1 Report Cards

February 13, 2024

Term 1 report cards will be posted in the parent portal. Parents are encouraged to read and review with their child their academic progress to date. Parent/Teacher interviews will be by request this term.

Valentine's Day



Tuesday, February 13, 2024

This year, St. Denis Catholic School will be celebrating Valentine's Day on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024!** Special events will be taking place in all classrooms. A special treat will be given to all students as well! **Our Elementary Student Council will be selling candygrams starting Wednesday, January 31, 2024 and will be sold daily until Friday, February 9, 2024. Candygrams will be \$1.50 each. Students can send a candygram to a friend and they will be delivered on Thursday, February 15, 2024. Students can even send the candygram to themselves! All money raised will support our Grade 8 Graduation.**

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the penitential season of Lent and is observed as a Universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat. We are also encouraged to do other forms of special penance on this day including prayer, almsgiving, and works of mercy.

This year, Ash Wednesday is observed on **Wednesday, February 14th, 2024**, the same date for which historically we celebrate the memorial of St. Valentine. Schools, centers and classes planning "Valentine's Day" activities including the distribution of Valentine's Day cards or tokens will celebrate on the vigil (or eve) of St. Valentine, **Tuesday, February 13th**. This can be done in conjunction with Shrove Tuesday activities.

Schools, centres and classes may honour St. Valentine on his February 14th Feast Day through prayer, works of mercy and learning about his life and the sacrifices he made out of love for God.



The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of God's call to repent and believe in the Gospel, and the lives of the saints, including that of St. Valentine, model this same call.

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024 St. Denis Catholic School will be celebrating Ash Wednesday at St. Denis Catholic Church at 11:00 a.m. We thank Father Stephen for his spiritual guidance during the Lenten season.



The Meaning of Ashes/Ashes as a Call to Penance

The Meaning of Ashes

History: The custom of placing ashes on the heads of the faithful on the Wednesday

before the First Sunday of Lent dates back to the fourth century. At that time, public sinners would come to the Church to have ashes placed on their heads by the Bishop and to return to full union with the community of God's people. By the Middle Ages it had become a custom for all the faithful, from kings to paupers, sometimes barefooted, to come on Ash Wednesday to receive the blessed ashes as a sign that they wished to change their way of life, do

penance and strengthen their commitment to Christ during the Lenten season.

Ashes as a Call to Penance

Like the Christians of old, ashes remind us that to renew our hearts and change our way of life, we must do penance. Penance is anything that helps us to turn to God. Penance is not just doing something hard. It may be prayer, celebrating Mass, doing acts of love for our brothers and sisters, helping our mothers and fathers and using our talents as best we can. These are practical penances, especially for children.

Rejoice always, play without ceasing, thank in all circumstances.

For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you– 1Thess. 5:17



P.A. Day

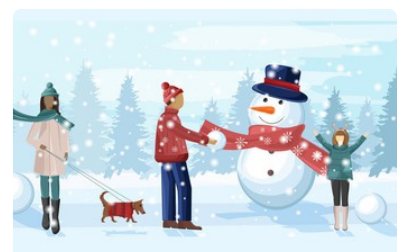
Friday, February 16, 2024

A professional activity day will be held on this day. There will be no school for students.

Family Day

February 19, 2024

This is a holiday organized by the government. The Niagara Catholic District School Board and schools will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 to observe the statutory holiday known



as Family Day. This day occurs on the third Monday in February of each year. The purpose is to emphasize and celebrate the importance of families taking time to be together. Please enjoy the day and time off with your loved ones! There will be no school on this day!

Pink Shirt Day!

Pink Shirt Day

February 28, 2024

Everyone is encouraged to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that we do not tolerate bullying at our school. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected us all and has shown the importance of helping one another and advocating for those who need it. Help "lift each other up". In doing so we can promote healthy self esteem and we can teach empathy, compassion, kindness and love. We will wear a pink shirt on this day in recognition of the love and respect we are to show each other. 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, 2024** join others worldwide in raising awareness of bullying by wearing a pink shirt to school. See <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>



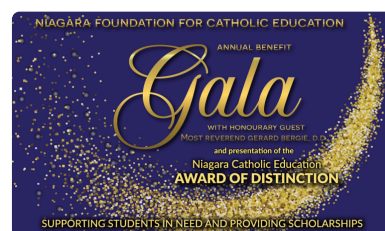
Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Annual Benefit Gala

Thursday, March 21, 2024

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION ANNUAL
BENEFIT GALA

WITH HONOURARY GUEST BISHOP GERARD BERGIE

Supporting Niagara Catholic District School Board students in need
and scholarships



Thursday, March 21, 2024, Club Roma Event Centre, 6:00 pm. Tickets \$100/person

Online payment can be made at www.niagaracatholic.ca or by cheque payable to the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education

Mailing address: 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON L3C 7C1 – Attention Anna Pisano

Please make payment by March 13, 2024 (\$30 tax receipt upon request)

Individual tickets available or tables of eight or ten.

For further information (905) 735-0240, ext. 214 or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com

Please contact the St. Denis School Office if you are purchasing a ticket for this event.

The Kindness Campaign

Mr. O'Connor's Grade 6 class along with our CYW, Mrs. Perry have decided to promote Kindness in February throughout St. Denis Catholic School. This will involve announcements, art work, skits,

crafts and bulletin boards being displayed at our school. We will encourage everyone to be kind, show empathy and make this world a better place for everyone!



Student Nutrition Program (SNAC)

We are once again excited to be offering this program at St. Denis Catholic School! Our school will be receiving a grant to provide healthy snacks to our students. This year the program will be a grab and go program with all of the snacks being prepackaged and

delivered to the classrooms in the morning as a mid-morning snack.

Our SNAC Program will continue daily throughout the month.

EcoSchool Information

Eco-School News

As part of our **GREEN Niagara Catholic** eco-program, the St. Denis Eco Team has prepared some Eco-Initiatives and events for our school in the month of February.

Waste Free Wednesday's continue...

At St. Denis students are encouraged to decrease the amount of garbage produced to help our earth. Students are encouraged to bring reusable containers in their lunch every Wednesday.



GOOS Paper

This month, the ECO team will be promoting GOOS paper bins. GOOS stands for 'Good On One Side'. GOOS paper is paper that has been used on one side, but is still blank and usable on the other side. Using GOOS paper means ensuring both sides of a piece of paper are used before it is recycled. Our goal is to have a GOOS paper bin in every classroom by March 1st. Let's all use paper responsibly!

National Sweater Day Friday February 2nd!

On Friday February 2nd, we will be promoting energy efficiency by keeping thermostats at a lower temperature with Cozy Sweater Day! Students will be encouraged to wear a cozy sweater as classroom temperatures are slightly and comfortably adjusted to conserve energy for the day.

We continue to be aware of how we can help keep our school environment clean.

Thank you to Mrs. Jackson for organizing this on behalf of our school!

St. Denis Catholic School Council

Our School Council is looking forward to an exciting year! Plans are underway for various activities which will help enhance the educational experiences of our students. This will promote a very positive and proactive partnership within our wonderful community.

Congratulations to the members of our School Council!



Co-Chairs: M. Iorio & J. Foster

Council Members: C. Bartlett, K. Buczek, J. Butnik, J. Delgadillo., S. Egbedeyi, B. Humble, K. Janes, C. James, C. Locke, S. McCreadie, C. Pitt & T. Wadson.

Teacher Rep: Mrs. Lee

Staff Rep: Mrs. Korsmit

We are very excited with the support that we received from our community for the Twelve Days of Christmas Fundraiser! We were very happy to announce that we raised \$5675.54 With this money covered the cost of the Christmas Pasta Lunch. We are also purchasing Chromebooks at the school that will be placed in a classroom to assist students with their daily work.

NEW FUNDRAISER!!! SPRING CHA-CHING!!!

Our school community did such a great job with the Twelve Days of Christmas Fundraiser, we are going to try another raffle fundraiser at our great school!

The Catholic School Council will be organizing a **Spring Cha-Ching Fundraiser!!** This will be done in the month of April. This will be exactly as the Twelve Day of Christmas Fundraiser except it will be for 10 days. At this time, we are looking a donation of \$100.00 from any business that could be used fundraiser. For 10 days, someone will have the chance to win \$100.00 every day! Throughout the month of February , we are going to collect donations and hopefully we will collect enough donations to run this very special event to raise money for our school. We are hoping to support our Grade 8 graduation and again supplement our technology at our school. More information will be coming! Tickets will be sent home on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 for the students to sell. If you do know someone who owns a business and can make a donation, please drop it off at the school office. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Dressing for Cold Weather

With the arrival of cold weather, parents are reminded to send children to school dressed for the weather. Warm hats, mitts, scarves, boots, heavy coats and snow pants will allow your child to enjoy the outside comfortably during recesses. Extra pairs of socks and pants tucked into backpacks also come in handy. Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes to wear

inside the school.

Winter Playground Rules

Winter Playground Rules

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn; i.e., boots, gloves, etc. With the number of students at our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of snowball throwing.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season:

- * No throwing snowballs
- * No kicking or throwing snow
- * No breaking of forts

Remember if you are wearing a mask outside when playing in the snow, if the mask gets wet it will need to be replaced with a new one.



Please be advised that students engaging in these types of behaviors will be dealt with accordingly. If this behavior continues, parents will be contacted and further consequences will come into effect.

Emergency School Closing

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to let our parents know the procedure that will be followed.

If bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, the children **will not** be picked up after school at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is your responsibility to pick up your child at the end of the day.

When transportation services are cancelled, **only the school remains open**, and it is the responsibility of the parent to determine whether or not it is safe for a student to walk to and from school.

In inclement weather, listen to your local radio station for announcements. CJRN (Niagara Falls) 710 AM, CKTB (St. Catharines) 610 AM, SPIRIT (Welland)

Procedures Relating to Inclement Weather AFTER the School Day Begins:

- A) Transportation is cancelled and the school is kept open.
- B) Transportation is cancelled and the school is closed.

At this point, the safety of our children is our prime concern. The school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary **after children have arrived at school**. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The option, you as a parent, have chosen on the Emergency School Closing Form will apply to all emergency dismissals.



[School Cash Online](#)

Register for School Cash Online

Please click on the button below for instructions to register for School Cash Online. The easy, safe way to pay for school items and events.

[School Cash Online Registration Instructions - Click](#)

Safe Arrival / School Messenger

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL WITH ANY CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES.

Please use the Safe Arrival system to report all absences and lates for your child.

You can report an absence by:



PHONE - 1-844-287-6287

ONLINE: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

APP: SchoolMessenger



NCDSB Dress Code

NCDSB Dress Code The following serves as a reminder for families as the warmer weather approaches and if dress code purchases are being made. Students must wear the elementary standardized dress code items properly and in compliance with the expectations throughout the school day and at all activities

and events as representatives of the school and/or Board. It is the expectation that students wear the elementary standardized dress code as a condition of attendance in an elementary school within the Niagara Catholic District School Board at a minimum, if the elementary student is not in compliance with the mandatory elementary standardized dress code, parents and guardians will be contacted to bring the required dress code items to school.

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Early Learning 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.

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) 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.

Running shoes are the recommended footwear with a full back and a closed toe. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear.

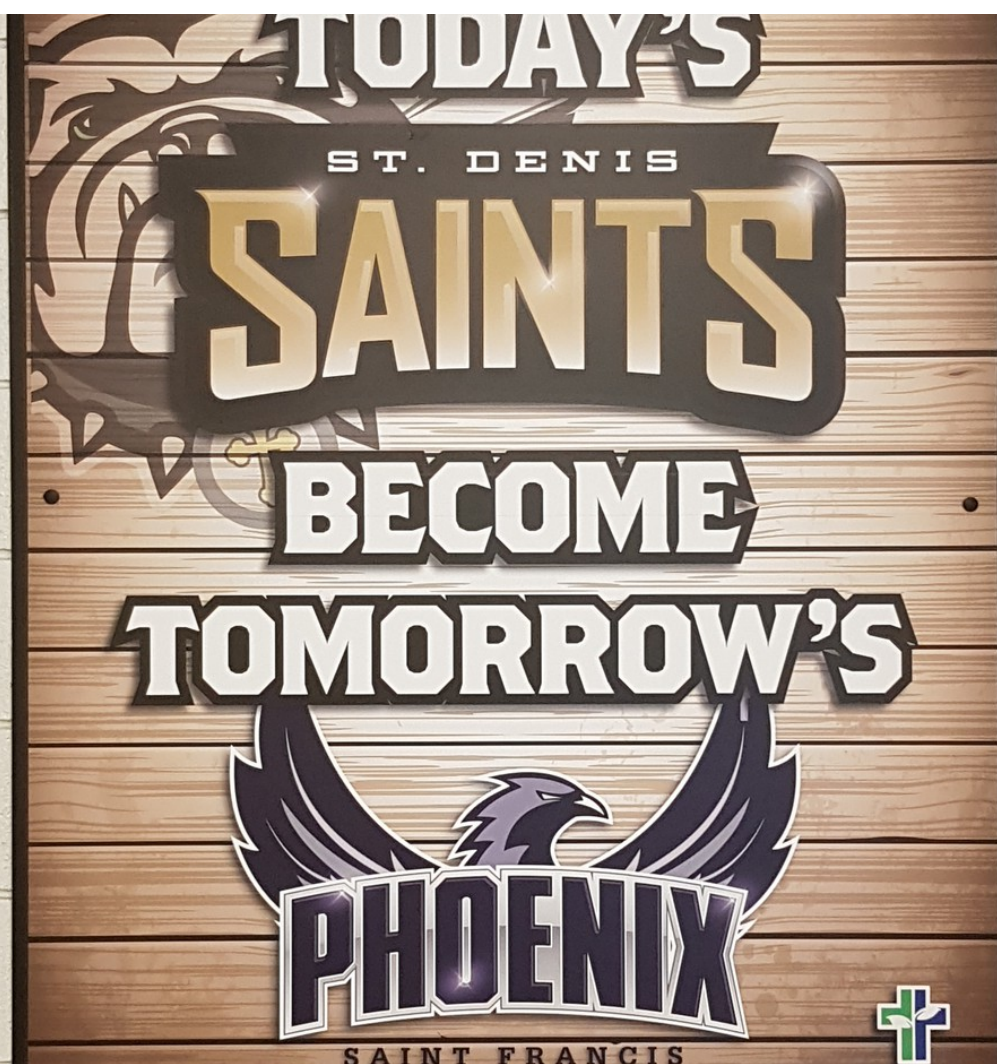
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: <https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/policies-protocols-docs/policies/>
(Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy)

St. Denis Spirit Wear - Available Now!

We are very pleased to let you know that Big Bear Spiritwear will be our spirit wear provider and will be supplying our school with customized school dress code "gear". Big Bear Spiritwear is a board approved supplier located in Niagara Falls. Families are able to order single items or many as they would like. Finished product are delivered to the school once every few weeks and the timeline for filling an order is 7-10 business days (sometimes less). Please use the button below which will take you directly to the St. Denis Catholic School Ordering page at Big Bear Spiritwear.



[Big Bear St. Denis Spirit Wear - Click Here](#)



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Niagara Catholic District
School Board



**Follow us on Social
Media.**



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niagaracatholicdsb
st.denis_ces



Victoria Wegelin

Victoria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters