

St. Nicholas Catholic

Home of the Easter Tigers!



St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary

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. Paprzycki

Superintendent: Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

Parish: Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria

Rector - Father Benjamin Weber

Vice Rector - Father Paul McDonald

Email: st.nicholas@ncdsb.com

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

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



March is upon us with all of its wonder, glory and awe; not to mention the uniqueness of this year's early spring. Birds are tweeting, flowers are blooming, trees are budding and that tantalizing bit of heat is shining down upon us - just enough to make us smile in anticipation. As Easter is early this year, March avails to us a time in which we could relook at our world through the eyes of new life; a time of new beginnings and renewed hopes. Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ we are able to repent, to seek forgiveness and to unburden ourselves in order to breathe in that enticing air of newness.



Throughout the month of March, the students of St. Nicholas Catholic will be offered an opportunity to continue their spiritual walk and understanding towards Easter with Father Ben and Father Paul. Our Fathers have been visiting classrooms and staying for recesses - and will continue to do so when their time allows. We thank Father Ben and Father Paul for all that they do for us and for their continual spiritual presence offered to us during their visits. Thursday, March 21st avails to us the opportunity to attend the Cathedral of St. Alexandria at 10:00 a.m. for our final Lenten celebration. Thank you to Mrs. Diemer and her Grade 1/2 class who, along with the Fathers will be celebrating mass in preparation of Holy Week.

Our St. Nicholas Catholic Family would like to take this opportunity in wishing all of you a very happy, blessed and relaxing Easter holiday.

A Blessed Easter to all,
Your St. Nicholas Family

Called by Name: Hear My Voice

Reflection #7

Is hearing God's voice good enough? Or does God want more than for us to acknowledge that He speaks to us? God tells us to "be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves" (James 1:22). Listening to God is the first step. From God's word, we are called to move to action. Sometimes this can feel overwhelming. "You mean, God wants me to do His work? Isn't there someone more qualified?" The reality is, without God, no one is qualified. God gives us everything we need to hear and do what He calls us to. God, help me to be a doer of the word. When I am discouraged, help me to remember that "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).



School, Home and Parish

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

Weather pending, we walk to church once a month for mass with Father Ben or Father Paul, 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:



March 21st: thank you to Mrs. Diemer and her Grade 1/2 class who will be celebrating with Father Ben and Father Paul.

April 18th, May 16th and June 20th.

School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation is 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.

Just a reminder that school starts at 8:35 a.m.

It Is Imperative That You Report Your Child(ren)'s Absences Daily

SafeArrival:

To report your child absent prior to the start of the school day (before 8:35 a.m. of the day being called in for), please use one of the 3 methods listed below:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app (blue logo) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.
3. The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Arriving on Time:

Please try your hardest to arrive to school on time, at 8:35 a.m. Arriving late causes disruptions in the classroom and often times means trying to catch up on what was said regarding the day's events.

Please also remember, if you are late to see Mrs. Winstanley for a late-slip before going to class. Thank you

Hot Lunch Day

Soup and Pizza Bagel Day

On Friday, March 8th we will serve home made chicken noodle soup and homemade pizza bagels for lunch. This will be at no cost to our students. If your child does not wish soup or bagels, please ensure that they bring a lunch from home.



Pizza Day

Friday, March 22nd

Last day to order is Wednesday, March 20th

Please note that all orders must be placed ahead of time through school cash. Pizza will not be sold the day of.

Last Block For Ice-Cream This Year

You can prepay for ice-cream for the last third of the school year through school cash on-line.

The total cost from April 2024 to June 2024 would be \$24.00.

Friday, April 5th to Friday, June 21st is 12 weeks @ \$2.00/week.

We will currently still accept cash the day of.



Please note that ice-cream will not be sold the last week of school.

Public Health School Vision Screening March 5th, 6th and 7th



All students at St. Nicholas Catholic will have the opportunity for a school vision screening conducted by Public Health, the first week of March. March 5th, 6th and 7th.

If you do not wish for your child(ren) to be screened, you must opt out two weeks prior to the screening dates. Information on how to opt out will be sent shortly.

Process for follow-up as follows:

- 1) A letter will provided from the EssilorLuxottica Foundation to be sent home with students outlining the results of the vision screening and the recommended next steps. It is important that students receive these letters within 48 hours of the school receiving them.
- 2) If vision screening has indicated the student may be having trouble seeing clearly and SHOULD be seen by an eye doctor (optometrist) as soon as possible.
- 3) Parents/guardians are recommended to follow up with a local optometrist to schedule an eye exam as soon as possible.

When making the eye appointment – it is very important that the parent indicates that they were referred by the school's vision screening program.

If a prescription is provided by the eye doctor, it must be returned to the school (generally within six weeks of the screening) to qualify for FREE glasses.

The cost of one yearly **eye exam** is covered for children 19 years of age and under by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

4) If the student is seen by an optometrist and glasses are recommended during the school year, glasses may be provided for **free** by the Eyes to As program. There will be a clinic at the school in approximately **6 weeks** following the vision screening. At this time, students will be fitted for frames and corrective lenses. **It is important that the prescription is at the school prior to this date.** Confirmation of the date for fittings will be provided to the school once confirmed.

****If a student currently wear glasses, they are asked to bring them to school the day of their vision screening. If contacts are worn, students are asked to let public health know prior to their screening.**

Sports and Clubs Corner

Chess Club

Our Chess Club is up and running and has been meeting during lunch for the past few weeks. What better way to spend a lunch than to be with our friends, sharing our strategic abilities over a chess board. Thank you goes out to Mr. Lamothe who is our Chess Club lead and who has been supervising our students during lunch.

Tournament play for the top winners of our Chess Club is scheduled to take place Tuesday, April 16th at St. Mary Catholic in Niagara Falls.

Good Luck to our Chess Team.



Art Club

Chess isn't for you? That is okay, we also have an Art Club. Our Art Club has been meeting for a few months now during a few of our lunch periods. Students have been creating masterpieces that are now on display throughout the school. Thank you to Mrs. Carbonara and Miss Laurin who are the leads and who supervise our students during lunch. Beautiful job Art Club!

Intermediate Basketball

Thank you to Coaches Boland and Rathee Jr. who helped to lead our Intermediate boys and girls through their days of tournament play.

Denis Morris Catholic FOS Basketball Tournament

The DM FOS B-ball tournament will be taking place on Tuesday, March 5th at DM. This is a fun day of basketball between the feeder elementary schools of the Denis Morris Catholic Family and is comprised of the Intermediate Boys and Girls teams from last month. Thank you to Coaches Boland and Rathee (Sr) who will be attending.



Kindergarten Registration is Still Taking Place

We had a very successful Kindergarten Open House last month, and we are still accepting Kinder registrations for the 2024-2025 school year.

How to become a Tiger?

To register for the 2024-2025 school year, use the Easy Register, accessed on-line through the Niagara Catholic website. Click on the "Join Us! Register" icon. When registering you will need - proof of address, proof of birth and baptismal certificate. Even if registering online, you will still need to bring or email the above documentations in before the registration is considered complete.

We will also be holding a Kindergarten family orientation evening for all registered children and their families for the 2024-2025 school year at the end of May or beginning of June. Further information will be placed in May's newsletter.

Welcome to St. Nicholas Catholic Tigers! Our Graduating Class of 2035!

ECOSchools

This year our St. Nicholas Catholic Tigers are once again working hard towards our platinum certification. We are so very proud of the efforts of all who are helping us to achieve this top goal. Let's make this two years running!!



THE GREAT GULP!

Simple daily actions, such as using a reusable water bottle, can have a big impact on the environment. This is a new initiative that we will be involved in through the ECO club. On Friday, March 23 our St. Nicholas will be participating in The Great Gulp, by taking a drink of tap water from a reusable bottle, glass, or mug. Through this simple action we hope to raise awareness about drinking water, access to safe and healthy tap water, and the importance of reducing single-use plastic waste in Canada.



Pack a Waste-Free Lunch the month of March

A waste-free lunch means that you have no packaging to throw away when you're done - nothing other than apple cores, banana and orange peels, peach or cherry pits. The best way to reduce garbage is to not create it. Five Simple Ways to Pack a Waste-Free Lunch:

REUSABLE carrier (cloth bag, lunchbox)

NO throw-away bags

REUSABLE containers

NO plastic wrap, foil or styrofoam

THERMOS for drinks

NO single-use cartons or cans

CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use

NO paper napkins

SILVERWARE to wash and re-use

NO plastic forks and spoon

Lunch Waste Facts

ALUMINUM FOIL

More than 20 million Hershey's kisses are wrapped with 133 square miles of foil every day

ALUMINUM AND TIN CANS

In the time it takes you to read this sentence, more than 50,000 12-oz. aluminum cans were made

BANANA AND ORANGE PEELS

Food debris in a landfill decompose only 25% in the first 15 years (try composting or vermiculture!)

JUICE BOXES

Most inorganic trash retains its weight, volume, and form for at least four decades

PAPER BAGS AND NAPKINS

It is estimated that 17 trees are cut down for every ton of non-recycled paper

PLASTIC BOTTLES, FORKS, WRAP

U.S. citizens discard 2-1/2 million plastic bottles EVERY HOUR

STYROFOAM

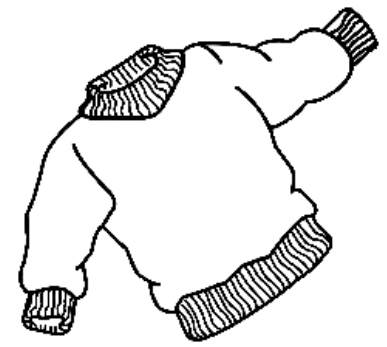
We throw away 25 billion styrofoam cups EVERY YEAR

Cozy Sweater Day; March 8th

Wear a warm cozy sweater today to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation.

Please remember to wear your dress code bottoms.





Earth Rangers: March 19th

During the afternoon of March 19th, our staff and students will have an opportunity to see a few different animals, both live and through video thanks to the Earth Rangers Team. The Earth Rangers programming has a positive impact on students, resulting not only in more environmental knowledge and action, but increased confidence and optimism. We look forward to their presentation.



Earth Hour: March 22nd

Earth Hour is an initiative to encourage individuals, businesses and governments around the world to take accountability for their ecological footprint and engage in dialogue and resource exchange that provides real solutions to our environmental challenges. The theme for this year is *Invest in Our Planet*. Significance: Earth Hour aims to increase awareness and spark global conversations on protecting nature, tackling the climate crisis, and working together to shape a brighter future for humans.



So Many Things Happening This Month

Here are just a few:

Friday, March 8th

- International Women's Day
- Theme: Invest in women: Accelerate progress

Sunday, March 10th

- Spring ahead one hour
- Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night

Saturday March 9th to Sunday, March 17th

- March Break. No school this week

Sunday, March 17th

- St. Patrick's Day

Monday, March 18th

- Wear Green for St. Paddy's Day

Tuesday, March 19th

- First Day of Spring

Friday, March 22nd

- Out of Dress Code Day

Sunday, March 24th

- Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24th



- Entering Holy Week

March 29th to April 1st

-Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter, Easter Monday

-No school on the Friday or Monday

**Solar Eclipse Monday, April 8th ~ 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
with Path of Totality from ~ 3:18 p.m. - 3:21 p.m.**

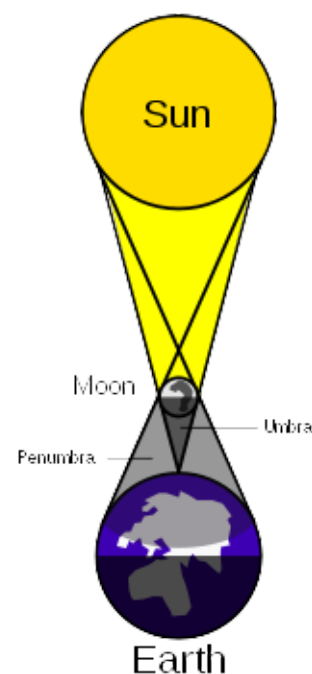
What is a Solar Eclipse?

Basically, it is when the moon moves in between the earth and the sun. The moon will then block the entire sun from our usual view for a very short period of time.

The last total solar eclipse in Ontario was in 1979. The next is supposed to happen in 2099. This solar eclipse will be an 'opportunity of a lifetime' for some.

Niagara Falls, Ontario has been identified as the optimal place to witness the total eclipse, or the Path of Totality. The Path of Totality means the path of the moons umbra, or the darkest part of the moons shadow. It is this shadow that will cover the Niagara Falls area in darkness.

You CANNOT look directly at a solar eclipse. It is dangerous to your retina (the back of your eye). **Please never look directly at the sun in general.



**Join Us for a Celestial Spectacle: Solar Eclipse Event at Brock University on April 8th, 2024
Witness the Marvel of the Cosmos**

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable celestial event! On April 8th, 2024, Brock University invites you to experience the magic of a Solar Eclipse like never before. Join us for a day filled with science, wonder and discovery as we gather to witness this rare cosmic phenomenon.

Pre-registration is required for this event. Visit our website for full details - [Official Solar Eclipse Website](#)

A solar eclipse can cook your eyes: How to watch safely



Public Health

Public Health March's Newsletter.pdf

[Download](#)

319.7 KB

Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot

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 ensure that you have pulled up to the front of the line prior to your child(ren) getting out of the car. 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

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

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) (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 Blessed Easter Everyone. Please remember there is no school on Friday, March 29th or Monday, April 1st: Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Jacqueline Watson

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

