



St. Alexander – Newsletter



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905-892-3841

Principal: Mr. M. Venzon
Vice Principal: Mrs. C. Pozzobon
Superintendent: Ms. Kim Kinney
Parish Priest: Fr. Paul MacNeil

*St. Alexander Catholic Elementary is proud to be part
of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools*

APRIL 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

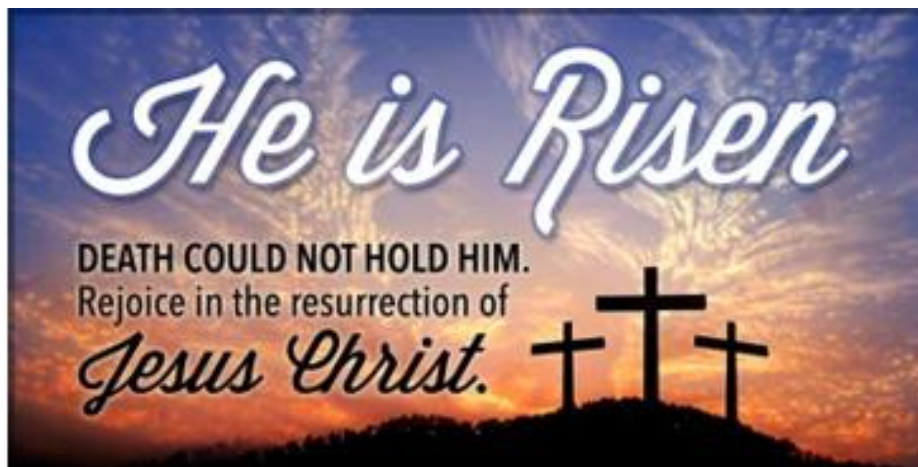
Called by Name: "Hear My Voice"

A big part of friendship involves sharing words with one other. Thoughts, ideas, feelings. All of these things, when shared, help a friendship to grow. But sometimes friendship consists of simply being with one another. Though no words are shared, it is still quality time spent with someone we care about. In our friendship with God it is the same. Sometimes in prayer we don't know what to say. In those moments, we can simply be with God and recognize His presence with us. We can learn from the words of a simple peasant who explained his prayer to his parish priest, St. Jean Vianney: "I look at Him and He looks at me."

As spring has sprung, let us take time to look around at the beauty of creation, as flowers and animals seem to wake up and help us to realize that no matter how busy we get, we should always make time to stop and smell the flowers and marvel at the beauty that God has given us in the world.

Sincerely,

Mr. M. Venzon



Looking ahead - 2024/2025 - Class Placements

During the months of April and May, staff will be meeting to discuss and create student groupings for next year. Students will be placed with others whom they will be most successful. A great deal of time and effort is spent determining the composition of classes. When organizing class groupings, attention and diligence is required by the classroom teachers, resource teacher, vice principal and principal. A variety of factors are seriously considered when establishing classes. Creating a successful learning environment for all students is a goal we aim to achieve. Some of the criteria considered include: abilities, individual needs, behaviour, work habits, age, learning styles, class size and boy/girl ratio. Please note that requests for specific classroom teachers will not be considered.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP? Talk positively to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students, please discuss relationship building and new friendships

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE FOR PELHAM CARES

A big thank you to all the generous donations we received from many families during our Lenten Food Drive for Pelham Cares. This goes a long way to assist many families in the Pelham area!

WAY TO GO HUSKIES!!!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We encourage all families to register as soon as possible. This helps to ensure proper staffing is in place for the new school year. Please share this information with any friends, family and/or neighbours who have a child that is ready to start school in September 2024.

We are very excited to have more students join our St. Alexander Family and the extended Family of Niagara Catholic.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th, beginning at 5:30pm here at St. Alexander School. All parents are welcome and there is no experience necessary - just a desire to make St. Alexander Catholic School the best that it can be!

PURSE BINGO!!!

We are extremely excited to let you know that St. Alexander will be hosting a Purse Bingo Fundraiser at Amici's Banquet and Conference Centre on Thursday, May 23rd.

Please see the details below and save the date for an evening of fun that will directly benefit the students of St. Alexander!!!

SAVE THE DATE

PURSE BINGO

IN SUPPORT OF
ST ALEXANDER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

THURSDAY MAY 23 2024
DOORS 6PM BINGO STARTS 7:30PM
AMICIS BANQUET CENTRE

JOIN US FOR SHOPPING, SIPPING, HORS D'OEUVRES AND
7 EXCITING BINGO GAMES TO WIN SOME AMAZING
DESIGNER BAGS! CASH BAR WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

LOCKDOWN DRILL

All Niagara Catholic elementary school are required to conduct two practice lockdown drills annually. Our lockdown practice for Term 2 will take place on Wednesday, April 17th, 2024, and will ensure that staff and students are informed and follow emergency response procedures in the event of an actual incident. The practice will take approximately five (5) minutes and at no time will students or staff be in any potential threat or danger.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Many of our primary students are excited about celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year.

This year we have 2 dates based on different classes that are having First Communion.

Miss Principi / Miss Thomas First Communion Date: First Communion Mass will take place on Sunday, April 28th at 2:00 pm at St. Alexander's Church. The Mass will take a little more than an hour, and all are welcome. There are no restrictions in attendance. Children will be asked to gather in the hospitality room to enter the church in procession.

Miss Principi / Miss Thomas First Communion Rehearsal: Children will also be invited to come to the church on **Friday, April 26th at 1:00 pm** for a rehearsal.

Miss Principi / Miss Thomas First Confession: Children will be invited to make their **First Confession on Friday April 26th at 5:00 pm** in the Church as well. Things will begin at 5:00 pm with a very short prayer service, and children will be able to go to confession for the first time to one of the available priests. Parents and children can leave any time after the children make their first confession.

Mrs. Bellantino / Miss Ricci First Communion Date: First Communion Mass will take place on Sunday, May 5th at 2:00 pm at St. Alexander's Church. The Mass will take a little more than an hour, and all are welcome. There are no restrictions in attendance. Children will be asked to gather in the hospitality room to enter the church in procession.

Mrs. Bellantino / Miss Ricci First Communion Rehearsal: Children will also be invited to come to the church on **Friday, May 3rd at 1:00 pm** for a rehearsal.

Mrs. Bellantino / Miss Ricci First Confession: Children will be invited to make their **First Confession on Friday May 3rd at 5:00 pm** in the Church as well. Things will begin at 5:00 pm with a very short prayer service, and children will be able to go to confession for the first time to one of the available priests. Parents and children can leave any time after the children make their first confession.

Dress: There is no dress code for any of the services, but typically parents buy nice white dresses and suits for their children for first communion. It is a very special day for them to look their best

WORLD AUTISM DAY

World Autism Day is Tuesday, April 2, 2024 and will be celebrated across all Niagara Catholic District Board schools. **Students and staff are encouraged to wear blue as part of their attire on this day.** This effort can help to raise awareness in support of initiatives being developed locally or provincially to increase the understanding and acceptance of people with Autism around the world.

Happy Oral Health Month!



Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program offers **FREE** dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara.

Appointments are available for children in:

- Niagara Falls on Tuesdays
- Thorold on Mondays (afternoon and evening) and Wednesdays
- Welland on Thursdays

[Niagara's Mobile Dental Clinic](#) also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment [contact the Dental Program](#) or [book a dental assessment online](#).



Educational Resources

Opportunities for Every Student with Play for All

To ensure a thriving intramural program, prioritize student safety and inclusivity. Tailor activities to student preferences, communicate goals clearly, and offer flexibility for participation. Cultivating student leadership



is key for long-term success.

Explore ophea.net/play-all to discover additional resources, including planning tools and activity suggestions to enhance your students' physical activity throughout the day.

Student Mental Health Ontario: Wayfinder

Unlock the power of mental health promotion and literacy in your classroom with confidence and ease! [School Mental Health Ontario Wayfinder](#) provides a clear framework for mental health learning in the classroom. Empower your classroom with mental health promotion and literacy tools perfectly aligned with the Ontario curriculum, fostering an inclusive space for students to support each other's mental well-being.

Wayfinder provides:

- A digital guide of lessons and activities with easy-to-follow instructions
- Ready-to-use communication materials to foster home-school connections
- Regular email messages to offer you tips, support and new classroom resources



Your Child's Education

A parent guide to Ontario's school system

Your voice is important in your child's learning, and can make all the difference in their academic and personal success. When parents play an active role in their child's education, students are inspired to achieve their full potential.

Ontario is committed to increasing accountability and transparency for parents and families. **Here are ways you can actively participate in your child's education journey:**

- Decide which type of publicly funded school they attend
- Choose learning options, for example, secondary school programs e.g. Specialist High Skills Majors
- Follow what your child is learning in school
- Learn about key dates in the school year
- Opt out of certain learning
- Know how your child is doing in school
- Learn about suspension and expulsion processes
- Attend a school council meeting or parent involvement committee meeting
- Know about specialized supports to help all children succeed

Visit ontario.ca/EducationGuide for more information so you can make informed decisions about your child's education.



ontario.ca/EducationGuide

Ontario 



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
 NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC)
 MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025**



The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board. The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets the on first Thursday of the month on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2024-2025 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to **Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**

PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

To be eligible for election/appointment as a parent/guardian representative to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, a person:

- must be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a school of the Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- must support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board; and
- must fully participate in the annual Commissioning Ceremony of NCPIC members.

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2024-2025 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership are as follows:

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Thorold/Merritton	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Niagara Falls	4 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake	3 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Welland/Pelham	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form **no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.** Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website. Please click on the link: [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](#).

Please send nomination forms to: Catholic Education Centre
 427 Rice Road
 Welland, ON L3C 7C1
 Attention: Yvonne Anderson
 or by email to: yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com



Niagara Catholic
Parent Involvement
Committee

You're Invited!

Family Faith, and Learning WORKSHOPS

Thursday, April 11, 2024

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
460 LINWELL RD., ST. CATHARINES**

Choose two workshops presented by Niagara Region Public Health

Click on the icons for further details



**RAISING
COMPETENT,
CONFIDENT KIDS**



**YOUTH
CONNECTEDNESS:
HELPING
STUDENTS THRIVE**



**ADOLESCENT
BRAIN AND
SUBSTANCE USE
PREVENTION**

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

5:00 pm Light Refreshments • 5:30 pm Fr. Paul MacNeil Family Prayer

6:00 pm Breakout Session 1 • 7:00 pm Breakout Session 2

Childcare Available (school age children up to 12 years of age) • Workshop Raffles

ACCOUNTABILITY • COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • FAITHFULNESS • INTEGRITY • JUSTICE • STEWARDSHIP

Niagara Catholic Accessibility; An Evening Event in Support of Accessibility Awareness The Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Accessibility Planning Committee are pleased to invite parents, guardians, staff and community partners to a motivational evening featuring Niagara Catholic graduate, public speaker, and activist, Michael Jacques and disability advocate Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation.

Public speaker, activist, and author Michael Jaques, has written and self-published his book Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book using speech-to-text technology. Michael is diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability and shares his life experiences to help audiences understand accepting and belonging.

Disability advocate, Charlene VanderGriendt, from The Rick Hansen Foundation will discuss how to speak and interact inclusively. Students with disabilities will share their perspectives on building a culture of acceptance through taped video interviews. The words we use carry meaning and power.

This exciting free event will take place on **Monday, April 15th from 6:00- 8:00 pm** at The Holiday inn and Conference Centre (327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines) and includes light snacks, refreshments and door prizes. Please visit the link below for event and registration details.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4mfksMdTLs95K5P0xcmj2IgL3tBib3EQ1TObm7V47M_tTVw/viewform