

# St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School

Principal: Mr. J. Romano    Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

Pastor: Fr. M. Basque    CSC Chair: Mrs. L. Rosano

## April 2024 Newsletter



### April at a Glance

- 1.....Easter Monday - No School
- 2...World Autism Awareness Day - WEAR BLUE
- 3.....Intermediate Badminton Tournament
- 5.....St. Paul High School Transition Visit
- 8.....PA Day (No school for students)
- 9.....Catholic School Council Meeting 5:30
- 10.....Pickleball Tournament Mrs. Mascia's class
- 15....Niagara Catholic Parent Engagement Event
- 17.....Delta Bingo Night
- 18.....Chess Tournament @ St. Mary School
- 23.....Small School Co-Ed Football Tournament
- 25.....Small School Junior Girls Soccer Tournament
- 25.....Easter Mass at OLOS Church @ 10:00 am
- 25.....Grade 8 Confirmation
- 26.....Small School Junior Boys Soccer Tournament



### An Easter Prayer

Lord,  
today I remember your resurrection this Easter, and rejoice in the victory you have won over death. You have given me the hope of eternal life, and I praise you because you took my pain and bore my suffering.

Amen.





## LOTS OF SOCKS

On March 21st, our students all came dressed in their wackiest, most mismatched and most colourful socks as we recognized World Down Syndrome Day. We were led by our WSDS ambassador Tobias - spreading awareness and knowledge throughout the day! Thank you to Tobias and his team and thank you to all the students and staff who took part in Rock Your Socks Day at St. Vincent de Paul!



## LENTEN FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



Thank you to all of our generous families for contributing to our Lenten Food Drive. We managed to donate a tremendous amount of canned goods for the less fortunate. Thank you to Mrs. Davidson, Carter H., Marco D., Adrian L., and John S. for assisting with the packing and delivery of the canned goods. Congratulations to the students in Mrs. McLean's class for bringing in the most canned goods. They will will a pizza luncheon (date to be determined).



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On April 6,7,13,14,20,21,27,28, and May 4 and 5 our grade 2 students will be receiving the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion at Our Lady of the Scapular Church. Thank you to Mrs. Vacca, Miss Orsini and Mrs. McLean for preparing our students for this sacrament.



## CONFIRMATION

Our Grade 8 students will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 25th at 7 pm. The ceremony will take place at Our Lady of Scapular Church. Thank you to Mrs. Mascia for preparing our students!



## KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Children who will be four years of age by December 31, 2024, are eligible to enroll in the Kindergarten Program. Please supply the following documents for your child:

- \* *Birth and Baptismal Certificates*
- \* *Proof of Address (e.g. utility bill/lease agreement/tax statement)*

Students currently attending the first year Kindergarten program will be automatically enrolled in second year Kindergarten program in September 2024.

Parents/Guardians are asked to register their child online at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca). If you know of any eligible neighbours, friends or relatives, please encourage them to contact us at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School, and enroll their children in a catholic school. Our flourishing community needs active support from its members.

Registrations will be accepted at any time throughout the year, however, early registration helps with the necessary planning and preparation for your child.

# 13 KING S CELLARS

*Thank You!*



## BIG THANKS!

We raised over \$5000 during our 13 King Cellars Wine Fundraiser and our Trivia Night, which we will be putting towards Student Technology, jerseys and graduation.

Thank you to the following families who were the top selling families. They will be awarded with a prize:

Moore Family  
Sweitzer Family  
McNiven Family  
Chaing Family  
Higgins Family

We will also have a random draw for an additional prize the week of April 2nd. All families who purchased at least one bottle are entered in the additional draw.

Way to go Saints!

A HUGE THANK YOU to:

Mrs. Rosano, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Mazzotti,  
Mrs. Reich Mr. and Mrs. King and Miss Orsini!!!

## CONGRATULATIONS JR. GIRLS HANDBALL TEAM

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Handball Team. The team travelled to Loretto Catholic Elementary School where they competed in the Small Schools Tournament on March 4th. The team went undefeated in the round robin games and continued their momentum winning both the semi-finals and championship games! The team consisted of Annabelle R., Penelope R., Sarah K., McKenna H., Avery P., Malea H., Gabriella G., Elisa C., Sophia L., Avery F., and Vanessa W. A special thank you to our managers Mackenzie G., and Travis G. Thank you girls for all of your hard work and excellent sportsmanship. You made us all very proud. Go Saints!! A big thank you to Mrs. Reich for coaching our girls and leading them to victory!



## CONGRATULATIONS JR. BOYS HANDBALL TEAM

Congratulations to the members of the Junior Boys Handball Team who competed in the Family of Schools Tournament at Loretto Catholic School on Wednesday, March 5th. The boys showed tremendous sportsmanship, cooperation and skill all day. Unfortunately the boys ended up losing the championship game, finishing the tournament in second place. Well done boys! Team members included: Emmett S., Max W., Jake K., Sawyer H., Owen K., Makylo S., John K., Nathaniel A., Jaxson S., Sebastian Z., Nicky R., Zayan K., Jackson T., Gabriel S., and Jaxon S. Way to go Saints! You made us very proud! A big thank you to Mr. Porga for coaching the boys.



## EARTH HOUR

On March 22nd, SVDP School joined all schools in the Niagara Catholic District School Board, by hosting our own "Earth Hour". All electronics and lights were powered off in areas where it was safe to do so. Since its beginnings in 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the "lights off" moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it. A big thank you to our Eco-Schools Team, led by Miss Orsini, for leading so many fun initiatives.



## THE GREAT GULP

Also on March 22nd, the staff and students of SVDP celebrated World Water Day by joining people across Canada taking part in "The Great Gulp". "The Great Gulp" invites everyone to take a collective drink of tap water from a reusable bottle, glass, or mug, in regions where safe and healthy tap water is accessible. By taking part in this whimsical event, students learned of interesting water facts, and of the benefits of using reusable bottles. Students were excited to take part in this event and to be given some time to think about their use of water and why it is so important to protect this resource. We are all proud to be doing our part here at SVDP acting as stewards of our beautiful earth. As always staff and students are encouraged to bring a reusable bottle or cup to school each day and make use of our hydration stations within the school. Thank you to Miss Orsini for organizing this day for our students!



## SPIRIT WEAR STORE IS NOW OPEN

Our Spirit Wear Store opened on April 1st. It will remain open for orders until the closing date of April 12, 2024. All orders are expected to be delivered by April 19, 2024. If you are interested in ordering spirit wear for your child, please visit the link below.

<https://www.maddalena-uniforms.com/collections/saint-vincent-de-paul-catholic-school-spirit-wear>



## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m. in our staff room. All are welcome to attend.

# World Autism Awareness Day



World Autism Day is on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 and will be celebrated across all Niagara Catholic District Board schools. Staff and students 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. Autism Ontario has launched their Celebrate the Spectrum Campaign and have shared a number of targeted age-specific educator toolkits and videos which are available through the following link: [celebratethespectrum.com](https://celebratethespectrum.com). These resources will be accessible during the month of April to help raise awareness and understanding within our school community. .



## APRIL HOT LUNCH DATES

Firehouse Subs – April 9, 16, 23

Pasta Fresca – April 30

Carmine's Pizza – April 4, 11, 18, 25



## EASTER CARDS

A big thank you to the students in Mrs. Reich's class, Mrs. Ramunno's class, Mr. Porga's class and Mrs. Mascia's class for making Easter cards for the residents of Lundy Manor Retirement Home. Lundy Manor sent us a thank you through their Instagram page. They also proudly displayed all of the cards in their home. Thank you to Jose from the Legion of Mary (Our Lady of the Scapular Church) for organizing this initiative for our students. We are happy it brought a smile to all of the residents!



# BE A BETTER HUMAN AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR MARCH

On March 27th, we had our Be A Better Human monthly assembly. We recognized 10 new recipients of the Be a Better Human Award. Congratulations to the following students:



Ms. Cullen & Mrs. Sottile's class

Mila M.

Mrs. Sirianni & Mrs. Blakely's class

Gianna P.

Mrs. Futino-Vacca's class

Sloane P.

Miss Orsini's class

Bhadra K.

Mrs. McLean's class

Victoria N.

Mrs. Reich's class

Andrey R.

Mrs. Ramunno's class

Kailyn T.

Mr. Porga's class

Maria M.

Mr. Spiotti/Mr. Young's class

Alyssa M.

Mrs. Mascia's class

Adrian L.





ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

28

# Bingo Night

WED APRIL 17th

31

• GAMES • FUN • PRIZES

DOORS OPEN at 6PM / START at 7PM

DELTA BINGO  
4735 DRUMMOND ROAD , NF

[www.deltabingo.com](http://www.deltabingo.com)

Tickets \$25 (includes a 3 strip book/  
dabber and a bag of popcorn/  
additional games can be purchased  
at Delta Bingo)

\$15 Gaming ticket / \$10 towards  
SVDP school fundraiser towards  
technology and Grade 8 Grad

Made with PosterMyWall.com

To purchase tickets, visit School Cash Online. Tickets go on sale April 2nd!



# 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**

**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**



## MICHAEL JACQUES

Public speaker, activist, and author Michael Jacques, 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.

The words we use carry meaning and power. 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.



**APRIL 15, 2024 • 6:00PM – 8:00PM**  
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE • 327 ONTARIO ST., ST. CATHARINES

### **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 Jacques, 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.**

#### **REGISTRATION**

- **Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis as space is limited.**
- **Registration link: <https://forms.gle/Uu4YCCF8e6JUkxA96>**
- **Registration for this event will be due no later than April 10, 2024**

## Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

### April 2024

#### Connecting the Curriculum to Home

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the [Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

### Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting The Curriculum to Home

(Parents of Elementary aged students)

With our School Health Nurses

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- Watch here: [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions.

#### Niagara Ontario Health Team – Events Calendar

The [Niagara Ontario Health Team](#) created an events calendar tool to highlight the diverse activities happening in our region. This initiative highlights the importance of health and wellness. It also serves as a valuable link, connecting community members to resources available in Niagara.

The [calendar](#) makes it easier to find and explore new things to do. It also helps create meaningful connections in our community. Visit today to learn more about what is going on near you!



#### Benefits of Risky Play

Did you know that letting kids [play freely outdoors](#), even if it involves a bit of risk, is super important for their growth and well-being? Learn about the benefits of exciting play that might seem a little risky, and how it can help kids develop better physically, mentally, and socially. Let's rethink how we see risks and explore how adventurous play can actually help kids stay healthier and happier in the long run. Join us in creating a world where every child has the chance to thrive!



For more information on what it is meant by risky play, check out [Active For Life webpage](#).

## 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](https://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