



St. Patrick Catholic School



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Phone: 905-354-6631

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MAY 2024

Principal: Mrs. I. Ricci Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi

4653 Victoria Ave. Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 4B8

"We are proud to be part of the St. Paul Catholic Family of Schools"

HOLY COMMUNION and GIVING BOWL

Students in Grade 2 will celebrate the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on April 28th at 1:30 p.m.

On behalf of the church it is with great joy that we would like to thank everyone for the donations to the "Giving Bowl" during Lent which helps families and children in Uganda. As a school we raised \$460. The church offers their deepest thanks. May God bless you all!

PRAYER CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2024

PRAYER

God of grace,

*Help us to rediscover how to be side by side
in rebuilding our communities of faith and
learning.*

*Help us restore harmony and balance in our
relationships, and renew our desire to
approach challenges confidently and with
peaceful hearts.*

*May we always rejoice in recognizing the
blessings our lives hold
Amen.*

EQAO 2024

Students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 will have EQAO testing starting May 27th until June 7th.

Testing will be completed all on-line using chromebooks.

More information will follow closer to the date for those families that have children in Grade 3 and Grade 6.

EQAO Grade 6: June 3-12, 2024

EQAO Grade 3: June 3-12, 2024

ORGANIZATION CHART FOR 2024-2025

The tentative organization chart for St. Patrick Catholic School for September 2024. Some changes can still occur. This is a tentative organization as of April 25, 2024.

Kindergarten

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3/4

Grade 5/6

Grade 6/7

Grade 7/8

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION FOR 2024-2025

How Can Parents Help?

Please trust our professional judgment to make good pedagogically sound decisions regarding your child's class placement for September. We are well educated professionals with your child's best interests at heart. Talk positively and hopefully to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students, discuss the value of new friendships and fresh starts. With some large and small numbers in many grades, and Ministry caps in the primary division, we still may be faced with a combined grade classroom in September. This is a reality with declining enrolment across the Board.

A combined grade is no different than a single grade classroom where there are children at many different learning levels. All teachers use differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all learners in their classrooms.

Guidelines that we consider may be one, some or all of the following:

***Learning style/social needs**

***Work habits**

***Special program needs**

***Behaviour**

Gender balance

In all class situations, present and possibly receiving teachers meet with the Principal and Education Resource Teacher to make the final decision. We are looking forward to another wonderful school year with your support.

CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARD 2024

Congratulations to **VINNY DIAZ**, the St. Patrick Catholic School recipient for the NCDSB Annual "Catch the Spirit Award". This award is presented to recognize excellence within the Niagara Catholic student population. The students selected have demonstrated qualities in areas such as Catholic Faith and Catholic School Philosophy, Family Commitment, High Degree of Academic Excellence and School Community Relations. We are honoured and proud of **VINNY** for being a representative of the St. Patrick Catholic Community.

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER: May 12th, 2024

On behalf of the school community of St. Patrick, I would like to wish all of our Mothers a very happy Mother's Day and a sincere thanks for your care, support and nurturing.

Heavenly Father, hold my mother close to your Heart

As we hold her close to mine. Let her know today and every day

How much we love her. Lord, comfort her mind and reassure her

that her motherly care was everything we needed and wanted

And that we love her dearly.

Lord, comfort her body as she ages and grant her health and

Vitality as she goes through her days here on earth.

Bring all

Good things to my precious mother, dear God, and bless her

Every day, in every way. Amen!

ECO SCHOOL MESSAGE FOR MAY

What is Ontario EcoSchools?

Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certification program for grades K-12 that helps school communities develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible and reduce the environmental footprint of schools. The key areas of focus and achievement are: Teamwork & Leadership, Energy Conservation, Waste

Minimization, School Ground Greening, Curriculum, and Environmental Stewardship.

Thank you Mrs. Johnstone for your love of the ECO program and your instrumental role as lead teacher in this school wide initiative. We are making a difference.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE MAY 21st from 4:00 to 5:00 P.M.

We welcome new families to St. Patrick Catholic school in Sept. 2024. We are hosting an in-person OPEN house and information session starting at 4 pm.

BIG RED MEAT and PASTA LUNCH

Our Annual Big Red Meat fundraiser is underway until May 13th! Please support our final effort in raising money for our school community. We will be purchasing new chromebooks for the school and enhancing some sports equipment and Kindergarten equipment. Please visit School Cash online and order. PICK up will be May 13th just in time for the long weekend.

Also, thank you for your support with the Grade 8 Fundraiser Pasta Lunch. All proceeds will help with our Grade 8 graduation. So blessed and thankful.

TRACK AND FIELD DAY & HOT DOG LUNCH May 23rd

On May 23rd students in Grade 4-8 will be attending our annual Track and Field Day at Oakes Park. Students will be bussed to this event.

Students in all grades can order a hot dog lunch on this day. All funds raised will go towards the Grade 8.

NEW SPIRIT WEAR -BIG BEAR

We are excited to announce we have chosen a new Spirit wear provider for St. Patrick School. We will be using Big Bear Spirit wear in Niagara Falls.

The service will be much better and you can order directly on line and they will ship all items to the school. There is a 1-2 week turn-around once you place your order.

Grade 8 Grad hoodies for next year will be on line soon as well to pre-order.

You can also visit their store front which is in Niagara Falls.

Their address is 6182 Dixon Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario

Please see the link:

<https://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/st-patrick-catholic-elementary-school/>

This service is totally optional.

SCHOOL EVENTS COMING UP

May 1: Dental Screening for Kindergarten Students

May 6-10: Education Week

May 21: Kindergarten Open House at 4 pm

May 23: Grade 4-8 Track and Field Day at Oakes Park
(Hot dog day-through school cash online)

May 27: Grade 7 Vaccination Day

May 28-30: St. Patrick Book Fair

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER-SPRING RAFFLE

We are very happy to report that our Spring Raffle was extremely successful this year. We raised close to \$5000. Thank you so much to the Catholic School Council and Mrs. McGilvery for organizing the raffle. Thank you so much to all parents, caregivers and staff for helping with the sale of the raffle tickets. We are extremely blessed to have such a giving community.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK & MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2024

“WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE”

As a Catholic Community, we see the link between our faith and mental health. This year’s Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week theme is, “*We are called to love.*”

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024 was inspired by the following considerations:

- With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of “*Pilgrims of Hope.*” With open hearts of love, we can continue to “*fan the flame of hope*” for a bright future.
- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, “*He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers.*”
- The theme of the synod, “*Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,*” invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a

commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.

- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other’s wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God’s children are loved unconditionally.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week:

Day 1: As people of hope / Dans l’espérance

Day 2: As people of faith / Dans la foi

Day 3: As people of mercy / Avec compassion

Day 4: As people of justice / Dans la justice

Day 5: As people of joy / Dans la joie

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as School Mental Health Ontario’s website and resources, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Called to love* together.

Thank you Mrs. Szick for all your planning.

The theme for this year’s Catholic Education Week is:

Monday May 6: “As People of Hope”

Start of Mental Health Awareness Week

“Unlearn Exercises-school wide”

Tuesday May 7: “As People of Faith”

School Education Week Mass: 10 a.m. All parents welcome to attend mass.

Parent Engagement: School We Are Called to Love Concert in the Gym at 1:30 P.M.

Parents are most welcome to attend.

Wednesday May 8: “As People of Mercy”

Grade 8 students to attend St. Paul for Mean Girls Production

School wide Art Activity

Catch the Spirit Award: Brock University

Thursday May 9: “As People of Justice”

Wellness Fair Presented by Mr. Pascoe’s Class

Pray the Rosary-All the Grade 7 and Grade 8 students with Knights of Columbus at 1 p.m.

Friday May 9: “As People of Joy”

Q-Mack “Be An All-Star” National Tour Presentation in the School Gym- 9:15 a.m.

All Parents are welcome to attend.

www.Qmack.com

Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child’s overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child’s movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.

A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One eye that turns out or in
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blinking often 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning or tilting the head to the side often 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting blurry or double vision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covering or closing one eye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain

For more information on vision screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.

Mental Health Week 2024: A Call to be Kind

Showing compassion toward others can have a huge impact on someone’s life. Mental Health Week in Canada runs from May 6 to 12, and this year’s theme is

focussed on the healing power of compassion. One of the most important ways that we can demonstrate compassion is through active listening without judgment. Actively listening can create a safe space for people to share their thoughts and feelings. You can do this by avoiding interrupting or dismissing their experiences.

Let’s all learn to be more present, attentive, and empathetic.

- [Explore how compassion connects us all](#)
- [Learn to safely support someone struggling with their mental health](#)

#CompassionConnects #MentalHealthWeek

Dangerous Nicotine Product Accessible to Children and Youth: Nicotine Pouches

Local health experts are warning of the dangers posed to young people about new flavoured nicotine pouches. There are multiple brands (Zonnic, Zyn, etc.) and concentrations of nicotine pouches currently available for purchase in Canada.

Although this product is not intended for those under 18, youth are becoming their main market. These products come in flavours such as berry frost and tropical breeze. Health Canada approved Zonnic last as a quit smoking aid under the country's natural health product regulations, with no restrictions on how it's advertised, where it's sold, or at what age someone can buy it. This means that these products are being sold in local convenience stores and gas stations to youth without any age verification and are found to be stored next to candy and gum.



What’s the danger?

Nicotine is a highly toxic and powerfully addictive substance. Children and teenagers are at a higher risk due to the addictive properties of nicotine as brain develops into adulthood. Even using small amounts of nicotine may increase the risk of developing a dependence on nicotine in the future.

Please talk to your children about nicotine pouches and other nicotine products to discuss the risks associated with their use.

For more information about these products, visit:
[Dangers of Nicotine Pouches - Canada.ca](https://www.participaction.com/programs/community-challenge/)

ParticipACTION Community Challenge

Partake in [ParticipACTION Community Challenge](https://www.participaction.com/programs/community-challenge/) **June 1 – 30, 2024!** Participate in the challenge this June to get moving, connect with others and help students within the Niagara community get crowned Canada's Most Active Community!



What is the Community Challenge?

The ParticipACTION Community Challenge is a national [physical activity](https://www.participaction.com/programs/community-challenge/) and sport initiative that encourages everyone in Canada to get active throughout June in search of Canada's Most Active Community.

For more information visit
<https://www.participaction.com/programs/community-challenge/>

Mental Wellness Teaching Tools



Maintaining positive relationships with students within a caring school community that is safe, welcoming and inclusive contributes to students' social-emotional wellness and readiness to learn.

Visit our [school health teaching tools page](#) and check out 'Supporting mental wellness' dropdown