



June 2024



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

As the school year comes to a close and we reflect on our journey over the past ten months together, the St. John Catholic School staff would like to acknowledge and celebrate the many wonderful learning experiences and friendships that have formed and taken place during this school year.

Together, we have grown and learned so much, sharing experiences that will remain with us for years to come. The strength of our community and wholehearted passion to make St. John Catholic Elementary School an enriching place of learning for all comes from our commitment to our faith, as we serve as "One Body with Many Members".

It is that faith, trust, and commitment that is our continued mission here at St. John Catholic Elementary School. It is through our Catholic values and ministry that we embrace on a daily basis our passion in nurturing a learning community in which our children can thrive and flourish as living witnesses of Jesus Christ.

We believe that Christ is our model for prayer, service, and building positive and loving relationships that will last a lifetime. It is at this time that we, as a school community, would like to acknowledge all those who are leaving our school for new places and adventures. We wish you all of God's blessings on your new pathway. We would also like to extend a heartfelt congratulation to our grade 8 students who begin a new chapter in their journey in Catholic education as they officially become Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Thunder!

As the summer months approach us, let us take the time to recognize God's continued presence in the great outdoors. It is proven that exploring the great outdoors has positive physical and emotional health benefits for children. May your summer be filled with outdoor play, exploration, and lots of fun and laughter. This is a great way to connect, learn, and appreciate God's gift to us. Have an enjoyable and relaxing summer!

Stay safe and be well!

*Mr. D. Forte*  
Principal

**JUNE - A MISSION TOGETHER**

*"Live in harmony, united together in one heart and one will. Be bound to one another by the bonds of charity, treating each other with respect, helping one another, bearing with each other in Christ Jesus: if you really try to live like this, there is no doubt that the Lord, our God, will be in your midst."*

- St. Angela Merici



**A PRAYER TO END A SCHOOL YEAR**

*God of Wisdom,*

*We thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year.*

*We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people.*

*As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school.*

*We ask you to bless us all in your love and give us refreshment and peace as we transition into the summer months.*

*We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

**ONLINE REGISTRATION**

Online registration is open through [easyregister.ca](https://easyregister.ca). If your child is presently attending St. John, there is no need to re-register.

***When you register, please remember to submit your child's Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate, and Proof of Address (current utility bill) in order to complete the registration.***

In addition, please check the [Transportation Eligibility](#) section of the Niagara Student Transportation Services website to ensure that St. John is your child's home school, based on your current home address.

**SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE**

**Supervision:** 9:10 am  
**Entry:** 9:20 am  
**Lunch:** 12:05 - 12:45 pm  
**Dismissal:** 3:30 pm

Families are invited to visit the ['Bell Times' section of the St. John Google Website](#) to access a full breakdown of our bell times for this school year.



*We are proud to be a part of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools*



ST. JOHN JAGUAR NEWS

**HAVE YOU MOVED OR ARE YOU MOVING?**

To any families who have recently moved or will be moving in the near future, please confirm that St. John is your home school at [portal.nsts.ca/eligibility](http://portal.nsts.ca/eligibility). In keeping with Niagara Catholic's home school focus, we encourage all families to ensure that children are enrolled in their home school. This will allow students to establish and maintain meaningful relationships with other students who live in the heart of their community.

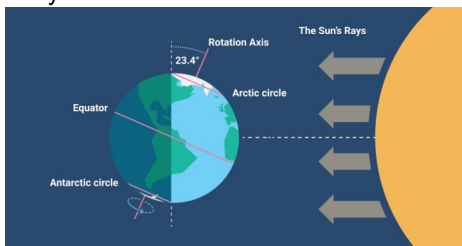
**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Families are asked to please see our monthly calendar for information and details regarding daily Masses at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. In addition, further information regarding St. Joseph Parish, can be found by visiting the '[St. Joseph Catholic Parish Information Section](#)' of our [St. John Google Website](#).

The school also invites families to visit the [St. Joseph Catholic Parish Website](#) for additional information and details pertaining to the parish.

**SUMMER SOLSTICE - JUNE 20**

The day that the Earth's North Pole is tilted closest to the sun is called the summer solstice. This is the longest day (most daylight hours) of the year for people living in the northern hemisphere. It is also the day that the Sun reaches its highest point in the sky.

**TERM 2 REPORT CARDS**

Please be advised that Term 2 Ontario Provincial Report Cards will be made available in the [Niagara Catholic Parent Portal](#) the ***week of Monday, June 24***. This reporting period reflects learning that has occurred since the commencement of Term 2 on February 1. Ongoing communication with your child's educators will provide additional information pertaining to their progress.

**ST. JOHN GOOGLE WEBSITE**

Families are invited to visit the St. John Google Website for daily information items. Please know that the school will send out a SchoolMessenger notification any time there are pertinent updates made to the site. Monthly newsletters and calendars will be embedded into the website as well, once finalized. The links will be shared in the SchoolMessenger notification that goes out to inform families.

**Link to St. John Google site:**

[St. John Catholic School Google Website](#)

**GRADE 8 GRADUATION**

We look forward to the last month of the school year as our Grade 8 students approach the end of their final year at St. John Catholic School. On Thursday, June 20, our Grade 8 students will enjoy their Graduation ceremony at St. Joseph Catholic Church beginning at 5:00 pm, followed by a dinner and dance at Galileo Gardens Banquet Hall. We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with our graduates!

**SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM**

To report your child absent, please use any one of the methods listed below:

1. **SafeArrival Website:** Visit the website at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create an account using your email address. After logging in, select the **Attendance** tab to report an absence.
2. **Personal Mobile Device:** Download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store, 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 directly to your mobile device, please enable **Push Notifications** in the **Settings** section of the app. The document titled, [SchoolMessenger App Parent & Student User Guide](#) provides instructions for using the app.
3. **Standard Telephone:** The toll-free number **1-844-287-6287** will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

**STUDENT ABSENCES & LATE ARRIVALS**

It is essential that all student absences and late arrivals are called into the [Safe Arrival Program](#) by **8:30 am** via phone (1-844-287-6287), website or app. These are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You are also able to input future absences in advance if you are aware of an upcoming appointment or vacation. **Board and Ministry policy dictates that we must investigate any unreported absences. This can involve calls to places of employment, the emergency numbers provided to the school and, in some cases, the police.**

**PA DAY - JUNE 7**

Please be advised that **Friday, June 7** is a PA day and there is no school for students. Classes will resume on Monday, June 10.

### INFORMATION FROM NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

Families are encouraged to visit the ['Niagara Region Information'](#) section of the St. John Google Website for the most up-to-date information from Niagara Region Public Health, including monthly newsletters.



### VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

School visitors continue to be restricted out of an abundance of care and consideration for the health, safety, and privacy of students and school staff. Essential items that must be dropped off are to be labelled clearly and can be placed on the cart to be retrieved by a designated staff member. On behalf of school staff, students, and families, thank you everyone for their ongoing cooperation with this very important matter.

### STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS

If a student becomes sick while at school, the identified emergency contact(s) on file will be called for immediate pick up. Parents and guardians of ill children are encouraged to contact Niagara Public Health and follow their advice. *Anyone who is sick should stay at home until their symptoms have resolved for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).* We thank everyone for their ongoing cooperation regarding this very important health and safety matter.

### ANAPHYLAXIS

The entire school community is working hard to prevent accidental exposure to products that trigger life-threatening reactions. As a result, we continue to maintain a **PEANUT & NUT SAFE environment**. We would appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep St. John Catholic School safe, by making sure your children do not bring foods to school that may contain any traces of **peanuts** or **nuts**.



### PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If your child has a prevalent medical condition that the school should be aware of and plan for, it is necessary to read the letter to families, and complete and/or update the applicable Plan of Care forms. All documents can be accessed in the ['Prevalent Medical Conditions' section of the St. John Google Website](#). Please click on the link to access the site and the necessary documents that pertain to your child's prevalent medical condition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

### REMINDERS FOR ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

**Kiss n' Ride Drop-Off:** In an effort to keep our students and staff members safe, families are reminded that when using the Kiss n' Ride drop-off, *drivers are asked to please remain in their vehicle* and have child(ren) exit the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk when it is safe to do so. Supervising staff will be present in the parking lot at 9:10 am. Parents are kindly asked to please drop their child(ren) off **between 9:10 and 9:20 am**. We thank you for your support as we strive to welcome our students onto school property in an efficient, yet safe manner.

### **Kiss n' Ride Pick-Up:**

To reduce congestion in the Kiss n' Ride line and along King Street, Kiss n' Ride students will be dismissed from their classrooms at **3:15 pm**. Parents are asked to please be at the school in a timely manner so students can be dismissed efficiently and without causing disruption to the flow of traffic on King Street.

### **Park & Pick-Up/Drop-Off:**

Families of children in car seats who need to park their vehicles and walk their children to the school sidewalk are asked to please be mindful of oncoming traffic, which includes busses and Kiss n' Ride vehicles. For their own safety, families are reminded of the importance of utilizing designated walkways to access the sidewalks. To avoid congestion in the parking lot and to prevent a back-up of vehicles onto King Street, Park & Pick-Up students will be dismissed from their classes at **3:15 pm**.

### INDOOR & OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR

Parents are reminded to please consider sending their child to school with a pair of indoor shoes. This will help to maintain everyone's health and safety by reducing potential for slipping hazards in our school. In addition, having a pair of indoor shoes for students to change into allows for cleanliness to be maintained in our building and for caretaking staff to focus on sanitization of surfaces and touchpoints. We thank everyone for their cooperation with this health and safety matter.

### KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ORIENTATION EVENING

Thank you to all those who attended our Kindergarten Family Orientation on May 22.

Those who were unable to attend are invited to click on the hyperlink to access the [St. John Kindergarten Family Orientation Slideshow](#). The slideshow contains essential information on our Kindergarten Program. Parents can navigate the slideshow at their own pace by clicking, tapping, or swiping each slide.

We thank you for your interest in St. John Catholic School and look forward to working and growing with you and your children as followers of Christ!



### SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board is made up of Association representatives and Trustees whose role is to support students with diverse needs and their families. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board with regards to matters relating to educational programs and services to be implemented in schools for our students who meet this criteria. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings and learn about different programs and supports that are available in special education.

Meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are unable to attend the meetings and you wish further information, please visit our website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) under Special Education, Special Education Advisory Committee or contact your school Principal who will provide you with a list of representatives and their contact information.

SEAC continuously strives to ensure that the rights of students with diverse learning needs are being met both at the elementary and the secondary level as well as serving as a resource for parents of these children. For further information there are two links:

- The Special Education Advisory Committee website: [www.seac-learning.ca](http://www.seac-learning.ca); and
- the Ministry of Education Special Education website: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html).

### SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has developed the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) to support children and youth who have a diagnosis of ASD confirmed by a qualified professional.

Services available through the OAP include:

- ✓ *Funding to purchase approved goods and services;*
- ✓ *Access to supports and programs for children and their families.*

Children and youth receive services and supports until the age of 18.

For further information, please visit the following website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program>

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Educational Resource Teacher. Members of the Applied Behaviour Analysis Team from the Student Support Services Department are available to provide additional information.

### JUNE IS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

Here at St. John Catholic School, we invite all community members to join us in celebrating Indigenous people and communities throughout the month of June and ALWAYS.

June is National Indigenous History Month. It is a time for all Canadians to reflect on the unique histories, sacrifices, cultures, contributions, and strengths of our First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Peoples – because only by understanding our past can we hope to create a brighter future.

National Indigenous History Month invites Indigenous Peoples to celebrate their history in the spirit of pride and preservation. For non-Indigenous Canadians, it is an opportunity to learn and show recognition of the role Indigenous Peoples have played and continue to play in shaping Canada.

Please visit the [Government of Canada's National Indigenous History Month webpage](#) for information and resources for celebrating this very special month in our Canadian Heritage.



### NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

In cooperation with Indigenous Peoples' national organizations, the Government of Canada has designated **June 21** as **National Indigenous Peoples' Day**, a celebration of Indigenous Peoples' culture and heritage. This date was chosen because it follows the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, and because for generations, many Indigenous Peoples' groups have celebrated their culture and heritage at this time of year. We look forward to coming together as a school community to celebrate this very special day in our Canadian heritage.

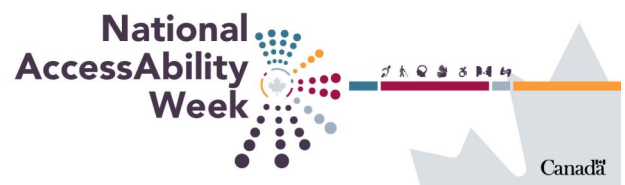
### NATIONAL 'AccessAbility' WEEK

The Niagara Catholic District School Board participated in observing National 'AccessAbility' Awareness Week from May 26 to June 1, 2024.

Founded as 'National Access Awareness Week' in 1988 and inspired by Rick Hansen's Man in Motion World Tour, this week is an opportunity to celebrate Canadians with disabilities and raise awareness of the critical need for accessibility and inclusion for all in our communities and workplaces.

Teaching staff will explore this topic with students through the lens of our Catholic faith. Acceptance and inclusion tie directly into our Gospel values, which guide our decisions and shape our lives as followers of Christ.

As an extension and vital part of your child's school community, you are invited to visit the [Rick Hansen Foundation website](#) for knowledge and information on the importance of inclusion.



### **GOVERNANCE POLICY VETTING AND TRACKING**

In keeping with Niagara Catholic's commitment to openness and transparency, the Board has established an extensive vetting process for its Governance Policies.

As part of the vetting process, Niagara Catholic students, parents, guardians, staff, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC), Diocese of St. Catharines, and members of the Niagara Catholic community are invited to submit their feedback.

Please visit the [Governance Policies, By-Laws, Administrative Operational Procedures, Protocols And Procedures](#) section of the Niagara Catholic website for specific information on how to submit feedback for policies that are currently being vetted.

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS**

Parents and students requiring technical assistance are encouraged to access the following support portal: <https://help.niagaracatholic.ca>. Niagara Catholic launched this platform for students and parents in an effort to provide technical support for issues relating to the Niagara Catholic Virtual Learning Environment (NCVLE), Niagara Catholic Parent Portal, Safe Arrival System, and more.

### **CLASS ORGANIZATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

Parents are asked to please trust the professional judgment of our staff to make good pedagogically sound decisions regarding your child's class placement for September 2024.

Parents are encouraged to talk positively and hopefully to their child about next school year. If a child is with a different group of students, parents would find it beneficial to discuss the value of new friendships and fresh starts.

Please know that careful thought is always given to student placement in the various classes. 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 receiving teachers (if possible) meet with the Principal and Education Resource Teacher to make the final decision.

We are looking forward to another wonderful school year with the support of our wonderful parent community.

### **'SchoolCash' ONLINE**

***The school encourages online payment for all fees and activities for students. It is our goal to be cashless.***

As part of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, we are committed to providing a safe and efficient online environment in order to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. Online payment users benefit from knowing students are not carrying cash to school which can be easily forgotten, misplaced or not handed in on time for important school activities and events. 'SchoolCash' Online is a secure and safe payment portal and is PCI compliant. Please join the many parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying online. It takes less than five minutes to register. Please follow the online step-by-step instructions at <https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com> to begin receiving email notifications for events involving your child(ren).

Some of the added benefits enjoyed by using School Cash Online include:

- Having online access to digital receipts and a complete list of paid and unpaid items;
- The ability to pay by credit cards, including Visa, Mastercard, Visa Debit, and Mastercard Debit;
- The ability to preload funds into the School Cash Online wallet for future use;
- Receiving reminder emails, so payment due dates are not missed;
- One-time registration - students will automatically be moved between schools within our Board;
- Use of Google Translate in over 100 languages;
- Make an online donation and receive your tax receipt by email for donations \$20 or more;
- Parent Help Desk Support is available 24/7.



SchoolCashOnline

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The St. John Catholic School Council would like to thank all of our generous donors for their donations during the 2023-2024 school year. With your generous contributions, we were able to organize and smoothly run the Advent Family Mass at St. Joseph Parish in December, as well as our Family Fun Night held at St. John in June. Your donations have helped with the purchase of materials to support student learning and engagement. They also allowed the school to provide some fun activities for our students. We cannot thank you enough.

Thank-you to the following organizations:

- *Best Buy, St. Catharines*
- *Forty Creek Animal Hospital*
- *Propack Processing & Packaging Systems Inc.*
- *Real Canadian Superstore, Grimsby*
- *Food Basics, Grimsby*
- *No Frills, Beamsville*

**ST. JOHN 'EcoSchools' INITIATIVE**

At St. John Catholic School, we continue to remain active in our efforts to continue to fulfill our goals to serve as "Stewards of God's Earth". We continue to maintain our environmental efforts, nurture our students as both current and future environmental leaders, and reduce the ecological impact of our school. In the ['EcoSchools Information' section of the St. John Google Website](#), families will find any and all information pertaining to our 'EcoSchools' initiative, including monthly newsletters to promote ecological awareness in our school, homes, and community.

Families are advised of the following 'EcoSchools' events recognized throughout this month...

**Waste-Free Lunch Wednesdays:**

To continue with our ECO initiatives, we will promote Waste-Free Wednesday lunches. A waste-free lunch is one that contains reusable containers to pack your child's lunch and snacks. Although participation is optional, when we pack a waste-free lunch, we are helping the earth by reducing the use of plastic bags, wrappers and minimizing the amount of garbage.

**World Ocean Day:**

World Ocean Day happens every year on the **8th of June**. More than 140 countries take part and pledge to consider the importance of the ocean and how we can protect it. At St. John we will be taking part in learning activities that focus on the significant impact that plastic has on sea life. Throughout the month of June the ECO team will be promoting the reduction of single-use plastics through "Plastic-Free Lunches" to reduce our carbon footprint and be responsible stewards of God's creation.

**Clean Air Day:**

We will celebrate Clean Air Day on **June 5th**. Let's recognize how important good air quality is to our health, our environment, and the economy. This year we focus on air quality in a changing climate. As the climate warms, air pollution is expected to worsen through increased number and severity of extreme weather events such as wildfires and floods. Some air pollutants, such as car emissions, contribute to climate change. But there's good news! The latest air pollutant emissions report shows an overall steady decline in air pollutant emissions since 1990. At St. John we will take action to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change by engaging in learning activities on this topic and increasing our time learning outdoors and in our outdoor classroom.

Thank you for your continued support of our ECO initiatives!

St. John Catholic School ECO Team

**BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**

May was another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Some of the highlights in May included:

- *Chicago Trip for our Social Science and Business students;*
- *Catholic Education Week - Catch the Spirit Awards;*
- *Mental Health Awareness Week;*
- *Lots of Spring Sports - Flag Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Baseball, Slo-Pitch, Track and Field, Rugby;*
- *Spring Music Concert.*

Teachers and students are starting to wrap up the semester and prepare for final exams. We wish all the elementary teachers and students a great end to another wonderful school year.

We are already preparing for next year. At this time, we are starting to put together timetables for all of our students, including our newest grade 9 students. We are also preparing our Orientation Day, which will be in the last week of August before school starts. More information will be sent over the summer with details. All of our current grade 8's who will be coming to BT in September should plan to be attend the Orientation Day, where they will receive their schedule, locker, tour the school, and have some fun with our grade 11 and 12 Thunderstruck-Link Crew leaders.

Please contact Blessed Trinity – Mr. John Cino – 905-945-6706 Ext. 2330 or Mrs. Rose Bianco Ext. 2312, if any Grade 8 parent has any questions.

**BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL OFFERS PRE-OWNED UNIFORMS FOR SALE**

Each year, the Catholic School Council at Blessed Trinity collects used school uniform pieces and offers them for sale to parents and students at the beginning of each school year. The uniform pieces are donated by students who have outgrown their clothing and by graduating Grade 12 students, at the end of each school year. Council members carefully sort through the pieces and arrange them by size and type of clothing, and then offer them for sale on Grade 9 Orientation day. The sale of used uniforms benefits the school by providing funds to support an array of special projects or events, and benefits parents and teachers by providing needed uniform pieces at significantly reduced prices. It's a win-win situation!

We hope to see you in the cafeteria on the morning of Grade 9 Orientation day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school (905) 945-6706 ext. 2300.

