



# Year-End Newsletter 2024

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - HELLO SUMMER!

The end of June has arrived and we are preparing to part ways with students, staff, and parents for the summer. It has been a year filled with challenges and events that have brought us closer together as a Catholic School Community. On behalf of staff, thank you to all parents and guardians for their ongoing support throughout this year and always throughout our time here at St. John Catholic School. We could not offer such an enriching faith-based education to our students without the ongoing effort and unwavering support that you all continue to give.

Here at St. John, we recognize and greatly value the connection between the home, school, and Catholic parish as this is an integral part of who we are as living and joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. So this summer, let's put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer.

As our Grade 8 students begin a new chapter in their Catholic educational journey, we would like to remind them of the **Three "S's" of Success:** "Smiling, Searching, and Striving." This is the model for school life at St. John Catholic Elementary School and will continue with you at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School.

**Motivation, determination, and commitment** will be paramount in fulfilling your goals as Catholic secondary school graduates. It is the obstacles which you strive to overcome with a positive attitude that will determine your success. So always remember, the highest reward for a person's work is not what they get for it, but what they become because of it. Best wishes to all of you and God bless!

As we near the summer holiday, we as a staff wish our students and their families a safe, enjoyable, and blessed summer vacation.

I look forward to seeing and working with each and every one of you next year as the Principal of St. John Catholic School.

Please continue to stay safe, be well, and take care of yourselves.

Yours in Catholic Education,

*Mr. D. Forte*  
*Principal*

## FAREWELL, AU REVOIR, & GOD BLESS!

We wish a very fond farewell to the staff members who will be leaving St. John Catholic School: **Mme Wiens, Ms. Giancaterino, Ms. Marchionda, Ms. Benton, Ms. LaRose, Mrs. Adamcryck, Ms. Rucinski, Mrs. Elias, & Ms. Ewanick.**

Best wishes and much success in your future endeavors in Catholic Education. May God bless each and every one of you and continue to hold you in the palm of His hand.

## RETIREMENT:

### MME C. WALSH (EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT)

We congratulate Mme Chantale Walsh (Educational Assistant) as she prepares to retire from her education profession. Over the years, this wonderful person has provided so many Special Education students with the love and support they needed to maximize their potential to learn in the classroom setting. Although we are sad to see Mme Walsh go, we wish her well as she begins a new chapter in her life: one that is filled with relaxing days and calming sunsets. God bless you, Mme Walsh! You will be dearly missed by the St. John Catholic School Community!

## YEAR-END PRAYER

*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 them in your love and give them refreshment and peace.*

*Amen*

## A SUMMER BLESSING

*May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do and wherever you go.*

*May you talk to God this summer and every day and in every situation. May you talk with God everyday.*

*Amen.*

## TENTATIVE STAFF LIST 2024-2025

Mr. D. Forte Principal

Mrs. M. Binfield Teacher  
Ms. T. McDonald Teacher  
Mrs. E. Bennie Teacher  
Mrs. S. Di Tomasso Teacher  
Mrs. D. Carbonara Teacher  
Mrs. M. Berez Teacher  
Mrs. D. Nardilli Teacher  
Mr. S. Apa Teacher

Mme L. Swindley Teacher  
Mme A. Francella Teacher  
Mme B. Walsh Teacher  
Mme S. Remillard Teacher  
Mr. J. Viscek Teacher

Mr. P. Hauber Teacher  
Mr. M. Maiorano Teacher  
Mrs. K. Cargnelli Teacher

Ms. D.M. Azevedo Librarian

Mrs. T. Bock Educational Assistant  
Mrs. K. Ippolito Educational Assistant  
Ms. A. Iannazzo Educational Assistant  
Ms. N. Burnison Educational Assistant

Mr. D. Stockwell Caretaker

# ST. JOHN JAGUAR NEWS

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



**ONLINE REGISTRATION**

Throughout the Summer months, online registration remains open through [edsembli](#). 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.

**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.

**NIAGARA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (NSTS)**

In August, Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) will post specific back to school transportation arrangements for each student enrolled, including bus route numbers, stop locations and times. Please visit [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) and sign-in to the secure parent portal to get your child's student transportation information. To sign-in to the portal you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on their report card.

**PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Families are advised that the school had used a portion of its School Generated Funds to purchase **15 additional Chromebooks** for the 2024-2025 school year. The devices are scheduled to arrive over the summer to be inventoried and distributed to classrooms for September to support student learning and engagement. The school continues to work toward a goal of one device for every one student in grades 1 through 8.

In addition, the school has purchased **two 65 inch interactive SMART TVs**. The SMART TVs are scheduled to be installed in Rooms 131 and 132, which are occupied by our Kindergarten classes. The school will continue to work toward replacing non-functional Smartboards and LCD projectors with interactive TVs as we move forward.

A sincere thank you is extended to our families for supporting our school fundraisers and lunch days here at St. John!

God bless!

**BELL TIMES**

The next school year will begin on **Tuesday, September 3, 2024**. For non-bussed students, it is very important that parents ensure that their child arrives at school by **9:20 am** and be picked up by **3:20 pm** each day. For additional information on our balanced school day schedule, please see the [letter to families](#), which was sent to all families on May, 24.

**STUDENT ABSENCES & LATE ARRIVALS**

Upon our return to school in September, 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.***

**DRESS CODE & SPIRIT WEAR**

The [Niagara Catholic Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy](#) is in effect for all students when they return to school on **Tuesday, September 3, 2024**. For a friendly reminder when purchasing dress code items please see the [Elementary Standardized Dress Code Flyer](#).

**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.

**CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS FOR 2024-2025**

Please be advised that, due to ongoing changes in teaching staff throughout the Board, the name of your child's classroom teacher for the 2024-2025 school year will appear in the [Niagara Catholic Parent Portal](#) in late August / early September.

**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!

**2024-2025 GRADE 8 GRAD HOODIES**

Parents of students who will be in Grade 8 this September are asked to please visit the [Maddalena Uniforms website](#) if they would like to purchase a Grad Hoodie for their child for the 2024-2025 school year. Orders are to be placed directly online through the website.

### 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).

### CONGRATULATIONS ARIANA CONDELLO!

A heartfelt congratulation is extended to Ariana Condello for her amazing achievement in being selected as one of three winners out of over 1,000 submissions for the Catholic Education & Mental Health Week Media Contest. Ariana is a Grade 4 student in the French Immersion Program and will be going into Grade 5 in September. Her media submission about how she shows love to others was recognized by the Niagara Catholic District School Board's Catholic Education & Mental Health Week Contest Committee, and she received a prize for her efforts. Ariana, we are all so very proud of you and your accomplishment and the way you have used media to spread kindness. Thank you for living out your discipleship and spreading God's love to the ends of the Earth! God bless!



### ST. JOHN 'EcoSchools' INITIATIVE

We are excited to announce that St. John Catholic Elementary School has received its 'EcoSchools' certification for the 2023-2024 school year, and this year we achieved a **GOLD** rating! 

A big thank you goes out to the entire St. John Catholic School community for their participation in and support of our 'EcoSchools' activities. A special shout out to our St. John Eco Team for all their hard work in organizing and leading our 'EcoSchools' activities and initiatives this year.

Thank you as well to Mme Swindley and Mr. Viscek for all their hard work in leading the St. John 'EcoSchools' initiative this past school year. God bless!

### BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

Teachers and students have wrapped up the second semester and completed final exams. We wish both our students and all the elementary staff and students a wonderful summer.

We are 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 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.

