



October 2024

St. Kevin Catholic School



Principal: Mr. G. Marchio **Superintendent:** Mrs. K. Kinney

Parish Priests: Rev. Jinto Mathew Puthiyidathuchalil CSC, Fr. Arockia Sunil Josapath, CSC
182 Aqueduct Street, Welland, ON
905-734-7709

Called By Name ~ "Follow Me"

Dear God, we pray today for the help we need to always listen to the Holy Spirit. May our journey of faith move us towards a deeper and more committed relationship with You. May we avoid all those temptations that turn us away from You, and seek whatever brings us closer to You.

We have much to be thankful for. Thank you to all of the families that are supporting our food drive for the Hope Center in Welland. Supporting each other in the community of Welland is so important in teaching our students to become responsible citizens and to show love for one another and live the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the entire staff here at St. Kevin Catholic School, I would like to wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving. Please enjoy time with family and friends.

God Bless,

Mr. G Marchio
Principal



Professional Activity Day

Friday, October 11th, 2024

~THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Monday, October 14, 2024

~SCHOOL CLOSED~

~~~ Mission Statement ~~~

"We are a Christ-centered Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body, and spirit."

Justice Compassion Stewardship Accountability Community Integrity Faithfulness

Updated School Organization 2024-2025

Kindergarten:	Mrs. Casasanta/Mrs. Hamann Mrs. Raso/Mrs. Fraser Ms. Celetti/Mrs. Swayze
Grade 1:	Mrs. Maletta
Grade ½:	Mrs. McLaughlin
Grade 2:	Mrs. Mascio
Grade 3:	Mrs. Hale
Grade 3:	Mrs. Matyas
Grade 4:	Mrs. Joyce
Grade 4/5:	Mrs. Grossi
Grade 5:	Mrs. Sweitzer
Grade 5:	Mrs. Watson
Grade 6:	Mr. Sorella
Grade 6:	Mrs. Stock
Grade 7:	Mr. Maletta
Grade 7/8:	Mrs. Buccione (TBA)
Grade 8:	Ms. Horn (Mrs. Caporicci)
PTM:	Mr. Hale Mrs. Gaudet
FSL:	Mr. Lisciandro Mrs. Mann (TBA)
IA:	Mrs. McCabe, Ms. Mani
ERT:	Mr. Gallo
EA:	Mrs. White, Mrs. Langelaan, Mrs. Geremia, Mrs. Lustri, Mrs. Fasan
CYW:	Mrs. Perron, Mrs. Armenti-Sadonoja
Caretakers:	Mr. Yakubowski, Mr. Doucet
Secretary:	Mrs. Coatsworth
Principal:	Mr. Marchio

Thanksgiving Prayer

On Thanksgiving Day we're thankful for
Our blessings all year through.

For Family we dearly love,
For good friends, old and new.

For sun to light and warm our days,
For stars that glow at night.

For trees of green and skies of blue,
And puffy clouds of white.

We're grateful for our eyes that see,
This beauty all around.

For arms to hug and legs to walk,
And ears to hear each sound.

The list all we're grateful for,
Would fill a great big book.

Our thankful heart find new delights,
Everywhere we look.



Catholic School Council 2024-2025

The first meeting of the St. Kevin Catholic School Council (CSC) took place on Tuesday, September 24th. It was exciting to see everyone there with such enthusiasm. We thank all members for taking the time to be part of this important committee. As well, a huge thank you goes to those parents who have spent many years on the Catholic School Council and have generously given of their time and effort.

Elections were held on September 24th at our first meeting. Our CSC Members are: *L. Russell, A. Gervais, L. White, A. Timmers, I. Ogowo, A. Vallee, M. Price Picard, J. Dyson, B. Annen, C. Austen, M. Raso, A. Hamann, and G. Marchio.*

Congratulations to **Angel Timmers** who was elected as Chair. Thanks to **Mrs. Timmers** who will also be our OAPCE Representative and to **Mrs. Hamann** who will be our Parish Representative and Non-teaching Representative. Thank you to **Mrs. Raso** who will be our Teacher Representative.

Please remember that our meetings are open to everyone and we encourage all parents to attend. The next Catholic School Council meeting is set for **Tuesday, November 26th, 2024**. Hope to see you there!

Meet the Teacher/ Food Truck Evening

Thank you to all families who attended our "Meet the Teacher" evening, which took place on Thursday, September 26th. The night allowed parents to formally introduce themselves to their child's teacher and to discuss expectations as well as programming for the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you to all families that connected for the evening and also to the staff of St. Kevin Catholic School for their preparation. Also, thank you to Catholic School Council for organizing the food truck from Cool Licks for this community building activity!

Way to go Celtics!!



Standardized Dress Code

A friendly reminder that, all schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board, follow a standardized dress code. Simplified, the dress code requires students to wear a white or navy shirt with a collar and navy bottoms - pants, shorts or skirts. For specific requirements, please visit Niagara Catholic's website ([click here](#)) or contact St. Kevin Catholic with any questions. It is our goal to work with you, and to support and alleviate any concerns you may have.

Spirit Wear Wednesdays Are Back!



Beginning in October Spirit Wear Wednesdays are back! Every Wednesday students will be encouraged to wear any Notre Dame Spirit Wear!

Terry Fox Walk

On Friday, September 27th, St. Kevin Catholic school staff and students participated in their annual Terry Fox walk. The students did an excellent job and had the opportunity to learn about Terry Fox and the Marathon of Hope. Thank you Mrs. Joyce for your leadership during this most worthwhile cause. Great job Celtics!



Orange Shirt Day ~ September 30

Orange Shirt Day is the story of Phyllis Webstad, an Indigenous woman who shared her experience at an Indian Residential School through the children's book, *The Orange Shirt Story*.

By participating in Orange Shirt Day, we recognize the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential School system in Canada. The first time Orange Shirt Day was recognized in Canada was on September 30, 2013. Since that time, Orange Shirt Day has grown into a national awareness among schools, businesses, and communities.

In June 2021, the Federal Government of Canada designated September 30th as the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. While this addresses Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation's 94 Calls to Action, it coincides with an established day that was created by Survivors of Indian Residential Schools.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 23 - 30, 2024

#DoSomething

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

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BUS SAFETY

Families of students that ride the bus please help us support the bus drivers and safety on the bus. Students are reminded to ride the bus in their seat for the full ride. This will make the bus ride as safe as possible and keep bus schedule intact. Thank you for your support with this!

****To learn of delays impacting your child's bus route, please download the BusPlanner Delay app, subscribe in the parent portal to receive email alerts, or visit NSTS.ca for alerts.****



St. Kevin Parish Sacramental Dates

*First Holy Communion ~
SATURDAY – May 10th, 2025 at 2:00pm*

*Parent Meeting #1 ~ October 23rd
6:30pm ~ St. Kevin Parish*

*First Communion Rite Mass ~
November 10th 11:30am*

Confirmation - Thursday, May 15th, 2025 at 7:00pm

*Parent Meeting #1 ~ November 13th
6:30pm ~ St. Kevin Parish*

Confirmation Rite Mass ~ November 24th 11:30am



Kiss & Ride

All students can be dropped off in the “Kiss & Ride” beginning at 8:20 a.m. and picked up in the Kiss & Ride beginning at 2:50 p.m. If you are using the parking spots in the front of the school I kindly ask that you walk your child(ren) across the bus lane and onto the sidewalk. Students should not be crossing this lane alone. Also, please do not drop off in the bus zone. Thank you for your cooperation with this. Please also be patient as our “Kiss and Ride” lane can get busy and this will help everyone be as safe as possible.

Thank you in advance for co-operating in keeping our students safe!



Lockdown Practice (Hold & Secure)

At St. Kevin Catholic School, safety is a very important part of our school day. In the event that there is a threat outside in the community/inside the school or a fire, the staff and students will be prepared to respond in a quick, well-rehearsed way to ensure everyone's safety. At no time during these practices will your child's safety be at risk.

Our first Emergency Protocol practice took place on Wednesday, September 25th. Our school practiced a “Hold & Secure”. All staff and students did an excellent job.

A second Emergency Protocol practice will take place in May of 2025.



St. Kevin Parish Opportunity ~ Eucharist - Presented by The Holy Name Society

More than half of current Catholics do not know the Church's teaching on the "real presence of Christ" in the Eucharist. While it is an indescribable mystery, Vatican II called the Eucharist the "source and summit of the Christian life." Delve into the mystery of Christ's presence in your life, and how the Eucharist is an important part of that presence. Join us for an engaging six-part series where Bishop Robert Barron will offer inspiring insights into the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives. Too many believers do not understand the mystery of the Eucharist. This fresh look at the Eucharist brings to light its reality as sacred meal, the sacrifice necessary for communion with God, and the real presence of Christ.

- Each participant will receive: A printed copy of the Textbook and Workbook.
- The six sessions will be held *on Mondays at either 1:30pm OR 7:00pm in the Parish Hall: October 21st, 28th; November 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th (The afternoon and evening sessions are the same – we just want to offer alternative times. You will have to select which session you will attend at the time of sign-up).*
- The cost for the program is \$35 and we ask that you pay this fee (cash) when registering. Sign up for the series will be in the foyer on the weekends of September 21st/22nd and 28th/29th or you may register online [CLICK HERE](#) If you register online, please bring your payment to the office no later than September 29th.

Children's liturgy:

Provide a Children's liturgy once a week during the 10 AM Sunday Mass - to enable children to understand and pray the liturgy in a way that they can understand it.

- Looking for volunteers as well as welcoming students from our primary grades to attend .

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter October 2024

Don't Be Scared by Cavities this Halloween!

Keep your child's smile BOO-tiful this Halloween!

Here are some tips to help keep teeth healthy:

- Brush teeth twice a day for two minutes using fluoridated toothpaste
- Floss once a day
- Stay away from sticky, starchy and hard candy
- Limit sugary drinks. Drink water after eating tasty treats to rinse away sugar that may be stuck on your teeth.
- Book a FREE dental appointment at Public Health's dental clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or [live chat with us](#).

To learn more on how to keep your family's teeth healthy, visit www.niagararegion.ca/dental.



Help Keep the Classroom Germ Free – Stay Home When Sick

Fall brings the ‘unofficial’ start of respiratory illness season. This means that viruses that affect our respiratory system (for example our lungs and throat) begin to spread more often.

Help keep the classroom germ free by keeping your child home if they are sick. If your child is sick, they should stay home from school until:

- ✓ They have no fever, without the use of fever reducing medication **and**
- ✓ Their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours or 48 hours if they have nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea **and**
- ✓ They don’t develop any new symptoms

Each year, different respiratory viruses can be spreading in our community at the same time. These viruses can have similar symptoms. This means it can be hard to tell what you are infected with based on just symptoms alone. For more information on, visit [Managing Illness - Exclusion periods](#) and our downloadable resource [Respiratory Illnesses: Protect Yourself and Others](#).

By keeping your child at home when they are feeling sick, you are actively helping to prevent the spread of infection and disease among the entire school community.

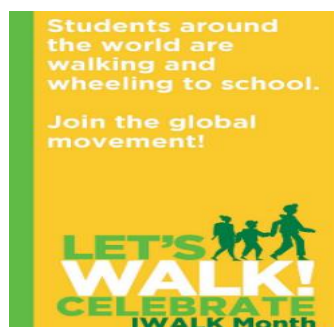


WALKTOBER

As the rush of the new school year starts to settle down, consider walking, biking or rolling with your child to school.

Join families across Niagara and the world in celebrating October’s [International Walk to School Month](#) (Walktober). Kids who walk or bike to school arrive alert and ready to learn. If you live too far away to walk or wheel to school, try driving to a location near your school and walk the rest of the way. Using active transportation helps reduce congestion at your school.

This Walktober, enjoy **#ActiveSchoolTravel** and leave the car at home more often **@NiagaraParents** **@OntarioAST @NiagaraSTS**



Mental Illness Awareness Week 2024

This year, [Mental Illness Awareness Week \(#MIAW\)](#) is from October 1-7. Mental Illness Awareness Week is an annual national public education campaign designed to help open the eyes of Canadians to the reality of mental illness.

Mental Illness and Stigma:

Stigma is when people think badly of someone because of a certain characteristic or trait they have, which is seen as negative. This often happens because people don't fully understand things like mental illness. Stigma can lead to unfair treatment, which can be on purpose or by accident.

Some of the harmful effects of stigma can include:

- Hesitancy to get help or treatment
- Lack of understanding by family, friends or others
- Fewer opportunities for work, school or social activities
- Bullying, physical violence or harassment
- The belief that you will never succeed at certain challenges or that you can't make things better for yourself

You can help reduce stigma by educating yourself, being aware of your attitudes and behaviours and choosing your words carefully when you talk about mental illness and substance use disorders.

Helpful Resources:

- [Addressing Stigma](#)
- [Canadian Mental Health Association: Stigma and Discrimination](#)
- [Words Matter \(CAMH\)](#)
-

Annual Memorial Forest Vigil:

The [Memorial Forest](#) seeks to reduce the stigma around mental illness and promote a greater understanding and compassion from the community as a whole. Each year, a Memorial Forest Vigil is held during Mental Illness Awareness Week to provide an opportunity to share stories of hope and success as told by individuals and family members living with mental illness.