



ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

NOVEMBER 2024

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, & SPIRIT

ACCOUNTABILITY • COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • FAITHFULNESS • INTEGRITY • JUSTICE • STEWARDSHIP

Safe Arrival

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

1. Use the SafeArrival website,

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger App (blue logo) from the Apple App Store or 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 on your mobile device please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.

3. The toll-free number

1-844-287-6287

will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Principal's Message

Dear St. James Families,

At the beginning of November, we remember all saints and all souls. All Saints' Day on November 1st is a feast day to remember all saints of the church deemed to have attained heaven. All Souls' Day is marked on November 2nd, directly following All Saints' Day, and is an opportunity for us to remember and pray for the faithful departed.

The first full week of November from the third to the ninth is Treaties Recognition Week. Treaties have been part of the native culture for thousands of years and were legal agreements among the many Indigenous agreements among the many Indigenous nations who shared this land long before European contact.

November is a time set aside to remember those who fought for peace, and those who continue to keep our world at peace. We will honour Remembrance Day on November 11th with a prayer service located in the gymnasium facilitated by Mrs. Martinelli's grade 3/4 students.

The week of November 11th-15th is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. As a school community, we will help students understand the difference between conflict and bullying and ensure they understand conflict is normal, bullying is not. School should be a safe place for All!

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be available on the Maplewood Parent Portal during the week of November 18, 2024. The website is <https://niagaracatholic.ca/reportcards>. This report will focus on how your child is progressing in the various subject areas and learning skills. Please review the information on the report card with your child.

Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on: Thursday November 28: 4:00 p.m.-7:00p.m.

Booking Your Interview Time

You will receive a email the week of November 18, 2024 with a Microsoft Booking Link electronically to select a time for your interview. It is IMPORTANT that you are receiving the School Messenger messages every week. Contact the office should you have any questions. Please respect the 10 minute time frame allotment so that the booking scheduled can be followed.

Reporting Dates 2024-2025

Progress Reports-----Week of November 18, 2024
Term One Reports-----Week of February 10, 2025
Term Two Reports-----Week of June 23, 2025

November Food Days

Friday 1st	Hot Dog Day
Thursday 7th	Mandarin Day
Thursday 14th	Pizza Day
Thursday 21st	Sub Day
Friday 22nd	Hot Dog Day
Thursday 28th	Wrap Day

Cell Phone use for Students

If you are providing your child(ren) with a cell phone as part of their communication and safety tools as they transit from home to school and back, be advised that all cellphones must be placed in their backpack for the instructional day. If you are texting your child during the day—please expect them, to only get the message at dismissal time (3:25 p.m.). ALL communication must go through the main office.

If students are using their cell phones as a personal device for research, teacher will direct them to access their cell phones. Please be advised that students have access to a school Chromebooks everyday. Therefore, it should not be necessary to use a cellphone for research purposes.

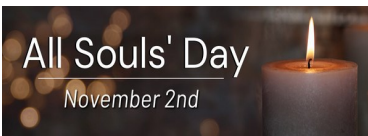
All Saints' Day



On this day, Catholics honour the Saints of the Catholic Church, that is those that have entered Heaven. All Saints' Day, also known as the Solemnity of All Saints, is every year on November 1st by the Roman Catholic

Church as a day to commemorate those who lived as exceptional followers of Christ. These individuals continue to inspire us daily to be the hands and feet of Jesus on Earth as we strive to one day achieve sainthood ourselves .

All Souls' Day



All Souls' Day is celebrated annually by the Roman Catholic Church on November 2nd. It is known as the *Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed*. On this very special

day, we pray for all lost souls in purgatory so they can attain Heaven and achieve sainthood. We practice this ritual because in the Second Book of Maccabees, we learn that we are connected with the lost souls in the 'Communion of Saints', which is the spiritual union of the members of the Christian Church, both living and deceased, including those on Earth, in Heaven, and those awaiting purification from their sins.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On the eleventh hour, we will bow our heads for a moment of silent thought and prayer. We will pay tribute to those who fought for our freedom. We pray for peace in our troubled world. It remains important to show our veterans and peacekeepers our appreciation and gratitude. On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, poppies will be available for students for a donation to the veterans.



Please join us on November 11th for the Remembrance Day Ceremony as presented by Mrs. Martinelli's Grade 3/4 Class. Please arrive no later than 10:50am as we would like to start at exactly the 11th hour.

School Cash Online

To login to SchoolCash Online to make payments or complete various forms go to:

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com>



TREATIES
RECOGNITION WEEK

Treaties Recognition Week is November 3rd to 9th. The goal of this week is to promote public education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships. On Ontario, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students are enriched by learning about the histories, cultures, contributions and perspective of First Nation, Metis and Inuit people in Canada.

ELF The Musical

Reminder to place your orders for your child's tickets on SchoolCashOnline.

Small Popcorn and drink can also be purchased for the performance on SchoolCashOnline.

St. James students will be attending the performance on Tuesday December 3, 2024.



Kiss 'N' Ride

We ask drivers to please "kiss and drive" straight through the outside lane of our school lot to avoid blocking the arriving and departing busses.

If you are using the "Kiss 'N' Ride" drop off lane **Do Not exit your vehicle**. This is strictly meant to pull up so that your child (ren) can exit the vehicle and you can drive off thereby ensuring a continuous flow of traffic.

If you need to assist you child(ren) out of the car, please park your vehicle in a parking spot and walk them across the parking lot.

When entering the parking lot, please Reduce speed. Remember to keep children close to you when walking in the parking lot. It is very busy and we want to make sure everyone is safe.

Last year we had a designated cross area painted in front of the school. Staff monitor this designated crossing so please utilize this crossing rather than walking between parked and moving cars in the designated drop off lanes.

Everyone's safety of utmost important. Crossing moving traffic between cars poses a safety risk to all.

SPORTS UPDATE

Cross Country

Congratulations to all the students who tried out for this year's cross country team! We had a record number of students come out to the practices and most were able to secure a spot on the team. Their commitment and dedication to our early-morning runs resulted in many accomplishments at the Family of Schools Cross Country meet at Southward Park in Grimsby on Tuesday, October 8th. Most students crossed the finish line, and **eight** students placed in the top ten in their respective groups. Those students went on to compete at the Niagara Catholic School Board Cross Country meet on Tuesday, October 22nd.

Congratulations go out to: Isabel K, Carter C, Jack H, Madison C, Connor C, and Lachlan R. An extra cheer goes out to Kylee L and Marley H for finishing second and third, respectively, amongst all the Grade 4 girls in our school board! We are so proud of all of your efforts and successes, but especially for representing the St. James Skyhawks by encouraging and supporting each other, and by demonstrating exemplary sportsmanship and behaviour throughout the competitions. Well done!

Halloween Costume Awards

Mr. Soukop - Athena Chow

Mrs. McInerney - Madeline Kaufman

Mrs. D'Andrea - Gemma-Lee Gallant

Mrs. O'Rourke—John Letwin

Mrs. Timmins - Maggie Turner

Mrs. Buordolone - Allie Spiece

Mrs. Smith - Cora Gentile

Mrs. Martinelli - Hudson Richea

Mrs. Prada - Ross Metler

St. James Staff Costume Award goes to Mrs. Buordolone

#ProjectPlaid launched in 2019 after the tragic loss of Amelia Durocher to suicide. Taking quick action with a resolve to not let this happen to other kids and families, Amelia's mom Shanta created #ProjectPlaid. It not only helped her cope, it quickly became a connection for those who were struggling and it's now a mental health movement.

#ProjectPlaid is about finding hope and giving hope to others.

1. **TALK about Mental Health** – and tell others about #ProjectPlaid
2. **WEAR Plaid** – on Thursday, November 28th, put it in your calendar, you are gonna look so good in Plaid!



Anaphylaxis Awareness and Action Plans

All classroom at St. James are peanut, tree nut, sesame, sea-food, coconut pineapple, avocado and egg safe classrooms. **No peanuts, peanut products, tree nuts or raw/cooked eggs are allowed at any time.** We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, peanut products and/or eggs. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or eggs for breakfast/lunch at home.

MEDICATION

For safety reasons, no child is to bring any form of medication to the school. If medication is necessary there is a form that must be filled out by your Doctor to indicate dosage, instructions, etc., and the prescription container clearly labelled with the names (child, parent, doctor), phone numbers and must be left at the office. Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.

Catholic School Council

Our second Council Meeting will be held on November 28, 2024 in the school library at 6:00 pm. The agenda and meeting minutes will be available on the school website.

St. James School Spirit Wear

<https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/St-james-skyhawks>



Reusable Water Bottle

In an effort to promote and teach students about sustainability, we ask students to avoid bringing disposable plastic water bottles to school. Thank you for your concern and cooperation for the environment.



Cold Weather

Cold weather is on the way. Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children need hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots, labeled with their names.

On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canadian Weather Information Line and follow Niagara Catholic District School Board guideline.

REMINDER

**Picture Retake Day
Monday December 2, 2024**

NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH: SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

November 2024

HEAD LICE



Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

YOUTH VAPING PREVENTION

Caring adults have an important role to play in helping kids make decisions about their health. Vaping is harmful and addictive, so we must empower young people with the right health information and refusal skills to ensure they don't start vaping.

Vaping risks include:

- Addiction to nicotine – nicotine changes how the youth brain develops affecting learning, memory, concentration, and impulse control.
- Exposure to cancer-causing chemicals and metals
- Lung damage
- Increased stress and anxiety
- Increased likelihood of smoking cigarettes

In November, elementary schools across Niagara Region will be receiving vaping resources for grade 7 and 8 classrooms. To compliment the in-class education, we encourage parents and caregivers to learn about vaping and tips on how to talk to your kids about it. For more information, or to download the parent/caregiver *Let's Talk About Vaping* resource visit: www.notanexperiment.ca/parents



EpiPen® AND AUTO-INJECTORS

During the school day, your child will be in contact with many staff members and other children, moving around to different locations inside and outside. Remember to check if your child's EpiPen® Auto-Injectors are up to date (not expired).



Check out [Food Allergy Canada - elementary school](#) for some great tips and [resources!](#)

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS THIS RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SEASON



Infections like COVID-19, flu and RSV increase in the fall and winter months.



While anyone can get very sick, infections can be especially devastating to the most vulnerable in our community. This includes older adults and people with underlying medical conditions.

There are simple actions we can take to help protect ourselves and others. Use layers of protection:

- Stay up to date with vaccinations
- Stay home if sick
- Consider wearing a mask (for example, based on the setting, your personal risk factors, or comfort level)
- Keep up good hand hygiene – use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into the upper sleeve
- Regularly clean and disinfect high touch surfaces
- Keep indoor air fresh and circulating

Learn more on [our website](#) or [check out our downloadable resource](#).

NIAGARA PARENTS

[Niagara Parents](#) provides a variety of services to help you raise a happy and healthy family. Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse instantly in whichever language they are most comfortable speaking.

Services offered:

- Questions or concerns about parenting, your child's health, or pregnancy.
- Parenting classes, breastfeeding support, prenatal appointments and more.
- Postpartum support
- Links to services within the community

Connect with a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. through phone, live chat, video call, or email. Live chat is available in 90 different languages.

Find Niagara Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for different activities you can do with your kids, relevant resources and virtual events for parents.



Providing supports & services to help you raise a happy and healthy family

Connect with Niagara Parents

Live chat or speak with a public health nurse in **90 different languages available:**

niagararegion.ca/parents

905-684-7555
or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555

parents@niagararegion.ca

Niagara Parents

[niagaraparents](#)

Niagara Region