



December 2024

St. Kevin Catholic School

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

Parish Priests: Rev. Jinto Mathew Puthiyidathuchalil CSC & Fr. Arockia Sunil Josapath, CSC
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Called By Name: Follow Me

God the Father, who sheds light on the world. Give us strength in the season of Advent. Prepare us to be better Christians. Let the Holy Spirit give us courage and guide us in our actions and our prayers. Lord, we ask you to make your son Jesus our example and inspiration. Let the Virgin Mary accompany us and carry us in her arms. And let the saints be our fellow travelers on the way to your mercy. We ask you for all this with open and willing hearts.

May Advent be a reminder to us that, though Jesus came to us over 2,000 years ago, Jesus continues to come to us in the Eucharist. May we be always eager to imitate Christ, who served us most extraordinarily. Let us this Advent renew our commitment to serve Jesus in prayer and service to our neighbour.

On behalf of all the St. Kevin Catholic School staff, I would like to wish each family a most blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year: See you in January 2025 ☺.

Merry Christmas,

Mr. Marchio
Principal



Food Days

December 3rd & 17th ~ Popcorn Day
December 5th ~ Subway Day
December 12th ~ Pizza Day

Comfy Cozy Day

December 13th, 2023

Christmas Sweater/Red, White & Green Day

December 20th, 2024

~~~ 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

Emergency School Closing

With the onset of winter and the approach of inclement weather it is a good time to review the routines of school closings. **Do not call the school.** In the event of severe weather conditions, announcements to close the schools will be made on the board website and social media accounts. When transportation has been cancelled but the school remains open, we advise discretion when deciding whether or not your child(ren) should attend school. Parents must also provide transportation home at dismissal if they choose to send their child(ren) to school.

Please refer to the Niagara Catholic School Board Twitter and Facebook Accounts for information regarding school closures. Please also check your email for a school messenger message.

INDOOR SHOES REMINDER

A reminder to all families to please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes for the school. As the wet wintry weather is approaching this is important for student safety!



Bus Cancellations

On days when there are bus cancellations, parents/guardians of students who normally ride the bus are to report, using the electronic Safe Arrival program, their child(ren) as absent if they are not sending them to school. It is only if schools are closed, by the Director of Education, due to inclement weather or any other reason that student absences do not need to be reported.

Teachers are to mark any student absent who is not in class as they normally would.

The system will then contact parents/guardians who have not reported their child as absent.

Please ensure if you do bring your child to school that arrangements are made for dismissal. Students should know the plan for the end of the day. Thank you for your support.



St. Kevin Sports Center ~ Intermediate Volleyball

Intermediate Girls

Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls Volleyball team for participating in the ND Family of Schools Tournament and the Niagara Catholic Board tournament. Well done *Erika, Lily, Milana, Nana, Addressa, Elizabeth, Myla, Danica, Aryanna & Elvira*. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to this team!

Intermediate Boys

Congratulations to the Intermediate Boys Volleyball team for participating the ND Family of Schools tournament and the Niagara Catholic Board tournament. Well Done - *Mofe, Max, Loieuford, Mark, Blake, Chase, Sam, Noah, Jonathan and Romain*. Congratulations on your championship performance 😊 Thank you for your commitment and dedication to this team!

Thank you to Mr. Maletta & Mrs. Stock for your dedication and hard work preparing our teams. Our teams not only represented our school at the tournament with skill, but they also demonstrated respect for sport and excellent teamwork. JOB WELL DONE!!



St. Kevin Catholic Pointsettia Fundraiser

Thank you very much to our Catholic School Council for providing our school with a meaningful fundraising activity. The Poinsettia Fundraiser did well this year in our community. We made just over \$1100. All funds raised will be used to support any technological needs for the students of our school

Many thanks to Mrs. Timmers & Mrs. Valle who lead this project. Also thank you to Vermeer's Garden Center for their support of our school!



McDonalds Night Fundraiser

On November 25th the Celtics of St. Kevin stormed the McDonalds on Niagara Street! What a turnout!! McDonald's was kind enough to offer our school 10 % of all sales between 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. They were so impressed with our school spirit and support. Our school made \$465.41. Thank you so much to the families that supported this night. Also, a special thank you to McDonalds for offering this opportunity to our school.



Christmas Giving Drive

We are excited to be following our Catholic teaching by showing our students the importance of helping those in need. To ensure we cover all needs, we have decided to assign classes to specific food items/categories. Our food drive will end December 8th. Please look at the list below to see what each class is being asked to donate.

TEACHER NAME AND CLASS	ITEMS TO BRING
Mrs. Casasanta-Kindergarten Mrs. Raso-Kindergarten Ms. Celetti-Kindergarten	SNACKS (ex. Puddings, applesauce, crackers, cookies, goldfish, granola bars, fruit gummies, etc.)
Mrs. Maletta-Grade 1 Mrs. McLaughlin-Grade 1/2 Ms. Mascio-Grade 2	CANNED FRUITS AND VEGGIES (ex. Corn, peas, carrots, pears, peaches, Fruit cups)
Mrs. Hale-Grade 3 Mrs. Matyas-Grade 3 Mrs. Joyce-Grade 4	BREAKFAST ITEMS (ex. cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, jam, juice, cereal bars etc.)
Mrs. Grossi Grade 4/5 Mr. Watson- Grade 5 Mrs. Sweitzer-Grade 5	PASTA and RICE/SIDEDISHES (ex. Pasta, pasta sauce, Sidekicks, rice, canned pastas, instant potatoes, noodles.)
Mr. Sorella Grade 5/6 Mrs. Stock -Grade 6	HYGEINE ITEMS (ex. Soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant toothpaste, bodywash, shaving cream etc.)
Mr. Maletta-Grade 7 Mrs. Philips-Grade 7/8 Ms. Horn Grade 8	SOUPS, STEWS, CANNED MEATS, CONDIMENTS (ex. tuna, soups, stews, canned ham, chicken, ketchup, mayonnaise etc.)

Be the "I" in Kindness Campaign

This year, as part of our School Climate-Anti-Bullying Awareness campaign, students will be creating kindness rocks that they will bring home and place in the community. This event took place the week of November 18-22. Each rock will be unique with a special message and/or artwork. On the back of the rock, we have included a hashtag that we would love people to use #stkbekind tag us @stkevinschoolwelland on Instagram if you find a rock and take a picture to post. Please look for your child's rock to come home with them around mid-November.

We will also be engaging in lessons on acceptance, kindness and inclusion. Please keep an eye on our Instagram page for online updates and pictures of what is happening at St. Kevin School.

Thank you to Mrs. Joyce for leading this endeavor at our school as it had an extremely positive impact on our student body.



"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

~Mother Teresa~

French Immersion Registration September 2025-2026

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an optional program. All 5 French Immersion Catholic Elementary Schools will accept registrations for Grade 1 along with Kindergarten for September 2025.

Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

- *Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten*
- *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten*
- *Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten*
- *Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Kindergarten*
- *St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Kindergarten*

Transportation

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2. Designated Family of Schools French Immersion schools can be located at the following link www.niagaracatholic.ca.

French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

- On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2025:
Monday, January 13th, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. through to Friday, January 31st, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
- Pre-registrations outside of this window will not be considered.
- There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program.
- Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp.
- Please visit www.niagaracatholic.ca and click the first thumbnail-Registration. Then, click the Let's get you registered! link at the bottom of the page.
- An account must be created first through edsembli CONNECT to access the registration forms. This account can be created ahead of time.

Selection Process

In accordance with the Board's Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy #301.1, there are a limited number of spots available for students entering the program. Eligible spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis for each elementary French Immersion school site. Applicants will receive notification by Monday, March 3rd, 2025 to inform them if their children have been placed in the French Immersion program OR if their children have been placed on the school's waitlist. Applicants who have not received notification by March 3rd, 2025 are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.



ROUTINE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up to date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on schedule.

Learn more about the [vaccinations for children in school](#) and which vaccine(s) your child may need on our [website](#).

All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

*Please note, you **do not** need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.*



HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:

- 1. Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
- 2. Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
- 3. Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.

For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>



DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

Looking for a safe and welcoming space to relax, learn, and connect? Libraries offer more than just books—they're a free resource for promoting mental well-being, accessing technology, and engaging with your community. Whether you're seeking a quiet spot to unwind, attending a workshop, or discovering new hobbies, your library has something for everyone. Visit your local library today!

Learn more about libraries in your area and the services they offer by visiting: [Public Libraries Niagara](#).



GIVING BACK

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for a school community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:

[Community Care](#)
[Newark Neighbours](#)
[Salvation Army Community and Family Services](#)
[Pelham Cares](#)
[The HOPE Centre](#)
[Project SHARE](#)
[Grimsby Benevolent Fund](#)
[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)
[Open Arms Mission](#)
[United Way Niagara](#)
[Jammies for Families](#)

