



Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School

Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic Elementary School
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C. Moscato - Principal F. Wood - Vice Principal
K. Kinney - Superintendent of Schools



Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School Mission Statement

As a community of faith, the mission of Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary School is to work in partnership with the home and the parish to provide a Christ-centered learning environment which allows students to grow spiritually, to strive for academic excellence and to become responsible citizens with a love of learning.



A Christmas Wish

*The staff of Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School wishes you and your family a most joyful Christmas! We pray for the health and wellness of you and your family and friends.
We hope that you find peace in times of quiet reflection and joy in your celebrations.*

*From our Kuska Family to yours:
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Follow us on Social Media



@kuskaknights

What does it mean when we “follow” someone on social media? When we do this we are saying we want to know more about them, to see how they live, how they act, what they say. But what we see on social media isn’t always reality. It’s often hidden behind filters, edits, and multiple takes. What if instead of “following” in this way, we choose to follow someone who only shows us what is real and what is true? Jesus is calling us to follow Him, to live our lives according to the Gospel and to share His love with those around us.

So the question is, who will you choose to follow today?

~~~ Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission Statement ~~~

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



December 2024



HAPPENINGS

Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2024 marks the beginning of the 2024 Advent season! The month of December will be full of moments to learn about the significance of Jesus' birth.

Students will participate in an Advent liturgy on Monday, December 2 to begin the season with a time of reflection, and will end the week with Joy Day, where students in each division will decorate their classroom door in a Christmas theme. Students will also be encouraged to engage with our Advent Calendar of Kindness activity, led by the Student Council Faith team.

All Kuska students will come together as a faith community at St. Kevin's Parish on Wednesday, December 11, for our Christmas Mass.

As well, each week through December, we will have a short liturgy over the announcements as we journey together through the season of Advent and prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's birth.



Food & Clothing Drive

We will be collecting non-perishable food items, gently used clothing, and toiletries for The Hope Centre. Donations will be accepted beginning on Thursday, December 5, 2024 through to Thursday, December 19, 2024.



St. Kevin's Mass Times

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am



Christmas Vigils

Christmas Eve
5:00pm, 8:00pm, midnight

Christmas Day
8:30am, 10:00am,
11:30am

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- Galatians 4:4-5 -



December 2024



HAPPENINGS

Student Council Spirit: Christmas Colour Wars

How it works: Various challenges will be taking place throughout the month of December. Classes have been placed on a team with a specific colour. Students will have an opportunity to participate in these challenges and points will be awarded towards their team for every student wearing their team colour.

JOY DAY - December 6: This will be an Out Of Dress Code Day. Classes will be decorating their doors and students are also asked to wear their classroom's assigned colour. It can be a top, bottom, accessory, or socks. You'll get a point for each item! Please review the chart below for the team colours assigned to your child's class. *We look forward to seeing your team spirit!*

Colour War Teams:

|  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Mr. Fishleigh | Mr. Naso | Mme. Volante | Mrs. Mater |
| Mr. Hart | Mme. Arscott | Mr. Bernardi | Ms. Pace |
| Mrs. Moccia | Mrs. Melo | Mme. Miller | Mme. Mantesso |
| Mrs. Briggs | Mr. Moccia | Mme. Carrey | Mme. Purdie |
| Mme. Root | Mrs. Inneo | Mrs. Mullins | Mme. Gagliardi |
| Mrs. Dyson | | Mrs. Fabiano | |

Student Council Diversity: December Traditions

During the month of December, the Diversity and Indigenous teams within Student Council will share customs from around the World, including some Indigenous traditions related to the Winter Solstice.

Students will share information over the announcements, as well as create bulletin board displays to help deepen our students' understanding of various traditions.





December 2024



Happenings

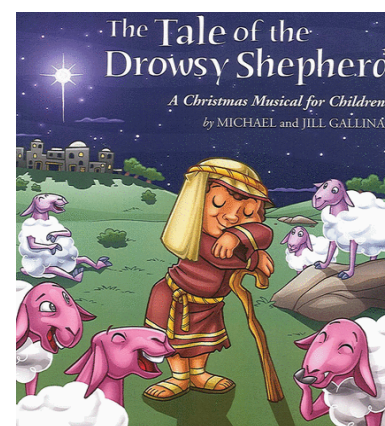
Kuksa Christmas Musical

On Tuesday, December 17 and Wednesday, December 18, students in Grade 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be singing songs to accompany the Grade 7 & 8 cast in performing the musical *The Drowsy Shepherd* by Michael and Jill Gallina.

The Tale of the Drowsy Shepherd is a musical that tells the inspirational story of Aaron, a poor shepherd, who just can't seem to stay awake while counting and tending his sheep. He is on the brink of being fired from his job, but the many efforts of our wayward shepherd finally lead him to the manger and keep him determined to follow his dreams.

Families are invited to the school to attend the musical at the following performance times:

- Tuesday, December 17 @ 12:00pm
- Wednesday, December 18 @ 10:00 am & 6:00pm



Choirfest

Under the guidance of Mrs Bartok, our Kuska Catholic School Choir has developed into an amazing group of singers!

They will take their talents to the Seaway Mall on Friday, December 13 at 10:40 a.m. to share their gift of song with others.

We would love for you to come see our performance!



Christmas Canteen

On Tuesdays for the month of December we will be having our Christmas Canteen.

A variety of sweet treats will be offered for purchase with cash.

Popcorn sales will also continue.





December 2024



HAPPENINGS

French Immersion Sibling Registration

Families who already have a child or children in the Niagara Catholic District School Board's French Immersion Program are invited to complete the ADVANCE_SIBLING REGISTRATION for their child who wishes to enter as a new student to the French Immersion Program at the site specific, grade-level appropriate entry point in September 2025.

Online registration will take place using the EDSEMBLI Parent Portal platform (the same one used for viewing report cards). As this is an updated platform, parents will require more time to complete the registration, as more information is needed. (i.e home address, emergency contacts etc.).

Parents are advised to go onto the report card site (Niagara Catholic Parent Portal at www.niagaracatholic.ca >> Parents>> Report Cards >> Elementary School >> Alexander Kuska) to create their account, if they have not created one or to verify your existing account, prior to December 4th.

On-line Advance Sibling Registration begins **Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 7:30 a.m.** and continues until **Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 11:30 p.m.** [REGISTER HERE](#)

French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2025 will open in approximately mid-January. The dates will be shared once they are available.

Reminders:

- Pre-registrations outside of the registration window will not be considered.
- There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program. An account must be created first through Edsembli to access pre-registration forms.
- 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 French Immersion Registration banner to find out details about the program.

Additional registration details will be shared soon.



December 2024



Happenings

Get ready to skate!

In the new year, students will venture to the Meridian Community Centre to go skating. This outing supports the expectations taught in Health & Physical Education.

To participate, students must adhere to the OPHEA guidelines for safety. **All skaters must have a properly fitted CSA approved hockey helmet with a strap. Students will not be permitted to skate with a bicycle helmet.**

Students must also have their own skates. It is strongly advised that skaters wear hockey gloves or mittens/gloves on their hands for warmth and safety. We strongly recommend you provide your child with a separate bag in which they can transport their skates, helmet and gloves as the blades of the skates are sharp.



Stay tuned for skating dates! Once dates are announced, payment for ice rental and bus will be available through School Cash online.



Eco-Schools

Tip of the Month!

Sort and recycle your holiday waste properly. Make sure wrapping paper, boxes, and other material go in the correct bin.



“Be green, be clean, recycle this season”

- Alexander Kuska EcoSchools

Specialty Lunch Days



Wednesday, December 4



Wednesday, December 11



Wednesday, December 18

Dress for the Weather

With Winter fast approaching, families are reminded to ensure their child(ren) are dressed for the colder days. Indoor shoes are also needed at this time of year to keep our school as clean as can be. To avoid a mid-day interruption at work, it is also a good idea to send in a spare set of clothes (including socks) in case of a mishap.





December 2024



coming soon

Food Drive

Girard's NoFrills will be hosting their 3rd annual food and toy drive on December 4th.



In support of this drive, Santa and the Coca-Cola Christmas Truck will be at Girard's NoFrills (390 Lincoln St. E, Welland) on **December 4th** from **5:30pm - 7:30pm**.

Bring a non-perishable food item and come see Santa!



Designer Purse Bingo

Join us for an evening of bingo, door prizes, pizza and of course fun.... all while supporting our school. This fundraiser will assist in building a friendship garden within the school grounds that will be a multi-phase project. This fundraiser will assist in funding the first phase of the garden area.

When:

February 7, 2025
Doors Open at 6pm
Games begins at 7pm

Where:

Croatian National Home Hall
6 Broadway Ave, Welland

Who:

Only for those who are 18 years of age or older

Cost:

\$40 (includes 10 games, door prizes, and pizza)
Tables of 10 preferred
Limited single tickets available

Click on the [link](#) to purchase your tickets now!



NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

December 2024

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](#).

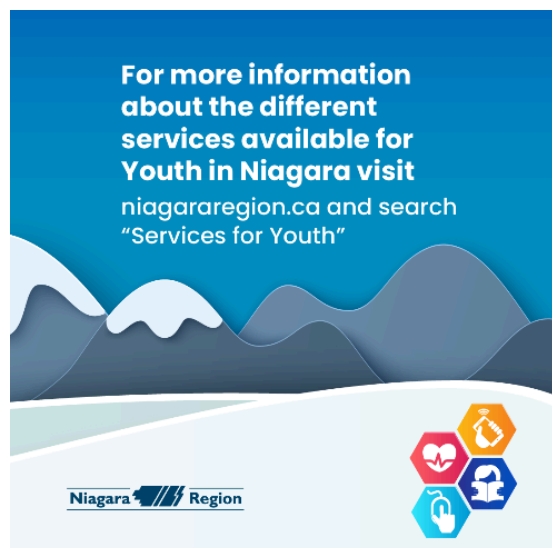
All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [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 wellbeing, 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 the 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:

- A charitable organization affiliated with your church
- [St. Vincent de Paul](#)
- [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](#)
- [Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)

