

St. Denis Catholic School

January 2025



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



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DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Principal

Mrs. Victoria Wegelin

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St. Denis Bell Times

School Begins 9:10 a.m.
First Break 11:20 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Second Break 1:20 p.m. -2:00 p.m.
Dismissal 3:30 p.m.

January 2025

Principal's Message

As January 2025 approaches, may we take the time to reflect on the year that has passed.



At St. Denis Catholic School, we welcome and treasure this opportunity for looking at the multitude of positive experiences shared by all members of our learning community moving forward. At the same time, we are encouraged to look ahead with anticipation of things to come! We hope for everyone on the planet to be safe.

We are very excited as at our school we are having new LED lightning installed throughout the entire school! We would like to thank the Niagara Catholic District School Board Facilities Services team for ensuring that this project is a successful one at our school.

January 2025 is shaping up to be a very active month to commence the New Year! It has been said, "Life is measured not by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." Let us look at 2025 as an opportunity to nourish and enhance the relationship among all stakeholders who have a part in shaping the "moments" experienced by our children at St. Denis Catholic School.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mrs. V. Wegelin
Principal

Called by Name: Follow Me 2025

"He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." John 10:3
Hearing our name makes an impression on us one way or another. Names convey a sense of who we are and how others relate to us. Before the Messiah came into the world, He declared, "The Lord has called Me from the womb; . . . He has made mention of My name" (Is. 49:1). That demonstrated the special relationship the Messiah had to God the Father. What is even more exciting is that this relationship extends through Jesus to us. Because of Christ, we are adopted into the family of God. When we trust Christ as our Savior and Lord, He calls us by name.



[**January 2025 Calendar - Click Here**](#)

St. Denis Christmas Concert

December 10, 2024

The students and staff worked very hard on the Primary Christmas Concert! Students sang songs and got everyone in the Christmas spirit! Thank you to the entire staff for working so hard on this



concert. I would especially like to thank the primary staff and Mrs. D'Ettorre who spearheaded the Primary concert. We were so pleased that so many parents attended the two performances!

Monthly Award Winners - December 2024

Every month our teachers recognize a student in their class who has demonstrated excellence in a particular area based on one of the eight Catholic Graduate Expectations. These expectations are; A discerning believer, an effective communicator, a reflective, creative and holistic learner, a collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Congratulations to this month's recipients listed below.



Mrs. Lee's Class -Faith W.
Ms. Schenck's Class -Kai M.
Mrs. D'Ettorre's Class -Asia J.
Ms. Konieczny's Class -April R.-D.
Mrs. Foster's Class -Winston the Elf and Martin S. G.
Mrs. Jackson's Class -Rohana P.
Mr. Biamonte's Class-Devonte B.
Mr. Sutton's PTM Class -Olivia O.
Mr. Hasting's Class -Joaquin G.
Mrs. La Valle's Class -Piper B.
Mr. O'Connor's Class -Luqman D. and Liam L.
Miss MacSporrán's Class -Holly W.
Mr. Riddell's Class -Delila C. and Emily N. B.
Mme Bonin's JR French Class -Tatiana T.
Mme Bonin's INT French Class -Pathrose A.
Mrs. Zanon's Class-Scarlett C.
Mrs. Wegelin - Principal's Award -Kaidyn L.

Congratulations to all winners! Way to go!



St Denis Joy Day Door Decorating Contest

We wanted to share more good fun at St. Denis this month. We held a "Joy Day" early in December. On this special day each classroom celebrated the beginning of Advent and the Christmas Season by decorating their classrooms with special focus of our faith on their doors. A competition was held for the best door. Our Student Senate members were very diligent and fair judges. They

used a mathematical formula with the following criteria to judge each door; creativity, student involvement and Christmas meaning. A big congratulations to all the fantastic doors in our school hallways, and especially to the top 3 winners:

- 1) Grade 7/8 Mr. Riddell- Intermediate Winner
- 2) FSL Mme Bonin- Junior Winner
- 3) JK/SK Mrs. Lee- Primary Winner

Knowledge Hook and Lexia



Knowledgehook

Just a reminder to all parents that over the holidays students can access Knowledge Hook at home to continue working on their math skills! Students who have a Lexia License are encouraged to work on their literacy skills over the holidays. Even ten to fifteen minutes a day can help your child improve their numeracy and literacy skills! Thank you as always for your ongoing support!

Food Days for January 2025

Pita Day Orders due on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025.**

Pita Day-Friday, **January 10, 2025.**

Pizza Day Orders due on **Monday, January 20, 2025.**

Pizza Day-Friday, **January 24, 2025.**



Student Nutrition Program (SNAC)



Niagara Nutrition Partners

We are once again excited to be offering this program at St. Denis Catholic School! Our school will be receiving a grant to provide healthy snacks to our students. This year the program will be a grab and go program with all of the snacks being prepackaged and delivered to the classrooms in the morning as a mid-morning

snack.

Our SNAC Program will start on Monday, January 13, 2025.

Author Visit

Kara Bartley January 13, 2025

KARA BARTLEY AUTHOR, OWNER OF PALEOTALES

Kara Bartley grew up in Niagara Falls, Ontario, where she spent most of her days dreaming of dinosaurs. Her love of animals and life-long fascination with bones led her into the field of

paleontology. In 2002, while excavating fossils in Kansas, the writer in her was unearthed. There, she began penning her first novel, *The Siamese Mummy*.

In 2005, she graduated from the University at Buffalo with a master's degree in Vertebrate Paleontology. From there, she jumped strata and embraced the world of fiction, writing everything from humour, mystery and time-travelling adventure to horror. Kara is the author of *The Siamese Mummy*, *Call of Adhara*, *The Moon in Habock's Mirror*, 34 and *Rise of the Sandshadow*—the second installment in the 'Mummy' series.



P. A. Day

Friday, January 17, 2025

A professional activity day will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025 for teachers to concentrate on assessments. There will be no school for students on this day.



Family Literacy/Numeracy Day! P. J. Day!

Monday, January 27, 2025

We are participating in numeracy and literacy tasks and am encouraging families to do the same at home! On this special day we are asking our students to dress in their favorite pajamas! Even the staff will be wearing their pajamas!



EcoSchool Information



Wednesday Waste Free Lunches

Every Wednesday, we are asking for families to try to reduce the amount of garbage that we create from our lunches. Also, just a friendly reminder to bring a reusable water bottle to school.

We continue to be aware of how we can help keep our school environment clean.

Thank you to Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Quaranta for organizing this on behalf of our school!

St Denis Catholic School Council

Our School Council is looking forward to an exciting year! Plans are underway for various activities which will help enhance the educational experiences of our students. This will promote a very positive and proactive partnership within our wonderful community.

Congratulations to the members of our School Council!

Chair: Jordan Burtnik

Teacher Rep: Mrs. Lee

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.



Twelve Days of Christmas Fundraiser!

Our Twelve Days of Christmas fundraiser is completed! All proceeds raised from this fundraiser will support all of the students at our amazing school! Thank you for all of your support for our great school! Thank you for all the donations that we received to ensure that this fundraiser was a success! Thank you to those who donated to our fundraiser!

**Thank you to:
Burtnik Printing
Cotton Construction**

A very special thank you to all of our Council members for ensuring that this fundraiser ran smoothly! Thank you to all of the families who were able to sell tickets for this raffle! We appreciate your ongoing support! We are so excited to announce that we made over \$4000 from our fundraiser!! Final tally to be reported in the new year.

Winners from the Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle:

Day 1 -Hugo Serrano

Day 2 -Tawny Giroux

Day 3 -John Myers

Day 4 -Haidar Mohammad

Day 5 -Sharon McLellan

Day 6 -Carol Male

Day 7 -Maria Faraci

Day 8 -Taira Penner

Day 9 -Shonie House

Day 10 -Melinda Konkle

Day 11 -Michelle MacPherson

Day 12 -Bev Siren

Top Seller Primary Division -Ari B. S.

Top Seller Junior Division -Scarlett C.

Top Seller Intermediate Division -Holly W.

Family who sold Three books or More Draw Winner -Madison J.

Top Seller of All Families-Tie! Madison B. and Nathan W.

Dressing for Cold Weather



With the arrival of cold weather, parents are reminded to send children to school dressed for the weather. Warm hats, mitts, scarves, boots, heavy coats and snow pants will allow your child to enjoy the outside comfortably during recesses. Extra pairs of socks and pants tucked into backpacks also come in handy. Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes to wear inside the school.

Winter Playground Rules

Winter Playground Rules

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the Winter Season will be a rule rather than an exception. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn; i.e., boots, gloves, etc. With the number of students at our school, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of snowball throwing.

The following playground rules are in effect for the Winter Season:

- * No throwing snowballs
- * No kicking or throwing snow
- * No breaking of forts

Remember if you are wearing a mask outside when playing in the snow, if the mask gets wet it will need to be replaced with a new one.

Please be advised that students engaging in these types of behaviors will be dealt with accordingly. If this behavior continues, parents will be contacted and further consequences will come into effect.



Emergency School Closing

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to let our parents know the procedure that will be followed.

If bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, the children **will not** be picked up after school at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is your responsibility to pick up your child at the end of the day.

When transportation services are cancelled, **only the school remains open**, and it is the responsibility of the parent to determine whether or not it is safe for a student to walk to and from school. In inclement weather, listen to your local radio station for announcements. CJRN (Niagara Falls) 710 AM, CKTB (St. Catharines) 610 AM, SPIRIT (Welland)



Procedures Relating to Inclement Weather AFTER the School Day Begins:

- A) Transportation is cancelled and the school is kept open.
- B) Transportation is cancelled and the school is closed.

At this point, the safety of our children is our prime concern. The school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary **after children have arrived at school.** This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The option, you as a parent, have chosen on the Emergency School Closing Form will apply to all emergency dismissals.



School Cash Online

Register for School Cash Online

Please click on the button below for instructions to register for School Cash Online. The easy, safe way to pay for school items and events.

School Cash Online Registration Instructions - Click



Safe Arrival / School Messenger

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL WITH ANY CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES.

Please use the Safe Arrival system to report all absences and lates for your child.

You can report an absence by:

PHONE - 1-844-287-6287

ONLINE: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

APP: SchoolMessenger



NCDSB Dress Code

NCDSB Dress Code The following serves as a reminder for families as the warmer weather approaches and if dress code purchases are being made. Students must wear the elementary standardized dress code items properly and in compliance with the expectations throughout the school day and at all activities and events as representatives of the school and/or Board. It is the expectation that students wear the elementary standardized dress code as a condition of attendance in an elementary school within the Niagara Catholic District School Board at a minimum, if the elementary student is not in compliance with the mandatory elementary standardized dress code, parents and guardians will be contacted to bring the required dress code items to school.

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Early Learning Kindergarten to Grade 3
- Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted)
- Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or · Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts.
- Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers. Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve)
- Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve); or
- School designed spirit wear polo shirt.

The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.

In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

Running shoes are the recommended footwear with a full back and a closed toe. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: <https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/policies-protocols-docs/policies/> (Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy)

St. Denis Spirit Wear

We are very pleased to let you know that Big Bear Spiritwear is our spirit wear provider and will be supplying our school with customized school dress code “gear”. Big Bear Spiritwear is a board approved supplier located in Niagara Falls. Families are able to order single items or many as they would like. Finished product are delivered to the school once every few weeks and the timeline for

filling an order is 7-10 business days (sometimes less). Please use the button below which will take you directly to the St. Denis Catholic School Ordering page at Big Bear Spiritwear.



[Order St. Denis Spirit Wear - Click Here](#)



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Victoria Wegelin

Victoria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters