



St. Joseph NEWS

We are proud to be a part of the Lakeshore Catholic and St. Michael Family of Schools.

FEBRUARY 2025

We are all called by name to grow with God!



February's Reflection:

In the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus teaching his disciples saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven".

Jesus called the disciples, as He calls each of us, to follow Him by living the Beatitudes. Jesus IS the Beatitudes. Looking at Him you see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, and to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say, "Come, follow me!" He does not simply say, "Do what I say." He says, "come, follow me!"

The month of February is promising to be a busy one! Our faith journey continues with a focus on following Jesus through service to others. When we accept God's grace to be true servants of those around us, we become more like Him Who we love. May we never fail to seek every opportunity to serve Our Lord and those we encounter throughout our day.

Our gratitude for our gifts and talents is highlighted throughout our **Kids Helping Kids Campaign**. God has blessed all of us with a uniqueness that needs to be celebrated! Our activities focus on our ability to love who we are so that we can love others and God more deeply. We acknowledge that the uniqueness of some, requires special care. Through our fundraising efforts, this care is provided at the Niagara Children's Centre and the **Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education**.

On February 17th (Family Day) the challenge is to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the love you have for your family in special way - take a walk, cook a meal together, read a book, revisit a family tradition that was once forgotten, hug, laugh, love and cherish home and family as the special treasure that it is!

Mrs. S. Walsh ~ Principal

A PRAYER FOR FAMILY DAY

God in heaven, With a mother's tender embrace You love and nurture us, With a father's strength You save and protect us.
Look upon our family and keep us close to you. Grant that we may be like Jesus and support, comfort and help one another.
Give us a love like Mary's That we may nurture the presence of Jesus in each other and in all your people.
Give us a faith like Joseph's That we may care for one another And help those in need. We praise and bless you, Lord God,
through Jesus Christ. In the power of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amen





Valentine's Day: Feb 13th, 2025

All students are welcome to bring in Valentine's Day cards and **NON-Edible tokens** for their friends (any edible treats will be returned home). For our Kinders and Primary students, if you could please address cards : To My Friend, From (Name). It is also Red/White/Pink day if you choose, or wear your standard uniform.



PINK SHIRT DAY



Cultivating a Community Of Kindness

Our 2025 Pink Shirt Day theme is all about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to school. It all starts with small gestures—a kind word, an offer of support or understanding. If we plant enough, pretty soon, more will be sprouting up all around us! By sprinkling these seeds of empathy and compassion, we can work towards a world without bullying and “Let Kindness Grow” through all of our kindness community gardens. The Pink Shirt Day campaign recognizes the importance of unity, inclusivity, and diversity of all people. **Students are encouraged to wear a pink shirt with their standardized dress code bottoms.**

Special Education Advisory Committee SPOTLIGHT



Bethesda inspires, encourages and empowers children, youth, and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families, to live their best lives. Bethesda offers a wide range of support for individuals and their families including free and immediate access to many services for children and youth and support for families to access services and resources in the community. Bethesda also offers adult services, including day and recreational and supported living programs. Visit Bethesda's website for a list of services, supports and programs and for contact information.

KINDERGARTEN

SEPTEMBER 2025 REGISTRATION

Open House February 4th 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Niagara Catholic will welcome all little Protectors for Registration on February 8th. Registrations for Kindergarten can be completed online, and all documentation can be sent digitally to the school or brought in during the open house. An email will be sent by the school once the registration is received. Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year (**children born in 2021**) is available throughout the school year, on the Board website: <https://niagaracatholic.ca/registration/> To welcome our new families registered for the 2025-2026 new school year, the school principal and Kindergarten teams will schedule a Kindergarten Family Orientation evening during May, 2025. A Welcome to Kindergarten presentation link will be available and further details will follow closer to the date.

SHARE THE NEWS WITH FAMILIES AND FRIENDS JOIN THE ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILY TODAY!

OUR ECO STEWARDSHIP CONTINUES



Since 2010, millions of Canadians have shown their support for limiting global temperature rise by wearing a comfy winter sweater on the first Thursday in February.

This eco mindfulness allows us to take a moment to reflect and think about how we impact one of God's greatest gifts, Mother Earth. This **Thursday, February 6**, with their dress code pants, students are encouraged to wear a comfy, cozy sweater of their choice, as we turn down the temperature a degree or two, to limit the use of our energy.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be available on the parent portal on **February 11 in the PM.**



BIG BOX FUNDRAISER

We are launching our Big Box of Card Fundraiser.

Each box of cards contains quality cards with envelopes and are \$35.00 per box. There are four boxes to choose from:

Big Box of All Occasion (35 cards),

Big Box of All Birthday (35 cards),

Big Box of Kids Birthday(35 Cards),

Holiday Box (50 Cards)

These boxes are great to keep on hand and also make great gifts. If you go online and search Big Box Fundraising, you can take a look and see examples of cards that are in each of the boxes. Purchases are optional.

All orders must be ordered and paid for on SchoolCash Online by February 20, 2025.

*REMINDER: changing the quantity at the bottom will adjust the quantity of ALL items checked off. For simplicity and convenience of the shopper - select all items with the **SAME** desired quantity and "Add to Cart". If you would like to order more items with a DIFFERENT quantity, click the "BACK" button at the bottom. This will bring you back to the main page where you can re-select "Big Box Cards" and place your next order. Repeat this process until all desired items have been added to the cart. Once your order is complete, confirm that the items in your cart are correct and proceed to checkout.

Thank you in advance for supporting
St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

FEBRUARY 10 - 21, 2025



Niagara Catholic's Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from **February 10 - 21, 2025**. This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. **Kids Helping Kids** is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in special activities:

Hats Off To You!: Wear your favourite hat! (dress code required)

Funky Hair: Get creative with your hairdo! (dress code required)

Red/White/Pink: Wear red, white and/or pink! (no dress code required)

Protectors in Black: Wear shades of black! (no dress code required)

Western Day: Dress in western gear or dress code.

Jersey Day: Wear your jersey with your dress code. Dodgeball against staff!

Donations to the **Kids Helping Kids** fundraiser can be made in SchoolCash Online. For every \$1.00 donation made, you will get 1 ticket (\$2 - 2 tickets, \$3 - 3 tickets, \$10 - 10 tickets etc.) for a chance to win one of the following: A Big Stuffy, IceDog Tickets or Principal for the Day!!

For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905-735-0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: Niagarachildrencentre.com





From Public Health



Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?



Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community.

Check out our [School Health webpage](#) for some important links and supports:

- [Childhood illnesses of diseases and public health significance](#)
- [Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods](#)
- [Dental Screening](#)
- [School-aged vaccines](#)
 - Parents and legal guardians of junior and senior kindergarten registrants and

Is your child due for vaccines?

Go to [Immunization Connect](#) to review your child's immunization history and check the **Immunizations Needed** section for missing vaccines.

If your child is missing any vaccines, book an appointment to get them vaccinated. Vaccines are available at healthcare providers' offices, walk-in clinics or Public Health vaccination clinics.

Bring your yellow card or immunization record print out from [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](#) to each vaccine visit. This will help you and your health care provider keep an up-to-date record of which vaccines have been received.

Can't find any immunization records? Here are some [tips](#) to help you.

- **Previous healthcare providers** will keep records for a limited time. Also check with local health units, your pharmacist, and any urgent care clinics, as well as hospital emergency departments.
- **At home** – Close family members such as parents or guardians may have copies of your childhood immunizations in old papers, including baby books and school or camp forms.
- **Schools, colleges, universities or other post-secondary institutions** may still have records for you or your child.
- **Previous employers**, including the military, may still have records from your employment.

If your family is having trouble with locating or transferring immunization records, please [contact the Vaccine Team](#) and a nurse will discuss what needs to be done. Translation services are also provided.



Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From **February 1st to 7th 2025** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) and eating disorder groups nationwide that come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre "Transform the Narrative" Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)

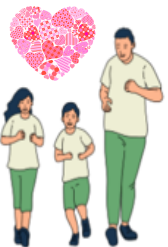
Family Day



Family Day is coming up on **Monday, February 17th** and it's a great chance to spend time with loved ones. Whether it's starting a new tradition like a family hike, playing outdoors, trying a nutritious recipe, or enjoying a fun board game together, this Family Day can be all about building lasting memories and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

To support you in making Family Day a meaningful occasion, we invite you to explore local programs and events to make the most of the day and keep your family active, engaged, and healthy!

- **Explore an EarlyON centre**, providing free, high-quality drop-in programs for children from birth to six years of age. Click [here](#) to access their family day calendar!
- **The local Performing Arts Centre** has a full day of exciting events for all ages. Check out their [schedule](#) and enjoy a variety of activities happening throughout the day.
- **Visit the Merriton Community Centre** on February 15th for their annual Family Fun Day
- **Find a new adventure spot** in a [regional walking or hiking trail](#)
- **Check your local public library** for free family day activities





Please join us for our...



Open House

Thursday, February 13, 2025

6:00pm to 8:00pm

doors open at 5:45pm

Come meet current students and our exceptional faculty, and explore our state-of-the-art facilities!



150 Janet Street
Port Colborne

