



Sacred Heart Spectator



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 Principal: Mr. J. Romeo School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
 Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

February 2025

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – FEBRUARY

Black history in Canada

Black Canadians and their communities have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator, and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

The role of Black Canadians and their communities in Canada has largely been ignored as a key part of Canada's history. There is little mention that some of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were people of African descent, nor the fact that many soldiers of African descent made many sacrifices in wartime as far back as the War of 1812.

Few people in Canada are aware of the fact that African people were once enslaved in the territory that is now known as Canada, or of how those who fought enslavement helped to lay the foundation of Canada's diverse and inclusive society.

Black History Month is a time to learn more about these Canadian stories and the many other important contributions that Black Canadians and their communities have made to the history and continued growth of this country.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

All registrations for Kindergarten 2025 will be completed online. Please visit the Niagara Catholic website niagaracatholic.ca and click on [REGISTER](#) button on the homepage (also linked above)

If you have a child born in 2021, or you know of someone who lives in our boundary area and they have a child born in 2021, they are eligible for Year One Kindergarten.



KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE – Thursday February 6 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All those who have currently registered their child for JK in Sept of 2025 or are interested in registering to become a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic family are welcome to drop in for a tour of our Kindergarten class(es) and our school on this date!

Guest Speaker: Jon Hansen

Jon Hansen is an inspirational speaker, former educator, and social media influencer with over a million TikTok followers and 300 million video views. With nearly 20 years of experience in education, Jon travels across Canada inspiring students of all ages to unlock their potential, embrace resilience, and rediscover their inner greatness. As the author of *The Greatness Code: Rediscover Your Strong Within*, Jon's powerful message of self-belief and personal growth continues to make a lasting impact on students. His engaging, relatable approach helps young people thrive not just in school, but in life and beyond. Visit jonhansenspeaks.com for more information about Jon and his message.

Also, here is a video for [parents](#)

Jon will be visiting Sacred Heart and speaking to our Gr. 4—8 students on Tuesday February 18.

SACRED HEART PARISH MASS TIMES

- **Saturday:** 5:00 p.m. Parish Phone Number: 905-295-4455
- **Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow Sacred Heart on Instagram to get the latest updates: [@sacredheartniagara](#)

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary

A proud member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



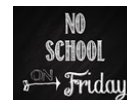
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ON THE CALENDAR

PA DAY – Friday February 14, 2025

Friday February 14, 2025 is a professional activity day. There is no school for students on this date.



Family Day Holiday – Monday February 17, 2025



Monday, February 17th, 2025 is the Family Day Holiday. Celebrating *Family Day* is important to us because it is a chance to stand in unity with families in our community who share in the challenges, struggles and successes that come with family life. *Family Day* is an opportunity to celebrate our commitment to our family and our values.

HOT LUNCHES & MILK PROGRAM

Hot lunches this month (orders are processed via School Cash Online):

Pizza Day – Thursday February 13, 2025 (orders are due Feb 10)

Sub Day – Thursday February 27, 2025 (orders are due Feb 24)



KIDS HELPING KIDS CAMPAIGN – 2025

Niagara Catholic's 27th 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 events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Creative Hair Day. Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online. 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: niagarachildrenscentre.com

Themed Days:

A reminder that if a student decides NOT to participate in any of the themed days then they are to attend school following our regular dress code!!

Date:	Theme Day	Additional Information
Monday February 10 th	Jersey Day	Wear your own jersey or one of your favourite team's!
Tuesday February 11 th	Decade Day	Primary—80's Junior—90's Intermediate—2000's
Wed. February 12 th	Wild Hair and Wacky Sock	Regular Dress Code except for your socks!!
Thurs. February 13 th	Red White and Pink Day	WE CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY TODAY! Given that today is the day we are recognizing Valentine's Day, students are encouraged to wear Red, White and Pink.
Tuesday February 18 th	Board Game Day	Regular Dress Code day
Wed. February 19 th	Super Hero Day	Shirts from your favourite action hero or action movie franchise
Thurs. February 20 th	Colour Competition Day	Each grade will have a designated colour to dress in
Friday February 21 st	Pajama / Movie / Popcorn & Ice Cream Day	Movies during Nutrition Breaks, Bring in Popcorn and there will be Ice Cream for sale (proceeds to KHK)



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SPORTING NEWS!!!

SACRED HEART STUDENT ATHLETIC NEWS

SPORTS UPDATE

The first month of 2025 has set up the remainder of the school year to be quite busy when it comes to student athletics and we are quite proud of all of our students including our student athletes!!! January saw Junior Girls and Boys basketball teams in action as they travelled to Saint Michael Catholic High School on January 22 for the Family of School Tournament. Mrs. Bender and Mr. Romeo had a great time coaching our girls and boys teams. Congratulations go out to:

Junior Girls Basketball — Violet B., Grace B., Alice C., Mia C., Ryleigh C., Emmalynn D., Lexi L., Isabel M., Olivia M., Sydney M. and Chelsea S.

Junior Boys Basketball — Dryden B., Gage D., Kruze D., Lucas G., Preston G., Cohen G., Roy K., Bryce M., Lincoln M., William M., David P., Mark P., Noah R., Naeso W., and Westen W.



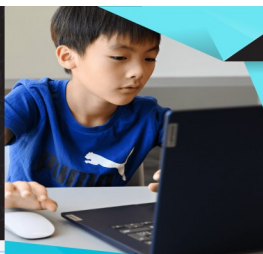
LOOKING AHEAD!

March Break Camps

DISCOVERING MATH CAMP

WHAT IS IT?
Discovering Math Camp is a virtual program for Ontario students in grades 6 to 8, held during March break. Led by experienced educators, it offers interactive lessons and activities to build math skills and problem-solving abilities.

With a focus on prioritizing students from underserved communities, this initiative aims to inspire a lifelong appreciation for math while building confidence and skills in a fun and enriching setting.



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Interested students are required to fill out the Discovering Math Camp application form on the [CEMC](https://cemc.uwaterloo.ca) website by February 10, 2025.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

- Students in grades 6 to 8 from Ontario
- We will prioritise students who have limited access to resources at home and in their community.

DATES & LOCATION

- Daily online lessons over the March Break (Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14, 2025) from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

FEES

- No fees.
- Discovering Math Camp is a completely free program offered by the CEMC.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Participants will be presented with materials and problem sets at each session.
- Possible topics include counting problems with permutations and combinations, ratios and musical notes and introductions to computer science.

LEARN MORE



Interested students are required to fill out the Discovering Math Camp application form on the CEMC website by February 10, 2025.



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SACRED HEART SPIRIT WEAR

Please note that Bigbear Spiritwear will now be supplying Spirit wear and dress code items that will be available for sale via their website. Please access [Sacred Heart's](#) direct link.



ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE



The Niagara Catholic DSB has a Standardized Elementary Dress Code in place for students in elementary schools. All students are to wear navy bottoms and navy blue or white shirts. For more detailed information, please view the NCDSB flyer [here](#).

CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOL & SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS

To minimize distractions, students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off or onto silent mode during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning, for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off or on silent and have them stored away.

Social media platforms on school networks and board devices will be disabled. This is intended to limit the number of interruptions in class and to benefit the mental health and well-being of students. Niagara Catholic already blocks access to some social media sites. Now all will be unavailable to students on the board network during the school day.

WINTER WEATHER AND WINTER RULES

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the winter season will be a normal thing each day. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn, i.e., boots, gloves, hats, scarf, etc. As is always the case, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form. Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please remember that snow is nice to look at, but should be left on the ground.



STUDENT CONSENT FORMS

Each year students have the opportunity to join in many learning activities here at school or on educational field trips. The school is asking that parents complete the following consent forms ([found on School Cash Online](#)), to ensure the school has the necessary information to keep your child/children safe.

Parent Consent - Student Personal Information (all K-8 students) - This form allows us to know parent preferences when it comes to using a child's information (ie. images, etc) in school publications such as social media posts, class photos and the school yearbook.

NCDSB Athletic Participation /Acknowledgement of Risk Form (Gr. 4-8 students only) - This form explains risks associated with participation in activities happening on school property and allows parent to indicate preferences regarding a child's participation in day-to-day activities (ie. intramurals, sports team tryouts, etc).

Educational Field Trips and activities happening off school property will have a separate consent form sent home.



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE—PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for our students, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SchoolCash Online. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school. **To register, please go to:** <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

SCHOOL MESSENGER - SAFE ARRIVAL

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. School Messenger allows parents to report their child’s absence quickly and conveniently using the **mobile app**, a **website**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This process allows the school to verify student attendance and notify parents of an unreported student absence efficiently.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn’t been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will contact you to get a reason for the absence. Calls will continue until you choose an option to explain your child’s absence.

PLEASE use the following information to report your child's absence: mobile app, online at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

STUDENT AWARE INTERNET FILTER

This is just a reminder to families that all Niagara Catholic schools use a software program called “Student Aware”. This program enables schools to monitor its student internet traffic while using Board internet devices. The “Student Aware” program will be identifying and notifying school staff when students access online websites related to suicide, violence, abuse and/or other dangerous activities that could be injurious to themselves and/or others. When high-risk incidents are identified, the occurrence will be investigated and school administration will respond accordingly to support student mental health and well-being.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME & SCHOOL—QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

The Ministry of Education has given school boards new requirements on how to communicate with parents who have questions, concerns, or complaints. This information will also be shared on the Parents section of the Board website and school websites in time for the start of the new school year. The process is outlined below:

- Parents/guardians should expect a response to a concern within **two business days**.
- If parents have a question about a classroom-related matter, such as curriculum, homework, classroom behavior, or specific incidents, please contact the child’s teacher.
- If the parent cannot resolve the issue at the classroom level and/or have a question about school procedures, extra-curricular activities, or safety concerns, please contact the school Principal.
- For issues unresolved at the school level or issues related to Niagara Catholic policies, procedures, resource allocation, or other concerns, please contact the Superintendent of Education assigned to Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary

MORNING SUPERVISION REMINDER

Our first bus arrives at 8:35 a.m. Students should not be beyond the gates of the school until 8:35 a.m. Parents are reminded that students should not be at school earlier than 8:35 a.m. Your cooperation is appreciated.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MISSION

We are a Christ-centred 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



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING PROTOCOL

While in the middle of the winter season, and as we hope that it doesn't come to this, it is important to remind all of our parents of the Emergency School Closing Protocol. The Niagara Catholic District School Board will make every attempt to keep schools open during periods of inclement weather. Only in exceptional circumstances will schools be closed part way through the day. In these rare cases, we will follow the procedure and prior information collected regarding the picking up of your children. If your contact information or pick-up arrangements have changed, you are asked to please contact Mrs. Plyley at the office so the necessary updates can be made. Announcements concerning school closures or cancellations will be made on all local radio stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. You can also check the Board website at www.niagaracatholic.ca as well as the board's social media accounts.

NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Please use the following link to access the information from Niagara Region Public Health aimed at parents of school aged children. [Public Health Newsletter—February](#)

