



# ST. JAMES NEWS

SKYHAWKS

APRIL 2025

## Safe Arrival

To report your child absent please use one of the three methods listed below:

1. Use the SafeArrival website,

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger App (blue logo) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.

3. The toll-free number

1-844-287-6287

will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

615 Geneva Street St. Catharines, ON.  
(905) 934-3112

Principal: Mr. K. Lococo

Superintendent: Mr. J. Zaroda

School Secretary: Mrs. C. Dionne-Taylor

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bruzzese

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

## ON THE CALENDAR

SPRING DRAW - March 21, 2025 to April 3, 2025

World Autism Day - April 2, 2025

Professional Activity Day (No School for Students) - April 4, 2025

Krispy Kreme Ordering Open - April 9, 2025

Good Friday (No School for Students) - April 18, 2025

Easter Monday (No School for Students) - April 21, 2025

Grade 7's Vaccination Clinic (Round 2) - April 28, 2025

## UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The gymnasium will be undergoing extensive renovations beginning May 1, 2025. The scope of the construction includes: replacement of existing flooring, painting of all walls including stage, heating and ventilation units, new adjustable basketball nets, completely new storage room upgrade and padding to the walls. Our fundraising effort will assist us in purchasing new equipment for the gym. Due to the work required the gymnasium will remain closed until November 30, 2025 (Projected Date).

## HOT LUNCH DAYS

Thursday April 3, 2025 - Antipasto Day

Thursday April 10, 2025 - Pizza Day

Thursday April 17, 2025 - Burrito Boys

Thursday April 24, 2025 - Mandarin Day

Friday 25, 2025 - Hot Dog Day

Friday 25, 2025 - Booster Juice Day

## SPORTS

Boys Junior Handball Tournament - Thursday May 1, 2025 at St. Francis Catholic High School

Girls Junior Handball Tournament - Thursday May 1, 2025 at St. Francis Catholic High School

## MORNING SUPERVISION REMINDER

Students should not be beyond the gates of the school until 8:50 a.m. Parents are reminded that students should not be at school earlier than 8:50 a.m. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### KRISPY KREME

Starting April 9, 2025 up to May 6, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. we are running the Original Glazed Krispy Kreme doughnut fundraiser. Funds for this event will help offset school trips for each grade.

\$14.00 per 1 dozen of the Original Glazed (Classic) Krispy Kreme Donuts.

You are free to order as many as you wish for friends or family, but please note, there is a limited quantity of doughnuts by the dozen available and once they are sold out, they are sold out!

We were only able to secure a small number during this time of the year.

Our order to Krispy Kreme needs to be placed no later than noon on May 6th, therefore late orders cannot be accommodated.

We will have them at the school, ready to pick-up on May 13th, 2025. An email to families will go out alerting you when they are ready to be picked up.



### T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Throughout the month of February a T-Shirt Design Contest was held for all students to participate. Students were provided with the parameters that they were allowed to use in their designs. Classroom Teachers provided guidance and opportunities for student to research and create their own unique design. Completed designs were submitted throughout the month of February with the final submission date of Friday February 28, 2025. In March our student council met to review the numerous designs submitted and narrowed the selection to four different options. The four options were then provided to all staff at St. James to vote on their favourite without knowing any of the artists. Based on the student council, staff and office staff a design has been chosen. The sketch of the design was sent off to be electronically created and sent back to the school on different T-Shirt colour options. In April the T-Shirts will be produced and in May each student will receive their very own shirt from the contest. We will be positing on school cash online so that you will be able to chose the appropriate size for you child(ren). We will announce the winning design and digital shirt image to the community congratulating our winning artists in April. The costs of all shirts will be covered by Catholic School Council and funds raised through the Toonie Tuesday Program. Thank you to all those who participated in the contest and we look forward to the "Official Reveal." Stay Tuned!

### CONGRATULATIONS

We want to give a huge shoutout to our incredible Junior Girls Basketball Team for their dedication and teamwork during the recent tournament held on March 4, 2025 at St. Denis Catholic Elementary School. The team faced tough competition however, their Skyhawk spirit and sportsmanship were nothing short of inspiring. Throughout the tournament, these young athletes displayed outstanding effort, determination, and most importantly, amazing team unity. They cheered each other on and worked together through every challenge. Great Job girls! A special thank you to Allie in Mrs. Buordolone class for helping out with all practices and guiding the team with expertise.



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### ST. JAMES SPIRITWEAR

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 [St. James Skyhawks direct link](#).



### ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESSCODE

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 SCHOOLS

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.

### WEATHER EXPECTATIONS

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the April 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 importance of dressing for the weather. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please remember that students should not be going outside for a 20 minute recess break without a jacket.



### 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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### SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

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.schoolcashonline.com/>

### ANAPHYLAXIS AWARENESS

All classroom at St. James are peanut, tree nut, sesame, seafood, coconut, pineapple, avocado and egg safe classrooms. No peanuts, peanut products, tree nuts or raw/cooked eggs are allowed at any time. We have many students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, peanut products and/or eggs. Please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed their hands after eating peanuts, peanut products or eggs for breakfast/lunch at home.

We must make every effort to ensure we do not contaminate our learning environment for these students. Please respect the safety of all students. Remember how you would want your child protected by their school community if your child had a fatal allergy.

### 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.

### EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE 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. Dionne-Taylor 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](http://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.

Access the April Newsletter from Public Health [Here](#).







## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026



The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board. The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month, on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public, livestreamed and recorded.

### **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2025-2026 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to ***Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025.***

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES**

To be eligible for election/appointment as a parent/guardian representative to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, a person:

- must be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a school of the Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- must support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board; and
- must fully participate in the annual Commissioning Ceremony of NCPIC members.

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2025-2026 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership are as follows:

|                                    |             |                                 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet  | 2 positions | Parent/Guardian Representatives |
| Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln       | 1 position  | Parent/Guardian Representative  |
| Thorold/Merriton                   | 2 positions | Parent/Guardian Representatives |
| Niagara Falls                      | 2 positions | Parent/Guardian Representatives |
| St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake | 2 positions | Parent/Guardian Representatives |
| Welland/Pelham                     | 1 position  | Parent/Guardian Representative  |

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form ***no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025.*** Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website. Please click on the link: [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](#).

**Please send nomination forms to:**

Catholic Education Centre  
427 Rice Road  
Welland, ON L3C 7C1  
Attention: Yvonne Anderson  
or by email to: [yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com](mailto:yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com)