



St. Ann May Flyer

St. Ann Catholic Elementary is part
of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools



MAY, 2025

EASTER SEASON

Easter celebrates the beginning and foundation of Christianity. Jesus was raised from the dead, and it goes to show that He conquered sin and death.

The Easter season began on Sunday, April 20, 2025 and continues for fifty days ending on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8, 2025.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION and MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Catholic Education and Mental Health Week is scheduled for the week of May 4th -10th, 2025! The theme of the week is, "*Pilgrims of Hope*". Each year the Catholic Community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. There are many links between our faith and mental health, and that is why it is important that we talk about them together.



The theme for Catholic Education Week 2025 was inspired by the following considerations:

- In February of 2022, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the upcoming 2025 holy year would be "Pilgrims of Hope." "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. (from Vatican News, a short video on the history of the Jubilee/Holy Year: <https://x.com/VaticanNews/status/1783768498885275868>)
- The Holy Father asks us to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many refugees forced to leave their homes. He also summons us, as stewards of Creation, "to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home."
- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement toward a goal, often lived together with others – and that certainly describes Catholic education. Hope – one of the three theological virtues – is grounded in our Easter faith in Jesus' resurrection and renewal; this is what enables us to be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus' name. Pope Francis invites us to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people. Even in challenging times, our eyes are focussed on the future.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

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| Day 1: | By honouring human dignity |
| Day 2: | By caring for creation |
| Day 3: | By responding to the poverties in our world |
| Day 4: | By serving in solidarity |
| Day 5: | By living as peacemakers |

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Every year during Catholic Education Week we recognize and celebrate our Grandparents, as our namesake, St. Ann, was Jesus' grandmother.

On **Friday, May 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**, we will be hosting a celebration for grandparents, parents are also invited.

In preparation for the celebration, please consider sending a photo of your child(ren) with their grandparent **to Mrs. Tremeer at maria.tremeer@ncdsb.com**, before Tuesday, May 6, 2025.



CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARD

The Niagara Catholic "Catch the Spirit Student Award of Excellence" will be held on Tuesday May 6, 2025 at Brock University. This year the award is being presented to Grade 8 student Caitlynn Vasas. Caitlynn has demonstrated outstanding qualities in the following areas: involvement in school and Parish affairs, involvement in local community activities, combined with strong leadership qualities and a high degree of academic excellence. Congratulations Caitlynn!



GRADUATION

Our Grade Eight Graduation Committee is requesting that all grade eight parents save the date of Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 for the Grade Eight Graduation Ceremony. The Graduation will take place at St. Ann School in our Gymnasium. A reception will follow. If you are a grade eight parent and would like to join our planning committee, please contact Mr. Ward at StevenWard@ncdsb.com to sign up to help! Thank you!



EQAO ASSESSMENT 2023

The Grade 3 and Grade 6 Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics will take place from Monday, May 26th, 2025 to Thursday, June 12th, 2025. We ask that you make every attempt to ensure that your child is at school during these dates, and that you try to avoid scheduling appointments or taking vacations during this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school. Thank you for your support.



SCIENCE FAIR

On Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025, at the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair Awards Banquet, the St. Ann students were well represented, as six students took home awards! Congratulations to Scarlett M.; Gabriel B.; Emma B. & Carlee B. who all won the O.E.C.T.A. Award. Emma and Carlee also won the Brock University Chemistry Award and Elia K. and Leela T. were recognized with an Honourable Mention Award in the Juvenile Category! Great job Science Fair Team!



JUNIOR GIRLS' and BOYS' HANDBALL

Congratulations to the Junior Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams who both showed very well in their Family of Schools Tournaments.

The Girls' didn't lose a game and won the gold medal and the Boys' lost in the final to capture the silver medal! Congratulations to the teams and their coaches, Mrs. Sahota and Mrs. Clifford on a great season!!



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

May 2025

Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.



A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

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| • Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes | • One eye that turns out or in |
| • Blinking often | • Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes |
| • Turning or tilting the head to the side often | • Reporting blurry or double vision |
| • Covering or closing one eye | • Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain |

For more information on vision screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.

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 and diseases of 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 students new to Ontario are asked to report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#).

LANGUAGE (READING) CORNER – *Print Awareness*

Print awareness (also called “concepts of print”) is a child’s earliest introduction to literacy. Children with print awareness understand that print carries meaning and has different functions depending on the context in which it appears — for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can identify a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

Most children become aware of print long before they enter school. They see print all around them, on signs and billboards, in alphabet books and story books, and in labels, magazines, and newspapers. Seeing print and observing adults’ reactions to print helps children recognize its various forms.

The ability to understand how print works does not emerge magically and unaided. This understanding comes about through the active intervention of adults and other children who point out letters, words, and other features of the print that surrounds children.

When children are read to regularly, when they play with letters and engage in word games, and later, when they receive formal reading instruction, they begin to understand how the system of print functions; that is, print on a page is read from left to right and from top to bottom; that sentences start with capital letters and end with periods, and much, much more.

MATH CORNER – Counting: Abstraction

Abstraction requires an understanding that we can count any collection of objects, whether tangible or not. For example, the quantity of five large items is the same count as a quantity of five small items or a mixed group of five small and large things. Another example may include a student being able to count linking cubes that represent some other set of objects like cars, dogs, or bikes.

Children often consider groups of larger items to have more value than groups of smaller items. For example, a child may believe that the quantity of the 3 cars in the parking lot is larger than the 3 toy cars placed on the play mat

Strategies that Support Student Learning

- Counting non-tangible quantities such as sounds, actions, words, or steps.
- Matching groups of different items with the same quantity.

If you observe: A child playing with toys of different sizes...

Consider: Taking a group of 2 larger items and a group of 3 smaller items and asking which has more.



“Called By Name: Follow Me”

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

