

St. Patrick Catholic School

September Newsletter 2025

Registered Families will receive weekly updates through school messenger.

Contact the school if your email, phone or address has changed.

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School Port Colborne

Principal: Mrs. MK Kalagian

Secretary: Mrs. D Handley

Superintendent: Mr. Pat Rocca

Website: niagaracatholic.ca

School location: 266 Rosemount Ave Port Colborne, Ontario

Phone: (905) 835 1091



Welcome to St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School

Checklist Check Transportation Details for your child at NSTS <https://www.nsts.ca/>

Register for Safe Arrival to receive school messages and report your child's attendance

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/safearrival/>

St. Patrick Church Pastor Fr. Wes 905-834-6426 parishstpatrick@gmail.com

Register for School Cash Online to make purchases from the school

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> Have your dress code ready to go (see below)

Please visit our school website anytime for links to School Cash Online and School Messenger/Safe Arrival

St. Patrick Staff for 2024-2025

PRIMARY TEAM:

Kindergarten - Mrs. Gillespie & Ms. Christopher (ECE) and Mrs. Hornak

Grade 1/2 - Mrs. Peazel

Grade 2/3 – Mr. Saltarelli

JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE TEAM:

Grade 4/5 - Mrs. Murdoch

Grade 6/7 - Mr. Perrotta

Grade 7/8 - Mr. Caldwell

PTM/IA/FSL/ESL STAFF

PTM - Ms. De Luca

FSL – Madame Battersby

SUPPORT STAFF

ERT- Mrs. Kalagian

EAs - Mrs. D’Uva, Mrs. DeCicco and Mrs. Schooley

Librarian - Mrs. Trasatti (Day 3 and 4)

CYW – Mrs. Belcamino (Day 1 & Day 2)

Secretary - Mrs. Handley

Custodian – Ms. Nuccitelli

To see what class your child is in please go to the Parent Portal on the board website.

🍂 Fall Flower Fundraiser 🍁

Starting Tuesday, September 2

We’re excited to launch a **new fundraiser** to kick off the school year! Help support our students by purchasing beautiful fall flowers.

🍁 What’s for Sale?

- **6-inch Kalanchoe Pot** – \$13.00
- **6-inch Mum Pot** – \$15.00

📅 Sale Dates:

- Available **September 2 to September 9 at noon**
- Purchase through **School Cash Online**

🍁 Flower Pickup:

- **Monday, September 15**
- Pick up anytime in the **school gym**
- **Back gym doors will be open** for easy access
- **First come, first served** for colour selection

💖 Why Support?

All proceeds will go toward purchasing items that directly benefit the students of our school. We truly appreciate your support in making this fundraiser a success!

A poster for the Fall Flower Fundraiser. It features a yellow background with a large orange maple leaf in the top right corner. The title "FALL FLOWER FUNDRAISER" is in bold, dark red letters. Below the title, it says "Starting Tuesday, September 2". There is a photo of two potted plants, one with orange flowers and one with yellow flowers. The poster lists "What's for Sale?" with two items: "6-inch Kalanchoe Pot" for \$13.00 and "6-inch Mum Pot" for \$15.00. It also lists "Sale Dates:" as "September 2 to September 9 at noon" and "Purchase through School Cash". Under "Flower Pickup:", it lists "Monday, September 15", "Anytime in school gym", and "First come, first-serve basis". Under "Why Support?", it states "All proceeds will go toward purchasing items that directly benefit the students of our school." and "We truly appreciate your support in making this fundraiser a success!".

FALL FLOWER FUNDRAISER

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Regulation on Cell Phone Use in Schools

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support

Dress Code Required for all Students

Niagara Catholic Elementary students wear a dress code. The details can be found at Niagara Catholic website under policies. Please make sure your child has a navy or white polo shirt (must have a collar) and navy bottoms - not black (pants, skirt and dark jeans). Students can wear any type of shoes; we do recommend a second set of shoes for indoor use. If your child arrives to school out of dress code we may provide the student with items to wear for the school day. If you need assistance with dress code items, please notify the school.



Order Dress Code and Spirit Wear items from Goods Sports Excellence

<https://goods.gearware.com/Shop/Store.aspx?>

[sid=1&ssid=9B9304633347DBA9D92A545851A3529FFDDE4A61](https://goods.gearware.com/Shop/Store.aspx?sid=1&ssid=9B9304633347DBA9D92A545851A3529FFDDE4A61)

Colin Gillespie

Goods Sports Excellence

goods_sporting@yahoo.ca

Our School Bell Times and Schedule

Daily Schedule:

8:10 am - 8:25 am - Supervision & arrival

8:25 am - Morning Bell

8:25 am - 8:35 am - Prayers, Announcements and Attendance

8:35 am - 9:15 am - Period 1

9:15 am - 9:55 am - Period 2

9:55 am - 10:35 am - Period 3

10:35 am - 10:55 am - Kindergarten to Grade 5 go outside;



Grade 6, 7 and 8's Nutrition break indoors
10:55 am - 11:15 am - Kindergarten to Grade 5 Nutrition Break indoors;
Grade 6, 7 and 8 go outside
11:15 am - 11:55 am - Period 4
11:55 am - 12:23 pm - Period 5
12:35 pm -12:55 pm - Kindergarten to Grade 5 go outside;
Grade 6, 7 and 8's Nutrition break indoors
12:55 pm - 1:15 pm - Kindergarten to Grade 5 Nutrition Break indoors;
Grade 6, 7 and 8 go outside
1:15 pm -1:55 pm - Period 6
1:55 pm- 2:35 pm - Period 7
2:35 pm - 2:45 pm - Organization time, prayers and dismissal
2:45 pm - Dismissal

On hot lunch days, we will be serving the hot lunches during the second nutritional break starting at 12:35 pm.

Dear St. Patrick Catholic School Families,

It is so important that while our kids are in school that we limit our interruptions to their learning. Did you know that every time a teacher has to stop the learning in the classroom because a student arrives late into the classroom it take several minutes for the teacher to re-engage all the learners. Imagine if a class has several students arriving late in the morning or returning from an appointment and has several interruptions, students can miss up to 15 to 20 minutes a day of learning.

As a result, I ask that you respect the transition times below so that we limit interruptions to our students learning.

Transition Times:

If your child has an appointment then we ask where possible you bring them to school during a natural transition time, which is during recess and lunch breaks.

If you need to pick up a child from the school for an appointment then we ask that you please pick them up during a transition times.

We understand that this is often not possible but we ask you to do your best to follow these timelines so that we are all doing our best to support the teaching and learning that is happening in our school.

**ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES - SAFE ARRIVAL SAFE
ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

The Safe Arrival Parent Portal allows parents to conveniently report their child's absence and allows school staff to respond to an unexplained absence quickly.

Absences can be reported via: -Internet ([http:// nc.schoolconnects.com](http://nc.schoolconnects.com))

Smart Phone App (search keyword "safearrival" school messenger)

Automated Telephone System (toll free 1-844-287-6287)



Full Day Absences and late arrival must be reported prior to 8:25 am or you will receive a call out from the school. It is important to have a consistent routine for getting to school and home each day. It is recommended that if your child will be taking the bus home, that this is the form of transportation they will use on a daily basis. This is to ensure consistency and safety for both your child and teachers. Should your contact information change (email, phone number, address) during the school year, please contact the office so we can update which is in turn available to NSTS, otherwise you may miss important information.

School Cash Online

We endeavor to be a cash and cheque free school which means all school purchases are done through SCHOOL CASH ONLINE. Please make sure you are signed up today.

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> What Is School Cash Online?

School Cash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more from your own home. All you have to do is register an account, attach your children and in no time you will be able to make payments online



Parent Portal

What is the parent portal and what is it for? The Niagara Catholic Parent Portal allows parents access to information regarding their child including report cards, alternative report cards and timetable and your child's classroom teacher for the following school year. How do I login to the parent portal? Use this helpful guide and follow the instructions. <https://cdn.niagaracatholic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Niagara-Catholic-Maplewood-ParentPortal-Instructions-Sept-2020.pdf>

What Students Need For School

All grades - Kindergarten to Grade 8 students need these items: * lunch bag with food for 2 nutritional breaks (no nuts or nut products) * refillable water bottle * indoor shoes if possible (Velcro or slip on unless your child can tie their own shoes) * backpack * Change of clothes Kindergarten to Grade 1 (shirt, underwear, socks, shorts/pants etc) label everything - please send in on the first day - best to send in inside ziplock bag (to store at the school) * containers your child can open for lunch/snacks (kindergarten students do receive help)



Kindergarten: * personalized hand sanitizer if you wish * box of kleenex to share (help build inventory in the class - we go through a lot of kleenex) * dry eraser marker

Grades 1 - 3: * Pencil Case * backpack * dry erase markers * box of kleenex to help build classroom inventory * crayons/markers/pencil crayons

Grade 4 - 6: * pencil case * backpack * lunch bag, refillable water bottle * calculator * dry erase markers * box of kleenex to help build class inventory* pencil crayons/markers * glue stick * personal pencil sharpener

Grade 7-8: * 1 - 1 1/2 inch binder - nothing larger please it won't fit in the desk (avoid zipped binders as well they are too big for inside student desk) * dividers (8 tabs) * calculator * box of kleenex to help build class inventory * markers/pencil crayons * highlighters * post - it notes * personal pencil sharpener * dry erase markers * glue stick * backpack, lunch bag, refillable water bottle

September 30th is Orange Shirt Day!

Orange Shirt Day is the story of Phyllis Webstad, an Indigenous woman who shared her experience at an Indian Residential School through the children's book, *The Orange Shirt Story*. By participating in Orange Shirt Day, we recognize the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential School system in Canada. The

first Orange Shirt Day occurred on September 30th, 2013 as Chief Fred Robbins saw Phyllis' story as a way of bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Since that time, Orange Shirt Day has grown into a national awareness among schools, businesses, and communities. In June 2021, the Federal Government of Canada designated September 30th as the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. While this addresses Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliations 94 Calls to Action, it coincides with an established day that was created by Survivors of Indian Residential Schools. As a Board we can acknowledge the Federal statutory day, but for school and student activities, for the present time, it remains "Orange Shirt Day" as a way of respecting the grass root Indigenous movement.



Allergy Aware School - Nut Safe-Anaphylaxes

Within our school community, there are several students who have a life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to foods, predominantly to peanuts and tree nuts (e.g. almond, cashew, hazelnut, pistachio). The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to these students is to respectfully ask for the co-operation of the parents/guardians within this school community to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts listed in the ingredients.

There is a wide range of nutritious foods available to pack for your child. Visit <http://www.eatrightontario.ca> for suggestions. For more information on anaphylaxis, visit <http://www.anaphylaxis.ca> or <http://www.aaia.ca> We are working hard at preventing accidental exposure. It is also important that we have common routines throughout the entire school There are many shared areas (washrooms, fountains, gym, library, computers, etc.) students could come



in contact with allergens. The teachers will explain the importance of the following health and safety routines to the students in their classrooms:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water before and after eating.
2. Do not bring food that contains peanuts/tree nuts.
3. Do not accept food from other students especially if you have food allergies.
4. Snacks are not permitted outside in the schoolyard.
5. Dispose of all food waste properly

Student Senate

Our student senate will continue to sell popcorn and other treats (seasonal different treats) every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for \$2.00.



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Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated. While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.



Mary Kay Kalagian

Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters