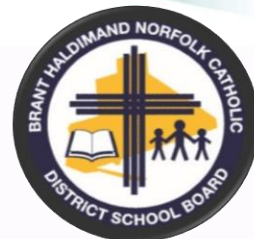




Catholic Education | **PILGRIMS OF HOPE:** ON THE PATH TO HOLINESS



for all



December 2025 School Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Families,



The holy season of Advent is upon us, and our school community is reminded of the beautiful gift of waiting with hope and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. December is a time filled with joy, anticipation, and reflection. Amidst the busyness of gatherings and holiday preparations, let us pause to remember the true meaning of Christmas: God's love made visible in the birth of Jesus.

At school, we continue to nurture this spirit through prayer, acts of kindness, and service to others and Advent liturgies. I encourage families to join us in simple ways—lighting the Advent wreath at home, sharing gratitude around the dinner table, or reaching out to those in need. These small acts help our children see that faith is lived not only in church but in everyday life.

May this season bring peace to your homes, joy to your hearts, and a renewed sense of God's presence among us. On behalf of our staff, I wish you a blessed Advent and happy holiday season.

With gratitude and prayer,

Heather Graham, Principal

Notre Dame Catholic School

35 Braemar Avenue
Caledonia, ON N3W 2M5
(905) 765-0649

Website: www.notredamecaledonia.ca

Twitter: @ndcaledonia

ZONE 2

Principal: H. Graham

Secretary: C. Woods, L. Frenza

Mass Schedule at Christmas St. Patrick's Church

Christmas Eve
5:00pm & 8:00pm

Christmas Day
10:30am

New Year's Eve
5:00pm

New Year's Day
10:30am



SCHOOL HOURS FOR BALANCED DAY

8:55 am School begins

10:35 – 11:15 am

First Nutrition Break

12:55 – 1:35 pm

Second Nutrition Break

3:15 pm School Dismissal

Please note staff are **NOT** on duty until **8:40 am**.

*Staff will be on duty to receive students off the bus. *Upon dismissal at the end of the day **ALL walkers** must leave school premises promptly.



Notify the Office

Please advise the office of any changes to your contact information.

IMPORTANT

All students (JK to Gr 8) should have a change of clothes (labelled with their name) at school for any emergencies. We do not want to bother parents during the workday if it can be helped.



"Frosty the Snowman"...

Students are encouraged to play in the snow and to make snowmen, but snowballs are not allowed. Please reinforce this rule with your child. Please ensure your child is properly dressed for the weather with mitts, hats and snow pants.

"Oh the Weather Outside is Frightful..."

Please send indoor shoes with your children during these winter months and a **change of clothes** for students in all grades. Our hallways are often wet and students in stocking feet will be uncomfortable. A change of clothes is also suggested in case of accidents. Decisions about when to hold indoor recess are dictated by the Board Inclement Weather Policy. If the temperature falls below -20C with the wind chill factored in, students are to remain indoors. Also, if the school yard condition is icy we stay inside due to safety reasons.



"Jingle Bells"

School begins at 8:55am each morning. Children should be allowed sufficient time to arrive promptly. **Parking before & after school continues to be on the street. Kiss & Drop Off to be used by students who are independent to exit a vehicle on their own so the parent can drive away promptly so not to interfere with bus drop off or pick up.**

"I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"...

We are a **Zone 2** school. Details about inclement weather conditions and school closures can be found on the board's website (www.bhncdsb.ca). **If the buses are cancelled the school is CLOSED. SCHOOL STAFF** are not available and the doors will be locked. **Never drop off your child or send them to school without checking if we are open. Please check your child's Brightspace page for schoolwork.**

Any bus delay due to road conditions/visibility can be found on the Student Transportation website (www.stsbhn.ca) or by calling 1-877-226-6353 ext.3.

SAFETY FIRST

Please drive carefully when dropping off and picking up your child(ren). Remember to give yourself ample time as the snowy road conditions may impact the parking availability around the school.

At 3:15pm students are dismissed out their own doors in an orderly fashion and under the supervision of their teachers.

"Jolly Old St. Nit..."

Tis the season for unwanted lice and/or nits. Please check your child's hair regularly/routinely. Early detection helps to minimize the risk of this spreading at home and at school as well.

Helpful Tip: Olive oil will suffocate the lice/nits if left on for 4 hours, then washed out. It is imperative that it is left on for 4 hours, as they can survive after only 3 hours without air. We appreciate your vigilance.



ONLINE REGISTRATION for September 2026

The Parent Portal will be accessible for online registrations for **NEW** students to attend Notre Dame Catholic School starting **January 5 to February 20**
Please visit: www.bhncdsb.ca


Spread
the
Word



Please visit www.bhncdsb.ca to access the online registration portal.

Notre Dame Catholic School continues to offer a French Immersion program.
In September 2026 the French Immersion program will be available for students to Grade 8.
Once again for the 2026-27 school year a cap has been instituted for kindergarten registration in the French Immersion Pathway stream.

Attention All
Grade 8 Students
starting high school
September 2026!




Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Assumption College School
FUTURE GRADE 9
STUDENT & PARENT
OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

Tour the school and find out everything you need to know about becoming an Assumption Lion!
Tours are available at 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:00pm only.

assumptionlions.com





Pizza slices can be purchased on School Cash Online for the month of January starting December 1st.

Deadline to order is December 19th



Subway lunch is available to students twice a month.

January Subway Days have been scheduled on the 13th & 27th
School Cash Online is accepting orders for January starting December 1st.

Deadline to order is December 19th

S.A.C. Festive Christmas Lunch

December 18th at 2nd Nutrition Break

Lunch will include ham, mac & cheese, corn.

Lunch will be served to students at the
2nd nutrition break.

Students to bring their own drink (and come to school with a snack for 1st nutrition break is suggested)

The cost for lunch is \$8.00*

*Payments accepted through School Cash Online
(offer expires Dec.12th)*

*Families with 3 children or more will need to purchase (if desired) for the first two (2) children, and SAC will cover the cost for the additional siblings. *Please reach out to cwoods@bhncdsb.ca when purchasing for 3 or more children.

SAC Fundraiser: ND CROC Charm

Last Minute Stocking Stuffer Idea

\$5 Notre Dame CROC charm!

Charms purchased through School Cash will be sent home with students in a sealed envelope on Dec 18th before the Christmas break.

**Alternate arrangements can be organized by contacting
cwoods@bhncdsb.ca**



DEADLINE to Order: December 15th

St. Patrick's Church News



Mass Schedule for Christmas Break

Christmas Eve

5:00pm & 8:00pm

Christmas Day

10:30am

New Year's Eve

5:00pm

New Year's Day

10:30am

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO JESUS'
BIRTHDAY**

PARTY!

**JOIN US FOR TREATS, A VISIT FROM SANTA,
AND LOTS OF JOYFUL FUN!**

**SUNDAY DEC. 21, 2025
AFTER 10:30 AM MASS**

**ST. PATRICK'S, CALEDONIA
IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT**



In the Spotlight



The Grade 1/2E & 2E classrooms gather to work on their Christmas card creations to spread some cheer with those in the community.



Mrs. McNiven/Mrs. Gaspar's K2F students are creating beautiful Advent wreaths



Mme Banda's Gr.2F class know how to spread Christmas cheer...just SING!



Mrs. Porco's Gr.2/3E class beautified our main entry with their Christmas angels.



Healthy Fundraising
for Ontario Schools

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Fresh from the Farm Fundraiser. With your purchases we were able to raise a total of \$450.00. This funding will be used by the school's ECO Team to purchase a tree for our school yard.

The ECO Team thanks you!

REMINDER: Extended Absence Expectations

Student attendance is closely screened throughout the school year. Attendance plays a critical part when setting our Knights up for success during the year. With this in mind, Board policy has created 2 forms that parents/guardians can choose from to complete (depending on the situation) when they are aware of an upcoming extended absence, 14 days or less OR 15 days & longer. It is the responsibility of the parent/ guardian to submit a form for a planned extended absence to the school prior to the student absence, with a copy placed in the student's record. Paper forms can be requested from the office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Save The Date!

Dear families of Notre Dame School,

Mark your calendars! The fun and excitement of a **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming to our school!

So, save the date! Our **Scholastic Book Fair** will take place:

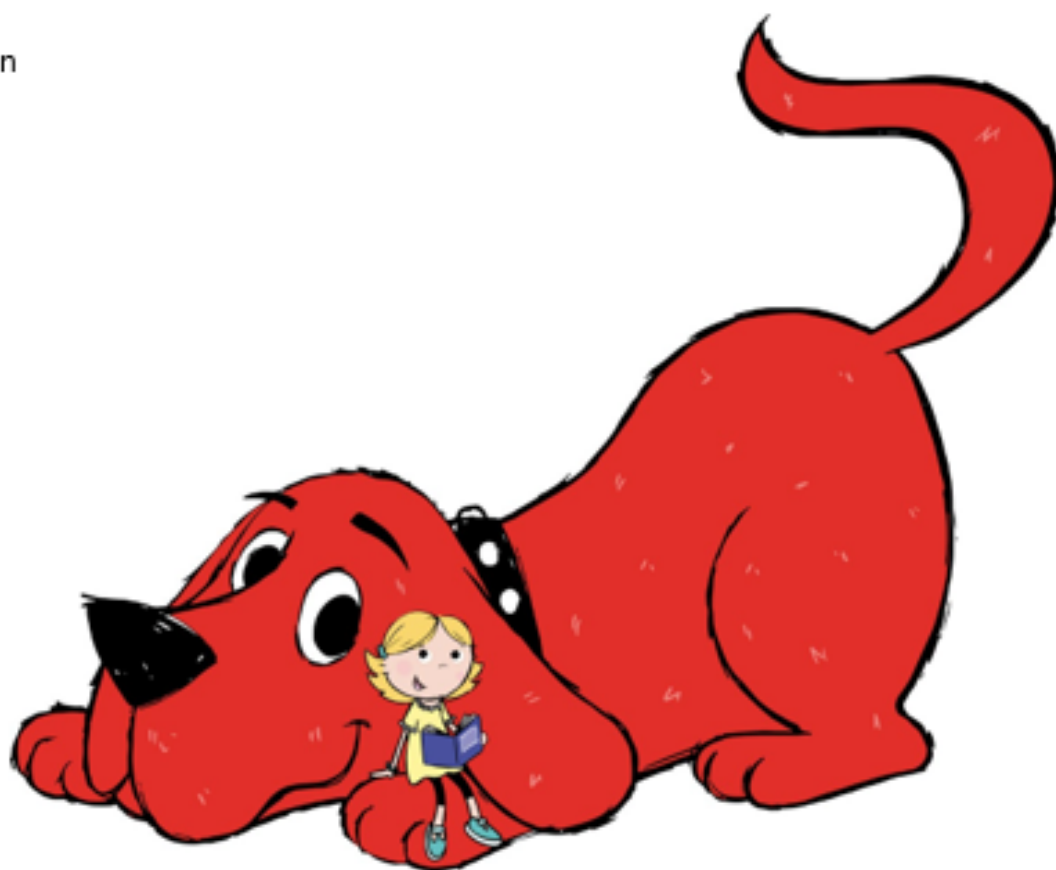
Tuesday, December 9th to Friday, December 12th

Follow the link for more information about featured titles and how to volunteer!

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.ca/bf/notredamecatholicschool6>

Watch for more news leading up to our **Scholastic Book Fair**!

Happy Reading,
Mrs. Davies, Librarian



FUNDRAISER

NOTRE DAME CALEDONIA SCHOOL

Order your groceries at niagarafresh.ca and 10% will go to **Notre Dame Caledonia School** for the first month (until December 1st) and 5% ongoing afterwards. Simply use code **'NOTREDAMECS'** at checkout to apply your order to the fundraiser.



SHOP AT



niagarafresh.ca



760 Foss Rd, Fenwick

FOLLOW US



Thanks
for Your

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Fundraising Benefiting Families & Notre Dame School

When families shop online at niagarafresh.ca and use the school code (NOTREDAMECS) at checkout, your school earns a percentage of every sale.

- **5% back** on every purchase!
- ✓ Customers choose their delivery day (Tues–Sat)
- ✓ Delivered straight to their door

LOST & FOUND

We have many items on our Lost and Found table.

These items will be on display outside of the office near the gym.
Please stop by and claim any items that may belong to your child.

Items include:

- Coats
- Jackets
- Sweaters
- Jogging pants
- Hats
- Mittens
- Baseball caps
- Shoes
- & more

Please encourage your child to look through the items at this table to bring home what might belong to them.

DENTAL SCREENING

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Dental Program from Grand Erie Public Health will be coming to your child's school for dental screening.

WHO? Students in grades JK, SK, 2, and 7.

- If your child is not in one of the grades listed above but you want them to be screened, please click on this link <https://hnhu.org/school-screening/> or call 519-900-9600 ext. 3003

WHAT?

- The screening is a quick look in the mouth. It is done by a Registered Dental Hygienist. A separate sterilized dental mirror is used for each child.
- If your child has cavities or would benefit from other dental services, a letter will be sent home in their backpack.
- Your child may be screened again at a later date. This is part of the dental screening follow-up process.
- Our school screenings DO NOT replace visits with your family dentist.
- If you are worried about your child's mouth you do not need to wait for the school visit please contact the Dental Program 519-900-9600 ext. 3003



WHY?

- To find children who need to see a dentist.
- To offer support for children who cannot afford dental services.
- To link families with other Public Health Services.
- This is a mandatory program under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, Section 7

IMPORTANT:
Please contact us if you do not want your child to participate in dental screening by clicking on this link <https://hnhu.org/school-screening/> to opt out or by phone at 519-900-9600 ext. 3003 no later than **December 2, 2025**

**GRAND ERIE
PUBLIC HEALTH**

194 Terrace Hill Street, Brantford, ON, N3R 1G7
185 Robinson Street, Simcoe, ON, N3Y 5L6

Brantford & Brant 519-753-4937 www.bchu.org
Haldimand & Norfolk 519-900-9600 www.hnhu.org

GRAND ERIE PUBLIC HEALTH

VISION SCREENING

WHY?

- Approximately 1 in 4 school age children may have vision problems
- Children need healthy eyes to learn, read and stay safe
- Vision screenings are a mandatory program for students in Senior Kindergarten (SK) under the Ontario Public Health Standards

WHO?

- All SK students will receive vision screening
- Vision screenings are conducted by trained Lions Club volunteers

IMPORTANT: If you wish to opt out of vision screening for your child please go to www.hnhu.org/school-screening or call 519-900-9600 ext. 3285 no later than **December 2, 2025**

WHAT?

- Vision screening consists of three easy eye tests to identify risk factors for eye disorders such as:
 - Lazy eye
 - Eye turn
 - Nearsightedness and farsightedness
- The vision screening takes about 15 minutes to complete
- Your child will bring home a letter with their results in their backpack
- This vision screening does not replace your child's regular checkup with your eye doctor or family doctor. Your child should still receive a full eye exam by an eye doctor. Children can receive a yearly eye exam, free of charge until the age of 19.

WHERE?

- Vision screening will take place at your child's school during school hours
- Alternatively, you may take your child to an eye doctor for a free eye exam

If you have any concerns with your child's eye health, please contact your eye doctor or family doctor. You do not have to wait for the school screening visit. If you do not have an eye doctor, please visit findaneyedoctor.ca to find one near you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
GRAND ERIE PUBLIC HEALTH
519 900 9600 ext. 3285 or email schoolhealth@geph.ca

**GRAND ERIE
PUBLIC HEALTH**

December

2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY






TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

November 30 ADVENT Begins	1 Pizza Day from Nov 28	2 Subway Day	3 Popcorn Gr 3-8 Confessions	4	5 Pizza Day	6
ADVENT Collection: Non-Perishable Food & Toiletries; Tree of Warmth (NEW mittens, hats, etc.)						
Book Fair Dec 9 to 12 	8	9  Dental/Vision Screening	10  Popcorn Panzeroli Poinsettia P/U Time TBD	11 	12  Pizza Day Last Day ADVENT Donations	13
ADVENT Collection: Non-Perishable Food & Toiletries; Tree of Warmth (NEW mittens, hats, etc.)						
14	15 Christmas Sweater Day	16 Subway Day Christmas Accessory/Character	17 Popcorn Christmas Hat/ Head Gear Day	18 SAC Festive Christmas Lunch RED & GREEN Day	19 Pizza Day Christmas PJ/ Comfy Clothes	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Christmas Break						
28	29	30	31			
Christmas Break						

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 5 to February 20 Kindergarten Registration Opens
- January 5 Return to School After Christmas Break
- January 14 ACS Open House for Grade 9
- January 19 PA Day
- February 9 Term 1 Report Cards sent digitally
- March 16 to 20 March Break
- April 15 Grade 8 Grad Photos
- April 25 Grade 2E Communion~11am at St. Pat's Church
- May 2 Grade 2F Communion~11am at St. Pat's Church
- May 8 HN Cross Country Race
- May 26 Grade 7 Vaccine Clinic (Dose#2)
- May 30 Grade 8 Confirmation ~ 11am at St. Pat's Church
- June 10 HN Track & Field

Wishing you a Merry Christmas &
A Healthy & Happy New Year

The Staff at Notre Dame Catholic School





A positive relationship with food

Having a positive relationship with food can improve mood, self-esteem and body image.

Help your child feel confident in their eating abilities:

- Call foods by their name (apple, cookie, salad, ice cream) instead of labeling them as good/bad, unhealthy/healthy, junk/treats. Use neutral words when describing foods like crunchy and colourful.
- Trust your child to decide if and how much to eat. As the parent/caregiver, focus on your role, you decide what to serve, when and where.
- Show that you eat and enjoy a variety of foods and encourage children to help with simple cooking tasks in the kitchen.
- Talk about our bodies positively and focus on what they can do vs. what they look like.

Looking for more support when it comes to food and nutrition? Call Health811 –Dial 811 and ask to speak to a Registered Dietitian at no cost.

GRAND ERIE
PUBLIC HEALTH

This Year's Notre Dame Junior Boys & Girls Basketball Teams

Our JR basketball teams made us proud on November 19th at the HN Tournament.

Congratulations to the JR Boys Team for giving their best that day and bringing home the Championship pennant!

Junior Boys' Basketball Team

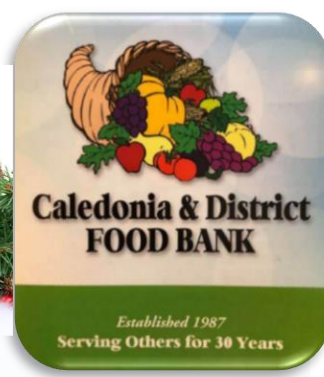
Leo, Jett, River, Sebastien, Isra'el, Jackson, Gabri'el, Brayden, Jacob, Kaleb & Aiden (Thank you Coach Hoover!)



Junior Girls' Basketball Team

Lyla, Beatrice, Zara, Cali, Chiamanda, Addison, Brynnley, Mya, Danni & Caillie (Thank you Coach McNiven!)





The Season of **ADVENT** is Here!

Advent is the time when we wait for the Birth of Jesus Christ. We are reminded to think of others during this time. Please help us to spread *hope, peace, joy and love* during this Advent season. We will be collecting items to be shared with the **Caledonia & District Food Bank** this Christmas season. Please consider donating if you are able. Items can be sent in with your child to be dropped off in the boxes near the Christmas tree.

We will be collecting items from December 1st to December 12th:

- **Non-Perishable food donations, toiletries**
- **Clothing Items for the Tree of Warmth (i.e. new socks, new mittens, new hats, new scarves, etc.)**

We thank you in advance for your support and generosity in helping us help others and be **Pilgrims of Hope**. We are reminded of Jesus' words, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."

Enjoy a blessed Advent Season filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

Merry Christmas!

Kiss & Drop-off Zone

The safety of our students is very important to us; therefore, we ask your support and cooperation when dropping off your child(ren) at school in the morning. The school is fortunate to have a Kiss and Drop-off Zone as parents are not allowed to park on school property.

The Kiss and Drop-Off Zone is NOT intended for individuals who want to leave their vehicle to walk their child(ren) to the door at the beginning of the school day, or to assist their child(ren) to leave the car.

1. The Kiss and Drop area at the front of the school is a **designated fire lane with by-laws in place that must be adhered to. Parking and/or stopping for lengthy periods are not permitted in this area at any time.** The purpose of a Kiss and Drop area is to quickly drop off in the morning and drive away promptly to allow for traffic to move smoothly.
2. Have your child(ren) exit the vehicle on the curb side (exit from the RIGHT side of the vehicle: ALL the children in the vehicle MUST exit from the PASSENGER SIDE). Students should not exit on driver's side of the vehicle.
3. Throughout the year late arriving buses take precedence in the Kiss and Drop area for those students who are entering the school after the 8:55am bell. Vehicles in this area will need/be asked to move to allow for any late buses to stop directly in front of the school's main entrance in following with the bus safety policy.

Your attention to the above guidelines is most appreciated, and we thank you for your improved efforts going forward.