



# Spotlight

on  
**NIAGARA CATHOLIC**  
*Nurturing Souls & Building Minds*

www.niagaracatholic.ca

March 18, 2014

## New Niagara Catholic Website Provides Registration Information to Parents



Niagara Catholic launched a new website in mid-March to assist parents and guardians with registering their children at our elementary and/or secondary schools.

The elementary site provides parents and guardians with information on how to register children with Niagara Catholic, the benefits of providing children with a Catholic education, information about the documents necessary to register their child for school, our Elementary Standardized Dress Code, and a link to the Niagara Student Transportation Services website, so parents can determine which school would be their child's home school and whether the child will be eligible for transportation.

The elementary site also contains links to information about the Ontario elementary curriculum, tips to help parents prepare their child for school and a list of Frequently Asked Questions parents and guardians may have about the enrollment process and what to expect when their child enters school.

The elementary section of the registration site also provides parents with information regarding our French Immersion Program and about the ties between the school and their parish church, including how students are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation.

There is also a site dedicated to enrolling students in one of Niagara Catholic's eight secondary schools.

The secondary school site provides students with information about the many programs available to students, including the Specialist High Skills Major Program, travel opportunities and social justice initiatives to help students deepen their faith. Through this site, students, parents and guardians will learn how a Catholic high school will prepare them for life outside of school.

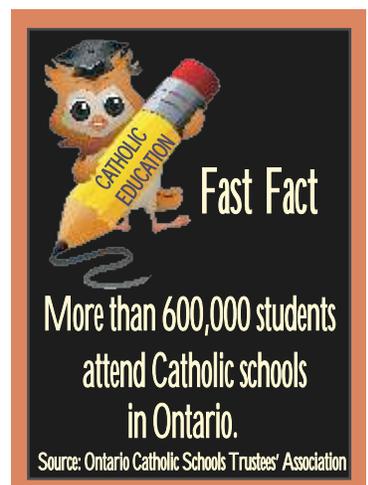
The new section of the website also includes information geared toward newcomers to Niagara and to Canada. Parents and guardians may now print off the appropriate registration forms they can fill out at home, to save time when they register their child at school.

Schools Off to VEX Worlds Assumption and St. Alfred Catholic Elementary Schools will travel to Anaheim, California, in April 2014, to participate in the VEX Robotics World Championships. They qualified separately, but will represent Niagara Catholic as a single team.

Two Policies Approved Trustees approved two policies during the March 18th Board Meeting.

*Advertising Expenditures Policy (600.5)* and *Ontario Student Record Policy (301.7)* were recently revised as part of Niagara Catholic's ongoing, cyclical review of policies.

The revised policies are available for review under the Policies section of [niagaracatholic.ca](http://niagaracatholic.ca).



# New Parent Engagement Website Launched for Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

NIAGARA CATHOLIC District School Board & Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee  
Invite Parents/Guardians and their Families

To Join Us For A  
**"Faith In Family Night"**

Thursday, March 27, 2014  
Saint Michael Catholic High School  
8699 McLeod Road, Niagara Falls  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Faith is like WIFI you can't see it, but it has the Power to connect with the World.

**Student Services:**  
This session has been designed for students to participate in fun group activities with an expert reading about Internet safety and cyber-bullying.

**Family Presentation:**  
Fostering Faith in the Family  
Through this interactive parent-student family presentation, Tom Power, Niagara Catholic Religion and Family Life Coordinator, and Joyce Calabrese from the Niagara Catholic Youth District Team speaker, will share a variety of ideas that families can explore to strengthen their understanding and growth as the diverse Church in the world today.

**Parent Session:**  
This presentation has been designed for parents or guardians and will focus on aspects of Internet safety for families.

Fostering Faith in the Family • Family Internet Safety • Fun Student Activities • Door Prizes

Participants are requested to register by Friday, March 20, 2014  
Please contact yvonne.andrews@nrcab.com or call 905-735-0246 ext. 223

There are many ways in which a parent can become involved in their child's education: As a volunteer, a member of the Catholic School Council or as a member of a Parent Involvement Committee.

Catholic School Councils are comprised of parents from a single school. A Parent Involvement Committee is comprised of parents from throughout a school board. Every board of education in Ontario is required by the Ministry of Education to have a Parent Involvement Committee

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) serves as an advisory body to the Board, by providing information and advice to the Board regarding parent engagement. The NCPIC advises the Board on ways to communicate with parents, offers insight into ways to attract more parents to become involved in their child's school and shares information with and supports Catholic School Councils.

The NCPIC meets every other month, from September through June. The dates of meetings are published on the new NCPIC website and also in the calendar section on the main Board website.

The new NCPIC website includes valuable information for parents including resources about education and curriculum, a section for Catholic School Councils and a calendar of meetings.

The new site is also intended to promote events sponsored by the NCPIC, including the Faith in Family Event evening, which will take place at Saint Michael Catholic High School on March 27, as shown in the poster at left

The deadline for registration has been extended, and parents and guardians interested in attending may register in advance or may register in person at the door.

## Niagara Catholic to Mark Earth Hour March 28

Niagara Catholic has been consistently recognized for its Green Niagara Catholic eco-friendly activities and practices throughout our schools and sites each school year.



One of the ways in which we do this is through participating in Earth Hour, which was created by the World Wildlife Fund to promote conservation efforts around the globe.

Earth Hour takes place on the evening of the final Saturday in March. This year, the event will be held from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. As we do each year, Niagara Catholic will hold a symbolic Earth Hour at our schools and sites the day before.



All schools and sites have been encouraged to reduce its energy use between 10 - 11 a.m. on March 28. Wherever possible, lights will be dimmed or shut off and electrical equipment will be turned off and/or unplugged.

11th Annual  
**BISHOP'S GALA**

(Most Reverend) Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines

Saturday, April 12, 2014

Evening of Celebration, Dining & Dancing  
Silent Auction

DJ Spirit of Sound  
Cash Bar  
Club Roma 125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines, ON  
AntiPasto Bar & Cocktail Reception - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Niagara Catholic Education  
**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Proceeds to the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education

The Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction was created to honour those individuals and/or groups, who have made, or continue to make outstanding contributions to Catholic Education in the Niagara Region. A complete list of previous recipients can be found under the Community tab of the Board website, [niagaracatholic.ca](http://niagaracatholic.ca).