



# Spotlight

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

www.niagaracatholic.ca

March 4, 2014



*All Niagara Catholic elementary schools with primary grades will offer full-day Early Learning Kindergarten beginning in September, 2014. Full-day early learning provides youngsters with a strong academic foundation through play-based learning.*

## Final Stage of Early Learning Kindergarten Program Will Be Implemented System-Wide in September

Niagara Catholic currently has 35 schools with full-day early learning kindergarten. By September 2014, 49 schools will offer ELKP to children aged three years and nine months to six years old.

Niagara Catholic currently has 82 classrooms dedicated to ELKP classrooms, two of which are French Immersion. The number of ELKP classes for September 2014 will be determined later this year, based on enrollment.

Niagara Catholic has implemented many steps in preparation for the full implementation of the Early Learning Kindergarten Program. These steps include attending workshops focusing on inquiry based learning, and the addition of members to the Early Years Team, who will focus on literacy and numeracy and provide in-class support.

The Early Years Team continues to meet with the YMCA and A Child's World day care teams to plan for a seamless day for students who attend before and after-school day care.

## Niagara Catholic Student Win Region-Wide Anti-Bullying Video Competition

Earlier this year, the Niagara Regional Police Service joined forces with CHCH-TV to create a region-wide anti-bullying video competition.

The "Students Unite Anti Bully Film Festival" was designed to give kids a voice against bullying. The foundation of this event was to empower and engage youth to speak out and educate their peers and the wider community about the negative impact of bullying.

Entries were scored in the following categories: Audience Appeal, Cinematography, Story, Audio, Music, Sound Effects, Characterizations, Directing, Theme and Editing.

The 52, 30-second

videos created by high school students across Niagara were screened on February 18 during a Film Festival at the Cineplex Odeon Theatre in Niagara Falls.

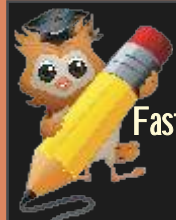
They were judged by CHCH News Niagara Reporter Luran Sabourin, Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire, Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati and Tim Parent, Program and News Director of 610 CKTB.

Constance Day, a Grade 11 student at Notre Dame College School in Welland, was the winner of the competition. Her video, *Read Between the Fines*, will be aired on CHCH-TV throughout March. It is also available on the Niagara Catholic YouTube Channel.

Have a fun and safe  
March Break!



See you back on  
March 17th



**Fast Fact!**

The First Catholic school in the Niagara Region opened in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1842.

## Trustees Receive Update On Niagara Catholic International Student Program's Winter Registration

On January 6, Niagara Catholic welcomed 50 students from the Jeollabuk-do Foundation in South Korea for the seven-week Niagara Catholic Winter Integration Program.

They spent two weeks at Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School learning English as a Second Language, then were integrated into Grade 6, 7 and 8 classes at Catholic schools in Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and Grimsby.

Another 42 South Korean students travelled to Niagara from Salesio Catholic Elementary School, Sowha Catholic Elementary School and Bokja Catholic Girls Middle School.

In addition to these 92 elementary students, 22 secondary students from Panama and Peru spent four weeks attending classes at Niagara Catholic. These 114 students were accompanied by 12 teachers and chaperones, who were hosted by 65 host families.

The presence of these international students brings many benefits to our schools, and we will continue to welcome students from around the world into our classrooms, and encourage Niagara Catholic students to experience travel/study opportunities.



*Niagara Catholic frequently welcomes international students from Asia, Europe and South and Central America each year (as shown above from Summer 2013), as part of our International Students Program. While here, the students become fully immersed in Canadian culture by living with a family and studying in English in school. Our visitors gain the very valuable skill of being able to communicate in English, and our Canadian students benefit from forming new friendships with students from places around the world.*

## Niagara Catholic French Immersion Projected Enrollment for 2014 Tops 230 Students

In alignment with the Niagara Catholic System Priority to “enhance language acquisition for elementary and secondary students through the expansion of French Immersion at designated sites and specific international languages to meet the needs of students,” registration for the French Immersion program opened on Thursday, February 6, 2014 and closed on Monday, March 3, 2014.

French Immersion is currently offered at five Catholic Elementary Schools: St. Mark, Our Lady of Fatima St. Catharines, Holy Name, Notre Dame and St. Thomas More.

Currently, there are 20 students enrolled in the Grade 1 French Immersion Program at St. Mark. That figure is expected to double as the program expands to Grade 2.

There are currently 30 students enrolled in the Early Learning Kindergarten French Immersion Program at Our

Lady of Fatima, and another 17 in the Grade 1 Program. The 2014-2015 enrollment for ELKP, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students at the school is 70 students: 30 ELKP entries, and 20 in Grades 1 and 2.

Holy Name currently has 15 students in the Grade 1 French Immersion Program. In September, there are 20 students expected in Grade 1 and another 20 for Grade 2. Notre Dame currently has 20 students in the ELKP French Immersion Program, with 26 projected for the ELKP Program and 20 projected for Grade 1 in September.

St. Thomas More is expected to double its number of students from 20 in Grade 1 this year to 40 in September, as 20 students enrolled for Grade 1 admission and the current Grade 1 students move on to Grade 2.