

NIAGARA CATHOLIC'S 18TH ANNUAL
KIDS HELPING KIDS CAMPAIGN
BEGINS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Eighteen years ago, Niagara Catholic staff saw the value of adding a new social justice initiative to our Catholic elementary schools; one which focused on assisting students in our schools and communities with special needs. Niagara Children's Centre, which services children and youth with physical, communicative and developmental delays and disabilities, has touched the lives of many Niagara Catholic students and their families. The decision to raise funds for the agency was made, and the Kids Helping Kids campaign was born.

As many of those students with communicative and mobility challenges utilized the services of Niagara Children's Centre, the decision to hold an annual fundraiser for the Centre was made, and the Kids Helping Kids campaign was born.

Every February since 1998, the week in which Valentine's Day occurs has been set aside for Niagara Catholic elementary school students to participate in fun and meaningful activities to show they "have a heart" for the Niagara Children's Centre. Since then, our Catholic elementary schools have raised more than \$675,000 for programs and services for the Centre.

"The annual Kids Helping Kids week is a special time at Niagara Catholic, to reinforce our messages to students about the challenges some individuals face each day, the value of inclusiveness and the importance of supporting those in need," said Director of Education John Crocco. *"I am exceptionally proud of the generosity of our students, staff and families over the past two decades of Kids Helping Kids, and I am confident that this year will be another resounding success."*

Niagara Children's Centre CEO Oksana Fisher credited the Board for its long-standing commitment to the students her agency serves.

“We are thrilled with this educational and fundraising partnership with the Niagara Catholic District School Board,” she said. “During the campaign the Centre provides tours and presentations to students. Kids Helping Kids shows the children and families that are supported by Niagara Children’s Centre that other kids care about them and are offering to help. It helps to build a compassionate community and future leaders.”

Staff from the Niagara Children’s Centre will visit three Niagara Catholic schools next week:

- **St. James Catholic Elementary School – February 8, 9:30 a.m. (Geneva St. St. Catharines)**
- **St. Andrew Catholic Elementary School – February 9, 9:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (St. Andrew Street, Welland)**
- **St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School – February 11, 9:15 a.m. (Rosemount Avenue, Port Colborne)**

Kids Helping Kids Week takes place from February 8-12, 2016, and we invite you to visit one of our schools, or to go into our schools to see some of the fun activities taking place.

Niagara Catholic provides excellence in Catholic education to approximately 24,000 students throughout Niagara; from Early Learning Kindergarten through graduation.