

Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School

February 2026 Newsletter

Principal's Message

The month of February is filled with opportunities for reflection, celebration, and connection. As a school community at Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School, we are proud to recognize **Black History Month**. This year's BHNCDSB theme, *"30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations – From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries,"* invites us to reflect on the enduring legacy, achievements, and contributions of Black Canadians. Throughout February, students will engage in learning that honours these stories while deepening their understanding of equity, justice, and respect for all.

This month also marks the beginning of the **Lenten season**. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on **February 18, 2026**, as we begin our journey of preparation for the greatest feast in the Christian Church—Easter. Lent invites us to slow down and reflect, to grow through prayer, acts of kindness, and care for our neighbours. It is a time to turn our hearts and minds toward God and to live more intentionally as disciples of Christ.

We also take time to acknowledge **Valentine's Day** this month. It is a reminder to celebrate love in its many forms—love within families, friendships, and our wider community, and most importantly, God's unconditional love for each of us.

Let's Celebrate Love:

May you enjoy all the streams of love that flow into your life:

- The love of family and friends
- The love shared between parents and children



- The companionship of pets
- And the love of God that surrounds us always

Celebrate love each day, for it is at the heart of who we are and how we are called to live.

With gratitude and blessings,

Kerri Lomax

Principal

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School News and Announcements

✦ School Bell Times 🔔

8:30 am - School Starts

10:10 am - 10:50 am - 1st Nutrition Break

12:30 pm - 1:10 pm - 2nd Nutrition Break

2:50 pm - School Dismissal



✦ Attendance Reminder

It's important for students to arrive **on time** every day. School starts at **8:30 a.m.**, and any student who is late must **report to the office**. Regular attendance and punctuality help students stay on track with learning and build strong connections with teachers and peers.

We understand that challenges can arise. If your child is struggling with attendance or other concerns, please reach out , we're here to help.

✦ Transportation Delays, Cancellations, School Closures & Extreme Temperatures 🗨️

With winter weather continuing, we want to remind families how **inclement weather and extreme cold** can impact **bus transportation, school operations, and outdoor activities**, in accordance with **Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD) policy**.

Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) works closely with bus companies, meteorologists, and local municipal staff to review **road and weather conditions** before deciding whether to **run, delay, or cancel buses**. Decisions are communicated as early as possible, typically **by 6:30 a.m.**, through the STSBHN and BHNCDSD websites, social media, the **Chipmunk App**, and local radio and television stations.

Because our district covers a large geographic area, **transportation cancellations and closures may occur by zone rather than board-wide**. Pope Francis is located in **Zone 2 (Haldimand County)**, so families are asked to check updates specific to our zone. When a zone is closed due to inclement weather, **all transportation, school buildings, childcare programs, and school activities in that zone are also closed** for the day.

In cases of **extreme cold**, BHNCDSD policy states that if the **air temperature, including wind chill, is forecast to reach -30 °C or colder**, where frostbite could occur in **10 minutes or less**, student

transportation may be cancelled while schools remain open. This decision is made to ensure student safety, particularly while waiting outdoors or in the event of a bus delay.

Additionally, **BHNCDSB policy states that when the temperature or wind chill falls below -20°C , students will remain indoors for all recesses and outdoor breaks** to reduce the risk of cold-related injury.

Families are encouraged to have a **supervision plan** in place for days when transportation is delayed or cancelled.

As always, even when buses are running and schools are open, **parents and guardians may decide whether they feel it is safe for their child to attend school** based on their own assessment of local conditions.

🔊 Upcoming Events and Important Dates

★ Pizza Days 🍕

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

****Please note that pizza orders for March 2026 are DUE ON SCHOOL CASH ONLINE BY SUNDAY February 22, 2026**



★ Pope Francis Spirit Days

February 6 - Superbowl Sports Day - wear your favourite team clothes

February 12 - Pink, Red and White Day

February 20 - Hat Day

★ Kindergarten Registration January 5 - February 20, 2026

Kindergarten registration runs from January 5 - February 20, 2026. Your child must be 4 years of age by December 31, 2026 to start JK.

The Board utilizes an online K-8 Registration tool [Register2 | BHNCDSB](#) that will make the process more convenient for parents. Please follow the simple 7 Step Registration Process. Each "Step" will provide you with details about what is required. The actual registration process takes about 20 minutes to complete. You can **"Save"** anytime and login later to finish or upload required documents. All the information that you have entered will still be there. Just remember to choose the **"Save"** button before exiting

★ New Snack Program! 🍌

We're excited to introduce our new school Snack Program, available to **all students** every **Tuesday and Thursday**. Snacks are delivered directly to classrooms at **no cost to students**. Students can

enjoy a variety of **healthy options** such as bananas, oranges, yogurt, carrot sticks, and other nutritious snacks. This program supports student well-being, energy, and focus throughout the school day.

✦ **Chef a l'Ecole** 🍴👨🍳

Students in **Grades 4–8** will be participating in **Chef à l'École** on **Monday, February 9** as part of their **French curriculum**. This exciting hands-on experience allows students to practice their French while learning about food, culture, and healthy eating. It's sure to be a delicious and memorable learning experience!

✦ **Valentine's Day Celebrations** 💕

Students will be celebrating Valentine's Day in their individual classes on **Friday, February 13!** Students are welcome to bring Valentine's cards to share with their classmates, and treats if they wish. Homeroom teachers will be sending home more details about the classroom celebrations. It will be a day filled with fun, friendship, and kindness!

✦ **Olympic Day - February 13, 2026** 🏅

Our school will be celebrating Olympic Day on Friday, February 13! Students will enjoy a fun-filled day of indoor and outdoor activities designed to promote teamwork, physical activity, and school spirit. With a variety of stations and events to participate in, all students will have the opportunity to stay active, try new challenges, and cheer each other on. It's sure to be an exciting and memorable day for everyone!

✦ **Pink Shirt Day - February 25, 2026**

Students and staff are invited to wear **pink** on **Wednesday, February 25** to show their support for **kindness, inclusion, and standing up against bullying**. It's a day to celebrate friendship, respect, and making our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone!

✦ **Grade 8 Graduation Photos - March 31, 2026** 📷

Grade 8 students will be having their graduation photo's taken on **March 31, 2026**. More details to come.....

✦ **P.D. Days**

April 17, 2026

June 5, 2026

✦ **Term 1 Reports** - Monday February 9, 2026

✦ **Family Day** - Monday February 16, 2026

✦ **March Break** - March 16 - March 20, 2026

ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JAN 5 - FEB 20

catholiceducation.ca



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board

😊 School Highlights

✦ December Students of the Month - Celebrating Generosity

This December, we proudly recognize our Students of the Month for exemplifying the true spirit of generosity. These students showed what it means to give freely—sharing their time, talents, and resources to help others without expecting anything in return. Whether through kind acts, helping classmates, volunteering, or using their unique abilities to make our school a better place, their actions remind us that generosity starts with a willing heart. We are grateful for the positive example they set and the warmth they bring to our school community.



FTK 1- Robiq A.

FTK 2- Oluwadara O.

FTK 3- Ellissa B.

1A - Taalia S.

1B - Madison A.

2A - Justin A.

2B - Ella C.

3 - Vincent T.

3/4 - Adrielle I.

4/5 - Lucas V.

5/6 - Anthony C.

6 - Fiona T.

7 - Kiera D.

8 - Jessica F.

✦ January Student of the Month - Perseverance

Our January Students of the Month exemplify perseverance, showing what it means to stay committed to their goals and keep going even when challenges arise. Whether facing academic obstacles, personal setbacks, or moments of frustration, these students did not give up. Instead,

they worked through difficulties with determination, resilience, and a positive mindset. We are proud to recognize their hard work and dedication, which inspire our entire school community.

FTK 1 - Hayden R.

FTK 2 - Selena F.

FTK 3 - Owen D.

1A - Haines Pollon

1B - Uriel Trites

2A - Louis Shyam

2B - Bentley Nevitt

3 - Kaia Green

3/4 - Matthis Navarro-Cabarlo

4/5 - Zoe Watkins

5/6 - Isaac Mugume

6 - Jeffrey Anyaele

7 - Gabriella Wallace

8 - Olivia Barkho

★ **Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition**

Congratulations to our students who competed in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition on January 22, 2026! The gym was full of energy, and the students had a great time showing off their skills, sportsmanship, and school spirit. We're proud to share that our winners have advanced to the District Competition, taking place on **Saturday, February 7, 2026, at St. Pius Catholic Elementary School in Brantford**. Best of luck, we're cheering you on!

★**Daniel A.**

★**Arabella I.**

★**Michelle A.**

★**Jayden C.**

★**Jeremiah JB.**

★**Tofe I.**

★**Jesse N.**

★**Kristahlia K.**

★**Joanna O.**

★**Juan V.**

!Reminders and Ongoing Initiatives

★**Dismissal Time**

Please be reminded that **student dismissal is at 2:50 PM for all students**. We kindly ask parents and guardians to arrive on time, as late pick-ups create safety and supervision challenges for our staff and students. Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring a smooth and safe dismissal each day.



★**Dogs on School Property Reminder**

For the safety and comfort of all students, we kindly remind families that dogs are not permitted on school grounds, especially during dismissal times. We also ask that pets be kept a safe distance from school entrances and exits so that students feel safe and comfortable entering and leaving the building. If you are walking your dog near the school, please ensure they are kept on a leash at all times. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

★Cash Online Donations

If you'd like to support our school, donations can be made directly through our **school website** by clicking the "**Make a Donation**" tab.

All contributions go toward enhancing programs, activities, and resources for our students. A **tax receipt** will be mailed to you for any donation received.

We truly appreciate the generosity of our school community – your support helps make great things possible for our students!

★Dress for the Weather

With colder temperatures on the way, please make sure your child(ren) are **dressed appropriately for outdoor play**. Students go outside for recess and outdoor learning **every day**, weather permitting.

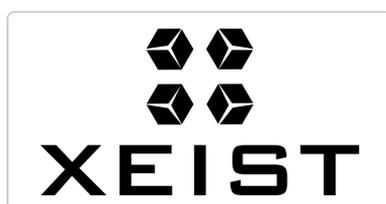
Please send your child with a **warm winter coat, snow pants, boots, hat, mittens, and indoor shoes**. We also recommend **an extra set of clothes and an extra pair of mittens** in case items get wet during the day.

Being properly dressed helps children stay comfortable, focused, and ready to learn – even on chilly days!

★Pope Francis Spirit Wear

We're excited to share that our Pope Francis spirit wear is now available to order! Families can browse a variety of clothing options designed to showcase our school pride, including hoodies, T-shirts, and more. All items can be purchased directly through the online link below, making ordering quick and convenient

Wearing spirit wear is a great way for students to feel connected, show support for our school community, and celebrate what makes Pope Francis special.



Pope Francis School - Fan Store 2026

Online ordering for Pope Francis School - Fan Store 2026

🔗 can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com

Big Feelings in Little Bodies

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE IN EVERYDAY PARENTING

Join other parents and explore how self-regulation can change how you and your child meet day-to-day challenges. Learn to manage those meltdowns and create cooperation.



WHO IS PDEP FOR?

PDEP is for all parents, grandparents, foster-parents and others who care for children of all ages. It's also for future parents.

EarlyON Child and Family Centre - Simcoe site

Wednesdays March 4 - April 29, 2026 6:00 - 8:00 pm
12 Colborne Street North

To register please call Barb at 519-587-2441 or 1-800-265-8087 x405 bsutcliffe@hnreach.on.ca
For more information on Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting contact: www.pdel.org

101A Nanticoke Creek Parkway, Townsend, ON N0A 1S0
Our main office hours are: Monday to Friday - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm



HNREACH.ON.CA

School Advisory Council

✦ School Advisory Council Executive

Chair - Matylda Jones - Matylda.f@hotmail.com

Vice Chair - Jessica Nevitt - clemej2@gmail.com

Secretary - Akira Seuradge - seuradgefamilly@gmail.com

Treasurer - Chelsea Donald - chelsea.donald90@gmail.com

Teacher Representative - Sarah Sienna - ssienna@bhncdsb.ca



✦ Next SAC Meeting.....

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 18 at 6:00 PM in the library**. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend and share their ideas to help support our school community

✦ SAC - Volunteers Needed

Our **School Advisory Council (SAC)** plays an important role in supporting school initiatives, building community spirit, and helping to enhance the learning environment for all students.

We're always looking for **parents and guardians** who would like to get involved! Whether you can attend meetings, help with planning events, or lend a hand occasionally, your participation makes a big difference.

If you're interested in joining or learning more, please contact a member of the executive we'd love to have you be part of our team!

Parish News and Information

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

107 Orkney St. East

Caledonia ON

905-765-2729

Father Jerome Mascarenhas

Secretary: Suzanne Hunter



✦ Mass Times:

Saturday @5pm

Sunday @8:30am or 10:30am



Smore

Use Smore to create beautiful newsletters