

Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School

January 2026 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome back to our Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School community, and Happy New Year! We hope that the Christmas holidays provided you and your families with time to rest, reflect, and enjoy special moments together. As we begin this new calendar year, we are excited to welcome our students and staff back and to continue building something truly special.



December was a joyful and busy month in our school. Our students embraced the spirit of the season through classroom activities, faith celebrations, and community outreach. We are grateful for the generosity shown by our families in supporting those in need, and for the many ways our students lived out the values of compassion, kindness, and service that are at the heart of our Catholic faith. Thank you to our staff and families for your support in making December such a meaningful and memorable time for our school community.

As we move into January, staff will be focusing on assessment, evaluation, and the completion of Term 1 report cards. This is an important time for students to reflect on their learning, recognize their strengths, and set goals for continued growth in Term 2. We encourage students to finish the term with effort and perseverance, and we thank families for your ongoing support at home.

As we begin this new year together, we pray that God's blessings of health, love, and peace be with each of our families. We look forward to January being a productive and positive month, and to continuing our journey together as we grow, learn, and rise in faith as the Pope Francis community.

📁 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 🗨️

With winter weather approaching, we want to remind families how inclement weather impacts bus transportation and school operations. Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) works with bus companies, meteorologists, and local municipal staff to review road and weather conditions before deciding whether to run, delay, or cancel buses.

Because our district covers a large area, closures may happen in specific zones rather than board-wide. **Pope Francis is located in Zone 2 (Haldimand County)**, so please check updates for our zone. When a zone is closed, all transportation, school buildings, childcare programs, and school activities in that zone are also closed.

STSBHN and BHNCDNB share all cancellations by **6:30 a.m.** on their websites, social media, the Chipmunk App, and local radio/TV stations. Families are encouraged to have a supervision plan in place for days when transportation is delayed or cancelled.

As always, families may decide whether they feel it is safe for their child to attend school when buses are running.

📅 Upcoming Events and Important Dates

🌟 Pizza Days 🍕

January 8

January 15

January 22

January 29



****Please note that pizza orders for February 2026 are DUE ON SCHOOL CASH ONLINE BY SUNDAY January 25, 2026*****

✦ **Grade 8 Parent Information Night - Assumption College**

Families of Grade 8 students are invited to attend an information session at **Assumption College** on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6pm**. This session will provide important details about the transition to high school and give parents an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about programs and supports available.

✦ **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 | BHNCD SB](#) 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.

✦ **Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition**

Students in **Grades 4–8** are invited to participate in the **Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition** on **Thursday, January 22, 2026** at Pope Francis CES. There will be a **boy and girl winner in each age group**, with winners advancing to the **District Championship** at **Notre Dame Catholic School (Caledonia)** on **Saturday, February 7, 2026**. **Permission forms will be sent home with students during the first week of January.**

✦ **P.D. Days**

January 19, 2026

April 17, 2026

June 5, 2026

✦ **Term 1 Reports** - Monday February 2, 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

✦ November Students of the Month - Gratitude

We are proud to recognize our **November Students of the Month for Gratitude!** These students consistently demonstrate an appreciation for the good things in life, show thankfulness through kind words, positive actions, and respect for others. Their attitude of gratitude helps create a welcoming and supportive school community. Congratulations, and thank you for being such a wonderful examples to all! 🍁💕



FTK 1- Gracie G.

FTK 2- Alaina P.

FTK 3- Praise D.

1A - Madelyn R.

1B - Anastasia V.

2A - Sharon V.

2B - Luca D.

3 - Francesca S.

3/4 -Nina S.

4/5 - Marley S.

5/6 - Melody K.

6 - Jeremy W.

7 - Celine A.

8 - Adjoa A.

✦ Tree of Warmth – A Big Success!

Our Tree of Warmth was a wonderful success thanks to the incredible generosity of our families. We are so grateful to everyone who donated mittens and gloves to help keep others warm this season. Your kindness and community spirit truly made a difference—thank you for helping spread warmth and care to those in need! 💕🧤

✦ Festive Fun at Our December Colour House Event

Our December Colour House activity was a big success! Students enjoyed festive Christmas-themed activities, hot chocolate, and showed excellent behaviour throughout. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and positive school spirit.

✦ A Week Full of Christmas Spirit

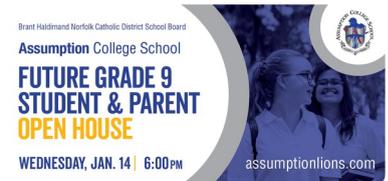
Our Christmas Spirit Week was a huge success and brought lots of fun and excitement to our school! Students and staff enthusiastically participated each day, showing great school spirit through festive outfits and activities. The positive energy, smiles, and excellent behaviour made the week truly special and a wonderful way to celebrate the season together.

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!Reminders and Ongoing Initiatives

✦ 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.

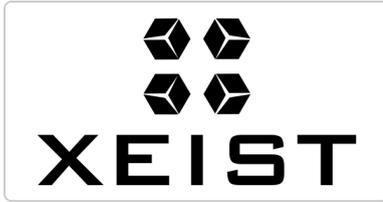
Please send your child with a **warm winter coat, snow pants, boots, hat, mittens, and indoor shoes**. We also recommend **an extra set of clothes and an extra pair of mittens** in case items get wet during the day.

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 2025

Online ordering for Pope Francis School - Fan Store 2025

[🔗 pope-francis-school-fan-store.itemorder.com](https://pope-francis-school-fan-store.itemorder.com)

📅 School Advisory Council

★ Next SAC Meeting.....

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026 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 the school office – 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

