

Subject: CANF Family Newsletter | October 7, 2026

Growing Hearts & Minds

 A Message from the Principal: Working Together to Build Respectful Learners

Dear Families,

At our most recent staff meeting, our teachers shared a common concern that I wanted to bring to our families because we truly believe that school and home are partners in helping children grow.

We are noticing more and more instances where students question classroom expectations (asking why?), respond with "no" or "no, I don't want to" when given a direction, or act as though school rules are optional. While we understand that children will test boundaries as they grow and develop, we also know that learning to listen, follow directions, accept corrections, and respect adults and others are important life skills.

This is an important part of our "Bringing Back the Basics" focus this year. Along with strong academic foundations, we are working on the basics of respectful behavior, responsibility, communication, and learning how to be part of a community.

At school, our teachers work hard to create classrooms that are safe, loving, and supportive. At the same time, loving children means holding them accountable and teaching them that expectations matter. A teacher's direction is not an invitation to negotiate. Students are expected to listen, respond respectfully, and follow classroom and school rules.

We need your help in reinforcing this message at home. Please remind your child that:

- School rules and teacher directions are not optional.
- A respectful "yes," "okay," or "I understand" is expected instead of arguing or refusing.
- When a consequence is given, it is an opportunity to learn and make a better choice—not something to be negotiated away.
- Mistakes happen, but children are responsible for learning from them and making better choices next time.

Our children are still learning, and we will continue to meet them with patience, compassion, and understanding. But we also need to be consistent. When children hear the same message from the important adults in their lives, they are much more likely to understand that expectations are there to help them succeed.

Thank you for partnering with us and for helping us grow our hearts, minds, and kindness together!

With gratitude, Principal Richards



Important Dates

Thurs. 10/8 - Bills dress down (\$3 or season pass); Progress Reports go home for all students in grades K-8; School Store; JV Cheer 2:30-3:45 & V Cheer 3:45-5

Fri. 10/9 - NO SCHOOL - Diocesan PD Day for Staff

Mon. 10/12 - NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day

Tues. 10/13 - V Soccer practice *tentatively* 3-4 at Vets Park; Diocesan Bowling

Weds. 10/14 - K-2 Soccer Shots & Chorus Club until 3

Thurs. 10/15 - Spice Fundraiser ENDS!; JV Cheer 2:30-3:45 & V Cheer 3:45-5



School News

• Our students had a blast at the **NED Show assembly!** The event was free to our school, thanks to the pay it forward program. Yo-yos are available for purchase in the school office until October 15. A flyer was sent home last week listing various yo-yo's and pricing. By purchasing a yo-yo, you help us pay it forward and give other schools the opportunity to enjoy the NED Show too!

★ You can purchase yo-yos online using this link. <https://our-schools-ned-sale.myshopify.com/>

Please make sure to print out the order receipt, and send it in with your child. You may also send the receipt to Miss Jen at jpyrczak@catholicacademynf.org.

• Please be sure that you are driving the speed limit (20 mph) in the school zone! **Safety** is one of our top priorities. Please also drive slowly in our parking lots. We watch parents speed through our lots at times, this is very unsafe.

• **Room Parents are still needed** for Grades 2, 5, 6 and 7. Please fill out the form if you are interested. It is not a huge commitment and Miss Amanda will work with you!

• **Faith Formation** - Early Registration fee for First Reconciliation students and First Communion students ends Oct. 15. Be sure to register now!

• Please make sure your child is following the **school uniform policy** (specifically proper shoes/sneakers). Teachers are reinforcing it in the classroom. Unless you are wearing a school sweater or school sweatshirt, sweatshirts, sweaters, or jackets are NOT allowed.

• Students in Gr. 3-8 should have loose leaf paper at home. Please be sure your child is using a "**heading**" that consists of his/her first and last name and the date. Also please be sure the holes are on the left side of the paper. This is something that is being worked on each day in school as well.

• **School blankets and car magnets** are for sale in the school office! Please return the order form with payment! We want to spread the word about our amazing school, and what a wonderful way to show your CANF pride by having a car magnet and/or school blanket!

→ School fleece blanket - \$25

→ CANF Car magnets - \$5

★ Congratulations!

★ Congratulations to our **Way to Grow Kindness Winners**: Ellie Arist, Owen Kelly, Tessa Traver, Avery Atkinson, & Leo Copece!

Teacher Wishlists/Needs

Miss Dimpy & Pre-K 4

- ☐ Look-and-Find Books & I Spy Books

Mrs. McDonell & Middle School

- ☐ 500pc puzzles

Miss Meranto

- ☐ Plastic water bottle caps
 - ☐ Empty cereal boxes
 - ☐ Empty tissue boxes
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Catholic Charities Message from Mrs. C

I am so glad to be back again working alongside teachers, administration and most importantly the students at Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls. I am back full-time for the 2026-2027 school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Teresa.Castiglione@CCWNY.org or 716-912-3154. I am present in the school building Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs and work remotely on Fridays. I am looking forward to a wonderful and productive school year. I will begin my classroom presentations by the end of October. Opt Out letters if you choose to have your child not participate in classroom presentations are enclosed in today's folders and are due back next Weds. Oct. 14 so presentations can begin right away.

This year's topics will focus on :

October: Meet the Student Support Clinician

November: Effective Communication

December: Coping Skills

January: Perseverance

February: Problem Solving

March: Cooperation

April: Respect

May: Responsibility



FSA Upcoming Events

- ❖ Join us for our 1st **CANF Movie Night** on Friday Oct. 23! The flyer with more details went home last week! Registration and payment due Oct 16.
 - This is NOT a drop off event. An adult must accompany each child.
 - ❖ **CANF Candy Crawl** - We are asking that each family sends in a bag of candy or Halloween items. There are 133 students in the school! If you want to decorate a table and be a part of the Candy Crawl, be sure to send back your sign up slip!
 - ❖ **FSA fees** are \$30 per child cash/check OR \$32 Venmo per child.
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Supporting our Families

- If your family owns/runs a business, we will gladly do our best to support you. Contact Principal Richards!
 - **We are looking for more sponsors for our Meat Raffle! We are looking for a business to sponsor/donate the \$50 cash or GC Door Prize and/or gift cards or baskets! Contact Principal Richards if you are interested!**
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Fundraising Updates

- **Spice Fundraiser** - We have about ONE WEEK left, and we're currently at \$326 of our \$750 goal! We're not quite halfway there yet, but we still have plenty of time to reach our goal! Please take a few minutes to check out everything they have to offer—you may be surprised by the variety of products available! I'm sure there is something for everyone. Best of all, CANF receives 50% of the profit from every order! The order sheet will go home again today. Help us reach our \$750 goal! Every order makes a difference!
 - Our **Craft Show** has officially filled all vendor spots!
 - Join us November 7 from 10-3 for a fun day of shopping and supporting local crafters. Admission is just \$2 at the door, and kids are FREE!
 - Our **CANF Meat Raffle** will be held on Friday, Nov, 13th with Mr. Ted Ackley as our MC! The flyer and order form went home already. Order and payments are due by Thursday, Nov. 5th.
 - ★ Volunteers are needed to make this event a success! Thank you to those who have already signed up! It is a fun time!
 - ★ We have donation letters ready. If you know of a place or company that would be willing to donate to the Meat Raffle, let us know!
 - **Buffalo Bills Season passes** - The Friday, Nov. 6 date (picture retakes) will be moved to Monday, Nov. 9 as it is a Monday Night Game anyway!
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Clubs & Sports

- ★ Continue to follow your schedules!
- ★ **LAST soccer games** are today at St. Peter Sanborn (6167 Walmore Rd) - JV at 4 & V at 5!
Good luck to both of our teams that have grown so much this season.
 - Varsity Championship is scheduled for Monday 10/19. After today's games, we will know if we made it. *practice next week will be determined after we know*
- ★ Your child should have received the **1st Trimester Clubs** sign up sheets last Thursday. It will run Tuesdays beginning Oct. 20 until Nov. 17th from 2:30-3. Cost is \$25 cash per child.
 - K-2 - Storybook Craft Club with Mrs. Woods
 - Gr. 3-5 - Art Club with Miss Meranto
 - Gr. 6-8 - Chess Club with Mr. D

♥ Thank You to . .

- ❖ every family who brought in a pet to be blessed and to Father Ben for doing the blessings
- ❖ everyone who supports the school

🗨 Looking Ahead

- Fri., Nov. 13 - Meat Raffle
- Fri. and Sat. March 5 + 6 - THE AUCTION - As you see deals popping up, purchase your basket! It's never too early to send it in.

Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls

MEAT RAFFLE!

Join us for a chance to win amazing meat prizes!

DATE: Friday, November 13, 2026

TIME: Doors open at 6pm
1st spin at 7pm

LOCATION: St. Vincent DePaul Parish Center
2748 Military Road
Niagara Falls, NY

50/50 RAFFLE | **BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND DRINKS!** | **BASKET AUCTION** | **TAILGATE PACKAGE** | **AND MORE!**

Pop, water, and candy available for purchase!

TICKET PRICING

PRE-SALE (due by Thursday, November 5, 2026)
Single entrance ticket - **\$15**
Group table of 6 entrance tickets - **\$75**
All entrance tickets include 1 entry for door prize!

AT THE DOOR
Single entrance ticket - **\$20**

If you have any questions please contact the school office 716-283-1455. Drop off order form at the school office 1055 North Military Road.