

## **NIAGARA CATHOLIC OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM WINTER PRECAUTIONS**

Please be advised of the following:

### **IN ADVANCE:**

- **Students and teachers are to be reminded to dress appropriately for spending the majority of the day outdoors. This is an outdoor field experience- there are limited indoor facilities on site.**
- As indicated in the parent signed Permission Form, all students are to arrive at the site with appropriate winter clothing and boots. Parents are advised to pack extra socks, mittens, hats and additional warm layers for their children to put on during the day if they get cold or wet.
- When outdoor temperatures (including wind-chill) are forecast to be below -15°C during the day of a group's scheduled visit, the Outdoor Education Coordinator, Liz Kirk will communicate with the school principal and attending teacher to discuss options for canceling the visit and rescheduling for an alternative date (final decisions are at the discretion of the school principal). This communication will be initiated no later than 7:00am.
- In the event of extreme weather bus cancellation or school closure, the outdoor education field trip will automatically be cancelled and attempts will be made to reschedule on an alternative date.

### **WHILE ON SITE:**

- Before starting each new activity, Outdoor Education Program Leaders will verbally and visually assess the level of comfort of all site visitors under their supervision. Program Leaders will pay particular attention to discolouration of exposed skin (e.g. ears, hands, lips) when temperatures are below zero degrees Celsius. In consultation with the teacher, Program Leaders will suspend/adjust the program as necessary.
- No students are permitted to walk on ice or next to the creek at any time.
- No students are permitted to use a sled on any hill on the property.
- Bridges and pathways may be closed and roped off when covered with snow and ice, at the discretion of the Outdoor Education Coordinator.
- All site visitors will be encouraged to walk slowly and carefully down hills and on any slippery trail sections.
- Indoor space is limited to the upper and lower floor of a historic mill/ barn structure. These areas will be available for snack, lunch and some activities. The lower level has two space heaters, however hats and jackets are strongly recommended to be worn in the barn.
- Washroom facilities are Port-o-Potty and not heated- hand sanitizer is to be used before eating or after using the washroom.