



St. Louis Catholic School

<http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stlouis.asp>

11 Morgan Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M8Y 2Z7

Principal:
Ms. R. Morris
416 393 5331

Superintendent:
Mrs. C. Tovey-Shackleton
416 222 8282

Trustee:
Mrs. A. Andrachuk
416 512 3402

Parish:
Father Frank Carpinelli
Pastor
St. Leo Catholic Church
416 251 1109

Current Enrolment:
197

School Hours:
Morning Session 8:45-11:45 a.m.
Recess 10:05-10:20 a.m.
Lunch 11:45-12:45 p.m.
Afternoon Session 12:45-3:15 p.m.
Recess 1:55-2:10 p.m.
Dismissal 3:15 p.m.

Catch the Spirit!

Director of Education:
Ann Perron

Parent Newsletter

Principal's Message

HOSPITALITY

Our theme for the month of September

As we begin this new school year, we have much to be thankful for: a staff of dedicated teachers and support staff; parents who care deeply about their children; a beautiful school facility; and most important, students who come to school ready to learn more about the goodness and beauty of the world around them. As your school principal I invite you to read this newsletter carefully, to learn more about our school routines and to learn how you might become involved in supporting our dynamic community: St. Louis Catholic School.

Equity, excellence, the dignity of each person, and collaboration are the hallmarks of our work together, inspired by the Gospel of Jesus.

It continues to be a privilege and a remarkable challenge to be leader of a community that is steeped in a rich history and tradition of excellence in Catholic education. Credit for that history and tradition goes to all who have contributed: former principals, former teachers, present teachers and staff, parish priests, trustees, students and of course, the parent community.

Parish News

We are grateful to **Father Frank Carpinelli** of St. Leo's Parish who will support us as we establish the liturgical program and sacramental preparation for students of St. Louis Catholic School for 2008-2009--

First Reconciliation; First Holy Communion; Confirmation; and many other prayerful experiences, including class visits, masses for class groupings, and masses for the community as a whole. We look forward to a continuing rich relationship between our school and our community parish: St. Leo Catholic Church.

The Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)

Regular parent council meetings are held throughout the school year. Our first CSAC meeting will take place on September 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the school. All parents are welcome! At this meeting, elections will be held for those interested in being members of the CSAC council. If you would like to be a member of council, **please complete a nomination form** attached to this newsletter and return it to Mrs. Senatore, our school secretary by September 23rd. All parents are welcome to attend meetings at any time of the school year.

Staff News at St. Louis

This month we welcome back **Mrs. Varey** to the St. Louis family as she returns from maternity leave to teach the children in our grade 5/6 class. We are all eagerly awaiting news about **Mrs. Schneider**, as she is preparing to give birth any day now! Taking her former position is **Mrs. Agres**, who joins the St. Louis family, from Our Lady of Sorrows school. We hope Mrs. Agres feels part of our school community very quickly! **Miss Burke**, who taught the children in our grade 5/6 class last year, has accepted a position at Holy Name of Mary School in Mississauga. We will miss her very much and we wish her all the best. **Mlle. Mondano**, who is now **Mrs. Ventura** (as she was happily married at St. Leo parish in August), has accepted a position at Our Lady of Peace School, teaching in the primary division. We will miss Mademoiselle very much as well, and wish her peace and joy—both in her new school, and as she begins her new life with her husband.

And, finally, after 28 years of remarkable service, St. Louis wishes Mrs. Cousineau joy and peace as she moves forward on her vocational path to open an innovative, special program for the TCDSB at D'Arcy McGee—a PAST Program for students with autism. There are no words that can express fully our personal gratitude for the remarkable contributions Mrs. Cousineau has made to the St. Louis community over a lifetime of dedicated service. We will gather together as a community with Mrs. Cousineau to thank her and to express how deeply she is missed. Please be on the look out for the letter I will send home, regarding an invitation to a special celebration to honour Mrs. Cousineau as she moves forward to teach students with special needs from across the city of Toronto in this program of great service.

School News

Entrance and Exit Times

On the front page of this newsletter you will find daily instructional times for St. Louis Catholic School. Parents are requested to help the school in developing good ***punctuality and preparation skills*** in the students by ensuring that the students arrive at school on time and that they are prepared for the school day, homework completed.

At assembly times, all students from Grades 1 to 8 are expected to line up in their designated areas in the school yard. Upon entry into the building, students are expected to proceed to their classes in a quiet, orderly manner.

Kindergarten children assemble in their own play area on the west side (Morgan Ave.) of the building.

Note: All students are expected to enter and exit the building through their designated doors. Students should not use the front doors of the school for assembly purposes.

After morning assembly times, the custom of the school is to begin the day with the playing of the national Anthem, a reading of prayers (on Mondays), and announcements for the day. *Once the students are invited to stand for the anthem, it is expected that there is no movement at all in the school. Parents/visitors who may be arriving during that time will be expected to honour this custom as well as the students.* This rule is to honour the importance of communication within our school community!

Supervision of Students

Yard duty supervision by staff members occurs every day. Supervision is in place in the mornings from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., during all recesses, at lunch hours, and after school from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. for students who take the bus.

Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off at the school before 8:15 a.m. in the mornings.

The school cannot assume responsibility for the safety of the children before that time.

Equally, after school each day, students should be picked up by 3:30 p.m. After that time, there is no teacher supervision in the school yard.



Safe Arrival Policy/Verification

Parents are asked to contact the school (416-393-5331) if your child will be absent from school. Your assistance and thoughtfulness in this regard can save significant time each day by reducing the number of telephone calls which must be made to check on attendance. It is both school and school board policy to ensure the safe arrival of students by checking on any student who may be absent.

Visitor Tags—A Safe School Policy!

At St. Louis, we welcome visitors to our school. As you enter the school, you will notice signs that ask all visitors to report to the main office before proceeding anywhere in the school.

All visitors, including parents, are asked to sign in our visitor book in the main office, and to wear a tag for the duration of the appointment. This request is to ensure the safety of our children. Co-operation and respect for this policy is greatly appreciated.

Parents in the School Yard

During the times indicated above when teachers are on supervision duty in the school yard, parents are asked to refrain from being in the school yard. Teachers will deal with any issues that occur. The intention of this request is not to suggest that parents are not welcome in the school. Rather, this request is to protect all parents and students. Any correction of inappropriate behaviour should come from a teacher, not from a parent. If, of course, a parent observes inappropriate behaviour, please discuss your concern with a teacher on supervision duty, or with me in the office.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

All students are required to have an accurate up-to-date telephone number on the student data card for someone other than the parent. These numbers are extremely important in the event the parent cannot be reached. All data cards will be checked carefully at the end of September and any child without an accurate emergency number will be required to provide one.

Mandatory Immunization

The Public Health unit requires all schools to gather immunization records when registering new students. Children who are not appropriately immunized may be suspended from school by the *Office of the Medical Health Officer*.

TRUSTEES 2009 - 2010

Wards:	1. Joseph Martino	2. Ann Andrachuk, Vice Chair	3. Sal Piccininni
	4. Mary Cicogna	5. Maria Rizzo	6. Rob Davis
	7. John Del Grande	8. Mary Ann Robillard	9. Catherine LeBlanc-Miller
	10. Barbara Poplawski	11. Angela Kennedy, Chair	12. Paul John Crawford

Student Trustee: Connor Rollit

Toronto Catholic District School Board

www.tcdsb.org

Hepatitis B – Immunization for Grade 7 Students

Again this year, the Department of Public Health will be administering Hepatitis B immunization shots to all Grade 7 students. The immunization programme involves shots which are administered at various times throughout the year. More information will arrive under separate cover.

Insurance Forms

Parents may wish to consider additional insurance coverage for your sons or daughters. Occasionally accidents do happen where students may suffer serious injury. There are Insurance Application forms available for all students. *This programme is strictly optional.* These forms are for your consideration and use. **Do not return these forms to the school if you choose to purchase the additional insurance. Send all completed forms directly to the insurance company.**

Lunch Hour Procedures

Parents are asked to support school policy regarding lunch procedures. There are basically two options for lunch.

a) Staying for Lunch

All students who indicate that they will be staying for lunch are expected to be in their classroom every day for lunch. Any student who stays for lunch must follow the basic expectations in the classroom. Any student who cannot follow those expectations will forfeit the privilege of staying for lunch. **Note:** Students who stay for lunch do not have permission to leave school grounds to purchase lunch and then return to the school to eat.

b) Going Home for Lunch

Students who go home for lunch are expected to do so all year. Students who go home for lunch should not return to school before 12:05 because there is no yard supervision until that time.

Parents are asked to make a decision regarding lunch (staying or going home) and to adhere to that decision for the year. It is virtually impossible to monitor students who stay occasionally and go home occasionally. Parents are encouraged to select one of the two options. If there are extenuating circumstances, it is the responsibility of the parent to speak to me directly. Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated greatly.

c) Grade 7 and 8 Privileges

Students in grade 7 and 8 continue to have the privilege of leaving school property at lunch hour, with written permission from a parent. For safety reasons, students must sign out in the sign-out book in the main office and leave the note in the envelope in the main office. Any student who leaves school property with out permission will be asked to meet with parents with the principal to review the loss of privilege.

Students Coming To School When Ill/Staying in at Recess

As a general guideline, if a child is not well enough to go outside at recess, she/he is not well enough to be at school. Although it may be an inconvenience, a child in this condition should be kept home. Children should not be put in the position of seeking permission to remain indoors during recesses. Such permission will not normally be granted.

Class Changes May Occur

Appreciation is extended to all parents for their patience as the school year begins. There are always some adjustments to class grouping as a result of changes in student numbers over the summer period. It is hoped that all changes will be finalized within the first few weeks. Parents of children being affected will be notified directly. As few changes as possible will be undertaken. Parents can be assured that changes will only be made after very careful consideration and in the best possible interests of effective programming for the students.

Excursions

There are basically two types of excursions for all students. There are local community excursions which are usually accessible by walking, and there are further afield excursions which require some form of transportation.

For local excursions, there is a standard permission form which will be filled out by all students at the beginning of the school year. That single permission form grants the teacher permission to take the class off the school grounds into the local community (e.g. to the church, to the fire station, to the local park, to the public library, to local businesses, etc.) *If that local permission form is not signed, the student cannot be given permission to go with the class.*

For further afield excursions, **a permission form must be signed by the parent** every time an excursion is planned. No student will be granted permission to attend an excursion if the permission form is not signed. Verbal permission is not sufficient to allow the child to participate.

Teachers are encouraged to plan some excursions each year. Parents do need to know there may be costs involved for each excursion. Every effort is made to select reasonably priced excursions. If there are any financial concerns about a particular excursion, you are asked to contact me directly at the school. **Please be aware that planned excursions are an important part of the curriculum. Therefore, student attendance and participation for excursions is compulsory.**

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are always welcome at St. Louis Catholic School. If any parent is interested in becoming a parent volunteer, please contact either your child's teacher, or speak to me personally. Frequently, the greatest area of parental volunteer involvement occurs when classes go on excursions outside the school. These are definitely situations which require additional supervision. When volunteering at the school *in classroom situations in an ongoing situation*, it is recommended that a parent will not work in the classroom of her/his own child. Such direct involvement places unnecessary pressure on both the parent and the child. For out of classroom excursions the same policy does not apply. Parents are most welcome to assist on excursions with the class of their own child. If there are any questions about volunteering at St. Louis, please feel free to contact the school.

Curriculum Night

On September 17th, at 7:00 p.m., the teachers of St. Louis Catholic School welcome you to Curriculum Night, an evening for parents to familiarize themselves with their child's classroom and programme. Teachers will be in the classrooms to meet the parents, to show the parents the classroom, to discuss expectations for the year, and to respond to any questions parents may have about curriculum. Parents are reminded of the purpose of the evening: it is to meet the teachers and to discuss expectations for the school year. It is most definitely not a parent interview evening.

St. Louis Catholic School 2009 - 2010

THE FOLLOWING IS A SET OF IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR:

Number of School Days	194
Labour Day	September 7, 2009
First Day of School	September 8, 2009
Thanksgiving Day	October 12, 2009
Christmas Break	December 21 to January 1, 2009
Family Day	February 15, 2010—no school for students
Mid-Winter Break	March 15-19, 2010
Good Friday	April 2, 2010
Easter Monday	April 5, 2010
Victoria Day	May 24, 2010
Last day of school	June 29, 2010

There will be Six Professional Development Days for Elementary Schools:

(There is no school for students on these dates.)

September 2nd, 2009—Focus on Provincial Priorities: Teaching Learning Critical Pathways

September 3rd, 2009—Focus on Faith—"Celebrating The Word" with Archbishop Collins

November 13th—Focus on Report Cards, Assessment and Evaluation

December 4th, 2009—Parent-Teacher conferences

March 5th, 2010—Parent-Teacher conferences

June 30th, 2010—Provincial education priorities

Nurturing Our Catholic Community Through Word, Worship and Witness

Loving God

You speak to us through your living WORD.

Your WORD tells us your story.

Your WORD comforts our lives.

Your WORD challenges the way we live.

Help us to live your WORD each day.

Loving God

Your are present to us whenever we gather to WORSHIP you.

You call us to be a community of prayer in our Catholic school.

You remind us that we gather as a community of faith.

You tell us that whenever we gather in your name, you are with us.

Help us to celebrate your presence in our community WORSHIP.

Loving God

We are signs of your presence in our world whenever we WITNESS

To your love and compassion,

To your kindness and care,

To your justice and peace.

Strengthen us for the work of WITNESSING.

Amen.

**Catholic School Advisory Council
Nomination Form**

Complete Section A or B

Section A

I wish to become a parent candidate for election to the Catholic School Advisory Council.

Full Name (Print)	Signature	Date
Home Phone Number	Business Phone	email address

I am an employee of the school board (TCDSB) Yes No

Section B

I wish to nominate _____ as a parent candidate for election to
Full Name (Print)

The Catholic School Advisory Council. The candidate has been contacted and agrees to this nomination.

The candidate is an employee of the board (TCDSB). Yes No

The best way to contact the candidate is _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Signature of Nominator: _____
Full Name (Print)

Phone Number of Nominator	Date
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** Please return to St. Louis Catholic School (office) by September 23rd, 2009**
Thank you.

Welcome to Families New to the St. Louis School Community—We Are Family!

As we begin the new school year, we would like to take a moment to welcome all of the families who are joining us for the first time. We will do everything possible to ensure that your experiences with us are positive and memorable. Please feel from the very first day that you are valued members of our school family.

Student Agenda Books

Again this year, we will be using student agenda/planners for our students from grade one to grade eight. While the agendas are not compulsory, we strongly encourage students to purchase these planners because they are a wonderful organizational tool and there will be occasions when the classroom teachers will use them in classes for activities contained in the planners. The cost of the planner is \$5.00. Thanks to our CSAC for offsetting the total cost of these valuable tools for learning!

Food Allergies

Although St. Louis School promotes safe food/allergy awareness practices, the entire school is not an allergy-free school. However, in those classrooms where there is a known severe allergy to specific foods (e.g. peanuts, etc.) we anticipate the co-operation of the families associated with that room to eliminate the food types which could cause very severe problems for the allergic student. Individual classroom teachers will make those concerns known to the families of that class. Your understanding and support in these situations is greatly appreciated.

Student Behaviour/Language

Students will be advised and will be reminded of an expectation for appropriate language and behaviour in all situations but especially in unstructured situations such as recess times. Behaviour and language should reflect the atmosphere of a Catholic school community. Consequences for inappropriate language and behaviour will be strictly enforced. Parent support and positive role modelling will assist the school significantly.

In Conclusion

Once again, let me restate that we look forward to a rich, productive year at St. Louis Catholic School. By working together in partnership—with our parish, teachers, support staff, students, parents, and principal—we can ensure a year of great prosperity. I want to assure each member of the community that my door is open. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss concerns you may have, or to offer suggestions for school improvement. You are invited to call ahead at any time to make an appointment. I look forward to meeting with you in the weeks ahead: on the yard, by telephone, or at the Parent Council meeting on September 24th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Louis!

Respectfully,

Ms. R. Morris
Principal
St. Louis Catholic School
416-393-5331

Her First Day of School

—Author Unknown

She started school this morning
And she seemed so very small
As I walked there beside her
In the Kindergarten hall.

And as she took her place beside
The others in the class,
I realized how all too soon
Those first few years can pass.

Remembering, I saw her as
She first learned how to walk.
The words that we alone made out
When she began to talk.

This little girl so much absorbed
In learning how to write.
It seems as though she must have grown
To girlhood overnight.

My eyes were blurred by hastily
I brushed the tears away.
Lest by some word or sign of mine
I mar her first big day.

Oh how I longed to stay with her
And keep her by the hand
To lead her through the places
That she couldn't understand.

And something closely kin to fear
Was mingled with my pride.
I knew she would no longer be
A baby by my side.

But she must have her chance to live
To work her problems out,
The privilege to grow and learn
Is What life is all about.

And I must share my little girl
With friends and work and play;
She's not a baby anymore—
She's in Kindergarten today!