



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 1100

Current Enrolment:
222

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:
Mr. L. Nemes

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.

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 18th 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 17th.

Staff News at St. Louis

This week we welcome warmly two new members of staff: Ms. K. Schneider, who joins us this year to teach the children in grade 3; and Ms. T. Burke, joins us to teach the children in grades 5 and 6. It is my sincere hope that these young, dynamic professionals feel part of the St. Louis family very soon. We are delighted that you have joined our staff. And, in every school year there is a joining and a leaving of a number of staff members. I am delighted to let you know that this July, Mr. and Mrs. Varey welcomed the arrival of a beautiful baby girl! Mrs. Varey is now on a parental leave. Mrs. Mior, who attended St. Louis as a student, will be greatly missed as she leaves us this September to teach at Our Lady of Sorrows. We will miss her very much. Also, Miss G. Petrone begins a leave of absence on September 2nd. We wish Miss Petrone all the best at this time. Ms Da Luz, one of our Child and Youth Workers, has been reassigned by the board and will be missed. And finally, Miss Micucci has accepted a teaching position at St. Basil the Great Secondary School. She will miss St Louis very much, but we wish her well as she ventures into the exciting new landscape of secondary school education!

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 students 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 2008 - 2009

Wards

1. Joseph Martino	5. Maria Rizzo	9. Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, Vice-Chair
2. Ann Andrachuk	6. Christine Nunziata	10. Barbara Poplawski
3. Sal Piccininni	7. John Del Grande-Honourary Treasurer	11. Angela Kennedy
4. Mary Cicogna	8. Oliver Carroll, Chair	12. Paul John Crawford Ashley Pereira, Student Trustee

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 to be 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 11th, 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 **2008 – 2009**

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

Number of School Days	194
Labour Day	September 1, 2008
First Day of School	September 2, 2008
Thanksgiving Day	October 13, 2008
PD Day	October 24, 2008—no school for students
PD Day	December 5, 2008-- Interviews/Reporting Day—no school for students
Christmas Break	December 22 to January 2, 2009
PD Day	February 13, 2009—no school for students
Family Day	February 16, 2009—no school for students
PD Day	March 13-- Interviews/Reporting Day—no school for students
Mid-Winter Break	March 16-20, 2009
Good Friday	April 10, 2009
Easter Monday	April 13, 2009
Victoria Day	May 18, 2009
Last day of school	June 25, 2009
PD Day	June 26, 2009

**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 17th, 2008**
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 18th 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!