



**St. Boniface
Catholic School**
20 Markanna Drive
Scarborough, Ontario
M1M 2J1
416-393-5277

Principal
P. Stachiw

Secretary
G. Da Silva

Superintendent
G. Grant

Trustee
P. Crawford

Parish
St. Boniface
142 Markham Road
416-261-5983

School Hours
8:55 AM - 3:30 PM

Lunch Hour
12:00 AM - 1:00 PM



St. Boniface Catholic School JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Though the holiday season has come to an end, the Christmas story is not over. Mary and Joseph were told by an angel to care for the child Jesus. We, too, must take Jesus with us on our journey into the new year and care for Him as he cares for us.

"If Christ is to be our Saviour, we must find Him here, now, and where we are in this age of ours; otherwise He is no Christ, no Saviour, no Emmanuel, no God with us" (Sir Issac Hecker 1819-1888). In this New Year, let's hope that everything we do will keep this profound Christmas message alive in our community.



The Work of Christmas Begins....

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart... And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins. - Howard Thurman

Please accept our best wishes for a Happy New Year.
God Bless,

P. Stachiw,
Principal

Registration for Junior Kindergarten begins in January

Registration is for those children born in 2006. For more information, call 416-393-5277 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, Ext. 5320. For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, visit our website at www.tcdsb.org.

Success In School Begins with Regular Attendance

One of the goals in schools is to work in partnership with parents to prepare their child(ren) to become good citizens. In order to make this successful, children need to learn responsibility and adapt to regular routines. When these routines are not consistently followed, it makes it more difficult for children to settle in to the school. Students are asked to arrive at school on time, at least five minutes before the bell rings in the morning. We track the number of lates and absences and are able to print out attendance profiles of all students. One of our goals is to work with parents to ensure their child(ren) arrive at school on time. If your child is late or absent 10 days or more (not including illness or absence due to a family emergency), a letter will be sent home with your child's attendance profile. If the tardiness or absences continue, we will ask our school social worker to become involved.

When a student misses school it impacts on their learning creating potential gaps in their learning. Also when a student arrives late to school, it disrupts the program that is already in progress. More importantly, it is a real safety concern in that our Safe School Arrival mandates that attendance be taken immediately and that absenteeism is addressed. It is the parents' responsibility to be sure students arrive on time. Please make your New Year's resolution to arrive at school on time. We thank you for your cooperation with respect to regular attendance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday January 13, 2010	JK Registration Evening 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday January 21, 2010	Family Math Night
Wednesday January 27, 2010	Pizza Lunch
Monday February 1, 2010	Parent Council Meeting (CSAC) 6:00 p.m.
Monday February 15, 2010	Family Day (Statutory Holiday - no school)

Celebration of Excellence

As we continue with our monthly themes, the theme for November was Peace. Our quote of the month was, "**Peace is the respect for the rights of others.**" The following students were recognized at our Spirit Assembly on December 15th:

Kisha B., Jeremiah L., Lauren R., Jonathan M., Ejay C., Ryan L., Zoe L., Matthew K., Shelton S., Tatiana U., Selom H., Christian S., Tyrese M., Tricia A., John Michael A., Taneika M., Paul M.

Our theme for December was Charity. Our quote for the month was, "**Charity begins at home, but should not end there.**" The following students were recognized at our Spirit Assembly on January 8th:

Ethan S., Ximena M., Renae S., Ahadu H., Cierra D., Keegan C., Deleena B., Gabriel V., Princess A., Etthen S., Selom H., Joshua B., Anngaline S., Kaitlyn M., Esperenza A., Alex P., Samantha W.

The academic subject for November was Language Arts/English. The following students were recognized at our Spirit Assembly:

Adrian H., Mickayla D., Cameron N., Nathan J., Gasron V., Denzil G., Thayra S., Cassidy A., Mia L., Eden N., Mathea B., Paula L., Janice A., Tim B., Angelika G., Barbara M., Ruella L.

Our academic subject for December was Art. The following students were recognized at our Spirit Assembly:

Janelle P., Janae G., Maya W., Marian M., Aspen H., Alizabelle S., Thayra S., Jahkeira J., Kristian A., Daniel M., Damian O., Tabitha F., Jersey A., Reah S., Camilla B., Sinead G., Janine H.

Our academic subject for January is Music.

Dance-a-thon Winners

At our December Spirit Assembly, we recognized all of our class and individual winners for our Dance-a-thon Fundraiser. Congratulations to the following classes, Miss Lang, Mrs. Strelchuk and Mrs. Aranjó, who raised the most money in their division and will receive a pizza lunch courtesy of the Parent Council. Also congratulations to the following students who were the individual winners in their division for raising the most money. For Primary Sarah F. and Angelo M., for Junior Jada and Victor and for Intermediate there was a tie between Bailey B. and Nathan S. The primary students received a gift card to purchase a new bike in the Spring and the junior and intermediate students received gift cards for \$50 and \$100 to use at the Scarborough Town Center. The Principal for the Day will be Sarah F. in Miss Lang's class. Once again thank you to all of the students and parents for their ongoing support of St. Boniface Catholic School.

Cold Weather Footwear

Please ensure that your child wears boots to and from school. We require that a pair of dry indoor shoes (slippers, sneakers, etc.) bearing your child's name be kept at school for indoor wear.



Skating Program

We are continuing the skating program. For safety reasons, we strongly advise that your child wear a C.S.A. approved helmet for this activity. Children will walk to and from the Scarborough Village Community Centre.

Communication Procedures Regarding Busing Cancellations and/or School Closures

Cancellation of school bus transportation or school closures due to inclement weather will be reported through the following vehicles:

- News releases to all media outlets in Toronto (although the news release is provided to the media outlets, there is no guarantee that all television and radio stations will broadcast the information in a timely fashion.)
- Communications will endeavour to send an email to everyone on exchange to advise them of any cancellations or closures
- Communications will also endeavour to send out the information electronically to ENews subscribers
- Updates will also be posted on the Board's 24-hour information line, 416-222-8282, extension 2873.
- The information will also be posted on the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org or www.tcdsb.org/weather.htm.
- The Transportation Department will post this information on its website at http://www.schoolbus.to/c_home.asp

Please note that the information is provided to the communications department between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. through the Board's Transportation Department, who are consulting with TDSB transportation staff and school bus operators on the viability and safety of delivering bus service.

IF TRANSPORTATION IS CANCELLED AND PARENTS BRING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL, PARENTS WILL THEN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP THEIR CHILD(REN) AT DISMISSAL TIME.



YMCA YMCA Child Care at your Door

Did you know that there is a YMCA Child Care Centre located in your school that provides an environment that inspires discovery learning for children from 2 ½ to 12 years? Spaces are currently available on a full time and part time basis. We provide a stimulating learning experience in a safe and secure environment. Our centre is government licensed and adheres to all regulations and standards set down by the Day Nurseries Act.

At the YMCA our children are Playing to Learn which provides the foundation for learning to read and write, and for learning mathematics, science and technology. The school age children are given opportunities to investigate, study, explore and make hypotheses around their findings; which makes them better equipped and prepared to formulate conclusions as adults.

For more information about opportunities available for your child please call Narmin Pirani at 416-261-9092 or drop in.

French Immersion/Extended French Information Nights

If you are interested in finding more information about schools that offer a French Immersion or Extended French Program, please contact the school board directly if you have any questions or visit the Board's website. The link is provided below.

<http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/frenchimmersion.html>

What Math Activities Can I Do With My Child?



Understanding Numbers

Numbers are used to describe quantities, to count, and to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Understanding numbers and knowing how to combine them to solve problems helps us in all areas of math.

► *Count everything!* Count toys, kitchen utensils, and items of clothing as they come out of the dryer. Help your child count by pointing to and moving the objects as you say each number out loud. Count forwards and backwards from different starting places. Use household items to practise adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.

► *Sing counting songs and read counting books.* Every culture has counting songs, such as "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" and "Ten Little Monkeys", which make learning to count-both forwards and backwards-fun for children. Counting books also capture children's imagination, by using pictures of interesting things to count and to add.

► *Discover the many ways in which numbers are used inside and outside your home.* Take your child on a "number hunt" in your home or neighbourhood. Point out how numbers are used on the television set, the microwave and the telephone. Spot numbers in books and newspapers. Look for numbers on signs in your neighbourhood. Encourage your child to tell you whenever he or she discovers a new way in which numbers are used.

► *Ask your child to help you solve everyday number problems.* "We need six tomatoes to make our sauce for dinner, and we have only two. How many more do we need to buy?" "You have two pillows in your room and your sister has two pillows in her room. How many pillowcases do I need to wash?" "Two guests are coming to eat dinner with us. How many plates will we need?"

► *Practise "skip counting".* Together, count by 2's and 5's. Ask your child how far he or she can count by 10's. Roll two dice, one to determine a starting number and the other to determine the counting interval. Ask your child to try counting backwards from 10, 20, or even 100.

► *Make up games using dice and playing cards.* Try rolling dice and adding or multiplying the numbers that come up. Add up the totals until you reach a target number, like 100. Play the game backwards to practise subtraction.

► *Play "Broken Calculator"* Pretend that the number 8 key on the calculator is broken. Without it, how can you make the number 18 appear on the screen? (Sample answers: $20-2$, $15+3$). Ask other questions using different "broken" keys.

Family Literacy Day

January 27th has been promoted by *ABC Canada Literacy Foundation* as **Family Literacy Day**. The day is a great opportunity to promote the importance of reading and learning together as a family.

The following website provides additional information and supporting materials. This year, *ABC Canada* is attempting to make history by having 300,000 Family Literacy Day participants. Please go to the following website to register and get some valuable information regarding Literacy.

http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family_literacy/family_literacy_day

Toronto Catholic District School Board Invites Parents, Staff and Catholic School Ratepayers to Consultation Meetings Regarding the 2010-2011 Budget

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites parents, staff and Catholic stakeholders to participate in consultation sessions regarding the 2010-2011 Budget.

Consultation began November 14th at the annual Catholic School Advisory Councils. In November and December, the Board also made presentations to the Community Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee, Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the Union Staff Liaison Committee. Parents, staff and all stakeholders in Catholic education are invited to one of the following sessions in 2010 to provide input into the budget:

Saturday, January 9th

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

and

1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

at the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, North York

Tuesday, January 12th

6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School, 2 St. Andrews Boulevard, Etobicoke

Thursday, January 14th

6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

St. Thomas More Catholic School, 2300 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough

For those who are not able to attend one of the sessions, a survey is available online at www.tcdsb.org.

Public delegations regarding the budget can also be made to the Board in March and April 2010.

TCDSB encourages all Catholic school supporters to provide input into the budget.

Attendance

Please continue to use our Safe Arrival Program for student absences/lates by calling 416-393-5277 before 8:30 a.m. Clearly leave your child's name and reason for his/her absence. This will help with attendance procedures in the morning.

Student Data

The safety of our students is our paramount concern. Whenever there is a change of address, telephone number(s) or emergency contact, please forward this information to the school as soon as possible.

JUST FOR KIDS

TIPS FOR HOMEWORK SUCCESS

- Create a positive work environment. Choose a quiet place that is well lit and free from distractions. A desk or table also helps concentration.
- Keep all supplies nearby. Have everything gathered and organized before you start your homework.
- Arrange a fixed, nightly homework time. Dedicate the entire block of time to homework, or other academic pursuits; consequently, there is no advantage to rushing through work or forgetting it at school.
- Use a homework planner or agenda. Check off the assignments that you have completed.
- Finish the easiest assignments first, leaving more time for the challenging ones.
- Try to work independently. Completing assignments on your own will help you become a more confident and responsible student.
- Ask friends to call or email during specific times to reduce unnecessary disturbances.

HELPFUL HOMEWORK WEBSITES

school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp

www.linktolearning.com (a great one!)

www.scholastic.com/kids/homework

www.nationalgeographic.com/education/homework