



Wishing Everyone a Very Merry Christmas

Best wishes for 2019.

Enjoy the holidays starting December 22nd. Schools will re-open January 7th

For the students, staff and families in our Eastern Rite schools we wish you a Merry Christmas on January 7th and look forward to welcoming you back on January 8th.

Message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board

"We wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus." – Pope Francis

The season of light is upon on us. During Advent as we anticipate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, we also rejoice and express gratitude for all of God's blessings. As a Catholic community we are called to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and that Jesus offers the greatest gift of all: His salvation.

Christmas allows us the opportunity to rekindle relationships with old friends and make new ones, and spend time with our families and friends sharing meals, exchanging gifts, decorating the tree, and singing and praying together.

As we count down the days until Christmas, we focus on service and preparing ourselves for this joyous day. Although it is a happy time for many of us, we pray for those who are experiencing loss, illness, loneliness or poverty, which can be even more difficult during this festive time of the year. We have witnessed our students, staff and families reach out to the homeless, the lonely, the elderly and infirm. They have donated food, clothing, blankets and money, and most importantly their time to bringing some light into the lives of those less fortunate. Their generosity brings a little joy into the lives of those they touch.

We thank you all for putting your faith into action in so many ways during Advent and throughout the year. These acts of kindness give meaning to this year's Pastoral plan of Belonging, our Catholic values and Catholic teachings.

As this year comes to an end, we thank all the staff, students, families, parishes and supporters of Catholic education for your commitment and dedication to our school and parish communities. We look forward to welcoming 2019 with a continued focus on nurturing our Catholic community, improving student well-being and achievement and building our capacity to learn and grow.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Senior Team, we wish each of you a peaceful, happy and bountiful Christmas holiday.

May the year ahead be filled with the love and the light of Christ.

Sincerely,

Rory McGuckin

Maria Rizzo

Imagine the Possibilities – Kindergarten Registration 2019

Kindergarten Registration in Toronto Catholic Schools begins January 16, 2019. Junior Kindergarten in the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides children with a variety of learning experiences in a caring, faith-based environment. TCDSB looks forward to welcoming new students for September 2019. Children born in 2015 are eligible for kindergarten. Parents can complete their application online beginning on **January 16, 2019 at 10 a.m. EST** at SOAR.tcdsb.org, and follow up with a visit to the school to present the required documents. The online application is available 24 hours. [Click here for more information.](#)

Learn More About French Immersion and Extended French

Information nights are underway. Check here for dates, times and locations

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/FrenchImmersion/Pages/default.aspx>

Special Education and Community Resources Fair: February 2, 2019

Please join the Special Services Department on **Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the Catholic Education Centre Atrium (2nd floor, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, North York) for the annual Special Education and Community Resources Fair. The day provides families with an opportunity to engage with Board staff and community organizations and learn more about the services available to them. [Click here for more information about the Fair.](#)

Scholarship Opportunities for Portuguese Canadian Students

The Federation of Portuguese-Canadian Business & Professionals will be awarding deserving candidates a scholarship in amounts between \$1,500 and \$2,500 to study abroad at the NOVA School of Business and Economics, Carcavelos Campus - Lisbon and the University of the Azores, São Miguel or Terceira Campuses. **Registration deadline: January 18, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** Click here for more information:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/ScholarshipsPortugueseCanadianStudents.aspx>

University Application Deadline

Deadline for Ontario high school students to submit their completed application to the OUAC is January 16, 2019. Note: OUAC processes applications received after this date & distributes them to the universities; however, specific university deadlines apply. <https://www.ouac.on.ca/>

Summer Jobs for Students

The City is currently accepting summer job applications for positions supporting camps, aquatic programs and various recreation programs until early February. More information about recreation recruitment is available on the City's website at <https://www.toronto.ca/home/jobs/information-for-applicants/recruitment-initiatives/recreation-jobs/>

CSPC Executive Workshop

Topic: , The Role and Responsibility of the Treasurer & Fundraising in Schools

January 29th @ 7:00 p.m.

at the Catholic Teachers Centre, 3rd floor

CEC, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

Important Meeting Regarding Dante and Regina Mundi Development

January 23, 2019

6:30 pm

At Dante Alighieri Academy, 60 Playfair Avenue (gymnasium)

Latest Updates on Weather Related Cancellations or Closures

Although we have had a fairly mild December with very little snow, the winter weather is just around the corner.

To get the latest information about school bus transportation, see

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>

Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the transportation portal to get real time information about any transportation issues: <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

Cancellation of school bus transportation will also be reported via ENews, Twitter @TCDSB, and the 24 hour telephone information line 416-222-8282, extension 2873, and posted to the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org

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