



**Dear Parents, Caregivers, Guardians and Community Members,**

Welcome Back and Happy New Year 2016! My deepest gratitude to all -parents, students, staff- who helped us with our Christmas Concert. A special thank you goes to all the parent volunteers for their generous donations of time, energy and gifts to be raffled on that evening. We could not have successfully done any of these and brought our community members together without your invaluable support and involvement.

Special thanks to all for your personal Christmas wishes and gifts. It is spiritually uplifting to see the support and the recognition you afford me - even though I do not think I deserve all of this attention! During these festive times, I hope you were able to enjoy some needed quality time with the children and all of your family members and friends.

Have a joyful and blessed year filled with health, love, peace and prosperity – one that will see the realization of your most cherished wishes. Best wishes for a healthy and productive year.

Yours in Catholic education

*Jean E. Stéphanian*

Principal

## Grade 1 / Grade 2

My name is Orillin Anthonipillai and I am the new Grade 1/2 teacher at St. René Goupil Catholic School. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to teach your children this year.

This year in Grade 1/2 we will be experiencing many wonderful new challenges. In January, we will continue to follow the rules, expectations, and responsibilities created by our class to encourage students to be important and valued members of our classroom community.

Every morning we start with prayers, calendar, weather, Daily Five and Sound Buddies. During Daily Five, students read to self, read to someone or read to the teacher in a small group. Sound Buddies is our spelling program that consists of identifying letter combinations that make specific sounds and finding spelling patterns. Later, we move onto structured Language lessons where students learn to read and write in a variety of genres.

In the afternoon we begin Structured Math lessons where students are exposed to using manipulatives (i.e., blocks, counters), investigations, problem solving and pencil and paper tasks. Students have been showing their learning orally, pictorially and in writing.

Throughout the day we continue to work on other subjects such as French, Physical Education, DPA, Social Studies or Science and Religion. In December, our class welcomed our CYW student from Seneca

College, Ms. J who is with us on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays until the end of this year. We have been very fortunate to have Ms. J and our EA Ms. Powell in the classroom for additional support.

In our classroom we emphasize treating each other as we wish to be treated, taking responsibility for our actions and showing love for God and other people. Our students are deepening their relationship with Jesus and learning to make better choices each and every day. Our Grade 2 students have been actively working on these themes and are preparing for their sacrament of Reconciliation on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

To keep our students busy and happy, our school has rounded up some winter activities to which we are all looking forward.

What an exciting way to start 2016!

Sincerely,

*O. Anthonipillai. OCT*

**Catholic School Parent Council**  
2015-2016

**Our CSPC meeting #4 will be held on  
Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>,  
in the Library, at 6:30 pm.**





## Grade 6 Trip to Ripley's Aquarium

On Tuesday, December 15, 2015, Ms. Li's Grade 6 Science class went on a field trip to Ripley's Aquarium with St. Aidan's grade 6 class. The first thing we did was to "try" to touch the stingrays. They had a soft and slimy texture, and the little ones were adorable! Then we went to the gift shop and bought some souvenirs. We bought necklaces, name tags, key chains, shark teeth, and best of all...CANDY!!!

After that, we went to a workshop about Plankton. We learned many interesting things about them. Like how there are three different types of Plankton: the Zooplankton, Bacterioplankton, and the Phytoplankton. Phytoplankton stay near the top of the water to get their energy, but once they go deeper into the water, they will die because they will get eaten and because not enough sunlight reaches them. So, they usually try to fall slowly to the bottom by creating a larger surface area. So our challenge was, in groups, to create our own Phytoplankton using the materials given to us, which were: clay, a popsicle stick, a straw, a piece of foam, a pom pom, and a pipe cleaner. The Phytoplankton that we created would compete with other group's plankton to see whose would reach the bottom of a jug of water the slowest. Our Phytoplankton took exactly 5 seconds to fall to the bottom of the jug, and that gave us second place! The winner's Phytoplankton took 10.68 seconds to fall to the bottom of the jug of water.

Then, we explored the aquarium and saw many interesting creatures, like the Upside-Down Jellyfish (a.k.a. Cassiopea which is the scientific name). Next, we went to the "Shark Tunnel". It was a tube which runs through the main pool of water on the upstairs floor. There was a conveyor belt running in it to move people from one end to the other at a pace where you can still take photos and read descriptions of the fish and other animals. It was an amazing experience seeing sharks and fish swim above our heads.

Later, we ate lunch (a.k.a. poutine and onion rings). After lunch, we walked around the aquarium until we came to the end. We then went to go see a feeding show in a area of the aquarium called "Rainbow Reef". We watched the show for a bit, then we went back to the front of the aquarium. At the front of the aquarium we had a choice to go to the gift shop or to touch the Stingrays (again) before we left. Then when the time came for us to go, we were sad, but we knew that we would leave with a lot of good memories.

- Shannon, Brianna, Austin  
Grade 6 students



**ST. RENÉ GOUPIL CATHOLIC SCHOOL** 44 PORT ROYAL TRAIL, SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO M1V 2G8  
TEL: 416-393-5408 FAX: 416-393-5773

**Principal:** J. E. Stépanian

**Superintendent:** K. Malcolm, 416-222-8282 ex. 2263

**Parish:** Prince of Peace; Fr. Regulo Imperial - 265 Alton Towers Circle, Scarborough, ON M1V 4E7 416-291-9422

**School Hours:** 9:00am – 3:30pm **Lunch Break:** 11:45 – 12:45pm

**CSPC Chair:** Mrs. K. Moon

**Trustee:** Garry Tanuan, 416-512-3408

**Admin Assistant:** Mrs. Jeannine Sayegh

# TCDSB Monthly Update

## January 2016



### Cold Alerts and Weather-Related Cancellations/Closures

With the approach of winter weather, Twitter and the board website are the best sources of the latest information relating to cold weather alerts, cancellations and closures. Get all the information here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/HealthandSafety/Pages/Weather-Related-Safety-Concerns.aspx>

And remember to check the Toronto Student Transportation Group website for any school bus delays throughout the year.

<http://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>

### Kindergarten Registration Starts January 13, 2016

#### Registration options:

- **Online:** Parents will be able to complete their application online beginning at 10 a.m. EST on January 13, 2016, 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.
- **In Person:** Parents can register at their local school with the required documents beginning January 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. EST. To accommodate the busy schedules of parents, all elementary schools will host an evening registration session during the month of January. Parents are asked to contact their local Catholic school for specific dates and times.

Kindergarten

Registration

Information



Details: <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/KindergartenRegistration/Pages/default.aspx>

#### Registration documents:

- Child's Birth Certificate or Passport/Immigration documents if child was not born in Canada
- Child's Catholic baptismal certificate (or proof of Catholicity of parent)
- Proof of residency in Toronto (some examples: a lease agreement, utility bill)
- Immunization Record

Information is available by telephone at 416-222-8282 ext. 5314, or by visiting the above link.

### French Immersion and Extended French

#### New for September 2016, French Immersion begins in Junior Kindergarten.

Information evenings are being held in January and February. Visit our website for specific dates, times and locations.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2015/pages/French-Immersion-and-Extended-French.aspx>

The **Extended French Program is offered to students beginning in grade 5** at several TCDSB sites. Interested parents are encouraged to attend an information evening to learn more about the program.

### Revised MYSP Consultation Coming January/February 2016

The Board is committed to revising its Multi-Year Strategic Plan in order to be responsive to the changing needs of our system. The TCDSB is committed to authentic broad-based consultation in order to reflect the input from all stakeholders. The consultation will take place during January/February 2016. Details can be found online here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/MYSP/Pages/2016-MYSP-Consultation.aspx>

### Reminder About Application Deadlines for Post-Secondary Studies

**January 16, 2016**--Deadline to submit your completed University application to the OUAC. <http://www.ouac.on.ca/deadlines/>

**February 1, 2016**—Application deadline for community colleges <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/apply>

### Audited Financial Statements

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/BudgetandFinance/Documents/2015-08-31Toronto%20Catholic%20District%20Sch%20Brd%2018413%20AUD%20Cons.pdf>

### Tentative Schedule of Board and Committee Meetings

The draft calendar of meetings for 2016 has been approved by the board. Please note that meetings are subject to change. Visit the website periodically to check on meeting dates and times.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/TrusteesoftheBoard/boardmeeting/information/Pages/Meeting-Schedule.aspx>

### New App Helps to Link Adults with the English and French Language Programs They Need

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce the launch of a new app which allows adults to easily access the courses they need to succeed. The app can be accessed through the board's website at

<https://adulthoodcoursefinder.tcdsb.org/>. (Please note the app is optimized for current versions of Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Android and iPhones, and Internet Explorer 10 and above with compatibility turned off.

The new app allows the user to quickly pinpoint programs based on their preferred location, day and time of day they are available to study, and the type of program they are seeking.

### Upcoming Events

- **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (December 8-November 20, 2016)**  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/ExtraordinaryJubileeYearOfMercy/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Eastern Rite Christmas January 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Family Literacy Day January 27<sup>th</sup>**
- **PA Day for Elementary Schools January 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- **February is Black/African Canadian Heritage Month**
- **Toronto Catholic Family Film Festival April 21<sup>st</sup>--**  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Year-of-Family/TCFF/Pages/Default.aspx>

Visit the TCDSB Website [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) to get all the news and information from around the board, including athletics, news for parents and students.

Follow the board on Twitter @TCDSB to get updates as they happen.

Or subscribe to Enews and receive regular email updates.

<https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>

### VIRTUE OF THE MONTH (JANUARY): *Courage*

***"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God."*** (Isaiah 41:10)

#### *Principles of Overview of the Virtue of Courage*

- Courage also known as bravery, fortitude, will, and intrepidity, is the ability to confront fear, pain, risk/danger, uncertainty, or intimidation.
- "Physical courage" is courage in the face of physical pain, hardship, death, or threat of death.
- "Moral courage" is the ability to act rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement.
- The virtue of courage helps us to take the initiative to make changes in our lives and/ or to accept changes brought before us.

#### **Catholic Graduate Expectation -- I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN WHO:**

- Acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions.
- Accepts accountability for one's own actions.
- Seeks and grants forgiveness.
- Promotes the sacredness of life.
- Witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society.
- Respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures.
- Respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today's contemporary society.
- Exercises the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship.
- Respects the environment and uses resources wisely.
- Contributes to the common good.

#### **Principles of Catholic Social Teaching**

##### **Solidarity:**

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Solidarity means that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

**MARCH BREAK:**

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Back to school on  
Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016.



**STUDENT PIZZA LUNCH** *Every Wednesday*

The dates for the month of *January* are:  
6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.



**Skating**



Soon our students will begin a short skating program at Agincourt Arena. The children will be bussed to and from the arena. The specific dates will be announced shortly.

To keep our students safe from injury, helmets are mandatory for this physical education program and as a result students will not be permitted to skate without one. In preparation for this winter activity parents are asked to provide helmets for their children.

*Our sincere thanks if you have extra helmets and/or pairs of skates and can donate them to our school to be used for this purpose.*

**Welcome To Our School**

**Registration**

St. René Goupil is now accepting new students. Parents who wish to register their children, please contact Mrs. J. Sayegh, our Administrative Assistant, at (416) 393-5408. Thank you.

**ECO-FRIENDLY**

Please help us become more eco-friendly and reduce our printing costs! Kindly note that the present school newsletter is available in electronic pdf full colour format. Should you wish to receive it directly to your mailbox, please communicate your e-mail address to Mrs. J. Sayegh, our Administrative Assistant at (416) 393-5408. Thank you.



**Cold Weather Clothing:**



It is that time of year, once again, when temperatures change quite dramatically through the course of a day or from one day to the next.

Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school adequately dressed for the season as recesses will be outdoors except in the event of significant wind chills or very wet conditions. If they have layers, they can add them if needed as there is nothing worse than feeling cold when outside. Also, please ensure that all clothing items are labelled properly with your child's name. Thank you.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming ...**

Our upcoming set of parent-teacher interviews will be held on *Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>* in the evening and on *Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>* in the morning. Please stay tuned for more details coming next month.

**P.A. DAY:**

Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting

**NO CLASSES**