Parent Newsletter

Principal’s Message

HOSPITALITY
Our theme for the month of September

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year at St. Theresa Shrine Catholic School the 60th Anniversary of our school! It continues to be a privilege and a challenge to be leader of a community that is steeped in a rich history and tradition of excellence in Catholic education. We are planning to celebrate this tradition and history in the spring. Throughout the year we will be sharing information about our 60th year celebrations to be held in the spring.

There has been a lot of work done at the school during the summer months and some of the work will continue through the month of September; please see inside the newsletter for more information.

We are looking forward to working with Father Joel Pabilona of St. Theresa Shrine Parish who will support us as we establish the liturgical program and sacramental preparation for our students – Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, as well as school visits and community masses. We look forward to continuing a rich relationship between our school and our community parish.

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. Theresa Shrine Catholic School.

Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC)

Regular parent council meetings are held throughout the school year. Our first CSAC meeting will take place on September 25th 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. Mauder, our school secretary by September 24th. All parents are welcome to attend meetings at any time during the school year.

Staff News at St. Theresa Shrine

This month we welcome back Ms. Pedra as she returns to complete Mrs. Rahman’s maternity leave. We offer Mrs. Rahman and her husband our best wishes on the birth of their daughter. We offer a warm welcome to several new staff members: Mrs. Kelly is teaching our grade 3/4 class, Mrs. Lobo and Mrs. Tomin are Early Childhood Educators joining our Full Day Kindergarten program, Mr. Cianfrone is teaching our Instrumental Music Program and Ms. Sorrento will be assisting students with special needs. See the directory list attached to this newsletter to review the full complement of staff at St. Theresa Shrine for the 2012-2013 school year.
SCHOOL NEWS

Dress Code

As per TCDSB policy, all students attending a TCDSB elementary school are required to dress in navy and white. These items do not need to be purchased at a uniform store; they can be purchased at any store selling navy and white.

Appropriate Dress Code
Navy & White

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tops can be white or navy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Long or short sleeved collared shirts or blouses</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Turtleneck or mockneck</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sweaters, vests, hoodies</td>
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</tbody>
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Does not include:
• Collarless (i.e. t-shirts)
• Sleeveless tops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottoms must be navy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Pants: cotton, fleece, nylon or corduroy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Shorts: cotton, fleece, nylon</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Shorts’ length must be to mid-thigh</td>
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</tbody>
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Does not include:
• Denim or lycra
• Yoga pants, jeggings, tights or leggings

• Navy or white socks
• Appropriate footwear for school activities

Parents, please note that items must be white or navy without accent colours or logos. As well, the school principal reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any garment.

Entrance and Exit Times

**** Note New Schedule****

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:40-9:55</td>
<td>Morning Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:35-12:35</td>
<td>Lunch Hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40-1:55</td>
<td>Afternoon Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
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</table>

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 come to the school entrance in a timely manner. Upon entry into the building, students are expected to proceed in a quiet, orderly manner and wait at the classroom door for their teacher.

Kindergarten children assemble in their own play area.

**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.

Supervision of Students

Staff members provide supervision in the yard every day. Supervision is in place in the mornings from 8:10 to 8:30 a.m., during all recesses, at lunch hours. There is additional supervision provided for students who take the bus.

Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off at the school before 8:10 in the mornings. The school cannot assume responsibility for the safety of the children before that time. As well, after school each day, students should be picked up at 3:00 p.m. After 3:10, there is no teacher supervision in the school yard.

Safe Arrival Procedures

Parents are asked to contact the school (416-393-5248) 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.

Students arriving after 8:30 a.m. or 12:35 p.m. must enter through the front door of the school and report to the office to get a late slip before going to class.
Visitor Tags—A Safe School Policy!
At St Theresa Shrine, 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 picking up their children are asked to wait for them in the yard.

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.

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 11:55 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. Any student who leaves school property without permission will be asked to meet with parents and 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.

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 and 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.

Curriculum Night
On September 19th, at 7:00 p.m., the teachers of St Theresa Shrine welcome you to Curriculum Night, an evening for parents to familiarize themselves with their child’s classroom and programme. Teachers will be available 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. This will not be a parent interview evening.

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.
**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 $6.00.

**Food Allergies**
Although St. Theresa Shrine 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 cooperation 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.

If your child has an allergy for which an epi-pen has been prescribed, please contact your child's teacher to discuss your child's safety plan. This plan must include two epi-pens: one to be carried by your child and one to be stored in the main office.

**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.

**CSAC Fundraiser**
Our CSAC is planning a fall fundraiser. This year we are launching a new fundraising campaign, Lamontagne Chocolate. All funds raised will go to support enrichment activities at our school. More information will be sent home during the last week of September.

**Welcome to Families New to St Theresa Shrine**
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.

**Communication**
School newsletters will be sent home in September, December and March. A monthly calendar, that is easily posted, will be sent home each month.

The newsletters and calendars are also posted on the school website along with other information about the activities at our school.

At times, individual teachers may also send home their own classroom newsletters and memos regarding their specific classroom activities. This information may also be posted on the school's website:

www.tcdsb.org/schools/StTheresaShrine

We encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher if you have any concerns regarding your child's learning or school work. An excellent tool for doing this is your child's school agenda.
Faith, Hope and Charity

STS will be joining all TCDSB schools in a new three-year pastoral plan of Faith, Hope and Charity, which builds on the Word, Worship and Witness focus of the previous pastoral plan. Using a three cycle our community will be invited to deepen our understanding of the Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity.

PRAYER FOR FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY

Loving God, we pray, that the Toronto Catholic District School Board community continue to witness to the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

May we be people of FAITH, always willing to follow the example of Jesus in all that we do.

May we be people of HOPE, always trusting in your loving presence in our lives.

May we be people of CHARITY, always willing to give of ourselves to better the lives of others.

Together, may we be a community of faith, anchored in hope, with heart & charity.

Through, Christ our Lord. Amen

TCDSB Catholic Teachers' Centre, 2012

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEES 2012-2013

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3. Sal Piccininni, Vice-Chair
4. Patrizia Bottoni
5. Maria Rizzo
6. Frank D’Amico
7. John Del Grande
8. Tobias Enverga
9. Jo-Ann Davis
10. Barbara Poplawski
11. Angela Kennedy
12. Nancy Crawford

Andrew Walker, Student Trustee
## STAFF LIST 2012 - 2013

### KINDERGARTEN
- Mrs. MacDonald  FDK  Teacher
- Mrs. Tomin  FDK  Educator
- Mrs. Lobo  FDK  Educator
- Ms. Pedra  FDK  Teacher

### PRIMARY DIVISION
- Mrs. Olo  Grade 1/2
- Mrs. Cleary-Hughes  Grade 2/3
- Mrs. Kelly  Grade 3/4

### JUNIOR DIVISION
- Mrs. Vandersteen  Grade 4/5
- Mr. McGouran  Grade 5/6
- Mr. Harvie  Grade 6/7

### INTERMEDIATE DIVISION
- Mr. Brooks  Grade 7/8
- Mrs. Adato  Grade 7/8

### SPECIALIST TEACHERS
- Mme. Shipton  Core French
- Mrs. Brown-Vitullo  Special Education – L.D.
- Ms. Gubuan  Special Education - L.I.
- Mrs. Tassone  Language (ESL)/5th Block
- Mrs. Weidmark  Special Education
- Ms. Pavic  KLP - Speech & Language
- Mrs. Rutherford  KLP
- Mr. Sabino  Physical Education
- TBA  Guidance
- Mr. Cianfrone  Instrumental Music
- Mr. Hryniewski  Vocal Music

### SUPPORT STAFF
- Mrs. Fernandes  Librarian Technician
- Mrs. Abate  Educational Assistant
- Ms. Battaglia  Educational Assistant
- Ms. Garcia  Educational Assistant
- Mrs. Lion  Educational Assistant
- Mrs. Nanton  Educational Assistant
- Mrs. Sorrento  Educational Assistant
- Ms. Harrison  Lunchtime Supervisor/ Nutrition Program
- Mrs. Babb  Nutrition Program
- Mr. Tardio  Head Caretaker
- Mr. Bernardez  Night Caretaker
2012-2013 Calendar

**Number of School Days**  194

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Activity Days</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>September 3, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Instructional Day</td>
<td>September 4, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>October 8, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Break</td>
<td>December 24 to January 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day</td>
<td>February 18, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Winter Break</td>
<td>March 11-15, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>March 29, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>April 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Day</td>
<td>May 20, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Instructional Day</td>
<td>June 27, 2013</td>
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**Professional Activity Days**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 16, 2013</td>
<td>(Parent-Teacher Interviews)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2012</td>
<td>(Professional Activity Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25, 2013</td>
<td>(Professional Activity Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15, 2013</td>
<td>(Parent-Teacher Interviews)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7, 2013</td>
<td>(Professional Activity Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28, 2013</td>
<td>(Professional Activity Day)</td>
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Building Improvements at STS

St. Theresa Shrine has had a lot of work done over the summer both exterior and interior.

There has been extensive repair work done to our walls and chimneys. Our Kindergarten yard has been expanded and fenced. The waterproofing around the gym is completed. We are pleased to have a flagpole on our front lawn.

Extensive renovations are underway on the first floor to accommodate our Full Day Kindergarten Program. One of the classrooms will be ready during the first week of school. The second classroom will not be ready until later in September. The renovations also include improvements in the hallway and exiting as well as replacement of the first floor washrooms.

The construction will continue through the month of September, consequently, we have made some adjustments to the operation of the school. The work space has been carefully delineated from student space. There will be a fenced off work area at the west end of the yard. The workers will enter/exit the building using the west doors only. Inside the building, on the first floor, the working area will be closed off from the rest of the floor.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is a priority at St. Theresa Shrine Catholic School. We have carefully reviewed our procedures in light of the ongoing work at the school. Students will enter and leave the yard through the parking lot door only. The usual entrance/exit at the west end of the building will be used solely by the workers. In the case of an emergency, students and staff can exit through these doors.

Please contact the principal, if you have questions or concerns or require additional information.