



**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Catholic School**
101 Birchmount Road
Scarborough Ontario
M1M 1M2
416 393-5272
416 393-5567 (fax)

Principal:
Maureen Murphy

Superintendent:
Shawna Campbell

Trustee:
Nancy Crawford
416 512-3412
Ward 12

Secretary:
Ms. C. Lobo

CSPC Co-Chair: Heather Candon
CSPC Co-Chair: Jason George
CPIC (Parent Engagement)
www.tcdsb.org/cpic

**OAPCE Toronto (Provincial
Voice for Parents)**
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

Parish:
**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Church**
Rev. Peter Tammearu
131 Birchmount Road
416 691 6968

Enrollment: 178
Hours of Operation:
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Lunch Hour:
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School December 2016



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As December comes upon us, we begin the Holy Season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” which means “to come”. In December, it seems like we spend much of our time waiting and planning for the holidays to come. As we go through all of the preparations at school and in our homes and family lives for Christmas, it is our hope that the precious moments— time spent with loved ones and memories made - will be the ones that we are able to focus on. When we are able to remember this and appreciate the gifts from Jesus, we really will feel the Christmas spirit and remember that *Jesus is the reason for the season!*

At school, December is an exciting month and we are eagerly looking forward to our Advent Mass on December 16 (9:30 a.m.), class trips, cookie decorating and our Christmas performance of “Santa Has Amnesia” on December 20! I hope that you will be able to mark these dates on your calendar.

It is my hope to get a chance to speak with you and wish you directly myself, but if I don’t get a chance to speak with you before the Christmas holidays begin, please know that I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,
M. Murphy, Principal

The Virtue for the Month of December is CHARITY.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

Christmas Break

A reminder that schools are open through to **December 23, 2016.**

Christmas holidays begin **Saturday, December 24** and continue through to **Sunday, January 8, 2017.**

Classes resume - **Monday, January 9, 2017.**

Our Eastern rite families will celebrate Christmas on **January 7, 2017.**

We wish everyone a safe, happy and blessed Christmas.

Kindergarten Registration for September 2017

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2013 to register for Kindergarten beginning **Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10 a.m. EST.**

Registration options:

- **Online:** Parents will be able to complete their application online at: <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>. A follow up with visit to the school to present the required documents will be scheduled following the online application.
- **In Person:** Parents can register at their local school with the required documents.

Information: 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314, www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration

UPCOMING IN DECEMBER

December 1—Gingerbread House Making 6:30 p.m., Choir attending Matilda 8:00 p.m.

December 2 – Professional Activity Day/Faith Day

December 3-- International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 4 – Tree Lighting Ceremony at Variety Village – Choir 5:15 p.m.

December 5 - Rosary

December 7 – Mr. Samler’s class – Variety Village, Ms. Abate and Ms. Bond’s class @St. Patrick’s High School

December 8 – Ms. Bott and Ms. Gisondi’s class – Harbourfront, Poinsettia Pickup -6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

December 12 – Pizza Orders due – **NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED**

December 13 – Confessions at the Church 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

December 14 - Mr. Samler’s class – Variety Village, Cookie Decorating – all classes except gr 3
Parent volunteers welcome!

December 14 – Ms. Barry’s class – Scarborough Town Center

December 15 – Play Rehearsal

December 16 – RED/GREEN DAY, School Mass 9:30 a.m., Chester Village 1:00 p.m, Pizza day

December 20 - School Performance “Santa Has Amnesia” Dress Rehearsal 1:00, Evening show 6:30 p.m.

December 22 – Ms. Williams’ and Ms. Duenas’ classes – Seussical @ Young People’s Theatre

December 23 - Virtue Assembly 2:30 p.m. – **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

Looking back - November!

Bussing

After getting off to a very rough start this year, it appears as though everything is back to normal regarding our school busses! We have buses following schedules in the morning and the afternoon, regular drivers assigned and this last week, there were very few delays. Good news indeed!

A reminder that students who are registered to be transported to and from school on the bus are expected to be on the bus every day. If alternate arrangements are necessary (i.e., pick-up by parent for appointment, etc), please notify the school **in writing** or a phone call to the office early in the day. Doing this will ensure that at the end of the day we are able to focus on ensuring that all children are on the bus and are getting home safely.

Morning Yard Supervision

Supervision for students begins at 8.30 a.m. Please ensure that you are dropping your children at the school **after** this time in order to ensure their safety.

Volleyball

Throughout October and into November, Grade 6, 7 & 8 students were spending a lot of time in the gym developing their volleyball skills. On November 2, the boys got a chance to put their skills into action as they went to St. Theresa Shrine school and played their boys' team. On November 4, the girls went to St. Joachim and did the same. The boys did not have enough players in order to field a regulation sized team for the tournament, so on November 8, the boys went to St. Richard school to watch and learn from what they were able to see. Not only that, they got a chance to be linesmen! The girls' tournament was on November 10 at St. Elizabeth Seton and they showed up! One of the experienced coaches in Scarborough came over to comment to our coaches saying that "Your girls have something going on here!" Overall, all students learned a lot and developed an enjoyment of the game – one we'd like to keep nourishing through ongoing lunchtime sessions throughout the year.

First Holy Communion

On Sunday, November 20, many of our Grade 2 students received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. It was a wonderful celebration as our students took the next step in their sacramental journey.

High School

As of November 7, the high school applications for our grade 8 students were in and now the waiting begins until late January - early February when acceptances will be provided to the students. Parents, please see the end of the newsletter for information from the Board regarding your child's transition to high school.

Pizza/Hot Dog Day

Pizza and Hot Dog Days have been going well this year. Our grade 7/8 class, led by Ms. Abate, is stepping up and getting involved in helping make these days happen. They are involved with gathering and preparing the orders for these days, in addition to delivery on the days themselves. Special thanks goes out to Ms. Schifitto (a parent in our school) for taking on the running of hot dog days. No doubt it was a scary task at first, but now that she and her team have one day under her/their belt(s), I am certain that the rest will seem like a piece of cake!

An item to note, a number of late orders regularly come in after the deadline making it difficult to gather all of the information necessary for planning and reconciling for these days in a timely way. Forms are given out a week in advance of the deadline in order to allow time for families to send in their money and order. As such, we will be **strictly adhering** to the deadline that is on the form and **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mrs. Murphy.

Monster Mash – Follow-Up

Our Monster Mash was a wonderful success this year raising \$5760.40 for school activities such as busses for school excursions, supporting sacramental and graduation celebrations, special days throughout the year, classroom needs and Play Day. Thank you for your support of this worthy event!

Dress Code

The dress code was initially reviewed at our latest CSPP meeting. Discussion was had, questions were raised and we will be addressing this in an ongoing way over the course of the year. We were fortunate enough to have one of our grade 7 students at the meeting to provide her input and also share some of the discussion with her classmates. Thanks Sabrina!

CSPP Corner

On Tuesday, November 15, our CSPP met to discuss current events in the school. Topics of discussion were fundraising, dress code and plans for our poinsettia sale.

Our next CSPP meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library. All are welcome!

Looking forward - December!

Gingerbread Decorating

On Thursday, December 1, we had our first Gingerbread House Decorating event. This was an idea that when it was planned in May sounded like a good idea. In December, after having been there, it was decided that this **WAS** a good idea, so we might just have to keep it on the schedule for next year! Each order that was purchased contained a house (that had standing walls!), icing, candy, gingerbread men, a raffle ticket and a seat with your family at one of our beautifully decorated tables in the gym. It was a wonderful occasion to spend time as a family to launch the Advent season. There were 40 houses purchased and 38 Families have a special homemade Christmas decoration (if it has lasted). We were also able to raffle off the sample Poinsettias that the school had. Congratulations goes out to Fifi and Sammy (students), Ms. Banez, Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Kearney who took home an extra special Christmas decoration!

Special thanks goes out to Jason George – our CSPC chair – who did so much to make this event happen for all of us. If the pictures are any indication, a great time was had by all!

Matilda

On December 1, Ms. Williams took a group of students and some parents to the Mirvish production of Matilda. From the rave reviews, it sounds like everyone had a great time seeing what, for some, was their first professional production. Thank you Ms. Williams for making this happen for our students in the play.

Variety Village Tree Lighting Ceremony

On **Sunday, December 4 at 6.30 p.m.**, the choir for Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School performed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony hosted by Councillor Gary Crawford. The choir (led by Ms. Williams) performed 2 songs. For such a cold night, our student's voices sure had a way of warming the insides. It was the first of a few performances by our talented choir. I am quite certain that each performance will only get better and better - which is saying a lot considering how well they started!

Professional Development

On December 2, teachers from Grades K-8 spent time reviewing an instructional strategy called Number Talks in order to determine how this strategy can impact students' abilities to explain their thinking in Math. Our school focus is: developing student's abilities to explain their thinking in Math so that they are better problem solvers. When you are having conversations at home with your child(ren), please encourage them to discuss their thinking in Mathematics in order to practise the skill.

Christmas Performance

SAVE THE DATE! On **Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.** Immaculate Heart of Mary will be putting on our production of "Santa Has Amnesia". Our students, being led by our talented staff, have been practicing and rehearsing for many weeks in preparation of this event. There will be only one performance for adults at **6:30 on December 20**. Because all students in the school are included in the performance, and due to fire regulations, we will need to limit seating for the show. Each student will be provided with 2 tickets **ONLY** for the show. If there are others in your families who would like to enjoy the show, there will be a dress rehearsal on **December 20 at 1:00 p.m.** A flyer will be coming home shortly providing more information in which you will be asked to RSVP to your child's teacher of your intention to attend this performance.

Staffing

As December draws to a close, we will be saying some goodbyes to staff here at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mrs. Raposo, an Educational Assistant has been here at our school since 1992 and will be starting her retirement at the end of the month. She will be joined by Mrs. Noonan, our Secretary, who will also be starting her retirement at the end of the month. We would like to take this opportunity to thank these ladies for their years of dedication and commitment to not only the School Board, but to this school and the students here at Immaculate Heart of Mary school over the last 20+ years.

The end of December also brings to an end Ms. L. Bott's time here with us. She will be finishing up Ms. Mavrou's maternity leave on December 23 and we would like to thank her for her hard work and efforts here over the last 4 months. Ms. Bott, we wish you well in your future endeavours and hope that you will be back to join us at some point.

Mental Health Tips

Wishing you a Very Merry "Mindful" Christmas

Christmas is often a very busy time of year with much planning and activities. While it's enjoyable, we may find ourselves rushing from one event to another without taking the time to enjoy each moment. We encourage you to consider the following tips so that you will enjoy a "mindful" Christmas.

- Play Christmas songs each day
- Eat mindfully – when eating your favorite holiday treat enjoy each bite by paying attention to the flavor and texture
- When waiting in a shopping line be mindful of all that you are grateful for. This may help you feel calm and help to put things into perspective
- Go for a walk in nature and pay special attention to the sights, sounds, and smells
- When decorating your Christmas tree take the time to enjoy the beauty of the moment
- Most of all take a deep breath and enjoy the magic of Christmas!

Information obtained from www.pocketmindfulness.com

St. Michael's Choir School

St Michael's Choir School has, for 78 years, provided St. Michael's Cathedral and the Archdiocese of Toronto with sacred music of the highest calibre, sung by boys from Grades 3-12. As part of our work to continue this proud tradition, a scout will soon visit your child's school to listen to boys in Grades 2 and 3 sing. Should our scout hear a promising voice, he or she will give that child a letter to bring home with information about the Choir School, and an invitation to join us for one of our audition days, which take place in January, February and March every year. At St. Michael's Choir School, we believe that "he who sings prays twice", and we are grateful for the opportunity to visit your school in search of boys with a love of music who are interested in becoming part of this tradition of service and song.

From the TCDSB

Monthly Update from the Board December 2016

Kindergarten Registration for September 2017

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2013 to register for Kindergarten beginning **Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10 a.m. EST.**

Registration options:

- **Online:** Parents will be able to complete their application online at: <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>. A follow up with visit to the school to present the required documents will be scheduled by the school following the online application.
- **In Person:** Parents can register at their local school with the required documents.

Information: 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314,
www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration

LTAP and LTPP

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has launched a consultation on its proposed Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) and Long Term Program Plan (LTPP).

All parents, staff, students and Catholic school stakeholders are invited to participate and provide input into the proposed actions outlined in the draft [Long Term Accommodation Plan \(LTAP\)](#) and [Long Term Program Plan \(LTPP\)](#).

Two separate consultation surveys (one for each plan) have been prepared to facilitate this consultation process.

The links to the online surveys can be accessed by clicking on the links above.

The deadline for responding to the surveys is **Monday, January 9, 2017 at Noon.**

Feedback gathered through the consultation process will help inform the decisions of Trustees regarding final recommendations for the LTAP and LTPP at the Board meeting in February 2017.

For more information regarding the LTPP and the LTAP, please visit:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/Consultation/LTAPLTPP/Pages/Default.aspx>

We thank you for your involvement in these important discussions.

French Immersion and Extended French

The Toronto Catholic District School Board offers French Immersion and Extended French programs at several TCDSB sites. The French Immersion program is offered to students beginning in Junior Kindergarten. The Extended French Program is offered to students beginning in grade 5. Interested parents are encouraged to attend an information evening to learn more about the program. Please note dates, times and locations for sessions planned for December through to February available on the [French Immersion](#) and [Extended French](#) sites. Information: (416) 222-8282 ext. 2540 or <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/KindergartenRegistration/Pages/French-Immersion.aspx>.

Toronto Police Service Seeks Crossing Guards

Interested individuals should drop in to their local police division to inquire about application.



Get Ready for High School

Everything you need to know can be found in the Transition Guides for parents and students:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/TransitionGuidesOct282016/TCDSB_STUDENT_GUIDE.pdf

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2016-2017

Wards

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 9. Jo-Ann Davis |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk | 10. Barbara Poplawski |
| 3. Sal Piccininni | 11. Angela Kennedy, Chair |
| 4. Patrizia Boltoni | 12. Nancy Crawford |
| 5. Maria Rizzo | Karina Dubrovskaya |
| 6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair | Rhea Carlisle |
| 7. Michael Del Grande | Student Trustees |
| 8. Garry Tanuan | |

