

# January 2016

(in future, our logo will go here)

## Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

101 Birchmount Road  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1N 3J7  
School Telephone 416 393 5272  
School Fax # 416 393 5567

**Principal:**

Maureen Murphy

**Secretary:**

Sue Noonan

**Superintendent:**

Geoff Grant 416 222 8282 Ext # 2392

**Trustee:**

Nancy Crawford

Phone 416 222 8282 ext 3412

**Parish:**

Immaculate Heart of Mary  
131 Birchmount Rod. Toronto ON  
416 691 6968

**Pastor:** Fr Peter Tammearu

**CSPC Co-Chairs:**

J. Radonicich-Ord

A. Francisco

**CPIC (Parent Engagement--TCDSB)**

[www.tcdsb.org/cpic](http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic)

**OAPCE Toronto (Provincial Voice for  
Parents)**

[www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto](http://www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto)

**Enrollment:** 177

**Hours of Operation:**

9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

**Lunch Hour:**

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.



# Catholic School News

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year! It is my sincere hope that you were able to enjoy some rest and relaxation with family and friends over the holidays and you were able to enjoy some peaceful moments that allowed for some focus on the gifts of the season. Incredibly this year is zooming along as quickly as last and before you know it, we will be pulling out our shorts and t-shirts again (that is if you have put them away!). The new year will no doubt bring with it many opportunities for learning, growing and belonging in faith. I look forward to sharing these experiences with your children, our staff and you.

*Maureen Murphy  
Principal*

## VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

Courage is the Virtue of the Month for January.

*“Do not be afraid for I am with you.”*

*Isaiah 41:10*

## DATES TO KEEP IN MIND –

*January 6 – Epiphany*

*January 22 – PA Day*

*January 29 – Hot Dog Day*

## 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

**Kindergarten Registration starts January 13, 2016 for all children born in 2012 who are eligible to attend Kindergarten starting in September of 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](http://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.

Details can be found at:

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

## STAFF NEWS

We would like to welcome Ms. Angela Burdi to our school as our Vocal Music Teacher! Ms. Burdi will be at Immaculate Heart of Mary all day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the afternoon only. Additionally, Ms. Larkey joins us as our new SK/1 teacher. Ms. Larkey has done some Occasional Teaching here at Immaculate Heart of Mary and is excited to begin her new position. Welcome Ms. Burdi and Ms. Larkey!

### **COLD WEATHER AND APPROPRIATE ATTIRE**

I know it doesn't seem like it, but as winter arrives, we are bound to encounter some very cold temperatures. Of course, we expect to endure some cold days and recognize that when dressed appropriately, we can enjoy fun-filled, outdoor activities. Students are expected to come to school with all that they need to participate in outdoor recesses and lunch hours. Appropriate winter clothing includes: winter boots, a winter coat, snow pants, a hat, a scarf and warm mittens or gloves. All students are expected to have a pair of indoor shoes that may be left at school for the duration of the snowy/wet season. It is recommended that each student have an extra pair of dry socks in their backpack. Please be assured that on exceptionally frigid days, outdoor recess will be shortened or cancelled. However, it is our intention to ensure that the students receive opportunities for fresh air and exercise on a regular basis throughout the winter season.

### **TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

On Sunday, December 6 at 6.00 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 very well (despite the surprising cold temperatures). It was the first of a few performances by our talented choir. I can only say that they got better with each performance, which is saying a lot considering how well they started.

### **GRADE 7 & 8 OVERNIGHT TRIP**

On Thursdays and Fridays in December, our grades 7 and 8 students sold candy canes in order to raise some money for their upcoming trip in April. This initiative was quite successful raising an impressive \$449.85!

On Fridays in January, the grades 7 and 8 students will continue to fundraise for their trip by selling popcorn for 0.25 or 0.50. Get your quarters ready!

### **FAMILY ADVENT MASS**

On Wednesday, December 16, at 7.00 p.m., Father Peter celebrated our Family Advent Mass for our community. It was a beautiful evening that began with performances before mass by our choir, our JK/SK and SK/1 students, our Grade 2 and ¾ students. As well, our grade 7 and 8 students prepared and read the readings very well. It was a wonderful occasion to prepare for "the reason for the season" and I am sure that so many of us left the church in the Christmas spirit. We were also fortunate to have our Trustee Nancy Crawford join us and share a few thoughts and greetings from the Board prior to the start of mass. Father's message to focus on others during Advent was something that I carried with me throughout the season (especially when it came to giving up some prime parking spaces!).

### **INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL**

The boys and girls in grades 7 and 8 are developing their basketball skills and preparing for the tournaments that are scheduled for early February. Teachers spend their lunch hours and after school on this worthy endeavor. Thanks goes out to Ms. Williams and Ms. So who are taking this time with our students in order to be able to provide this opportunity.

### **TORONTO CATHOLIC FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL**

Our Grade 7 and 8 students are spending a great deal of time preparing their films for the Board's Family Film Festival. We are anxious to see what it is that they are able to create. Stay tuned for more information on this!

### **CHESTER VILLAGE – DECEMBER 17**

For those of you who were able to join us, we had some beautiful weather as we visited the residents from Chester Village on December 17. We brought Christmas wishes and cards and our choir and the Grades 2 and ¾ classes were able to perform "one more time" for the seniors. If the smiles on the faces of the residents were any indication, they thoroughly enjoyed the visit! This was a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate our ability to focus on others as we prepared for Jesus' birth.

### **GINGERBREAD RAFFLE**

At the Virtue Assembly that was held on the last day of school, the raffle was conducted for the Gingerbread house that was generously donated to the school. Morgan G in Ms. So's class was the lucky recipient. Proceeds from the sale are going towards supporting the Grades 7 and 8 trip to Ottawa.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

On December 10, teachers from Grades 2-8 spent time reviewing data in order to determine where we can all focus our instructional efforts. The focus for the next while will be: developing student's abilities to explain their thinking. When you are having conversations at home with your child(ren), please encourage them to discuss their thinking in order to practise the skill.

### **POPCORN FRIDAYS**

In January, the Grade 7s and 8s will be selling popcorn at morning recesses for the price of 0.50. These efforts are also going towards supporting the Grades 7 and 8 trip to Ottawa.

### **HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION - update**

Grade 8 students will be receiving notification about their acceptances into high school on and/or after February 6. Currently students are learning about the program MyBlueprint which is helping them gather information about their learning styles. This information can be used to assist when they are making choices of what courses to take and possible career paths that they might choose.

### VIRTUE ASSEMBLIES

At our Virtue assembly in December, our grade 8s were able to “run the show”. They prepared the assembly and Ms. Abate oversaw their efforts, but it was truly a gr 8 production. Well done students!

At the assembly, awards were provided to students who demonstrated the virtue of Charity as well as students who demonstrated an aptitude for the Arts. Additionally, we were able to acknowledge those students who have had perfect attendance to date. I am quite proud to say that we had 26 students achieve this worthy achievement! This will be something that we will continue to monitor over the course of the year.

Our Virtue Assembly for January is scheduled for :  
**Thursday, January 28 at 11.00 a.m.** All are welcome to attend.

### SCHOOL MASSES

Father Peter has made it a priority to have monthly school masses this year and we have been able to gather each month as a school community in prayer. Please note the upcoming dates for our school masses. February 10 at 9.30 a.m., April 1 at 9.30 a.m. and May 1 at 9.30 a.m.

### CSPC (formerly known as CSAC)

#### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our raffle was another successful fundraising initiative this year raising \$4662 Dollars. An enormous THANK YOU goes out to Ms. Dowdall who worked on this initiative and brought it to life!

The prize winners were:

- Prize #1 – Linda Frasca - \$100 @ The Keg
- Prize #2 – Tara Terry – Men’s Coach Leather Gloves
- Prize #3 – Amanda Nichol – Science Centre, Zoo and Museum pass
- Prize #4 – Denise Rogers – Perfume set L’AIR
- Prize #5 – Steve Ord – Trans Siberian Orchestra tickets
- Prize #6 – Maude Brockerville – Signed Darryl Sittler hockey stick
- Prize #7 – Nicole – Luna Forea Facial Cleansing System
- Prize #8 – Barbara Estanislav – Toronto Rock tickets
- Prize #9 – Larry Merpaw – Disney on Ice tickets
- Prize #10 – Verona Sargeant - Science Centre passes

### PIZZA LUNCH VOLUNTEER - Your help is needed!

We are still in need of a parent volunteer to organize our pizza lunches every other month. If you are available and interested please contact Jenn: [jennrad@rogers.com](mailto:jennrad@rogers.com).

Our next pizza lunch will be **February 26**.

### UPCOMING DATES FOR CSPC MEETINGS

The next general CSPC meeting will be held on **Wednesday January 13, 2016 @ 7:00pm** in the staffroom. All are welcome!

The next **CSPC Fundraising** meeting will be held on **Wednesday January 27, 2016 @ 7:00pm** in the staffroom. All are welcome!

### THE HOME CORNER - Some thoughts for Parents

I read this article on conversations you can have with your 8-13 year old about their time spent online. I recommend that you spend some time looking it over if you feel you a little uncertain on how to have a conversation with your child about their time spent on the computer.

[https://www.common sense media.org/blog/6-resolutions-every-family-with-tweens-and-teens-should-make-in-2016?utm\\_source=121115+Teen&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly#](https://www.common sense media.org/blog/6-resolutions-every-family-with-tweens-and-teens-should-make-in-2016?utm_source=121115+Teen&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly#)

### *From our Psychology Department – some thoughts on Family Meals*

Meal time is a wonderful time for sharing not only food but also our day to day experiences. Making it a joyful and positive experience will enrich our family life as well as give us the opportunity to reflect on our understanding of our Christian family meal – the Eucharist. Light a candle to acknowledge the presence of Christ and take turns leading grace. *(Information obtained from Archdiocese of Toronto handout: Preparing Young People to Celebrate Confirmation)*

### **TRUSTEES 2015-2016**

#### *Wards*

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

