

January 2016

J A M E S C U L N A N C A T H O L I C S C H O O L

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Principal's Message

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www.jamesculnan.tcdsb.org

J A M E S C U L N A N
C A T H O L I C
S C H O O L P A R E N T
C O U N C I L

N E X T M E E T I N G :
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A L L A R E
W E L C O M E T O
A T T E N D !

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the entire James Culnan staff, I bring greetings and a warm welcome back to all members of our school community. We certainly hope that you and your families enjoyed a joyous Christmas season. I would like to thank everyone for your support of our school events during the month of December, including the Christmas concerts, the Advent mass, the charitable events, presentations and excursions. We have so much for which to be grateful, especially the dedicated volunteerism and the generous support of our families in making a difference for so many.

The New Year is well upon us and with it we are hopeful for new beginnings and a strengthened faith as we pray for peace and good will both locally and internationally. With that, it is fitting that the virtue for the month of January is COURAGE:

"With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity." (Keshavan Nair)

It is the integrity underlain by this kind of courage for which we encourage our students to strive!

May it be a year of good health for you and your loved ones; a year of hope and peace in our world, and a year of appreciation for the many blessings that we are given. We wish you and your children a very successful 2016!

Regards,

Stephen Dempsey
Principal

Leonor Goncalves
Vice Principal

Winter Has Arrived...



Reporting of Cancellations and Closures Due to Weather

Please note that any cancellations or closures due to inclement weather will be reported before 7 a.m. Best place to get the info quickly is through Twitter @TCDSB (please follow us), the board's web-site www.tcdsb.org and the 24-hour telephone information line 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

Appropriate Winter Clothing

All students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather conditions. As the temperature drops, students should be wearing coats, hats, gloves/mitts, scarves, boots, etc. As well, we ask that students keep an additional pair of shoes at school



Conditions Warranting Indoor Recess

Children need daily opportunities for exercise and free play outdoors. However, extreme weather conditions sometimes warrant indoor recesses, lunch periods and pre-entry periods.

When the temperature, including wind-chill, falls below -18°C , time outside



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM - STUDENT ILLNESS OR ABSENTEEISM

If your child is to be away from school for any reason, always call the school by 8:30 in the morning to report the absence. If calling after-hours, you can record the child's name, grade, teacher, and reason for the absence, on the school's voicemail. As well, our secretary, Mrs. Curcic will also accept e-mail notification of an absence. You can email the absence information to: susan.curcic@tcdsb.org.

If you are picking up your child early, please be sure to report to the office to sign them out. If you are returning before the end of the day, please sign your child back in at the office.

Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC)

Follow us...



[@JamesCulnanCSPC](https://twitter.com/JamesCulnanCSPC)



www.facebook.com/jamesculnanCSPC/

VISITING THE SCHOOL

We value the importance of making James Culnan a welcoming place for our parent community. This, of course, has to be balanced with the school's obligation to ensure a safe environment for all students. When visiting the school, **always report immediately to the office**. Never travel the halls or go to classrooms without first getting permission from the office.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will begin for all Elementary Schools on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 10:00 am EST.

Parents/guardians with children born in 2012 or earlier and who will be enrolling in Kindergarten, have the opportunity to apply on-line using the “Student On-line Admission and Registration” platform known as S.O.A.R. and found at the following link: <http://soar.tcdsb.org>

Parents will be able to complete an application for registration from the convenience of their own home, the office, a public library, or anywhere there is internet access, 24 hours a day. The on-line application also offers access to translations in different languages with built-in help functions and features.

Alternately, families may choose to register in person at our school. We will begin to accept registrations at 10:00 a.m., on January 13, 2016. As well, a kindergarten registration evening will be held at James Culnan on Wednesday, January 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

As part of the registration process, school staff will meet with parents. These meetings may be scheduled on the electronic application or in person at the school. During the meeting, school staff will verify the original documentation required for registration. This consists of a Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and/or Passport, Immunization record, proof of residence and Application for Direction of School support.

Applications to register children in grades other than Kindergarten can also be completed on the online S.O.A.R. application. Please share this information with any parents/guardians with school aged children in the community.

As in previous years, an extensive promotional campaign will be launched throughout the City of Toronto, with paid advertisements in the local media, posters in public centers, through the board website and on vinyl banners for display on school property.

French Immersion/Extended French Parent Information Nights

The aim of the French Immersion program is to provide students with the skills they need to communicate in a second language. It enables students to develop strong fundamental skills in oral communication, reading and writing as well as providing students with an understanding of the cultures of French speaking societies.

Parents considering early French Immersion for their kindergarten child are invited to learn more about the program by attending our information night on Thursday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m.

As well, James Culnan currently offers the Extended French program to students, beginning in Grade 5. Parents of students currently in Grade 4 who are considering this program are encouraged to attend an information night on Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m.