



## Mother Cabrini Catholic School

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Toronto, ON M9C 2N9  
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**Principal: Julie Di Vittorio**

Superintendent: Doug Yack  
416-222-8282 Ext. 2732

Trustee: Ann Andrachuk  
416-222-8282 Ext. 3402

Parish: Nativity of Our Lord Church  
480 Rathburn Road  
Toronto, M9C 3S8  
416-621-2732  
Pastor: Fr. Michael Machacek

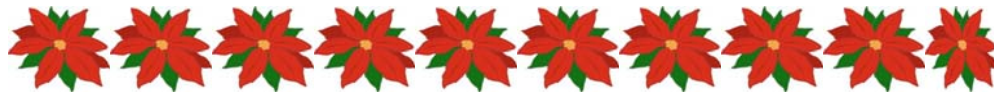
### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2015-2016

#### Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccinini	416-512-3403
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5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
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Vice-Chair	416-512-3406
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11. Angela Kennedy, Chair	416-512-3411
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Karina Dubrovskaya,	
Student Trustee	416-512-3417
Allison Gacad,	
Student Trustee	416-512-3413



*Catch the spirit!*



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

December marks the beginning of our Advent journey. As Christians, the season of Advent challenges us to develop a closer relationship with God. We pray that in a world of violence and political unrest that each one of us can work to becoming a people of Hope, Faith, Joy and Love. As we wait in joyful anticipation for the birth of our Lord Jesus, we look for ways that we can make the world a better place.

At Mother Cabrini we are trying to put our faith into action by continuing to help others in need. On November 20<sup>th</sup> our Me to We team with the help of parents transported 174 wrapped shoe boxes that were delivered to Honduras by Dr. Simone. It was very exciting loading the large transport bin that the shoeboxes would be delivered in. It was also a great experience to meet the wonderful volunteers and workers that help out at the Canadian Food for Children warehouse in Mississauga. We can already see the smiles of the children that will open up their gifts on Christmas day. We are busy putting together hampers for six needy families in our church community. We are grateful to the families of our school community that continue to give so generously. We are the small school that gives largely!

For the week of November 16<sup>th</sup> the school was busy exploring ways that Mother Cabrini can continue to become a welcoming school where everyone belongs. On November 18 we gathered as a school and learned about the "Fill Your Bucket" program. We are developing our awareness of how our positive and negative ways of interacting fill or empty our invisible bucket and how that impacts on how we feel. Students are doing a great job becoming aware of how what we say and do impacts on others. See student articles in our December newsletter.

### Technology Update

-TCDSB Students now have a Google account (GAPE-Google Apps For Education). Your Google account includes an email address (for students in grades 7-12), an unlimited storage drive and access to docs, sheets, slides, forms, calendar, contacts and classroom.

To log on to your account go to: [google.tcdsb.ca](http://google.tcdsb.ca) and use your board username and password to login. We have posted flyers around the school with this information. We look forward to using these new applications for learning!

-We now have the Mother Cabrini twitter feed available for your viewing even if you don't have a twitter account. It can be found on the Mother Cabrini website <http://mothercabrini.tcdsb.org> at the bottom of the main page (twitter bird) or directly on [https://twitter.com/Mother\\_Cabrini](https://twitter.com/Mother_Cabrini). You can find up to date events/news occurring at our school!

**We are continuing to ask parents of older children (grades 4-8) to pick up their children from 3:10-3:20pm. We have a few families that have started to do this and it has helped to lessen the vehicle congestion of cars after school between 3:00-3:10pm. Parents are enjoying the quicker pick up of their children at this time. With all our co-operation we can greatly enhance the safety of the students after school.**

For the month of December we look forward to celebrating the grade eight students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray for them as they continue their faith journey. Thank you to CSPC for sponsoring a confirmation luncheon for our confirmandi.

Registration for full day kindergarten begins January 13, 2016. Families can contact the school for registration information. Priority will be given to families that register early. Information will be provided in the church bulletin as well to help inform families in the community. **Please pass on registration information to any families that have children beginning junior kindergarten in September (children born in 2012-JK, 2011-SK).** See newsletter article for details.

Family and friends are invited to our Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm at Michael Power/St. Joseph auditorium. You will have an opportunity to see all students perform "A Cabrini Family Christmas." Don't forget to send in one or two photos of your family that will be included in the concert!

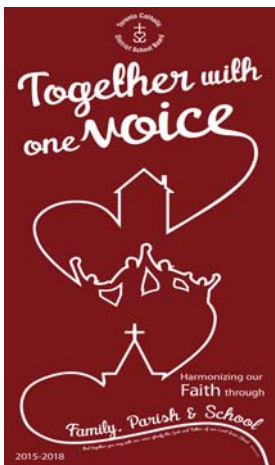
We welcome Mr. Laur that will be filling in for Mr. Amadei for his extended leave. We welcome him to the Mother Cabrini Family.

On behalf of the staff, students and The Nativity of our Lord Parish Church, I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With Faith, Hope and Charity,

J. Di Vittorio  
Principal

### **Advent Prayer of Hope**



God of hope,  
We praise you during this season of Advent and always.  
Draw us into your light as we journey.  
May we be filled trust.  
May our anticipation of the joyful coming of your Son ever increase.  
May our hope grow with each passing moment.  
We ask this through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen

### **Kindergarten Registration Starts January 13, 2016**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2012 to register for Junior Kindergarten beginning Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. EST.

#### **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](https://soar.tcdsb.org), and follow up with a visit to the school to present the required documents. The online application is available at: <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>

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 on January 13, 2016 from 4pm-7pm.

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

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

## **Student Corner**

### **Thank You Mother Cabrini Community**

Dear Mother Cabrini Community,

We would like to thank you for completing our beautiful Kindergarten Yard. We love that we can now run freely in the big open green space area to play ball and soccer. We also love riding the bikes and scooters in our new paved space. We enjoy playing with the hula-hoops and sand table. The new hopscotch space is awesome too!

Thank you again,

*Your friends in the JK/SK class.*

### **Filling Up Our Buckets**

We read a story called, How Full Is Your Bucket. This story was about showing kindness to others. We all carry an invisible bucket. When our buckets are full, we are happy. When they are empty, we are sad.

We learned that when we fill other people's buckets with kind words and by doing nice things for them, we are also filling our own buckets. We are going to try to say a kind word, and do a kind deed every day, so we can fill our buckets.

*By the SK/Grade 1 class*

### **School Trip at Ripley's Aquarium**

On Friday the grades 1-4 went to the Ripley's Aquarium. We saw sharks, green saw fish, lobsters, jellyfish, crabs, hammerhead sharks and clown fish. We saw stingrays getting fed and we got to touch them. The aquarium was really big and had all kinds of fish. We saw the only tortoise in the aquarium. All of the children had a great time!

*Mrs. Adamo's class*

## Ripley's Aquarium

On Friday November 27 our class visited Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. We had such a wonderful time. We saw all kinds of colourful and interesting fish. Jellyfish swam underneath our feet and sharks swam above our heads. We also touched stingrays! We learned some interesting facts about plants and algae during our workshop. Did you know that algae is found in ketchup and ice cream? We were very surprised to learn that! If you haven't visited Ripley's Aquarium yet we suggest you do. You'll love it!

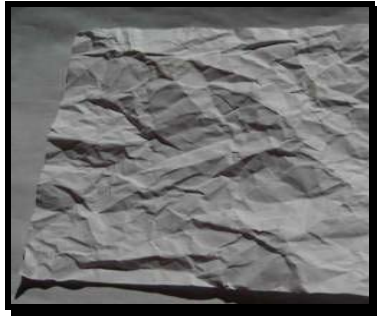
*Mrs. Da Silva's Grade 2/3s*

## Book Reading

Mrs. Pacheco's class read a book called "Spaghetti in a Hotdog Bun" and we learned that everyone has feelings and that everyone has a heart, even bullies.

*Nicholas and Adam*

## Our Learning About Bullying



In Mrs. Goslin's Grade 5/6 class each student took a piece of paper and was told to crumple it up, stamp on it and really mess it up but do not rip it. Then she had us unfold the paper, smooth it out and look at how scarred and dirty it was. She then told us to tell it we're sorry. Now even though we said we were sorry and tried to fix the paper, she pointed out all the scars they left behind. And that those scars will never go away no matter how hard we tried to fix it.

That is what happens when a child bullies another child, they may say they're sorry but the scars are there forever. The looks on the faces of the children in the classroom told her the message hit home."

*Mrs. Goslin's grade 5/6 class*

## Me 2 We Updates

In the month of October, the Me 2 We team collected \$209.40 from dress down donations. The money collected will be forwarded to Free the Children for Wells in Africa.

The Me 2 We team would like to thank all the students and their families for their generous donations to Dr. Simone Shoe Box Drive. With your support, the Me 2 We team collected 174 shoe boxes. The students were happy to deliver to the warehouse on November 20<sup>th</sup> where they found out the boxes were being shipped to Honduras. Thank you to Sofia Ferrante, student-principal for the day, for accompanying us, and to all the parent volunteers.

In December, the Me 2 We team will be supporting families in our parish, Nativity of Our Lord, with the collection of food and gift items for the food hampers. Students received the information on November 30<sup>th</sup> following a short kick off assembly. The collection will take place from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 9<sup>th</sup>.



## Bullying Awareness Week

During Bullying Awareness Week, I have learned that bullying is and can be very serious. It can hurt someone really bad, it can affect their mood, how well they do in school and it can make them cranky. I also have learned that everyone has their own imaginary bucket on top of their head. Every time they feel hurt, it tips and when you make them feel happy you add a drop to their bucket. You would never want to be a bully. Bullies are mean and hurt people's feelings. If you are a bully just stop; don't make people feel bad. You may not realize it but you may be tipping someone's bucket. I have also learned that a lot of people are getting bullied out there but we can put an end to bullying if we work together.

*Jake M., Grade 6/7 class*

## Anti-bullying Article

Our Grade 7/8 class, during our religion lessons, discussed the connection between the actions of Jesus and what it means to fill someone's bucket. We agreed that everything that Jesus did throughout his life contributed to filling many people's buckets. By recognizing the example that Jesus provides for us, we were encouraged to think of a time when someone helped to add a drop to our own buckets. Mr. O'Neill asked us to record this memory and refer to it in the future, so that we can make a more conscientious effort to fill the buckets of others by showing them care and concern.

*Mr. O'Neill's Grade 7/8 Class*

## I was Principal for the Day

Friday, November 20, 2015

Hi, I'm Sofia Ferrante, the principal of the day. I had a lot of fun with Mrs. Di Vittorio. We helped deliver the doctor Simone shoe boxes and the shoeboxes are going to a place called Honduras in Central America. Also, I got to walk around outside and use the walkie-talkie. I even got to walk in the big kids yard. I thought of something to add to the school, which is songs on the p.a. My brother got to take pictures with me because he was crying when he heard my voice on the announcements. Mrs. Di Vittorio is a really fun principal to be hanging out with for the day. I also learned when you're a principal you are so busy, so you never get any work or stuff done.

P.S. I'm in grade three and I earned being principal of the day because I won it by raising the most money for our school dance-a-thon.

*Sofia Ferrante, Gr. 3*



### Learning About Safety

Mrs. Swastek's ELP class has been learning about personal safety this term. Some of the topics taught include playground and bus safety, stranger danger, proper use of medicines and avoiding hazardous household products. The children did an awesome job showing a solid understanding of the above topics. Our next unit of study will be the body and proper hygiene.

*Mrs. Moretto*

### "Twas the night before Christmas...

Family traditions including reading favourite stories together or storytelling of past and present, are moments that create **forever memories.**

The vast selection of Christmas books, and most importantly Advent stories, can be found in print, CD, Youtube, and books passed along... tattered, and oh so lovingly worn from the many years of turning pages together in anticipation of a well known story.

These stories, whether fantasy, biographical, magical or sacred, deliver the messages of sharing, good deeds, hope and peace. The characters fill both the reader and listener with pictures of strangers helping strangers and sharing possessions, leaving no child forgotten with special gifts, and most importantly...the anticipated birth of a baby. The image of a family gathered together, humble, warm and safe is one that every child recognizes.

This is the **Year of the Family** at the TCDSB. How appropriate to read to children of all ages as Advent begins...in any format. A seasonal gathering, once a year... to share in the oral tradition of wishing for the greatest gift of all...Peace on Earth and Good Will toward Mankind.

*Mrs. Ryan, Library Technician*

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR,  
DEUS IBI EST  
– WHERE THERE IS  
CHARITY AND LOVE,  
GOD IS THERE.

– LATIN HYMN –

- REMEMBER THROUGHOUT ADVENT THAT CHARITY STARTS FROM THE HOME AND MOVES FORWARD IN ALL YOU DO.
- LET THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CREATE CHARITY IN YOUR ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- IF WE EXPECT OTHER PEOPLE TO DO CHARITABLE ACTS TOWARDS US, WE MUST FIRST REMEMBER TO SHOW GENEROSITY TOWARDS OTHERS.
- WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US, ESPECIALLY IN A SEASON FILLED WITH GIVING.

**CHARITY**

### Catholic Graduate Expectations – Our goals as a Catholic Community

- A discerning believer formed in the Catholic faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mysteries of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living;
- An effective communicator who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values;
- A reflective, creative and holistic thinker who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good;
- A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner who develops and demonstrates his/her God-given potential;
- A collaborative contributor who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good;
- A caring family member who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community;
- A responsible citizen who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life



# TCDSB Monthly Update December 2015

## French Immersion and Extended French

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

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. Please note dates, times and locations for sessions planned for December through to February:

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

## Resources for Students Heading to High School

### Helping students prepare for high school

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Documents/AFTER%20%20TRANSITION%20GUIDE%202015.pdf>

**Transition Guide for Parents** is available in several languages

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

## For High School Students Preparing for Graduation

Check out this website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/graduate.pdf> if you are unsure of all the requirements for graduation.

## 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>

## Celebrating The Year of the Family

Visit the website for resources <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Year-of-Family/Pages/default.aspx>.

### Toronto Catholic Family Film Festival Coming April 21<sup>st</sup>

**Top 10 Films will be screened at the festival to be held at Cineplex Cinemas, Yonge and Dundas.** Check out the trailer for the festival: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UTLQ61tntVM&feature=youtu.be>

And all the other information and resources: <https://www.tcdsb.org/tcff>

Film submissions accepted until **February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## Play it Forward

The pilot project involves schools who are engaging in a charitable initiative focusing on helping a family, locally or abroad, and sharing their experiences via Skype with one of their partner schools. The initiative blends the Year of the Family with our ongoing focus on living our Catholic values by putting faith into action.

**On December 7<sup>th</sup>**, St. Sebastian, Fr. Serra and St. Anselm will engage in their first online chat discussing what they have done, and will be doing for the Year of the Family.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Play-it-Forward.aspx>

### **Archdiocese of Toronto's Project Hope**

A reminder to all that the Archdiocese of Toronto has passed the midway point of its 100-day "Project Hope" \$3 Million Emergency Refugee Resettlement Campaign. The goal is supporting the settlement of 100 refugee families within the Greater Toronto Area as soon as possible. Schools are encouraged to partner with their local parish to raise funds for this worthwhile effort. Get more information online: <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/project-hope.aspx>

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Advent** Begins November 29<sup>th</sup>  
Resources online here: <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/season-of-advent.aspx>
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2014/pages/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities.aspx>
- **International Human Rights Day**, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2014/Pages/International-Day-of-Persons-with-Disabilities.aspx>
- **Christmas Break**: December 21-January 1 inclusive (Classes resume Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>)
- **Eastern Rite Christmas** January 7<sup>th</sup>

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>



## Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) COMMUNITY UPDATE



Firstly, the CSPC team and its members would like to extend to the families of our Mother Cabrini community a very happy and safe Christmas Season.

A few things to keep in mind...

1. Poinsettias will be delivered to Mother Cabrini Catholic School on December 7 and will be available for pick up from school gym between the times of 3pm and 4pm.
2. QSP cookie dough orders will be delivered to Mother Cabrini Catholic School on December 14 and will be available for pick up from the school gym between the times of 3pm and 4pm.
3. Our November Bake Sale was a huge success and we would like to extend a sincere thanks to all the families and individuals who donated, volunteered and participated which helped in creating a fun, and yummy event.  
Our blue and white sale was also held on the same evening and was also a great success.
4. Our grade eight Confirmation luncheon is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> , at 11:15 in the Mother Cabrini Library. Lunch is being provided by the CSPC.
6. We are asking our school community to save the date "January 29, 2015" in anticipation of our annual multi-cultural night with details to follow in the upcoming weeks.

We would like to send our sincerest thanks to all the volunteers who generously give of their time to our school community and for truly helping us be the "little school that could..."

All those considering and wanting to volunteer are encouraged to Contact Nicole Arsenault at: [nbeckett@sympatico.ca](mailto:nbeckett@sympatico.ca) or Cori Stadler at: [mayvillec@hotmail.com](mailto:mayvillec@hotmail.com)

Lastly, any and all questions, concerns or inquiries are always welcome.

As always, we thank the parents for your continued support.

***A very happy and healthy Merry Christmas to all.***