



## Mother Cabrini Catholic School

720 Renforth Drive  
Toronto, ON M9C 2N9  
416-393-5340  
416-393-5074

**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 2014-2015

Wards		
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2.	Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3.	Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
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5.	Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
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8.	Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9.	Jo-Ann Davis, Chair	416-512-3409
10.	Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11.	Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford, Vice-Chair	416-512-3412
	Christopher MacDonald, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
	Hannah McGroarty, Student Trustee	416-512-3417



*Catch the spirit!*



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome Back! We are ready to begin our learning journey for the 2015/16 school year. We hope your summer holidays were eventful and look forward to sharing our summer stories.

The theme for our new three year pastoral plan for 2015-2018 is **Together with one VOICE: Harmonizing our Faith through Family, Parish and School**. The first year of the pastoral plan is the year of the family. We will be exploring ways to celebrate the importance of the family that is at the core of our children's development.

We welcome new families to our Mother Cabrini family. As well, we welcome new to our staff Mrs. Ryan our library technician, Mrs. Mazzei and Mrs. Sguassero, our educational assistants as well as Mrs. Zawistowski our Designated Early Childhood Educator (D.E.C.E). Congratulations are extended to Mrs. Santos our Educational Assistant for the birth of their daughter Emily and to Mr. Spadafora our custodian for the birth of their daughter Gabriella! We wish them many blessings with their new family.

A few Community Updates include the Kindergarten yard upgrade that was completed over the summer as well as repainting of the main office.

### Mother Cabrini School Learning and Improvement Plan

- continued focus in the Math Curriculum with emphasis on positive mindsets on Math and supporting students with self-regulation
- to continue to build 21<sup>st</sup> century fluencies across the curriculum
- to continue to focus on social justice activities through our Me to WE leadership initiatives (year five of our five year project to build wells in Africa)
- to continue our faith development with the support of our church Nativity of Our Lord Church

The current staffing model and class composition for September are tentative. Any changes that occur will be finalized by the end of September.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our curriculum night on Thursday, September 24. Everyone old and new is encouraged to come out to our CSPC elections on September 15.

Please review enclosed newsletter and calendar for important information for the school year.

As well, please note, starting in October our monthly newsletter and calendar will be posted on our school website (at the beginning of the month) and no paper copy will be sent home. Monthly classroom curriculum updates from each class, CSPC, newsletters and calendars will be posted (see newsletter for Mother Cabrini website and twitter account).

J. Di Vittorio  
Principal

## Prayer

TCDSB Prayer for Harmonizing our Faith Through Family, Parish and School



Almighty and Ever-loving God,  
We give you thanks for the blessings of our Families, where the seed of faith is planted; for the Body of Christ, the Church, where faith is celebrated; and for our Schools, where faith is nurtured.

Lord, we believe that Catholic Education is at its best when Families, Parishes and Schools play, pray and work together to spread the Good News to all.

Help us to imitate the unity of the Trinity as we continue to grow in our faith and love towards you, and to one another.

Through the guidance of the Holy Family, the model of all Christian families, and the intercession of all the Saints, may our Families, Parishes and Schools remain places where the Gospel is shared with joy, courage and love.

We pray through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## Virtues

The TCDSB will continue with the faith and character development program-virtue of the month. Every month a virtue is highlighted and promoted as a gospel value. The monthly virtue is launched by individual classes during morning announcements. As well, various activities and discussions will occur in class and throughout the life of the school promoting the virtue.

**September** - Hospitality

**October** - Gratitude

**November** - Peacemaking

**December** - Charity

**January** - Courage

**February** - Love

**March** - Forgiveness

**April** - Justice

**May** - Compassion

**June** - Faithfulness

## Appropriate Dress Code

A reminder that the appropriate dress code of **navy blue** and **white** colours was implemented effective September 2011. The Mother Cabrini dress code does not include tights and yoga pants (as per board policy). Acceptable shirts are with or without the collar. Logos

from other retailer/brands, unless tone on tone (same colour) are not acceptable. Inquire at the office for the name of vendors.

## Curriculum Night

We welcome parents and families to our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 24. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to see the classroom/learning environment and to receive an overview of the curriculum for the year. Curriculum Night begins at 7:00pm in the gym followed by classroom visits.

## CSPC News

Our Catholic School Parent Council encourages all parents and interested volunteers to participate in this year's Council. CSPC meets on a monthly basis. CSPC seeks to advise the school principal in a wide range of issues regarding our school community, academic programming and related activities. All parents are welcome to participate in the election process scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00pm in the staffroom.

## Kiss and Ride Program-Student Drop off and Pick Up

The front driveway of the school was extended last year from a two lane to a three lane driveway with an attached walkway for student access. This provides an extra lane for bus loading and emergency exit at the end of the day. We are asking for your co-operation in order to make our student drop off and pick up work.

The driveway is marked with lanes 1, 2 and 3. The Kiss and Ride program works as follows:

### Before School

All vehicles and buses enter one way through lane 1 only. Cars move up as close to exit as possible for student drop off. Cars stop and students exit on curb side. With our new Kiss and Ride program, no vehicles are to park for student drop off. Kindergarten children will be escorted from their vehicle to the kindergarten yard by a staff member. If you choose to park and walk your children in, there are adjacent streets near the school to do so.

### After School

Lanes 2 and 3 will be used for student pick up at 3:00pm. Parents wait for their children to be dismissed from school. They are asked not to leave their cars. After students are loaded cars exit to enable flow of traffic out. Lane 1 is left clear for bus loading and emergency exit (no student pick up).

**Any Parents choosing to park and get out of their vehicles are asked to do so after 3:10pm.** From 3:00-3:10pm cars are ready to pick up students and move through the kiss and ride promptly without stopping the flow of traffic out.

**No drop off or pick up of students in the school parking lot. Traffic in this area puts students at risk that are walking in front of the parking lot entering and exiting the school yard. Our safety patrollers assist with the safety of students walking in front of the parking lot.**

**Parking in the school parking lot is used for parents and visitors to the main office/school and for staff parking.**

#### **We Need Your Help**

To minimize the traffic congestion after school, we are encouraging families that live close to the school to walk to the school for child pick-up. We also encourage older students to walk home with a buddy. This promotes independence and prepares them for high school.

#### **NEW SCHOOL HOURS AT MOTHER CABRINI**

ENTRY	8:30am
RECESS	10:12-10:27am
LUNCH	11:15-12:15am
RECESS	1:40-1:55pm
DISMISSAL	3:00pm

#### **Food Allergies**

Please note that **we have students in our school that have severe, life threatening allergies to peanuts and nuts.** This is a medical condition that causes a severe anaphylactic reaction to specific foods that can be fatal. Although this may not affect a student in your child's class directly, we ask that you **DO NOT SEND ANY PRODUCTS THAT MAY CONTAIN PEANUT OR NUT PRODUCTS TO SCHOOL**, as children can come into contact with one another elsewhere in the school.

#### **Written Notification**

Should you have to take your child out early or there is a change in school procedures (student not taking the bus, or a change in someone picking up your child), please send the notification with your child to school to give to the teacher. This ensures everyone at school is aware of the change.

#### **Doctor's/Dentist and other appointments**

Please try to schedule appointments for your child outside of the school day. This avoids interruptions to your child's school day and learning.

#### **Vacations/Extended leave from School**

We encourage families to take holidays at the designated times of the school year i.e., Christmas, March Break and Summer Holidays. Taking your child out of their instructional program during the school year is a disruption to their learning. Children benefit best from consistent uninterrupted instruction at school.

#### **Birthday Celebrations**

Due to the Ministry Health guidelines (School Food and Beverage Policy) effective Sept 2011 tied in with our school Health Action Team (HAT) school initiatives, we ask that no food products are brought to the school. Each morning, students celebrating a birthday are acknowledged on the announcements and receive a birthday treat (toy, stationary etc.).

#### **Invitations and Greeting Cards**

We realize it is not generally possible to send seasonal greetings and invitations to every child in a class. Children are, however, very sensitive and feelings can be easily hurt in these early years. Invitations and cards should not be brought to school for delivery, please distribute from home. [A parent e-mail distribution list will be created for each class for this purpose for those interested.](#)

#### **Milk Program**

Cold milk, chocolate and white are available daily. Our Milk Team will continue to run. ***Milk order forms to follow.*** This helps us to purchase the right amount of milk in order to avoid spoilage. The cost for each item will continue to be \$1.25.

#### **We Need Your Help**

##### **Drop off and Pick Up of Students**

We are continuously working to provide the safest environment for your child. The Mother Cabrini Safe School Plan includes the safety of children inside as well as outside of the school. During the school day all doors are locked, visitors are monitored when they enter the school and report to the main office. All visitors are recognized by students with a visitor badge. This ensures that students are aware of anyone that isn't familiar to them in the school. In order to ensure the same identification outside, the school yard must be clear of non-staff so that students can easily find a teacher on duty or recognize if a stranger is in the school yard. To this end we are asking for the following to maximize the safety of students in the school yard.

**-dropping off students at the top of the steps entering the school yard and allowing them to enter independently into the school yard.**

-dropping off times include 8:10-8:30am. No student should be left in the school yard prior to 8:10am nor should students remain on school property beyond 3:20pm. Students who remain unsupervised after school shall wait in the school office for pick up. No student will be allowed to play outdoors beyond 3:20pm without adult supervision.

**-we are asking that during the school day parents and caregivers not enter the school yard so as to promote our safety plan.**

Staff members on duty from 3:00-3:20pm help to supervise students during parent pick up.

All students not picked up by 3:20pm will be escorted to the office for continued supervision until they are picked up.

#### **AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

Our **Safe Arrival Program** establishes a procedure for determining the safety of a child who is absent from school. It is of great importance that each family return the information forms to the school. This information enables the school to initiate a search for a missing child within one hour of his/her absence rather than when the child fails to return home at the end of the school day.

#### **The Program works as follows:**

-Parents are to call the school to advise when a child will not be attending classes or will be late. This is of great importance. Please leave message on the school answering machine or with the secretary not with the teacher.

-When a child is reported absent by the classroom teacher by (8:45 a.m. and 12:35 p.m.) and the parent has not called or provided written notification, the office will contact those persons identified on the student's information sheet to establish the whereabouts of the child.

-It is imperative that each student in the school return information sheets completed promptly to the teacher. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

#### **Late Students**

The safety of our students is of the utmost concern to us. In the event that your child may be late or absent, please contact the school at 416 393-5340 (*press 1 to report an absence/late, and press 0 to talk to the secretary*) to provide the particulars regarding times

and/or dates. DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE TEACHER'S EXTENSION – please call the office.

If students arrive after their class has proceeded into the school, they are to report to the office to pick up their admit pass. Due to automated register procedures it is important for students entering and exiting the school to report to the office for tracking. Please assist us by making sure that students arrive on time. Note: Classes begin at 8:30 am

#### **Classroom Interruptions**

We strive to keep our school a safe place and to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum in order to maximize the time our students spend learning.

Please assist us by:

- Reporting to the office whenever entering the school as per TCDSB policy. With approval, all visitors will be required to sign in and wear visitor badges for identification; this enables staff and students to recognize adults in the school.
- If it is essential to speak to your child during school hours, he/she will be called down to the office.
- Making arrangements for picking up students for appointments etc. before the school day begins by notifying the teacher in writing.
- Not calling the school to speak to your child on the phone, since we do not have any way of ensuring that the person on the phone is indeed who they say they are or if they are entitled access to the student.
- Not speaking to your child's teacher during class time. This may result in the teacher being distracted from his/her primary roles of teaching and ensuring the students' safety. Communication with parents is important, therefore if you need to speak to your child's teacher, please call and make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

#### **Lunches**

The lunch period is scheduled from 11:15 to 12:15pm.

**As many pupils as possible are encouraged to go home for lunch especially if they live in the neighbourhood and one of their parents is at home during school hours.** Students who stay for lunch eat in the gymnasium from 11:15-11:35pm.

**Students eat at school with lunches brought from home only or purchased from Rainbow Lunches/The Lunch Lady. Nutritious lunches are encouraged to help develop good eating habits. On occasion parents may wish to take their child out for lunch for a store bought lunch. Please notify the classroom teacher in writing in advance if you plan to take your child out.**

### Proper Work Habits

Students are expected to use their agendas on a daily basis. **Agendas are available at a cost of \$8 each.** All work should be neat, dated and completed. Students who do not complete homework assignments may have to serve a detention at recess to complete their assignments. If in doubt about the expectations of your child's teacher please call to arrange an appointment.

### Home School Communication

Please read all newsletters and other information sent home. We are expecting the student to be responsible in ensuring all school correspondence arrives home. The oldest and only student will bring home all correspondence to their parents. All newsletters and calendars are posted on our school's website. Monthly curriculum updates for each classroom will be posted on our portal under Academics.

### Mother Cabrini Website

TCDSB homepage- [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

-schools-alphabetical school directory-Mother Cabrini Catholic School

-tabs with directories-CSPC, newsletters, calendars, curriculum updates, twitter, weekly updates and more!

Follow us on twitter

@Mother\_Cabrini

School website <http://mothercabrini.tcdsb.org>

### Invitation to subscribe to E-News@tcdsb.org

With the start of a new school year, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to remind all staff, parents and members of the community about E-News@tcdsb.org, a free electronic news subscription service for anyone interested in receiving regular news updates about our Catholic schools.

To activate your subscription to this free news service, please visit the board's website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) and click on the E-NEWS icon on the left-hand side of the page.

### Internet Safety

Continue internet safety with students at home. Closely monitor students using e-mail, Facebook, YouTube and other social media sites. The interface for communication is not anonymous. No photos of individual or groups of students taken at public school events should ever be posted on the internet. Please respect the privacy of all students. Your co-operation is appreciated.

### Staff Assignments 2015/16

FDK (Full Day Kindergarten) P. Swastek  
ECE (Early Childhood Educator A. Zawistowski  
EAs (Educational Assistants) C. Sguassero  
Morning: J. Mazzei  
Afternoon: P. Conforti

SK/Grade 1 C. Prattinger  
Gr. 1/2 R. Adamo  
Gr. 2/3 L. Da Silva  
Gr. 3/4 R. Pacheco  
Gr. 5/6 J. Aucoin-Goslin  
Gr. 6/7 C. DeBraga  
Gr. 7/8 M. O'Neill  
French C. Al-Dhar  
Vocal Music G. Amadei

Instrumental Music

Physical Education

Special Education

Physical Education

Library Technician

Secretary

Principal

Custodians

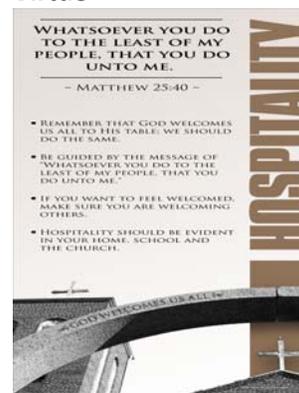
C. Boothby  
E. Moretto  
P. Ryan  
A. Arandia  
J. Di Vittorio  
J. Santos  
P. Spadafora

### PLASP Updates-Before and After School Programs

The before and after school program (school age children) will continue at Mother Cabrini for the 2015/16 school year. If you are interested please contact PLASP (905 890-1711) or the school for further information.

The PLASP program for FDK (full day kindergarten) for the 2015/16 school year will not run due to insufficient interest (survey run to all kindergarten families). Parents will have to make alternate arrangements for child care before and after school. If you require contacts for neighborhood babysitters please feel free to contact the school and we will provide them for you.

### Virtue





# TCDSB Monthly Update September 2015

## TCDSB School Year Calendar 2015-2016

Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	6
Labour Day	September 7, 2015
First Instructional Day	September 8, 2015
Thanksgiving Day	October 12, 2015
Christmas Break	December 21, 2015–January 1, 2016
Start of 2nd semester for secondary schools	February 1, 2016
Family Day	February 15, 2016
Mid-Winter Break	March 14–18, 2016
Good Friday	March 25, 2016
Easter Monday	March 28, 2016
Victoria Day	May 23, 2016
Last day of classes for elementary students	June 29, 2016

Click here for: [PA Day and Exam Day by School 2015-2016 Calendar](#)

## “Together with One Voice: Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish and School”

TCDSB has launched a new three year pastoral plan for 2015 through to 2018. The specific emphasis for 2015-2016 is on the **Family**. Stay tuned for more detailed information. The poster developed for the new plan, as well as other resources can be found on the board’s website here: <https://www.tcdsb.org/TW1V>

## Parent Engagement

TCDSB values the involvement of parents in the education of their children, and welcomes their participation in the lives of our school communities. Find out how you can get involved as a member of the **Toronto OAPCE** (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education), or as a member of **Toronto CPIC** (Catholic Parent Involvement Committee). At the local level, check out the next meeting of your CSPP (Catholic School Parent Council).

Visit the Parent Portal to get all the latest news and information

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/default.aspx>

## CPIC elections

Interested in serving as a representative on CPIC? Elections are taking place October 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Get all the details here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/ParentInvolvement/CPICElections/Pages/Default.aspx>

## Elementary International Languages Registration

Enrich your child’s education through International Languages Instruction, Cultural Awareness and a Celebration of Traditions. The program is offered for Elementary-aged children and runs from Saturday September 19, 2015 to Saturday June 11, 2015.

Register online or in-person on Saturday September 19, 2015 at all locations.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/IntLang>

## Learn More about Full-time Programs for Gifted Students

Parents of elementary school children who are gifted, are invited to attend an open house to learn more about the full-time program options in Toronto Catholic District School Board schools **Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m.** at the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Ave. East (Second floor Boardroom). Free underground parking is available.

## Secondary School Open Houses

All Toronto Catholic District School Board secondary schools welcome grade 8 students and their families to open houses each fall. This is an opportunity to meet some of the staff, check out school facilities and learn more about the various programs, services and activities as you prepare for Catholic secondary school education. Visit the board's website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/Default.aspx> to confirm the dates and times.

## Conflict Resolution Resources

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is a Catholic educational community committed to the creation of an environment which fosters mutual respect for the dignity and well-being of all stakeholders including but not limited to students, staff, parents and volunteers and focuses on working towards mutually acceptable solutions that are consistent with relevant Board policies.

At the TCDSB, staff work diligently to ensure concerns are addressed in a respectful and professional manner that is consistent with the Education Act and all other relevant legislation and Board policies. Members of the TCDSB community are offered a variety of options to ensure their concerns are addressed appropriately. Visit the board website for details: <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/Conflict-Resolution-Resources.aspx>

In addition, as of September 1, 2015, the Government of Ontario has granted new powers to the Ontario Ombudsman's Office to investigate complaints against school boards. The Office of the Ontario Ombudsman now has the responsibility to oversee school boards and address matters brought to its attention by members of the general public. [Ombudsman Ontario Brochure](#)

For more information on the role of the Ontario Ombudsman go to: [www.ombudsman.on.ca](http://www.ombudsman.on.ca)

## Some Upcoming Events to Note

- **September 1, 2015—[World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)**  
(Declared by His Holiness Pope Francis)
- **September 2, 2015--[14th Annual Catholic Education Mass](#)** 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Basilica in Toronto
- **September 5, 2015—[International Day of Charity](#)**
- **September 21, 2015—[International Day of Peace](#)**
- **October 5, 2015—World Teachers' Day**
- **October 7, 2015—[Rosary Day](#)**
- **October 7, 2015—[ACCTS—A Catholic Call To Serve](#)**

## Don't Miss Out On Important news and Information

Follow us on Twitter @TCDSB

Or subscribe to our free digital Newsletter delivered straight to your email 1-3 times per week.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ENews>

You are also encouraged to visit our website often: [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) to get more information.



MOTHER CABRINI CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
720 Renforth Drive, Etobicoke M9C 2N9  
Phone: 416 393 5340  
Fax: 416 393 5074

September 21, 2015

September Newsletter Updates

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

With our student enrollment to date, our current classroom/staffing model remains unchanged. This means that no classroom re-structuring will be necessary. This is good news for our community. Students are all settling well into their new school programs.

We look forward to our upcoming school mass at school on September 23 at 1:30pm and our Terry Fox Walk the morning of September 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have many of you join us.

As well, we look forward to our upcoming curriculum Night on September 24. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher/s and see their learning environment in their classrooms. Curriculum handouts will be available to you that evening as well.

On September 26 our eldest son is getting married. As you may well imagine, this is a very busy time for our family. Due to a scheduling conflict I will not be able to attend our curriculum night. I am confident that your classroom visits will be beneficial. The format of the evening will be two classroom visits as follows;

**Classroom Visits (classroom numbers posted as you walk in the front entrance of the school)**

7:05-7:25pm Session #1-Classroom A  
7:25-7:35pm transition time  
7:35-7:55pm Session #2-Classroom B

**Itinerant teachers**-French, Physical Education, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Special Education and librarian-will be located in the Library for a meet and greet

You will also have the opportunity to view a slide presentation demonstrating our social justice work (set up in the main hall on the second floor). The photos are a celebration of community, faith and the board's pastoral plan of Charity!

As always, if ever you would like to talk or meet with me please contact the school and we will set up a time to meet.

Thanking your for your continued support,

J. Di Vittorio  
Principal