Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Valentine’s Day originated from the feast of Saint Valentine, a Christian saint who exemplified Christ’s love to everyone. For us Christians, the celebration of love extends much further than chocolates, roses and cards. When we celebrate true love, we are honoring Christ and imitating Him who challenged us to love: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” – John 15:12. At OLA, how do we intend to express this love? Well, it can be challenging but by the grace of God we can begin by trying to be kind and accepting of one another.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th which marks the beginning of Lent – a holy period of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. We also hope to express our love and almsgiving by supporting the Sick Kids Hospital with our dress down day fundraiser. Ash Wednesday Mass will take place on February 14th at 1:45 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Thanks to Ms. Le Blanc and her grade 7 students for organizing a very successful annual Christmas Bazaar. The Bazaar gave our primary and junior children the opportunity to purchase gifts at discounted prices for their siblings and parents. The Bazaar raised $1, 508 which would be used to support student activities, subsidize school trips, author visits, etc.

February is Psychology Month. The Psychology Department of TCDSB invites every member of our community to explore and discover how psychology can help improve our everyday life and overall well-being, and balance the many roles and responsibilities we have. Psychology is for everyone!

February is Black History Month when we honour the legacy of black Canadians, past and present. At OLA, students gain insight into the experiences of black Canadians and their vital role in the community. We are also hosting HOZA! Creative Mediation presenting the Sound the Drums - Stories of Truth on February 21st. This is a one-hour multimedia journey that takes us from the apartheid gold mines of South Africa, to the Canada that we call home today. This will be followed by Drumming Workshops for students in grades 6 to 8.

May you experience the love of Christ and St. Valentine in a special way.

Sharon Garlow
GOSPEL VIRTUE AWARD

Congratulations to our students for demonstrating the virtue of COURAGE.

Giovanna Monari Takimoto
Mauricio (JK) – Mrs. Raso
Cameryn Brown (JK) – Mrs. Szakola
Althea Lim (SK) – Mrs. Nini
Jayden Cascon (Gr. 1) – Ms. Maguire-Sleath
Alfonzo Cameron Hernandez (Gr. 2) – Ms. Pena-Vital
Elliot Gonzales (Gr. 2) – Ms. Pilato
Dylan Trinidad (Gr. 3) – Ms. Askin-Costa
Julius Montes (Gr. 3) – Mrs. Sylvester
Iana Dela Cruz (Gr. 4) – Ms. Pignataro
Maeven Vilan Barte (Gr. 5) – Mrs. Rozowski
Kate Harley Calimag (Gr. 6) - Mrs. Furiato
Kevin Espanto (Gr. 6) – Mr. Ciraco
Tais Vargas (Gr. 7) – Ms. Le Blanc
Julia An (Gr. 8) – Ms. Sergnese
Andrea Gomez Navarro (Gr. 8) – Mrs. Nicholson

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS AWARD

Matthew Rios (SK) – Mrs. Raso
Hilmarc Beliber (SK) – Mrs. Szakola
Kareem Khan (Gr. 1) – Ms. Nini
Johann Bulayungan (Gr. 1) – Ms. Maguire-Sleath
Ian Maliwat (Gr. 2) – Ms. Pena-Vital
Jomel An (Gr. 2) – Ms. Pilato
Anika Garcia (Gr. 3) – Ms. Askin-Costa
Kevin Bullecer (Gr. 3) – Mrs. Sylvester
Kyan Liwa (Gr. 4) – Ms. Pignataro
Grace Abajian (Gr. 5) – Mrs. Rozowski
Rey Carlo Petilos (Gr. 6) - Mrs. Furiato
Gabriel Quinto (Gr. 6) – Mr. Ciraco
Kean Pulido (Gr. 7) – Ms. LeBlanc
(Gr. 8) – Ms. Sergnese
Franchesca Bragado (Gr. 8) – Mrs. Nicholson

ATTENTION PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

SEVEN OF OUR STUDENTS WERE ALMOST HIT BY A PARENT/CAREGIVER CAR BACKING OUT IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT.

IF YOU NEED TO DROP OFF OR PICK UP YOUR CHILD, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT WHERE SPACE IS VERY LIMITED.

PLEASE DRIVE TO THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL AND WALK YOUR CHILD TO DROP OFF AND PICK UP.

ANOTHER FREE ALTERNATE PARKING AREA WOULD BE MADOC STREET OPPOSITE THE SCHOOL FRONT ENTRANCE.

STUDENT & STAFF IS OUR TOP PRIORITY AT OLA SCHOOL

NOTE: PLEASE, NO PARKING OR IDLING VEHICLE IN THE HANDICAP PARKING
Report Cards will be sent home on February 13th. Please take a moment to celebrate your child’s successes and discuss subjects and learning skills that needs to be improved. Our Parent-Teacher Interviews take place from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. on:

**Tuesday, February 13th**

**Thursday, February 17th**

Please book your interview appointment early.

Get Well Soon!

When your child is sick please keep your child at home to recover. Parents sometimes send their child to school requesting that their child do not go outside for recess. Please understand that we cannot accommodate such parent requests or provide a sick room at school. **If your child is too sick to go out at recess, then your child is too sick to stay at school.** Your co-operation in helping us keep everyone healthy at school is much appreciated.

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**JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

There were tigers in the atmosphere as the Junior Girls Volleyball team entered onto the court. The girls played with determination and heart. They won all of their round robin games and headed into the finals in 1st place. The final game was a nail biter. The girls played amazingly and came out the **CHAMPIONS**! Congratulations girls!

The team members are:

- Renee N.
- Sariah B.
- Iana R.
- Alexandra-Rose M.
- Mikayla S.
- Twinkie C.
- Katty O.
- Kate C.
- Allysa P.
- Khloe S.
- Carlyn C.
- Godsfavour O.
- Sheena O.
- Curtasie P.
- Sophia G.
- Grace A.
- Sidora P.

**THANK YOU Coaches Ms. Askin-Costa and Mrs. Raso**

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**JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL**

The OLA Junior Boys Volleyball Team finished second overall at this year’s tournament. After many weeks of dedicated practice, the boys demonstrated a spirit of perseverance, teamwork and sportsmanship. OLA reached the finals for the sixth consecutive year but ended up losing after three hard fought sets.

**THANK YOU Coach Mr. Ciraco.**

Thanks to all the team members for a wonderful year.

- Caleb B.
- Raiden D.
- Sean Kyle L.
- Joel K.
- Denzel T.
- Raphael B.
- Derrick M.
- Braxton B.
- Thomas M.
- Jareal B.
- John Rey C.,
- John Bernard G.,
- Dhattan T.
- Marc M.
- Shondel G.
- Kevin E.
Our students will have the opportunity to visit the Scholastic Book Fair during the week of **February 12 - 15** and purchase excellent quality books at very good prices.

Parents are also invited to visit the Book Fair during Parent Teacher Interviews on February 13th & 15th. Make this visit a family affair and share the joy of reading by purchasing a book for your child or as a gift to a relative or friend.

**Guidance Corner – February**

February is the month of LOVE. Ask your children what love means to them. Love can be interpreted in many ways such as helping a friend, caring for the environment, making something for someone (instead of buying gifts), helping others who are less fortunate, etc. Check out the following link describing God’s love.

[http://dg4kids.com/bible-time/day-five-god-is-love/index.html](http://dg4kids.com/bible-time/day-five-god-is-love/index.html)

**High School Applications – What’s Next?**

Students who have applied to special programs may have already received word of their acceptance or placement on a wait list. During the week of January 29th, 2018, TCDSB Secondary Schools began to forward acceptance packages to the elementary schools. Please read the instructions very carefully and take note of any important dates and forms that need to be submitted.

**Redirection Notices**

Students who applied to schools that are out of catchment and oversubscribed may have received redirection notices on January 29th, indicating an offer to register at a school in their catchment.

Here are your options:

1. Accept the redirection, thereby securing a spot in a secondary school in September.

2. Accept the redirection but ask to be placed on a Priority 2 waiting list at their original school of choice. This student will have a spot in the redirected school in September and if a spot becomes available in his/her first choice, s/he may be offered that position.

3. Turn down the redirection and be placed on a Priority 1 waiting list at their original school of choice. If this option is chosen, then your child will not have a spot in any school for the time being. If spots do not become available in their first choice school by the start of the year, then the student will have to register at a school where spots may still be available.

**Change Your Mind?**

If your child no longer wants to attend the ‘first choice’ school, you may request a change of school using the Change Form. This form becomes available in the beginning of March. Please ask your child’s teacher for a form at that time. Please keep in mind that any requests can only be accepted based on the availability of space in the school.

Ms. C. Greco
Elementary Guidance Counsellor - Area 3 & 4

**TCDSB NEWS**

**February 2018**

Registration for Kindergarten, French Immersion, Extended French and Night School as well as eClass continues during February. Visit the Board’s website for information [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

**Director’s Annual Report 2016-2017**

Check out some of the highlights of the past school year in the newly published edition of the Director’s Annual Report.
Audited Financial Statements
2016-2017
The audited financial statements for the past school year are available online:

February is...
- African Canadian Heritage Month
  https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/AfricanCanadianHeritage/Pages/default.aspx
- Psychology Month
  https://www.tcdsb.org/programs/services/specialeducation/psychology/psychologymonth/Pages/Psychology-Month.aspx
- National Inclusive Education Month
  Learn more about the TCDSB’s Catholic Equity and Inclusive Education Policy:
  https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Pages/hm24.aspx
- TCDSB Energy Conservation Month: 4 Days - 4 Themes - One Month:
  Join the TCDSB each Friday in February to save on energy:
  https://www.tcdsb.org/board/environment/energymonth/Pages/default.aspx
- National Sweater Day - February 2, 2018
- Flip the Switch Friday – February 9, 2018
- Phantom Friday - February 16, 2018
- Energy Education Day - Friday, February 23, 2018

Angel Foundation For Learning
Some of our dearest friendships are rooted in our childhood years from discovering the world and new experiences together. Through our School Allocations Program the The Angel Foundation for Learning attempts to make sure that ALL students are able to participate in school trips to build friendships, spark their imaginations, and create memories. Support us in this work by participating in our Cents Off, coming out to play at our events or donating directly.

Opportunities/Information for Students
- Toronto Star and Toronto Public Library Annual Short Story Contest
  The 2018 Short Story Contest is open to anyone 16 years of age or older who lives in Ontario. The annual contest is co-sponsored by the Toronto Public Library and the Humber School for Writers. Entrants can write on any topic they want. Stories must be original, previously unpublished and no longer than 2,500 words. Entries are limited to one per person. There is no fee to enter the contest. All submissions must be received by 5 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2018. Details:
  https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/ShortStoryContest.aspx

TCDSB Awards Night is May 7, 2018
Nominate a student or staff member for our annual awards. Deadline for each award: Third Friday in February.
- Sister Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students
- Ashif Jaffer Award for Excellence in Special Education Support
- The Father Andrew Cuschieri Award

Other Event Notices:
- February 2: World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
- February 13: Shrove Tuesday
- February 14: St. Valentine’s Day
- February 14: Ash Wednesday; Lent Begins
  https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Lent-and-Easter-Resources.aspx
- February 16: Lunar New Year
- February 16: Board-wide PA Day
- February 19: Family Day

Arpi was the founder of Nursery School Inc for nearly 44 years. She touched the lives of many of our students, always advocated for the children in her care and often times she would personally drop off the children’s lunches at our school.

Arpi passed away on the evening of January 12th. Arpi’s demise is a deep loss to the Arpi family and to our students who looked forward to going back to be with Arpi at the end of the school day.

The staff of Our Lady of the Assumption pray that the angels will guide her soul to her Heavenly Father and may Our Lady of the Assumption console and comfort the family, staff and children of Arpi Nursery School Inc.
February is “Psychology Month”

HELP YOUR CHILD (AND YOURSELF) FLOURISH: HOW TO REDUCE STRESS AND ANXIETY AND ACHIEVE MENTAL HEALTH

February 22, 2018, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Catholic Education Centre, 3rd Floor, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

This practical workshop addresses strategies supporting the physical, social, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual components of well-being. It will include positive psychology and cognitive behavior techniques, as well as mindfulness and relaxation techniques that help manage stress, build resiliency and support good mental health. Participants will walk away with strategies that can be used both at home and in the classroom.

Presenters: Rita Alekian, Dr. Marie-Josee Gendron, Grace Labao-Martins (TCDSB Psychology Department)

Registration is free – Spaces are limited - Please register at https://web1.tcdsb.org/Conference/Logon.aspx

Never Miss Out on the Latest News and Information:

Follow @TCDSB on Twitter, Toronto Catholic DSB on Instagram, and/or subscribe to ENews, to receive a weekly update via email: https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx

WARDs

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4. Patrizia Bottoni
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7. Michael Del Grande
8. Garry Tanuan
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10. Barbara Poplawski, Chair
11. Angela Kennedy
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Rory McGuckin, Director of Education