



OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

December 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, is a season of **hope**. We are called to prepare our hearts in prayer and expectation both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and for the second time when Christ will come again. During this season, we also focus on the Gospel virtue of Charity: "Ubi Caritas et amor, Deus ibi est," which means: Where there is charity and love, God is there. As Catholic Christians, we can practice charity by feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, providing drink to the thirsty, comforting the poor and many other charitable works. At OLA, we will contribute our November Dress Down Day donation to victims of the Gosford St fire victims. Members of the TCDSB community from the St. Augustine Community were displaced in this fire. The money will be sent to the Angel Foundation who will then disburse food, clothing and other necessities to our TCDSB brothers and sisters. Thankyou for all your generosity.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the parent-teacher interview in November. Hopefully, you had the opportunity to compliment your child on the positive areas. Let your child know that you and the teacher plan to help him/her improve and succeed in school. Teachers work hard but progress takes time. Hence it is important for parents to maintain on-going communication and work closely with the teacher.

Once again, Ms. Le Blanc and her grade 7 students are organizing the annual Christmas Bazaar on Tuesday December 17th, 2019. The Bazaar gives our primary and junior students an opportunity to purchase gifts at discounted prices for their siblings and parents.

I would also like to cordially invite you to CSPC Potluck and School Community Mass which will be taking place on Thursday, December 19th. Please join us for our Advent Celebration and join us for social merriment in the Parish hall following the mass.

Kindergarten registration for 2019 -2020 commences on January 16, 2019. Please forward this information to family and friends. For more information please check the Toronto Catholic District School Board website:

www.tcdsb.org

On behalf of the staff and faculty at OLA, may Christ fill your heart with his joy and peace.

Sincerely

Teresa Silva

Teresa Silva
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Shawna Campbell 416-22282828, ex2267
SUPERINTENDENT ⓘ
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PARISH ⓘ
Cary Auwater and Omari Belot
CSPC CHAIR ⓘ
www.tcdsb.org/cpic
CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB) ⓘ
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto
OAPCE TORONTO ⓘ (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)
375
ENROLLMENT ⓘ
HOURS OF OPERATION ⓘ
11:45am-12:45am
LUNCH HOUR ⓘ

NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org
Call **416-393-Phone#** or the **TCDSB Admissions Department** at 416-222-8282, ext. 2383.

For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, please visit the website at www.tcdsb.org

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year:
Follow **@TCDSB** on Twitter.

**TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES
2019 - 2020**

Wards

1.	Joseph Martino, Chair	416-512-3401
2.	Markus de Domenico	416-512-3402
3.	Ida Li Preti	416-512-3403
4.	Teresa Lubinski	416-512-3404
5.	Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6.	Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7.	Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407
8.	Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9.	Norm Di Pasquale	416-512-3409
10.	Daniel Di Giorgio	416-512-3410
11.	Angela Kennedy, Vice-Chair	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
	Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
	Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee	416-512-3417

CSPC News/Movie Night

Thank you to everyone who attended our Movie Night. It was a very well attended night and all enjoyed the movie Toy Story. The CSPC raised approximately \$500. This money will go to the various needs and presentation of the school.

Terracotta Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Terracotta Fundraiser. The cookies are absolutely delicious, and they will make a great snack for guests over the holiday. This fundraiser brought in Thank you so much for your generosity. Also please note that cookie orders will arrive on Monday, December 16th. If orders are not too big and thus heavy your child may pick up for you. If however, you have a large order, you will be required to come to the school at the designated time to pick up your order. Please wait for more details to follow regarding pick up time and location.

Gosford Fire Victims

On Friday, November 29th, the students at Our Lady of the Assumption dressed down and paid a toonie to support the students who were displaced in the Gosford fire. Many of these families attend the TCDSB school St. Augustine. We thank you for all your generosity and compassion. In total \$ 600 dollars were raised to support these families.

Mass

We will be celebrating our Advent December mass on December 11th at 1:30 PM. Please come and join us. Our distribution of Peace Medals for the month of November will be distributed following the mass.

Peace Virtue Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have displayed the virtue of peace throughout the month of November.

Raso JK/SK – Jillianne Rilloraza - SK
Szakola JK/SK – Cathleya Androin-Quinola - SK
Cardone– SK/1 - Olivia Vasquez – gr. 1
Pilato – Allyn Delos Trino gr. 1
Pignataro – Grade 1/2 – Pietra Pagan Bruschini - gr. 1
Pena Vital – Grade 2 – Gherylle Galvan - gr. 2
Askin Costa – Grade 3 – Rodiyah Aro-Fadaka - gr. 3
Alvarado-Diaz - Grade 3/4 – Joshua Miranda - gr. 3
Rozowski – Grade 4 – Laszlo Horvath - Gr. 4
De Gouvía – Grade 5 – Brian Espanto - gr. 5
Furiato – Grade 5/6 – Iana Dela Cruz - gr. 6
Rizzo – Grade 6 – Kyan Liwa - gr. 6
Ciraco — Grade 7 – Joel Konadu - gr. 7
Sergnese Grade 7 – Kate Calimag – gr. 7
LeBlanc Carr – Grade 8 – Katleya Jamon - gr. 8
Nicholson – Grade 8 – Twinkie Camposano - gr. 8

Welcome to our New Instrumental Music Teacher

I'd like to welcome Mr. Goncalves to our school community here at Our Lady of the Assumption. Mr. Goncalves will be teaching our String Instrumental Music Program and will be here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings.

Advent Mass and Potluck

The CSPC would like to take this opportunity to welcome all parents to our Advent Mass which will be taking place on Thursday December 12th. The mass is scheduled for 7PM. Following the mass we will meet in the parish hall for our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. Please bring a dish to share with our school/parish community. Please come and join us in prayer and fellowship during this joyous time of the year.

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert will be taking place on December 19th at 7PM. Please note that not all classes will be performing in this concert. Some classes will be performing in our upcoming Spring Concert. The classes performing in the Christmas concert are the following: Ms. Szakola, Ms. Raso, Ms. Cardone, Ms. Artiga, Ms. Pena-Vital, Ms. Askin-Costa, Ms. Rozowski, Ms. De Gouveia, Ms. Furiato and Ms. Rizzo. If your child is in the above mentioned classrooms, we are excited to invite you to what will surely be an entertaining and delightful concert.

Safe Arrival Reminders

The safety of our students is of paramount importance to us. Staff supervision of students begins at 8:40AM in the school yard. In the interest of our child's safe arrival at school please do not drop off your child before 8:40 AM as there will be no one to supervise them.

In an effort to increase safety for students, parents and staff, there will be no parking in the bus zone. There is presently parking between the 2 bus loading signs. We have numerous buses that deliver students and students must get off buses and go into the school yard in a safe and calm setting.

We also ask that adults refrain from entering the school yard. Many teachers and students do not recognize the parents in the yard. As such this poses a safety issue. Please say goodbye your children at the gates and they will be safely supervised by staff.

In addition we ask that parents and guardians not block the gate to the kindergarten yard. As there is a stair level on this landing, it is essential that students be able to travel safely and enter the yard with ease.

Lunches

If your child stays at school for lunch, we strongly encourage you to pack a healthy lunch for them to help reinforce the healthy living curriculum that is taught at the school. We appreciate that there are exceptional circumstances that may require you to drop off a lunch at school. Lunches should be dropped off on the lunch table just outside the office before 11:45am. **Please ensure you sign your child's name to the sheet on the table so that we can call your child down at lunch time.** Students eat their lunch from 11:45-12:05. Students will not be called out of class early to minimize disruptions. If lunches are dropped off late, students will pick them up on their reentry to the school at 12:45pm. Please ensure lunches are labeled with your child's name. Parents dropping off lunches should not linger at the office to give children their lunches as this causes a disruption to the flow of the school. In circumstances where lunches are dropped off, we strongly encourage home packed lunches rather than fast food items.

***PLEASE NOTE: Under no circumstances will students who normally stay at school for lunch be allowed to sign out to go pick up lunch *unless* they are signed out and accompanied by an adult that is authorized to pick them up. Notes *will not* be accepted under any circumstances. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this regard so as to ensure the safety of your children while they are in our care.

I also wish to stress that **NO UBER EATS** orders are permitted at the school. We do not allow unidentified strangers into the building as this poses a threat to student safety.

Birthdays and Celebrations

Birthdays and other special occasions are announced over the PA system on a regular basis. **Under no circumstances should food be brought to the school to distribute to a class (cake, candy, pizza, etc...).** As we are

an allergen sensitive school, we cannot verify the contents of food that parents may send to school for distribution. If food is sent to the school, parents will be called and asked to come pick up the food as it **will not be distributed**. Although we appreciate that the thought is well intentioned, we must work together to ensure the safety of each student. Instead of food, feel free to send grab bag items such as pencils, erasers, stickers, etc...

*** Please note: We do not allow parents to purchase items sold through the school for the entire class for birthdays.

Improving Access to School Bus Information for Toronto Parents

Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board parents are now able to access their children's transportation information online and receive email notifications if there are any school bus cancellations or delays, thanks to the launch of a new online transportation portal. www.torontoschoolbus.org. There continues to be a delay with two of our Bus Routes. A driver shortage is the cause of these delays which will hopefully be remedied in the near future. **In addition our School is presently in the habit of sending afternoon voice and mail alerts to notify parents in the event of significant bus delays.**

Follow @TCDSB on Twitter, Toronto Catholic DSB on Instagram, subscribe to E-News, visit our website www.tcdsb.org to receive a weekly update via email: <https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>

- School Messenger (please ensure that your school has current and up to date telephone numbers and email addresses on file for your family)
- Twitter (follow @TCDSB)
- TCDSB website www.tcdsb.org
- 24-hour telephone information line 416-222-8282 ext. 2873

The Board wishes to assure parents and students that every effort will be made to ensure that all elementary and secondary schools, day care centres, before- and after-school programs and nutrition programs will continue to remain open as long as it is safe to do so.

School bus transportation for eligible students will continue.

Parents are encouraged to contact their local school principal with any questions or issues of local concern.

Guidance News

During the season of Advent, encourage your child to be charitable towards others. Forgiving past hurts, extending the hand of friendship and including those who are marginalized, is a wonderful way to put our December virtue of **Charity** and our faith into action. <http://www.parents.com/parenting/money/donate-to-charity/9-ways-to-teach-your-child-about-charity/>

Following the progress report, there may be some Learning Skills and Work Habits that your child is working toward developing. Self Regulation, managing emotions and using appropriate behaviours at school, can be challenging for some students. A few excellent websites to help your child develop self-regulation skills are:

<http://www.gonoodle.com/>;

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/selfRegulate.html>;

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/sensory-processing-issues/trouble-with-self-regulation-what-you-need-to-know>

The **AFTERS** Transition Guide to gather information about different aspects of high school such as: The Credit System, Course Types, Timetables and Special Programs, have been given to Grade 8 students in their schools. The more information students have before going to high school, the easier the transition becomes. Talk to your Gr. 8 child about their fears and anxieties that they are having about going to high school, and help them gather as much information as possible. The **Parent Transition Guide** is filled with helpful information to answer many of your questions and is being sent home with your child shortly.

My Blueprint follows a comprehensive education and career planning process that meets the learning needs, interests, and aspirations of all students. <http://www.myblueprint.ca/tcdsb>. Our next step is finding out more about our skills through My Blueprint.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." – John 3:16 May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Maria D'Alfonso (Guidance Counselor)

Labour Update

Letter from Director of Education and Chair to Parents/Guardians of Children Attending TCDSB Elementary Schools

We are writing to inform you that late last week we learned the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representing approximately 430 Designated Early Childhood Workers (ECE), will be taking work-to-rule measures effective Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

As per ETFO communications, we expect all ECE's to continue to perform core duties and do not anticipate any disruptions to your child's care. Actions to be expected include:

- Wear red clothing and/or accessories to show their support for the ETFO labour movement.
- Will not participate in any extracurricular activities.
- Will not attend staff meetings unless it is an emergency meeting.
- Will continue to communicate learning/provide feedback by collaborating with teachers both verbally and in writing. Their regular contributions to report cards will continue.
- Christmas concerts and regularly scheduled Masses will continue.

The health and safety of your child remains our top priority. Our principals, vice-principals and board administration will continue to communicate with you throughout any labour disruption to mitigate any challenges, and ensure the safety and security of our students, staff, parents and volunteers in our school facilities. Information will be shared with school communities through the Board's website (www.tcdsb.org), twitter and email via School Messenger.

We remain hopeful that the Council of Trustees Association and the provincial government will be able to reach a new central agreement with ETFO.

Latest Updates on Weather Related Cancellations or Closures

Traffic congestion and varying road conditions can impact on the flow of traffic in Toronto, and this is particularly true during the winter months when snow and ice can be a major factor. The Toronto Student Transportation Group is pleased to provide information about school bus delays digitally through [their website](#). Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the transportation portal to get real time information about any transportation issues throughout the school year:

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

Follow @TCDSB on Twitter to get the latest weather related updates.

Accountability and Responsibility in a Digital World

Online safety and social networking with Paul Davis

Senator O'Connor College, 60 Rowena Drive

December 4th, 2019

OCS Auditorium- 6:30pm

All parents welcome!

Go Digital

Sign up for...

- **School Cash Online** <https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/schoolcashionline/pages/default.aspx>
Pay for excursions and other optional activities for your child online. No need to send cheques or cash to school.

- **School Messenger**—report your child’s absence online and receive updates about absences and lates. <https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/signupschoolmessenger.aspx>. The app also allows for urgent communications from your child’s school or from the Board such as labour updates, school closures, opportunities to participate in board-wide consultations etc.
- **E-News**—For those who are not on Twitter, you can still access much of the same news and information sent to your email on a weekly basis. To see recent issues, or sign up for the free news service, see: <https://www.tcdsb.org/News/eNews/Pages/default.aspx>

Wanted: Christmas artists

Kindergarten Registration

Registration begins Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Apply online at <https://soar.tcdsb.org>

Opportunities for Students

We Believe

For the second year of our pastoral plan, “Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become”, students are invited to consider who inspires you, who nurtures your faith, who acts as a mentor and role model of Catholic living. Is it your school chaplain? A parent or other family member? Your pastor or other member of your parish? A teacher or other staff at your school? A colleague or friend? Why not sit down to have a chat with them, and interview them about their experiences of living their faith. Share your experience through a STEAM project, written work (poem, story, article), a short video, art, music or technology. Celebrate those who have guided you on your own journey of faith. Share your ideas and initiatives on social media (@TCDSB #TCDSBelieves). Send your submissions to ncc.team@tcdsb.org.

Your submissions will be showcased on the TCDSB website and shared via social media (twitter/Instagram).

Reminder: OCSTA Short Video Contest

OCSTA is pleased to announce the call for submissions for the Association’s 2019 short-video contest for students in grades 4 through 12 at Ontario’s publicly funded Catholic schools.

This year’s theme is: **Igniting Hope**

Deadline December 10, 2019

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/OCSTAShortVideoContest.aspx>

The Merit Award Bursary Program--Application is Open!

The Merit Award Bursary Program provides bursaries to senior high school students as an incentive to stay in school, recognizing those who demonstrate a commitment to their schoolwork, extra-curricular activities and communities. The bursaries are granted to students who attend one of the participating schools. Before starting an application, please check to ensure your school is on the list. <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/MeritAward.aspx>

CHRISTMAS DRAWING CONTEST 2019

The Catholic Register's popular children's drawing contest is back!

Submission due December 13, 2019

Details: <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/ChristmasDrawingContest.aspx>

Scholarships/Bursaries/Awards

Check out our website for the latest information

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

City of Toronto Job Fairs and Information

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/CityOfToronto.aspx>

CITY OF TORONTO YOUTH WEEK KICK-OFF AUDITIONS

The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation is preparing for the fourth annual National Youth Week from May 1st – 7th. The vision for Toronto Youth Week is to celebrate youth engagement and showcase youth abilities and talents in the arts, sports and leadership. Youth are invited to submit auditions by **January 10, 2020**. For more information, please see [poster](#) or contact PFRYouthWeek@toronto.ca.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DONATE TO RELIEF FUND FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY GOSFORD FIRE

On November 15, 2019, a devastating fire broke out in a North York apartment building displacing hundreds of residents, including 22 TCDSB students. Some have lost most, if not all, of their belongings and it remains unclear when they will be able to return home. While local school communities are supporting students and their families in any way they can, many of you have also reached out to help.

This is why we are launching a central campaign to raise funds for the affected families. All proceeds will go towards clothing, food and other essentials to help these members of our community rebuild their lives.

Donations can be made via The Angel Foundation for Learning at angelfoundationforlearning.org or [click here to access the AFL donation page](#). Donors can select “Assisting students and families of the Jane St and Steeles Ave. fire” in the “Apply your donation...” drop-down menu.

Your generosity is truly appreciated as we come together to support our students and their families.

December’s Virtue is Charity

Find all the resources related to the monthly virtue, as well as other resources to support faith development and Religion and Family Life on our website here: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Default.aspx>

TCDSB Celebrates Advent and Christmas—Advent Begins November 30/December 1

Visit the board’s website for the latest news and information from TCDSB schools including food and clothing drives, Christmas baskets for needy families, Christmas concerts and other special events.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2018/pages/Advent-and-Christmas.aspx>

Dates to Note

- December 1-7 ESL Week
- Friday, December 6—System-wide PA Day
- December 6—Staff Arts Christmas Concert
- December 9-13—Hour of Code
- December 10—World Human Rights Day
- December 23, 2019-January 3, 2020 inclusive—Schools closed for Christmas Break
- December 24, 2019-January 1, 2020—Administrative Offices closed for Christmas Break
- January 1, 2020—New Year’s Day and World Day of Peace
- January 7, 2020—Eastern Rite Christmas

For more events and information, visit www.tcdsb.org