



OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

125 Glenmount Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6B 3C2

Telephone: (416)-393-5265 Fax: (416)-393-5754

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

September 2019

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am Teresa Silva the new principal of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School. I am honored to be serving this community and look forward to working closely with students, staff and parents on the common goal of helping our children grow academically, spiritually and emotionally.

With great joy we welcome our returning students. Also, a warm welcome to new students to Our Lady of the Assumption School community. We hope your summer holiday was relaxing with many fun family moments.

In partnership with Fr. Sherwin Holandez, our new school Pastor, we will continue to inspire our students to grow in Christian virtues. In September, we will focus on the Gospel Virtue of Hospitality: ***“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”*** (Hebrews 13:2). No one is a stranger in our school.

The Pastoral Plan of the Toronto Catholic District School Board 2018-2021 is: ***“Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become.”*** This year we are in the second year, We Believe. This year through various activities and liturgical celebrations we will strengthen our sense of faith in God and in each other. We will express our belief in God through our vision and mission, and works to achieve our goals as people on a common mission.

Your children have brought home several important forms last week. Please complete and return the forms to your child’s teacher. The school office must have the most current health, complete home and email address and phone numbers on file. Please discuss the School’s Code of Conduct policy with your child and sign page 8 of the student agenda when you receive them.

May Our Lady of the Assumption bless our school community and pray for us throughout our new school year.

Teresa Silva

Ms. Teresa Silva

PRINCIPAL

Shawna Campbell
(416) 222-8282 ext. 2267

SUPERINTENDENT

Maria Rizzo
(416) 222-8282 ext. 3405

TRUSTEE

Our Lady of the Assumption Church
2565 Bathurst Street
Rev. Sherwin Holandez (416) 787-4547

PARISH

Cary Auwaerter
Omari Bellot

CSPC CHAIR

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)



NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org
Call 416-393-5265 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 5320.

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

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year: Follow @TCDSB on Twitter or Toronto Catholic DSB on Instagram.

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

The goal of administration, teachers and other staff members is to establish balanced classes to provide cohesive working groups which will benefit all children in each class. Teachers from both the receiving and sending grades have met to carefully consider the following criteria:

- Learning styles
- Academic abilities
- Social groupings
- Special education needs
- Behavioral needs
- Balance of males/females
- Previous placement in combined classes
- Siblings (not placed in the same class if possible)

Teachers who worked with your child all year know them well and made a determination of placement in your child's best interest.

Accepting parental requests for specific teachers or grade combinations would not be in the best interest of all the children as it would restrict school staff in forming what is considered the most ideal classroom groupings. Classroom organization has been finalized. We ask you to please respect this.

Please be advised that ALL CLASS PLACEMENTS MUST BE CONSIDERED TENTATIVE AT THIS TIME! We may need to re-organize prior to September 30th to meet Ministry of Education and contractual obligations. Your understanding is appreciated.



COMBINED CLASSROOMS

A class of combined grades is composed of students from two adjacent grades who are grouped with one teacher for instruction. In all classrooms, no matter how they are organized, teachers use a variety of methods on a daily basis to assess the needs of each student. They then adjust the focus of instruction for skill development accordingly to meet the needs of all learners regardless of the classroom organization. Within a class of combined grades, students work towards the achievement of their grade-specific curriculum expectations. Assessment, evaluation, and reporting are grade specific.

Reviews of research that were conducted in Canada show that instruction in classes of combined grades can provide students with increased opportunities for social and emotional growth. **Students have been shown to:**

- ☐ do better in the area of socio- emotional development;
- ☐ develop more positive peer interactions;
- ☐ have greater development of social skills;
- ☐ do more collaborative and independent learning;
- ☐ display greater feelings of

- comfort and security, and a positive self-concept;
- ☐ show higher satisfaction with achievements;
- ☐ have more opportunities for student leadership within a community of learners.

School Cash Online



This year Our Lady of Assumption will be moving towards the cash online system. Parents will have the opportunity to pay for pizza lunches, civvies days, field trips, and much more. Paying through School Cash Online offers a safe and convenient payment option that eliminates the need to send cash or cheques to school. For more information and to create your account visit www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/schoolcashionline



FORMS

Please return the following forms with your signature:

- ☐ permission form
- ☐ insurance information
- ☐ health form
- ☐ dismissal form

Please return these forms to your child’s classroom teacher. The Toronto Catholic District School Board does **not** provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen. Some injuries incur medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent or guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

For your convenience, the Board has arranged a **Student Accident Insurance Policy** exclusively through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian. This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable prices. Benefits and more information are included in the Insurance package being sent home with this newsletter. **The insurance agreement is between you and Reliable Life Insurance Com Company.** You may directly apply at: www.insuremykids.com

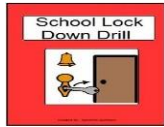


SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Students must take their assigned bus routes to go home. Requests from parents for their child to switch bus routes for one or more days for whatever reason cannot be accommodated for safety

reasons. Students who ride the bus MUST follow the **School Code of Conduct** (see Student Agenda – page 6) on the school bus. Failing to do so will result in consequences including being suspended from riding the bus for a brief period.

SCHOOL SAFETY



During the school year, we will practice 6 Fire Drills and 4 Lock Down/Hold and Secure practice Drills. If you have any questions, please talk to the Principal.

The School Agenda is an excellent communication tool for parents, students and teachers. It is an essential tool to help our students develop good organizational and time management skills, set goals and meet homework deadlines. It is your responsibility to read and discuss with your child the School Code of Conduct, dress code, transportation and other important information. **Parents and Students please sign Page 8 of the Agenda when you receive them.**



Parents are invited to join the staff and students at our first School Mass.

Date: **Wednesday, September 18th**

Time: 1:30 p.m. Location: Our Lady of the Assumption Church
2565 Bathurst Street
M6B 2Z3

CELL PHONE USE POLICY

In accordance with the Ministry of Education Policy, students at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic school are to not have their cell phones on between 9:00AM and 3:30PM. They may use their cell phones, only with teacher permission for curriculum or research purposes. Noncompliance with this policy will result in the cell phone being taken away and it will only be returned at the end of the day. Misuse of the cell phone would result in confiscation by the Principal and returned directly to the student at the end of the day. Subsequent violations would result in a parent- student meeting with the Principal.

PEANUT AND OTHER ALLERGIES



Our Lady of the Assumption School strives to maintain a peanut free school. We have many students who suffer from life- threatening allergies when they come in contact with peanuts or peanut products. Please inform the school as soon as possible if your child has an allergy or medical condition. Health forms have been sent home with your child. Please complete the form and return it to the school right away. In order to ensure that our school is a safe environment for all students, we ask that you only send foods with your children that are free from peanuts and other nut products. Also please do not send any foods for special occasions or birthdays.

SAFE ARRIVAL

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 your child's safe arrival at school please do not drop off your child before 8:40 as there will be no one to supervise them.

STUDENT DROP OFF

In an effort to increase safety for students, parents and staff, there will be no parking in the bus zone. There is presently signage indicating "Bus Loading Zone" at the beginning and end. I will also be marking off this area with pylons both in the morning and at the end of the day. In the morning there will be a staff member on duty so that you can safely drop off your child and proceed with your vehicle. I am asking full co-operation of all parents.

I am also asking that all parents no longer enter any of the school yards in the morning. It is difficult for teachers on duty to have full view of students as there are numerous adults obstructing their sight lines. Please say goodbye to your child at the gate and they will be supervised by staff. Parents in the yard may be approached by staff to leave the school yard. Thankyou for your support on this matter.

PARENTS IN THE SCHOOLYARD

During the times indicated above when teachers are on supervision duty in the school yard, parents are asked to refrain from being in the school yard. Teachers will deal with any issues that occur. The intention of this request is not to suggest that parents are not welcome in the school. Rather, this request is to protect all parents and students.

VISITORS

All visitors, including parents must report to the main office and sign in before proceeding anywhere in the school. They will be given a visitor's tag that must be worn during their time in the school. This request is to ensure the safety of all students.



MEDICATION POLICY

School Staff are **not permitted** to administer any medication without written instructions from both a legal guardian and prescribing doctor. All prescribed medication will be kept in the office. The forms to dispense any medication must be updated on a regular basis and are available from the main office.

Please be advised that staff will not dispense non-prescription medications to students.



LUNCH POLICY

Students will not be allowed to leave the school premises to purchase lunch from the local restaurants or cafes unless accompanied to and from the school by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18 years.

It is asked that parents make every effort to ensure lunches are delivered to students on time. This will prevent interruptions and distractions during instructional time.

It is also asked that parents to **do not** make UBER deliveries for students. This will prevent the entrance of unknown persons in the school and ensures the safety of students.



Appropriate Dress Code

The Dress Code for all OLA students are: white and navy blue garments (plain white/navy blue shirt or blouse with collar, plain navy blue pant/skirt/shorts).

Denim, hoodies, logos, navy blue jeans, ripped jeans, sweat pants with or without stripes, yoga pants, skinny jeans ARE NOT school approved garments.

Dress Code clothing can be purchased at any clothing store.

Failure to adhere to the Dress Code after 3 warnings would result in the parent being notified by the school Principal.

I will be offering parents the ability to purchase blue/white uniform items with our school logo, *Kindness*. Samples will be on display on Curriculum Night.

CSPC NEWS



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School staff and students would like to thank the parent volunteers of OLA **CSPC (Catholic School Parent Council)** for their time, dedication and commitment in organizing very successful fundraising activities for our students during 2018.

This year we will need parents to volunteer approximately 1-1/2 hours of their time every two months to plan fun activities for our students and school community (example: School BBQ, Family Pajama Movie Night, Math Night, etc.). Information about Nomination and Elections will be sent home shortly. If you are interested in being nominated to be on the Council, please complete the **Nomination Forms** and return it with your child or drop it off at the school office.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

We will be hosting our curriculum night in the next couple of weeks. I will send home a letter later in the week about this evening. I hope you can join us. During this evening, I will also have samples of blue/white spirit wear. Parents will have the opportunity to place an order if they wish.

TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2019-2020	
Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	7
Labour Day	September 2, 2019
First Instructional Day	September 3, 2019
Thanksgiving Day	October 14, 2019
Christmas Break	December 23, 2019–January 3, 2020
Start of second semester for secondary schools	February 3, 2020
Family Day	February 17, 2020
Mid-Winter Break	March 16-20, 2020
Good Friday	April 10, 2020
Easter Monday	April 13, 2020
Victoria Day	May 18, 2020
Last day of classes for all students	June 25, 2020

Seven (7) Professional Activity (PA) Days for ELEMENTARY schools:

October 11, 2019	Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development
November 15, 2019	Parent-Teacher Conferences
December 6, 2019	Provincial Education Priorities
January 17, 2020	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
February 14, 2020	Parent-Teacher Conferences
June 5, 2020	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
June 26, 2020	Provincial Education Priorities





September 2019 News

Register Now: School Cash Online

Parents/guardians are reminded to create their School Cash Online profile, in order to receive updates and information on upcoming school activities, including pizza lunches, civvies days, field trips, and much more. Paying through School Cash Online offers a safe and convenient payment option that eliminates the need to send cash or cheques to school. For more information and to create your account visit www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/schoolcashonline

Bus Transportation Information and Updates

Communications with parents regarding bus transportation for students is a priority. In order to stay informed, parents are encouraged to register on the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) portal today by visiting www.torontoschoolbus.org. This portal provides TCDSB parents with online access to their children's transportation information and up to the minute email notifications regarding school bus cancellations or delays. If you have any issues signing up on the portal, please contact support@torontoschoolbus.org and staff will assist you with the registration of your account.

Safe Arrival

Parents are encouraged to sign up for the School Messenger app. This will allow parents and the school to stay in touch to report absences quickly and easily, and also for the school to communicate to parents about important information throughout the year including cancellations, closures and other critical issues. <https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/signupschoolmessenger.aspx>

September's Virtue is Hospitality

All resources for the month of September, and for the monthly virtues throughout the year can be found on our website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Pages/Default.aspx>

Pastoral Plan: This Year we Focus on "Rooted in Christ: we Believe"

In the second year of our pastoral plan, "Rooted in Christ, we Believe" our focus turns to what we believe in as a Catholic education community. Resources for the Year: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/rooted-in-christ/webelieve/Pages/weBelieveResources.aspx>

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. Write an article or create a video of your interview. Write a short story, a poem, or create a piece of artwork, music or video that pays tribute to those who guide you on your own journey of faith.

Share your stories on social media (@TCDSB #TCDSBelieves)

Send your submissions to ncc.team@tcdsb.org

International Languages After Hours Program Registration

Registration for the elementary IL After Hours Program continues through to September 21st. <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/InternationalLanguages/Pages/Saturday-School-Registration.aspx>

Open Houses

Students in grade 8 and their families are reminded that TCDSB secondary schools are hosting open houses this fall—a great way to meet staff and students, check out the school facilities and learn about the programs and services being offered at each location. The complete schedule will be available online: <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/default.aspx>

September Events and Meetings

- September 1—Day of Prayer for Care of God's Creation
- September 4—Open House for Parents of Elementary Students Identified as Gifted, 7-9 PM
<https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/news/pages/giftedopenhouse.aspx>
- September 5--Student Achievement Committee Meeting, 7 PM
- September 8--International Literacy Day
- September 8--Grandparent's Day

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- September 9—Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day
<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2019/pages/fasd.aspx>
 - September 10--Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
 - September 12—Corporate Services Committee Meeting
 - September 16—Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
 - September 18—Special Education Advisory Committee
 - September 19—Board
- For details about these and other events and meetings, visit www.tcdsb.org

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