



SANTA MARIA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

September 2017

WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Parents are encouraged to sign up for an electronic copy of the newsletter. Email Mrs. Carreiro-Neto at ana.carreiro-neto@tcdsb.org to subscribe or unsubscribe. Newsletters will be sent out at the beginning of each month and posted on the school's website – <http://santamaria.tcdsb.org>

I look forward to working with our families this school year. It is my second year at Santa Maria and I know it is going to be a **GREAT** year. I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable summer and are ready to begin once again. As we welcome our students back to school in September it seems fitting that this month's virtue is **HOSPITALITY**. Our teachers have been busy preparing their classrooms, gathering together resources, supplies and putting up bulletin boards that will invite the students back into a welcoming environment. But hospitality is more than just a welcoming back. Our quote for the month is from Matthew 25:40, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me". In our school community and in our homes we can discuss the concept of the least of our people or the stranger who needs our hospitality, be it the newly arrived to Canada or the new student at our school. Today, hospitality is more important than ever and it is only through a deep moral obligation to hospitality that we can transform our communities. This month at Santa Maria we will practise hospitality in our classrooms and in our schoolyard. We are into the third year of our pastoral Plan – **Harmonizing our Faith Through Family, Parish and School**. This year we will focus on the school.

Our welcome back BBQ is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 4th, 2017**. Please mark your calendars and make an effort to come out and meet our staff. Information about our snack program will be sent out later this month. Please sign all pertinent medical and local excursion forms being sent home with this newsletter.



Epi-Pens

We have students and staff with life-threatening allergies to nuts and fish. Please do not send Nutella or Wow butter, or fish to school. **Students must have their epi-pen on them at all times.** Epi-pen pouches can be purchased at various locations. We will be updating our records and ensuring that all epi-pens are valid.



CSPC Meetings and Elections

The Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) fosters a positive relationship between the home and school and encourages a sense of community within the school. Each parent seeking election must be self-nominated or nominated in writing, must have a child registered at the school, and must declare if he or she is employed by the school board. Nomination forms are included with this newsletter. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the principal by Sept. 15th, so that an election can be arranged.

Ana Carreiro-Neto
PRINCIPAL ↗
Doug Yack, 416-222-8282 Ext. 2732
SUPERINTENDENT ↗
Frank D'Amico, 416-512-3406
TRUSTEE ↗
Our Lady of Guadalupe, 416-767-8658
694 Weston Road
PARISH ↗
CSPC CHAIR ↗
www.tcdsb.org/cpic
CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB) ↗
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto
OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS) ↗
220 8:30-4:30 11:45-12:45
ENROLLMENT HOURS OF OPERATION LUNCH HOUR



NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393-5368 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

Office Hours

The school office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An automated answering system is available for messages 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please leave messages on voice mail if you call outside of school hours. Do your best to call when the secretary is available. **Do not leave important messages with student office helpers.**

Regular School Hours

8:45 a.m.	Outdoor Supervision Begins
9:00 a.m.	Entrance
10:42- 10:57 a.m.	Morning Recess
11:45a.m.	Lunch Begins
12:45 p.m.	Afternoon Classes Begin
2:10-2:25 p.m.	Afternoon Recess
3:30 p.m.	Dismissal
3:45 p.m.	All Students must be picked up!

When dropping off lunches

Parents, if you are dropping off lunches, kindly label your child's lunch and leave it on the table outside the main office. Communicate with your child in the morning before school if a lunch is going to be dropped off. We want to foster independence in our students; therefore, we will not be interrupting classes to inform students that their lunch has been dropped off. Instructional time is sacred. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Safe Arrival Programme

Please contact the school by phone, written note or e-mail if your child is going to be late or absent. Leave messages with the office, NOT on the teachers' voice mail boxes. We are required to contact any parents who do not contact us and this saves us time and worry when we cannot get a hold of parents. We will call home if the school has not been notified.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular school attendance and punctuality are important for student progress. Children should be kept home only when they are ill. Appointments, whenever possible, should be arranged outside of school hours. Being on time for the start of class is important. The bell rings promptly at 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Your child (ren) should be in the school yard by this time so that they can assemble with their peers and be involved in all activities from the beginning of class. Students who arrive late disrupt the class and must come to the office for a late slip. On extremely cold/rainy days, children should not arrive in the morning or at noon hour until five minutes before the bell, at which time they will be allowed to go directly to their classes.

Dress Code

Please be reminded that all students must adhere to the dress code - a combination of plain white and navy blue clothing (no denim) and no LOGOS please.

White or Navy Tops:

Includes: long or short sleeved, collared shirts or blouses; long or short sleeved collarless t-shirts; turtleneck, sweaters, cardigans, vests, hoodies and fleeces.

No sleeveless shirts.

Navy Bottoms:

Includes: pants (cotton, fleece, nylon, corduroy); shorts, skirts, skorts, tunics. Length must be to mid-thigh for all shorts and skirts.

No demin (jean) of any type, lycra, yoga pants, jeggings, tights/leggings (unless under a skirt).



Classroom Organization

During the month of September, it is important to understand that due to possible increases in enrolment, changes may need to be made in classroom composition, teacher assignments, and placement of students. If changes are required, it is the responsibility of the principal, to ensure that the various abilities, needs and interests of the children are taken into account. Parents can be assured that changes will only be made after careful consideration, and in the best possible interests of effective programming for the students.

Student Agendas

Students from grades 1-8 will again be using personal organizers/agendas to keep track of homework assignments and as a communication tool for parents. We ask parents to check them on a regular basis and to make appropriate comments when necessary. The agendas are a necessary component of the curriculum and should be kept in a safe place at home. The cost of the agendas is **\$5.00**, and will be given to the students upon payment. The agendas include important School and Board information, as well as the updated Code of Behaviour and School Handbook. When the agendas arrive at home, please read the first few pages with your child (ren) and sign the bottom of the introductory letter indicating your support of the school's expectations.

Medication / Student Illness

Staff of the TCDSB is not permitted to administer any type of prescription medication during the school day unless we have written authorization signed by the parent and the physician. The forms to dispense any medication must be updated yearly and on a regular basis; these are available from the office. Also, please be advised that staff cannot dispense non-prescription medications to students, and students are not to keep medication in their desks or knapsacks. When your children are ill, please keep them at home. Sick children do not learn well; they can spread germs to others and cannot be supervised indoors during outdoor activities. If children are well enough to come to school, they should be outside getting exercise and fresh air during recesses and other outdoor activities. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Visitors

It is Board policy that ALL visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in and receive a visitor's badge. We welcome parents, but we have an obligation to know who is in the school and the reason for the visit. Parents, unless it is an emergency, please make arrangements to speak with staff before or after school. Parents are asked not to escort their children to the classroom. Students are to line up in the schoolyard and enter the building in an orderly fashion with their peers. We are trying to foster independence in our students.



School Texts and Materials

Please encourage your children to take care of their school supplies, texts and library books. If your child loses or damages school materials, you will be informed and a replacement fee may be charged. The school will provide your child with all the supplies necessary to do their work. Paper, duo-tangs, workbooks, pencils and pens, are all available from the classroom teacher. Calculators, rulers, geometry sets, markers and crayons are provided for classroom use, depending on the grade, and parents may want to purchase these for personal use.

Personal Belongings

To avoid losses and disputes over ownership of lunch boxes, running shoes, and/or other belongings we ask that you write your child's name on all belongings. We have a new acceptable user policy when it comes to electronics. Teachers may ask students to use their cell phones or other devices for instructional purposes. **Please note that the school is not responsible for lost items. If students bring their electronics to school, they are responsible for them.** Parental support in this area is required and greatly appreciated. Please monitor your child's activity on the internet and the various social media sites. If students bully their classmates on any site, they will face consequences. Activity that occurs outside of school impacts the school climate and consequences will be imposed.



Popcorn Fundraiser in October – *More Information To Come*

We are excited to participate in a fundraising campaign offering From Farm to Table Popcorn.

Each student is asked to sell a Variety Pack of Popcorn containing 20 snack sized bags in four delicious flavours.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are welcome to attend one of the scheduled open houses at TCDSB secondary schools this fall. Learn more about the various programs, services and activities as you prepare for Catholic secondary school education. The following is the information received from our secondary schools regarding open houses this fall. Please note that the information is also posted on the board's website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/default.aspx> and the website will be updated if any of the information should change over the next few months.

Oct. 25, 2017 – St. Mary C.S.S.

Oct. 24, 2017 – Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton

Oct. 26, 2017 – Blessed Archbishop Romero

Our Students/Graduates are encouraged to be...

A Discerning Believer formed in the Catholic Faith Community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery 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 their 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.



As part of the TCDSB's goal of Fostering Student Achievement and Well Being, the Special Services department endeavours to support our special education students in achieving academic excellence and meeting the Ontario Catholic Graduate School Expectations. The department offers a variety of supports to students based on their need(s) and/or identification(s). For further information please visit the Special Services department link: <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/Pages/default.aspx>

Parents/caregivers are reminded that if they require support in accessing the Special Services department link, they may ask the school principal for assistance. Alternately, for families who require access to a computer to visit the site, they may access an electronic device through the Toronto Public Library.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Parent or Guardian

RE: STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

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.

We do make available the insuremykids® Protection Plan for students through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Participation in such a programme is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian.

This programme offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable rates. Benefits included are:

- dental expenses (resulting from an accident)
- total and permanent disability
- paralysis/loss of use
- special disability benefits
- death benefits.

If your child is not covered by your employer's plan for medical/dental accident benefits not paid by OHIP, Reliable Life offers a plan tailored to your needs. Plan rates vary from \$13.00 to \$33.00 per child. All rates are one-time annual premiums. Family rates for 3 or more children are also offered.

If you wish to subscribe you may apply 24/7 directly at:

www.insuremykids.com

Any questions should be directed to Reliable Life Insurance Company toll free at:
1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Student Accident Insurance is especially valuable for today's active children.

Ana Carreiro-Neto
Principal

TRUSTEES 2017 – 2018

Wards

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 5. Maria Rizzo | 9. Jo-Ann Davis |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk | 6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair | 10. Barbara Poplawski |
| 3. Sal Piccininni | 7. Michael Del Grande | 11. Angela Kennedy, Chair |
| 4. Patrizia Bottoni | 8. Garry Tanuan | 12. Nancy Crawford |
| | | Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee |
| | | Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee |

