



St. Agatha News

49 Cathedral Bluffs Drive
Scarborough, ON M1M 2T6
416-393-5302
twitter.com/StAgathaSchool
tcdsb.org/schools/stagatha
School Calendar: goo.gl/Khb6QU



Virtue of the Month: Charity

December 2017

Welcome to Advent at St Agatha! Advent is a precious and spiritually wonderful time in our Catholic school. The staff and students are eagerly involved in this season of waiting and preparation for the birth of the baby Jesus. Our Virtue of the Month is Charity. There are many activities this month which give us opportunities to share our good fortune with others who have less.

All of our classes are supporting a needy families this holiday season. Flyers went home last week outlining the project and what the families need. Please support this important initiative.

Be sure to also set aside Wednesday, December 20th and Thursday December 21st for our Christmas Concerts. Also, please come as a family to the Family of Schools Christmas Concert at St. Boniface on Sunday, December 10 at 2pm.

November was a highly successful month at St Agatha with Spirit Assembly celebrations and activities focused on Peacemaking, our Remembrance Day service, anti-bullying week, sports activities, Parent-Teacher conferences, and of course our Eucharistic celebration with Father Robson.

We would like to welcome Mlle Mead as the teacher to our FI ELP class along with Mdm. Nancy as the ECE. Both are permanently joining us at St. Agatha. Mr. Pyke is also joining our caretaking team in the evenings.

Sherry Pearson, our long time Snack Program Coordinator and lunchtime supervisor will be leaving St. Agatha to become a Coordinator for Food Share, an organization that supports snack programs in schools. We wish Sherry a sincere congratulations and she will be missed.

The snack program will be run by Kerri-Lee Morelli who is already part of our community. Please welcome Kerri Lee to this new role.

We would like to wish all members of our community a safe, happy and holy season of Advent. May God bless you and your family as you prepare for Christmas.

Peace and God bless!

R. Aunger
Principal

Anthony Naoum
Vice- Principal

TRUSTEES 2016 - 2017

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 Piccinini | 7. Michael Del Grande | 11. Angela Kennedy, Chair |
| 4. Patrizia Bottoni | 8. Garry Tanuan | 12. Nancy Crawford |

CONTACTS:

Principal: Ryan Aunger
Vice-Principal: Anthony Naoum
Secretary: Sylvana Perri
CSAC Chair: Tanya Baksh
Superintendent: Shawna Campbell
(416)222-8282 (x2263)
Ward 12 Trustee: Nancy Crawford
(416) 512-3412

CPIC (Parent Engagement--TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

OAPCE Toronto

(Provincial Voice for Parents)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

BELL TIMES:

9:00 ARRIVAL
10:42 A.M. RECESS
11:45 LUNCH HOUR BEGINS
12:45 LUNCH HOUR ENDS
2:25 P.M. RECESS
3:30 DISMISSAL

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Number of School Days **194**

Number of Professional Activity Days **7**

Oct 6, Nov 17, Dec 1, Jan 19, Feb 16, Jun 8, Jun 29

Labour Day Monday, September 4, 2017

First Day Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 9, 2017

Christmas Break December 25, 2017- January 7, 2018

Family Day February 19, 2018

Mid-Winter Break March 12-16, 2018 (inclusive)

Good Friday March 30, 2018

Easter Monday April 2, 2018

Victoria Day Monday, May 21, 2018

School Year Ends Thursday, June 28, 2018

St. Boniface Catholic Church

Father Robson

21 Markanna Dr. Scarborough

(416) 261-5983

Online Newsletter and Calendar

Starting in January, the newsletter will be sent out electronically only and paper copies of the calendar will be sent home. A test run in November and December have taken place. Please make sure that your email is up to date on your child's information form. If not, please contact the office. There will always be hard copies available.

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair was extremely successful and raised over \$3000 for our library. Thank you for your support.

Safe and Caring Schools

Thank you to all the parents who are using our 'Kiss and Ride' in the AM. Also, once the school day has started, only staff and volunteers should be in instructional zones. If your child is leaving early or coming late, please start your visit at the office. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our students safe.

Dance-a-thon Goals

Due to the incredible generosity of our community, the students hit a number of milestones to have something special in the month of December.

Please note the following days:

December 15 – Movie and Pyjama Day

December 15 – No Homework Day

December 18 – Civvies Day (regular clothes)

December 19 – Toque Day

December 20 – Christmas Colour Day (Red and Green)

December 21 – Ugly Christmas Sweater

December 22 – Christmas Hat Day

December 22 – Electronics Day (Students bring their electronics at their own risk)

Christmas Concerts

Below is the schedule for our Christmas Concerts. Please see the attached form for ticket information. Due to the limited capacity of our gym and that our population has grown to over 460 students, our concert schedule could not accommodate all families at the same time.

Concert A – Wednesday, December 20th – 9:30 a.m.

- Chan Lee, Fossi, Meade, Mr. Murphy (JK/SK), Attila

Concert B – Wednesday, December 20th – 1:00 p.m.

- Awadalla, Lazazzera, Tavares, Bell, Balkovec, Goguen

Concert C – Thursday, December 21st – 9:30 a.m.

- Intermediate Band - Vandersluis, Elie, Gingras, Modica, McCowan, DaSilva, Mlle Metwally (Grade 5)

Concert D – Thursday, December 21 – 1:00 p.m.

Katungutere, Remigio, Ms. Murphy (Grade 4/5), Sciberras, Madame Jocelyn Metwally (Grade 6)

Advent Liturgies

There will be Advent Liturgies every Monday in Advent in the morning. Kindergarten to Gr. 3 from 9:30-10:00 and Gr. 4-8 from 10:00 to 10:30. All are welcome.

The Christmas Voice of St. Agatha

To get into the Christmas Spirit, the students of St. Agatha are participating in the "The Christmas Voice of St. Agatha" singing competition. Everyday, students will be singing Christmas Carols over the PA system and the students vote for their favourite singers. The competition will culminate in the finals on December 22 in the morning when the top 4 singers, from Team M. Jonathon, Team Mdm Jocelyn, Team Mdm. Awadalla and Team Mrs. Bell will sing for the title "The Voice of St. Agatha". All are welcome to hear the songs and join in with a Christmas Carol sing a long.

Gr. 6s to Young Disciples' Ignite Day

On November 28th, the Grade 6 students had the opportunity to participate in the TCDSB's *Young Disciples' Ignite Day*. Through a teaching Mass, community building activities, music, and guest speakers, the students had the opportunity to ignite their faith. Their mission is to work as leaders and inspire acts of service in our school communities. As we continue to celebrate the Year of the School, we look forward to seeing many wonderful acts of faith throughout the school in the coming months.

Anti-Bullying Week

There were many fantastic activities that took place at St. Agatha over Anti-Bullying week. Under the guidance of Ms. Pirrotta, our CYW, older students acted as Peacemakers and encouraged kindness and caring during recess. Older students read stories of kindness to younger students and all students decorated doves with messages of Peace on them. Also, everyday students read messages on the announcements that focused on themes of Compassion, Empathy, Respect, and Kindness.



On November 27 and 28, our Liaison Officer from Toronto Police Services spoke to Gr. 2,4,6 and 8 about treating others with kindness. Grade 2 learned about safety in the community, Grade 4 discussed bullying, Grade 6 focused on peer pressure and Grade 8 looked at internet safety. Thank you to Officer Rowe for supporting our students at St. Agatha.



Please speak to your child about what they learned during our Anti-Bullying week activities.



Sports Corner

Congratulations to our Volleyball Teams who represented our School with pride and sportsmanship. Our Boys Volleyball team made it all the way to the Semi-Finals at the Regional competition. Thank you to Ms. Modica, Mrs. McCowan, Ms. Tillander, Mr. Cianifirani and Mlle. Gingras for supporting and coaching our athletes.

On December 5 and 7 our Primary Soccer teams will head off to their tournaments. Thank you to our older student leaders and Mrs. McCowen and Mr. Elie for supporting the students.

Out of the Cold Program

On Friday, December 1, 2017, Gr. 7 and 8 students will participate in 'Out of the Cold' The "Out of Cold" program is run by: "Dixon Hall's Housing Services department supports the 16 faith-based organizations that come together every winter to run the Out of the Cold (OOTC) program, a volunteer run initiative with over 3,000 volunteers city wide. Our students will be responsible for setting up the chairs and tables for dinner, preparing the meal, lunches for the next morning, serving the meals and clean up. Thank you to Mrs. McCowan for organizing such an amazing event



Hockey Coach Wanted

We are looking for a parent volunteer with proper police checks that would be willing to coach our school hockey team. If you are interested, please speak to Mr. Aunger or Ms. Sciberras.

CSAC Meetings:

Our next CSAC meeting will take place on **Tuesday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome!

Winter Weather and Appropriate Attire:

As winter arrives, we are bound to encounter some very frigid temperatures. Of course, living in Canada, we expect to endure some cold days and recognize that, when dressed appropriately, we can enjoy fun-filled, outdoor activities.

Students are expected to come to school with all that they need to participate in outdoor recesses.

Appropriate winter clothing includes: winter boots, a winter coat, snow pants, a hat, a scarf and warm mittens or gloves. All students are expected to have a pair of indoor shoes that may be left at school for the duration of the snowy/wet season. It is highly recommended that each student have an extra pair of dry socks in their backpack.



Please be assured that on exceptionally frigid days, outdoor recess will be shortened or cancelled. However, it is our intention to ensure that the

students receive opportunities for fresh air and exercise on a regular basis throughout the winter season.

Flu Prevention:

Please continue to follow and review with your child the Public Health tips to prevent the spread of the flu:

- Get your flu shot.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Cover your cough/sneeze.
- Don't share things that go in your mouth (i.e. cups, straws, water bottles, utensils, etc.)
- Do the knuckle bump instead of shaking hands.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Please do not send students back to school until they are feeling well and they have had no fever for at least 24 hours.

Bus Cancellation/ School Closure:

Inclement weather occasionally makes it necessary to cancel school bus services and/or close the school. These decisions are made at the school board level and are published as early as possible. Your best source of information is via Twitter @TCDSB. For those who are not on Twitter, please tune in to local television and radio networks for updates. (Note: Listen for Toronto **Catholic** District School Board.) Other good sources of information are:

- TCDSB's website www.tcdsb.org
- Toronto Student Transportation Group website <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org>
- TCDSB 24-hour Telephone Information Line: 416-222-8282 ext. 2873

Or if you wish to receive updates right to your email, subscribe to enews:

<https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscribe.on.aspx>

Please note that on some occasions transportation is cancelled but the school remains open. If this is the case, we do take attendance to ensure that those students who are coming have arrived safely. If you decide to keep your child home on one of these days, please call the school and report the absence. Please note also that, if transportation is cancelled, this is in effect for the whole day; there will be no school bus transportation home for those who come to school via another means.

ALLERGY ALERT:

Please note that we have a number of students who have **dangerous, life-threatening allergies** to certain foods. **For that reason, we expect that students will not bring to school any items that contain peanuts or nuts**

Math Games for Christmas

Looking for gift ideas for your kids? The following is a list of games that support the math curriculum



and our urgent critical need in problem solving and can be purchased in stores or online.

1. Kanoodle—A solitary puzzle game that challenges you to create 2-D and 3-D shapes using tetris-like pieces. A great way to develop spatial sense.
2. Pentago—A two-player strategy game involving 3x3 grids that are connected to form a larger 6x6 grid. Players place a marble and then rotate their grid by 90° to change the board every turn. A fun way to engage geometry skills.
3. Blokus—A multi-player game that invites players to place as many of their coloured tetris-shaped pieces on a grid as possible. A game of strategy that also supports spatial sense.
4. Swish—A card game that supports skills of pattern recognition. Players lay transparent cards that show a combination of balls and hoops. They create a “Swish” and claim the cards when they spot two or more cards that can be laid on top of one another so that every ball can fit inside a hoop of the same colour.
5. Farkle—A simple dice game that develops skills of number sense and probability. Players roll dice and collect combinations that earn points of a set value. They have to decide whether to risk losing points by continuing to roll.
6. Shut the Box—The box has a set of levers labelled 1-9. Players roll dice and then knock down levers depending on the outcome of their roll. A fun way to strengthen number sense.
7. Pass the Pigs—A variation of dice, players throw pigs and collect points depending on the positioning of the pigs. Players develop skills of numeracy and probability by calculating points and deciding whether to risk continuing to roll.

‘Remind’:

If you are interested in receiving reminders about school events via text message, you are invited to join ‘Remind’ (which is free), by sending a text to **(647)931-1274** with the message **@stagathacs**

French Immersion Information Night

An information night for families interested in joining the French Immersion will be taking place on Thursday, January 18 at 7:00pm.

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten Registration will begin for all Elementary Schools on **Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

Parents/guardians with children born in 2014 or earlier and who will be enrolling in Kindergarten, have the opportunity to apply on-line using the “Student On-line Admission and Registration” platform known as S.O.A.R. and found at the following link: <http://soar.tcdsb.org>.

Parents are asked to complete an application for registration from the convenience of their own home, the office, a public library, or anywhere there is internet access, 24 hours a day. The on-line application also offers access to translations in different languages with built-in help functions and features.

As part of the registration process, meetings with school staff will be scheduled on the electronic application. During the meeting, school staff will verify the original documentation required for registration. This consists of a Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and/or Passport, Immunization record, proof of residence and Application for Direction of School support.

Applications to register children in grades other than Kindergarten can also be done on the online S.O.A.R. application. Please share this information with any parents/guardians with school- aged children in the community.

For more information, visit tcdsb.org or call 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314

Parents Urged to Check Their Liability Insurance Coverage

At the October 19, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board resolved that all parents of the Board should be advised to consider contacting their home insurance providers to determine the adequacy of their home insurance coverage to cover claims arising out of injuries caused by their child at school.

The reason for the Board of Trustee direction is that there have been a few instances recently where legal action has been initiated for personal injury or other harm to a student allegedly caused by another child. A brief consultation by parents with their insurance provider is advised so parents can assess the adequacy of their insurance coverage if they are sued for personal injury or other harm allegedly caused by their child at school.

From St. Boniface

EDGE (Gr.6-8): Tuesday December 5, 6:30pm - 8pm

Confirmation Register Deadline: Friday December 8

Sacrament of First Reconciliation Saturday

December 9th, 10am - 12pm

Family of Schools Christmas Concert Sunday

December 10, 2pm

EDGE (Gr.6-8): Tuesday December 19, 6:30pm - 8pm

Children’s Choir: Every Saturday at 4:15pm

Children’s Liturgy: Every Sunday at 10:30am Mass

