



Shark Tales



December 1, 2014

St. Agatha Catholic School
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B. Icaro/L.Deal
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December Virtue of the
Month
Charity



Whatsoever you do to the
least of my people that
you do unto to me.

Father Bernard Lee
St. Boniface Church
21 Markanna Dr.
Scarborough, ON M1M 2H9
(416) 261-5983

Hello St. Agatha Community!

It's hard to believe that we are already into the season of Advent. The next three weeks will be very busy here at St. Agatha. There are a number of activities planned including our Christmas concerts. We hope to see many of you at the school as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I have written many times in the newsletter about concerns with regard to the parking lot and the school yard. At our last CSAC meeting, one of the parents voiced a concern about the number of parents that are in the yard before nine o'clock in the morning. It was felt that this created an unsafe situation for the students in that it would be very easy for an individual from outside the community to be on the property. The best practice would be for parents to drop their children at the gate just as we ask parents to treat the parking lot as a kiss and ride.

Last month I mentioned a parent who helps out a great deal in the school. Another parent who was here every morning counting the funds raised by our students for the Dance-a-Thon was Mrs. Brooke Toumaras. Thank you for all that you do.

As we move into this special time of the year, on behalf of the staff at St. Agatha, I would like to wish all our families a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,
Béla Matyas

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Once again this year St. Agatha will be holding two days of Christmas concerts. The primary grades, JK - 3 , will perform on Wednesday, December 10th. Grades 4 - 8 will be performing on Thursday, December 11th. There will be a morning and afternoon show. Details, including ticket information, were sent home with students on Friday, November 28th. We look forward to seeing everyone and celebrating as a community.

SAFE SCHOOLS

On November 19, 2014 the Safe School Team (N. Chahine VP, K. Katungutere SK Teacher, L. Tilander parent, Genet Kifle & Rainleigh Clemente G. 7 Students) attended the TCDSB Bullying Symposium. The day was filled with many activities and resources to assist the team in developing and/or enhancing their Bullying Awareness and Intervention Plan. The aim of the symposium is to encourage our students to play a positive role in our society in order to prevent bullying in our schools and community. We are looking forward to working together to make a difference.

SANTA'S GIFTS & GOODIES

Only a few days left until our 4th Annual Santa's Gifts and Goodies event hosted by our Grade 8 students. Please join us on **Friday, December 12th**. Our Christmas event promises to be a fun day for all. Students will be able to shop for or make some gifts for their family and friends. We are asking the St. Agatha community to donate gently used toys, unused loot bag gifts, ornaments, white elephant items, books, stickers, crayons, wrapping paper, etc. *(for hygienic reasons, we request that you do not donate plush items or clothes).* ***Items can be dropped off no later than Thursday, December 11th at the atrium.***

There will also be a cookie sale which meets the Board's Food and Beverage Policy and Nut-Free Policy. Items will be priced between 5¢ to \$2.00. Proceeds will help fund programs for our Grade 8 students.

Please remember to send your child with some spending money on Friday, December 12th!

Parents and caregivers are welcome to join in on the fun.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Mrs. Engelhardt or Mrs. Stuart at 416-393-5302.

Thank you for your support.

St. Agatha School Stewards of the Earth – November 2014

St. Agatha Stewards of the Earth were proud to claim another gold certification for outstanding effort in making a difference in creating a responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices at our school and in our community.

Last year, we provided students with the opportunity to meet and listen to Simon Jackson speak about the plight of the Spirit Bear in British Columbia and how the passion and determination of one person can make a difference in the world. We provided a visit from Earth Rangers and five animals indigenous to Canada who face possible extinction due to human error. Visitors from the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority came to present half day workshops for the grade 2 and 3 classes. Four junior classes were again invited to plant pollinator plants in the Bendale Hydro corridor, an education of importance for our students.

Our team organized and ran “Seedy Saturday and Scarborough Green Fair” held at Blessed Cardinal Newman High School in March, marking our third annual event. The team presented and assisted over 80 vendors and 500 visitors who share a common passion about our environment.

Throughout the year, Mrs. McCowan’s Grade 5 students developed outstanding skills in organization, responsibility and stewardship by providing milk to the school community. This entailed delivering pre-ordered milk to students, counting and creating a float, selling milk and counting sales every lunch period.

475 apples were purchased for the school community to share in Ontario’s plentiful bounty during February healthy awareness month.

Our stewards collected, organized, bagged and delivered uniforms and gently used clothing for exchange and donation to local shelters and families in our community. Batteries, ink cartridges, and eye glasses were collected and delivered while plastic milk bags were counted, cut and prepared to make beds for people whose homes were ravaged by hurricanes such as in Haiti.

Our stewards were instrumental in organizing and providing incentives and information during assemblies for all grade levels in hopes that the message of giving was made clear.

Lastly, our students were leaders in preparing the gardens for planting in the spring. Hours of hard work moving mulch and wood chips to gardens around the school as well as planting vegetables, shrubs, trees and flowers has provided our students with a first - hand opportunity to make a difference in caring for the Earth. Most of the plants and materials required to keep our gardens and trees healthy come from donations and the hard work and time of this group. Any assistance from parents and new students is always welcome.

We are truly Stewards of the Earth. This is an education of passion for the earth, God’s gift to us to nurture. Funds raised by the Stewards are used to help our students appreciate this gift through the presentations that we fund.

Our stewards are again providing a milk program. Order forms will soon be provided to pre-order for the second term. Thank you for your support.

DANCE-A-THON 2014

THANK YOU!!! With substantial effort from our students, teachers, volunteers and donors we were able to have a successful Dance-a-thon event this year! We are proud to report we had a very generous amount raised of **\$14,641!** Thank you to all who contributed for this event.

The money raised will help enrich our students' school life, through arts & crafts, tournament fees, buses, athletic teams, scientists in the school, books and more. As promised, the money raised also helped our students earn community incentive prizes in addition to the individual prizes awarded. The community incentive prizes earned include:

\$3000 earned = Civvies Day - Dec 12, 2014

\$4000 earned = Extra Recess – TBD for Spring 2015

\$5000 earned = Pyjama Day – Dec 16, 2014

\$8000 earned = Family Movie Night – Jan 16, 2015

\$10,000 earned = ½ Day Class Party – PM- Dec 16, 2014

\$15,000 earned = one week of civvies – Jan 12 -16, 2015

Thank you to the St. Agatha Community!

IMPORTANT DATES!

December 2 - PALS assembly @ 1:20

December 5 - PA Day.

December 9 - Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsals

December 10 - Primary Christmas Concert - JK - Grade 3 @ 9:30 am & 1:15 p.m.

December 11 - Junior/Intermediate Christmas Concert-Grade 4 - 8 @ 9:30 am & 1:15 pm

December 12 - Santa's Gifts and Goodies/Civvies Day/Pizza Lunch

December 15 - Green Day

December 16 - Pyjama Day/Class Party Day

December 17 - School Christmas Mass @ 9:30./Red Day

December 18 - Santa Hat Day!

December 19 - Civvies Day!

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Once again this year St. Agatha is working with the St. Vincent de Paul society to help those less fortunate. Classes have “adopted” a family and are collecting items to help the family. In this year of charity in the TCDSB’s pastoral plan we ask for your support for this worthy initiative.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISION

Once again we are looking for a supply lunchtime supervisor. You would have to be available to supervise students during the lunch hour both in the classroom and in the yard on those days when our regular supervisors are not available. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help during our lunch hours. Please contact the office if you are interested.

CSAC DATES

At the last CSAC meeting the following dates were set for the remainder of the 2014/2015 school year - January 22nd, February 19th, March 26th, April 23rd and June 4th. All meetings begin at 6:30 and are held in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Monthly Update from the Board **December 2014**

Reporting of cancellations or closures due to inclement weather

Winter weather arrived early this year. Please note that any cancellations or closures due to inclement weather will be reported before 7 a.m. Best place to get the info quickly is through **Twitter @TCDSB** (please follow us), the board’s website www.tcdsb.org and the 24-hour telephone information line 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

Policy Consultation

The Board invites parents, students and staff to participate in a review of draft policies. Your input is encouraged into the following policies:

- Draft Policy for Catholic School Advisory Councils (CSACs)
- Draft Policy on Secondary School Admission and Placement

Details are posted on the board’s website: <http://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2014/pages/consultation-csac-and-admissions-policies.aspx>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kindergarten Registration Starts January 2015

Please visit the board's website at www.tcdsb.org to fill out the application forms online, and find out more about the registration process.

Registration (online and in person) begins at 10 a.m. on January 8th.

Nominations Open for TCDSB Alumni and Merit Awards: Deadline January 16, 2015

Do you know a member of our community who is a witness to the gospel values of our Catholic faith and who is transforming the world through faith, innovation and action? Nominate them for an award: <http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/CatholicEducationWeek/Pages/AwardsNight.aspx>

Catholic School Advisory Councils Invited to Training Session

Goal Setting, Multi-Year Plans, Making Meetings Matter

December 3, 2014, 7-9 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

Details here: [CSAC - December training flyer.pdf](#)

Other Dates to Note

December 3rd—International Day of Persons with Disabilities <http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2014/Pages/International-Day-of-Persons-with-Disabilities.aspx>

December 5th—Board-wide Professional Activity Day (no classes for students)

December 10th—International Human Rights Day <http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2014/Pages/Human-Rights-Day.aspx>

December 22nd to January 2nd—Christmas Break

January 1st—International Day of Peace—"Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters" <http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2015/Pages/International-Day-of-Peace.aspx>