



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 2019

Dear St. Agatha Community,

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 Monday, December 16th for our Christmas Concert at Blessed Cardinal Newman.

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 are excited to welcome Ms. Sabrina Bartoli to St. Agatha. Ms. Bartoli is joining our staff as the Gr. 6 teacher in the morning.

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!

God bless!

R. Aunger
Principal

Ann De Agazio
Vice- Principal

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2018-2019

Wards		
1.	Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2.	Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3.	Sal Poccininni	416-512-3403
4.	Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404
5.	Maria Rizzo, Vice-Chair	416-512-3405
6.	Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7.	Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407
8.	Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9.	Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
10.	Barbara Poplawski, Chair	416-512-3410
11.	Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
	Taylor Dallin	
	Student Trustee	416-512-3413
	Joel Ndongmi	
	Student Trustee	416-512-3417

CONTACTS:

Principal:	Ryan Aunger
Vice-Principal	Ann De Agazio
Secretary:	Denise Poirer
CSAC Chair	Gina Katounas
Superintendent:	Kevin Malcolm (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
2:10	P.M. RECESS
3:30	DISMISSAL

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Number of School Days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	7
Oct 11, Nov 15, Dec 6, Jan 17, Feb 14, Jun 5, Jun 28	
Labour Day	<u>Monday, September 2, 2019</u>
First Day	<u>Tuesday, September 3, 2019</u>
Thanksgiving Day	<u>Monday, October 14, 2019</u>
Christmas Break	<u>December 23, 2019- January 3, 2020</u>
Family Day	<u>February 17, 2020</u>
Mid-Winter Break	<u>March 16-20, 2020 (inclusive)</u>
Good Friday	<u>April 10, 2020</u>
Easter Monday	<u>April 13, 2020</u>
Victoria Day	<u>Monday, May 18, 2020</u>
School Year Ends	<u>Thursday, June 25, 2020</u>

St. Boniface Catholic Church

Father Robson
21 Markanna Dr. Scarborough
(416) 261-5983

Safe and Caring Schools

Thank you to all the parents who do not walk in the halls during instructional time and wait for their children in the atrium.

Also, parents are asked to not let students out of the car unless they are in the kiss n ride. It can be a dangerous practise to let students out of the car in other areas where students are not expected.

With students getting out of the car, please encourage them to start taking responsibility for their seat belt, bag and exit from the car. It will build their independence, allow drivers to get on their way quicker and clear the kiss n ride for waiting parents.

Curriculum Corner

Our staff continue to complete problem solving learning cycles with your children. Please talk to your children about the different problems that they are completing. Also, continue to work with their basic computation skills at home. This can be a great help with their classroom performance.

Sports Update

Thank you to Mr. C, Mlle Gingras, Mrs. Raso, Ms. Tilander, and Mme Flynn for coaching our volleyball teams this year. Although we didn't have the success that we were looking forward to, both teams had a good seasons.

Our Primary Soccer teams will compete in the first week of December. Thank you Mr. Pelliccione and Mr. C for selecting the teams and for Ms. McCowan and Ms. Bartoli for taking the students.

Our Intermediate Basketball teams have begun their tryouts. Thank you to Mr. Murphy for coaching both teams.

Christmas Concert

We are happy to announce that our Christmas Concert will be on one evening in December. Please mark off **Monday, December 16th**. The concert will be taking place at Cardinal Newman in their auditorium. Due to the size of the school, and the lack of a venue that can accommodate the whole school, the Christmas Concert will be broken into 2 concerts that evening.

Concert #1 – Kindergarten to Gr. 2 (Including Mme Shahinyan) 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Concert #2 – Gr. 3 to Gr. 8 - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

We recognize that this is not ideal for families that will have children in both concerts however by having 2 shows, it allows for all our students to be showcased for our parents during the holiday season. Like last year, each student will receive 2 tickets.

Tickets were sent home at the end of November. Please check your child's backpack

Dance-a-thon Goals and Spirit Days

Due to the incredible generosity of our community, the students hit a number of milestones to have something special in the month of December. Also, our student council has organized spirit days that will coincide with the dance a thon reward days. Please note the following days:

December 16 – Christmas Hat Day

December 17 – No Homework Day and Christmas Colour Day (Green and Red)

December 18 – Extra Recess and warm toque day

December 19 – Movies, Stuffedies and PJ Day

December 20 – Electronics Day (Students bring their electronics at their own risk) and Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

Civvies Days will take place in January.

Advent Liturgies

There will be Advent Liturgies every Monday in Advent in the morning. from Gr. 4-8 9:15-9:45 and K-3 from 10:00 to 10:30. Thank you to Mrs. Raso, Mrs. McCowan, and Mrs. Bell All are welcome.

Santa's Gifts and Goodies



Please join us on **Friday, December 13, 2019** for our 9th Annual Santa's Gifts and Goodies event, hosted by our Grade 8 students and the SAS Stewards of the Earth. 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 12th at the atrium.** There will also be Christmas-themed cookies for sale which meet the Board's Food and Beverage Policy and Nut-Free Policy. Items will be priced between \$0.05 to \$2.00. New items will be priced accordingly.

Proceeds will help fund programs for our Grade 8 students and the school's environmental initiatives, such as the Grotto and Living Rosary at the front of the school.

Please remember to send your child with some spending money on Friday, December 13th!

Parents and caregivers are welcome to join in on the fun. The shopping schedule will be sent out in the next couple of days.

Christmas Baskets

In the spirit of giving, St Agatha and St Vincent de Paul are sharing in the responsibility of providing for those who are struggling to make ends meet. Please check with your child about the family each class is responsible for this year. Thank you for your generosity.

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 21 in the morning when the top 4 singers, from Team M. Jonathon, Team Mlle Robino, Team Mlle. Goguen 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.

CSAC Meetings:

Our next CSAC meeting will take place on **Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome!

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. We had mediation everyday at 1:00pm and will continue this on a monthly basis. Also, everyday students read messages on the announcements that focused on themes of Compassion, Empathy, Respect, and Kindness.

Ms. Pirrotta also organized Telus Wise Presentations that encouraged students to show good decisions while being online. We thank Ms. Pirrotta for her work on making this a success.

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair was extremely successful and raised over \$5000 for our library. Thank you for your support.

Dress Code

The Appropriate Dress Code consists of any combination of white and navy blue garments (e.g. plain white top, navy blue bottom or, navy blue top and bottom, no denim, no logos). There is no restriction as to where clothing for school may be purchased. Students can wear their St. Agatha spirit wear as part of the dress code. Please take time to label your child's clothing.

Snacks and Treats for Classes

Due to the number and variety of allergies, parents are asked not to send food to school to celebrate events. Stickers, pencils and other consumable school supplies are always welcome. Thank you for respecting this policy.

Peace:

The virtue for the month of December is Charity. The Spirit Assembly for the month of November will be on Wednesday, December 4 in the PM. Our assembly to celebrate the virtue of Charity will be in January. Thank you to Ms. Bell for all of her work to make these events happen.

From St. Boniface

St. Boniface EDGE Youth Group Kick-Off Tuesday December 3 at 6:30pm in church Hall. EDGE is for Grades 6, 7, & 8.

Confirmation Registration deadline is Friday December 6.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation is Saturday December 7 from 10am to 12pm.

Sunday December 8, students from our Family of Schools; St. Agatha, St. Boniface, and St. Nicholas, will be here selling raffle tickets for Christmas baskets as a fund raiser to help our church cover the cost of the new organ.

The Children's liturgy program is on Sunday's at the 10:30 am Mass.

Geared towards children in Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 6.

Children's Choir is part of the Saturday 5pm Mass and Sunday 7:30am Mass.

New members are always welcome!

St. Boniface Christmas & New Year's Mass schedule;

Tuesday December 24th
7pm & 9pm

Wednesday December 25th
12am Midnight Mass & 9am & 11am

Lunchtime Supervisors

We are still looking for lunchtime supervisors that can be on a supply or on call basis. Availabilities do not have to be for the whole week and can be for 1 day a week. Please contact the office for an application.

French Immersion Information Night

An information night for families interested in joining the French Immersion Program will be taking place on **Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30pm in the gym.**

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten Registration will begin for all Elementary Schools on **Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

Parents/guardians with children born in 2015 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

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/subscription.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**

Going Out For Lunch

A reminder to parents of older students that it is not school policy to allow students to go off school property at lunch unless they are signed out and accompanied by their parent or guardian.

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.