



St. Agatha News

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Scarborough, ON M1M 2T6
416-393-5302

twitter.com/StAgathaSchool
tcdsb.org/schools/stagatha

School Calendar: goo.gl/Khb6QU



Virtue of the Month: Love

February 2019

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe but we have reached the mid-point of the school year! We have had a great five months together, and are looking forward to sharing our progress and next steps for further growth at our Parent-Teacher Conferences on February 13th and 14th.

On February 5, we celebrate our Patron Saint's feast day. St. Agatha is the patron saint of many causes especially breast cancer, nurses and fire prevention. On the Feast of St. Agatha, we will have a mass in the morning starting at 9:15am for Gr. 3-8 and a liturgy for K-2 following mass. In the afternoon, the entire school will be completing activities devoted to our patron Saint. St. Agatha was a courageous and devoted woman and we all strive to follow her example.

On February 19th, we will have our Family of Schools mass at 6:00pm at St. Boniface Church. This gives all 3 schools connected to the parish the opportunity to come together and celebrate mass. All are welcome.

Great memories are being made here at St. Agatha each day and each month, and we are excited to celebrate this month's Virtue of Love, for where there is Love, there is God!

Yours,

R. Aunger
Principal

Anthony Naoum
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 Piccininni	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-Anni Davis	416-512-3409
10.	Barbara Poplawski, Chair	416-512-3410
11.	Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford Taylor Dallin	416-512-3412
	Student Trustee Joel Ndongmi	416-512-3413
	Student Trustee	416-512-3417

CONTACTS:

Principal:	Ryan Aunger
Vice-Principal	Anthony Naoum
Secretary:	Denise Poirier
CSAC Chair	Gina Katounas
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
2:10	P.M. RECESS
3:30	DISMISSAL

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Number of School Days **194**
 Number of Professional Activity Days **7**
 Oct 5, Nov 16, Dec 7, Jan 18, Feb 15, Jun 7, Jun 28

Labour Day **Monday, September 3, 2018**
 First Day **Tuesday, September 4, 2017**
 Thanksgiving Day **Monday, October 8, 2018**
 Christmas Break **December 24, 2018- January 4, 2019**
 Family Day **February 18, 2019**
 Mid-Winter Break **March 11-15, 2019 (inclusive)**
 Good Friday **April 19, 2019**
 Easter Monday **April 22, 2019**
 Victoria Day **Monday, May 18, 2019**
 School Year Ends **Thursday, June 27, 2019**

St. Boniface Catholic Church

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

Newsletter

Over the next few months, we will start emailing the community through the School Messenger system on a weekly basis to keep the community up to date with upcoming events and notices. Please make sure your email is up to date on our system as our newsletter will be potentially replaced by these weekly updates. Monthly Calendars will still be sent home as a hard copy.

School Messenger – Reporting Absences and Receiving School Messages

Please make sure that when reporting an absence or late arrival please use the Safe Arrival/School Messenger system. All families were given a fridge magnet in December and the information is connected to the newsletter. After **February 1**, you will not be able to report an absence on the school's answering machine.

Safe and Caring Schools

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. We understand that it is sometimes quicker to go to the classroom however, it is important that parents stay in the main office area. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our students safe.

Early and Late Arrival

A reminder that the bell rings at 9:00am and **supervision begins at 8:45am**. Parents are asked not to drop off their child earlier. Also, it is important that all students arrive on time to start the day. Please take into consideration that our parking lot is busy at 9:00am if you are dropping off and parking is at a premium. It is amazing how quiet the parking lot is at 8:50.

Report Cards

Report Cards will be sent home on Tuesday, February 12th. This report will reflect the student's achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed from September to January/February. Interview Request Forms are going home on January 31st and need to be returned to the school by **Thursday, February 7th**.

Parent Interviews

Interviews will take place on Wednesday, February 13 from 5:30 to 8:00 and Thursday February 14th from 5:30-8:00. Interview times are in 10 minute blocks. If you require a longer interview, please contact your child's teacher.

PA Day: February 15th:

Please note that Friday, February 15th will be a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students.

CSPC Meeting:

Our next CSPC meeting will take place on **Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome! Please see attached minutes from last meeting and a CSPC update.

African Heritage Month

February is African Heritage Month, which will be recognized through classroom activities and announcements on the PA that will highlight the important contributions of African Canadians to Canadian History and Culture.

Sports Update

Currently we have 2 sports on the go. Our Intermediate Boys and Girls Basketballs teams are practising at lunch in preparation for their divisional tournaments in February. Our School Hockey Team will begin practises this month leading to their tournament in March.

Thank you to Mr. Murphy for his work with the basketball team and Ms. Sciberras for her work with the hockey team.

It's 100's Day

The English Grade 1/2 class have been counting the days since the first day of school in September and are excited to celebrate the 100th day of school on **Wednesday, February 13**. They are looking forward to participating in a number of math and language activities to honour this special day.

Curriculum Corner

The Council for Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) have some great resources to engage your child at home and support the learning that is going on at school. Please follow the link below

http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement.html

We continue to work on understanding mathematical language and problem solving across all grades and all languages. It is always valuable to ask your child how they know their answer is correct when discussing any solution to the problem. This will help them when they are answering questions at school.

During this report card period, an emphasis has been placed on reporting the reading level of our Primary Students. This will give parents an idea regarding how they are progressing. Parents are always encouraged to read with their children at home (in both languages if they are in French Immersion).

Carnival

Carnival activities will be taking place from February 25-March 1 at St. Agatha and the main Carnival event taking place on **Thursday, February 28th**. It will be an amazing time to celebrate French culture and come together as a school community in games and activities.

Save the Date – Family Engagement Events

There are a number of events planned over the next few months for families and parents

Friday, March 1 – 6:30pm – Family Movie Night in the Gym

Thursday, March 7 – 6:30pm Parent Evening – Helping your Child with Self-Regulation (Babysitting will be provided)

Late April Student/Parent Engagement Evening

Wednesday, June 5 – Art Show and Volunteer Appreciation Tea

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.

Spirit Assembly

The virtue for the month of February is 'love'. Our assembly is on **Thursday, February 7th @ 1:00pm**. All are welcome.

Skating

The students will be heading out to the rink for 2 more days in February. Please see attached the cover letter that went home in December.

Science Centre Trip – Ms. Balkovec and Ms. Bell's Classes

In January, Mrs. Balkovec's and Mrs. Bell's classes went to the Ontario Science Centre, where they each had a classroom lesson as well as time to visit the galleries. Thank you to the CSPC, who funded the bus and the many parents who volunteered to assist with supervision. They had a great day! After the trip, students commented:

"I really liked the Rain Forest because there was a bridge and you got to pass it." - Scarlett

"I liked the cave because we could jump out and scare people and also because I could climb the hill that was inside." - William

"I liked the classroom lesson because we got to feel all kinds of fur. And in my group, we got to feel bear fur. – Eric

Remind:

If you are interested in receiving reminders about school events via text message, send a text to **(647)931-1274** with the message **@stagathacs**. Reminders are still sent by text message to Bell Customers. Rogers customers will not receive text messages after February 1. Parents can still receive notifications in the app.

Photos of St. Agatha in Action

The St. Agatha twitter feed actively posts photos of our students in action. Please follow @StAgathaSchool to see the kids and all the wonderful opportunities and activities at the school.

Lunchtime Supervisor Positions

We are always looking for supply lunchtime supervisors who can work when other supervisors are absent. If you are interested, or you know someone who might be, please contact the school for the necessary paperwork. Applicants will need to fill out or present the following forms:

- Lunchtime supervisor application form
- TB test results (Tuberculosis test) (within 1 year)
- Pastoral reference (within 1 year – must be practicing Roman Catholic)
- Voided cheque or direct deposit form
- New hire banking form
- Copy of SIN card
- Proof of birth date with photo id (ie driver's licence, new health card, passport)
- Police criminal reference form
- certified cheque or money order for \$65.00 payable to Toronto Police Services (this only applies to Toronto residents, postal code beginning with M)
- Offence declaration

Lunch is from 11:45-12:45. Expectations of a lunchtime supervisors are to supervise the students eating and ensuring they are sitting and not moving around the classroom. Supervising the exit of students to the yard at the bell and being outside for the remainder of the lunch period to ensure student safety.

Supply lunchtime supervisors are positions to cover when a daily lunchtime supervisor is absent.

Lunchtime supervisors are paid \$14.00 per hour, this includes statutory holiday pay and vacation pay. Unfortunately, benefits are not available for lunchtime supervisors.

Please contact the school if interested.

Extended French Consultation at Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame Catholic High School is one of the schools where the addition of Extended French programming is being considered for September 2020. Join us for a consultation meeting to learn more about Extended French programming, participate in roundtable discussion and complete a survey: **Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame High School (12 Malvern Avenue, Toronto) in the school gymnasium.**

For more information visit: <https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/notredame/Pages/Extended-French-@-Notre-Dame.aspx>

Guidance Corner - February 2019

High school acceptance/redirection letters will be couriered to the elementary schools during the first two weeks of February and will be sent to the Grade 8 teacher for distribution. Some Specialty Program offers may have already been sent out. Please pay attention to specific dates for registration or re-directions in the packages that you receive. The 2019-2020 Program and Course Calendar for Secondary school will be available online this month. It includes a wide variety of important information related to high school, as well as highlighting the courses that each of our high schools will be offering for the coming school year. You may find this a useful tool in anticipation of course selection and registration that will take place in early March. The link is posted here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/ebook/mobile/index.html>

As the Term 1 Report Card is sent home and Parent/Teacher Conferences take place, it is a good reminder of the importance of strengthening the development of the 6 Learning Skills & Work Habits and the vital role that parents play in helping their child master them. Look for opportunities at home for your child to take responsibility, collaborate with others, work independently, self-regulate, show initiative and be organized.

http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/homework_tips/learning_skills_and_work_habits.php