



Shark Tales



January 6, 2015

St. Agatha Catholic School
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Principal

N. Chahine
Vice-Principal

S. Robinson
Secretary

S. Fernandes
Clerk Typist

B. Icaro/L.Deal
Custodians

January Virtue of the Month
Courage



Do not be afraid I am
with you.
Isaiah 41:10

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

Hello St. Agatha Community!

Happy New Year and welcome back to all our students and staff. It has been a challenging beginning for our community. We were deeply saddened by the death of one of our students over the holidays. Let us all continue to keep the family in our prayers.

Along with the colder temps winter also brings us the cold and flu season. This seems to be the year for some particularly nasty bugs that have a tendency to linger. Just when you thought you were over it, it comes back for another visit. If your child is not healthy enough to be at school, including going out for recess (weather permitting of course), do not send them to school. Please be considerate of other staff and students. Let's all work together to minimize the exposure to colds and viruses.

Please remind friends and neighbours that registration for next years kindergarten classes has begun. Evening registration and the French Immersion information night will take place next Thursday, the 15th. Please see the monthly calendar for times.

This month we would like to acknowledge Luci Crawford and Nicole Fortin, two mothers who spend time at the school each month organizing our monthly pizza lunches.

Lastly, please remember that we do have a number of students with severe allergies. To that end we try to be a peanut/nut free environment. Please refrain from sending food with nut products to the school with your children.

Sincerely,
Béla Matyas

WINTER IS HERE!

Almost like clockwork the cold weather arrived as our students and staff returned to school. While winter so far - knock on wood - has not been as severe as last year we have had a couple of very cold days and will likely have more of the same. At St. Agatha we follow the protocol set by the board which is that students do not go outside if the temperature is below minus twenty. We monitor the conditions outside during the course of the day and make a judgment based on our information. We do try to get the students outside as often as possible as they all need the chance to get some fresh air and to expend some energy. It is very important that like the school, parents also monitor the weather forecast and make sure that children are dressed and prepared for the weather. Please keep this in mind when sending your children to school especially in the morning. We are also finding that we have a number of students being dropped off very early in the morning, sometimes as early as 8 o'clock or before. Please remember that there is no supervision for students before 8:30 am.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

We received a very nice card from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanking us for making Christmas a bit more enjoyable for a number of families through our Christmas Baskets. Your generosity and support of this important initiative is greatly appreciated.

BOARD COMMITTEES

The school board is looking for parents who are interested in serving on Filipino or Portuguese Advisory Committees as well as looking for feedback on a new secondary school admissions policy. If you are interested please check the News From The Board section found at the back of this newsletter for details.

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.

CRAFT CLUB

The knitting club will be starting up again this Thursday after school. It will run from 3:45 until 5:00 pm. Please note that it is the responsibility of the parents to pick up students at the end of the day. Please be prompt.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 8 - Kindergarten Registration begins
- Wood Carvers visit the grade 8's

January 12 - 16 - Civics Week

January 12 - Grade 5's to Queens Park

January 14 - Hockey Practice - 8:00 - 9:00/ N. Sicotte to the Library

January 15 - Evening Kindergarten Registration - 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- French Immersion Information Meeting - 6:30 pm.
- Grade 3 & 4 Dance Workshop - Sicotte/Remigio/Lazazzera
- Skating - Chan/Da Silva/McCowan/Lorenz/Modica
- Skills Canada visits @ 10:30
- Grade 8 Woodcarving

January 20 - Kindergartens to LEGOLAND

January 22 - CSAC @ 6:30 pm
- Skating - Tavares/Remigio/Lazazzera/Sicotte/Roccasalvo
- Grade 8 Woodcarving
- Hockey - 8:00 - 9:00 am.

January 23 - PA Day.

January 27 - OLSAT gifted testing for the grade 4 students.

January 28 - Hockey - 8:00 - 9:00 am.

January 29 - Skating - Chan/Da Silva/McCowan/Lorenz/Modica

January 30 - Civics Day
- Pizza Lunch

Monthly Update from the Board **January 2015**

Kindergarten Registration

Registration will begin at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 8th**. Visit the TCDSB website for details: <http://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/earlyyears/kindergartenregistration/pages/default.aspx>

French Immersion and Extended French

Information evenings at schools across the city continue in the new year. For a complete schedule, visit the board's website <http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2015/Pages/French-Immersion-and-Extended-French-Information.aspx>

Board Seeking Feedback on Draft Policies

The Board invites parents, students and staff to provide input into two draft policies: the new CSAC policy and the new Admissions and Placement policy for secondary school students. For information and the online feedback form, visit the website here: <http://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2014/pages/consultation-csac-and-admissions-policies.aspx>

Deadline: January 9th

Parents Invited to Consider Serving on Portuguese Advisory Committee

One parent will be selected from among the applicants. The Committee includes representatives from among Trustees, staff, parents and students, with the mandate to advise the Board on Policies, Programs and Services which foster equitable education and greater student achievement for students of Portuguese heritage. Interested candidates should submit their application form by **Wednesday, January 14, 2015** to the attention of Carla Marchetti: carla.marchetti@tcdsb.org, fax #416-512-4992 or mail:

Carla Marchetti, Coordinator of IL/Parent/Community Engagement, Community Relations, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON M2N 6E8. Application form and more information here: <http://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/Current-Openings--Parent-Membership-on-Committees.aspx>

Winter is Here

And so is the winter weather. Get all the latest information about cancellations and closures throughout the winter months, and find out what's happening across the Board all year long by following @TCDSB on Twitter.

CSAC Training Session--Parent Engagement, Recruiting/Retaining Members and Succession Planning

Speaker: Carolyn Anco, Ministry of Education

January 7, 2015 7-9 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

Interactive Parent Fair—For Parents of Kindergarten Students

Help your child improve his/her: Listening and understanding skills, speaking skills and literacy skills

Hosted by the Toronto Catholic School Board (TCDSB) Speech and Language Department

Two 2-part sessions at two locations:

- St. Jane Frances, 2745 Jane Street, Downsview on **Tuesday, January 20th** and **Tuesday, February 24th** 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

St. Maria Goretti, 21 Kenmark Boulevard, Scarborough on **Thursday, January 22nd** and **Thursday, February 26th** 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

<http://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/specialeducation/speech/pages/interactive-parent-fair.aspx>

Family Literacy Day January 27th

Take time to read with your children, or encourage them to put away the electronics and spend some time engaged in a good book.

CPIC Speakers Series: Bullies No More; Empowering Independence

Featuring Alyson Schafer, Internationally Acclaimed Parenting Expert

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School

2 St. Andrews Blvd., (Islington, north of Dixon Rd.) 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Free Parking. Child-minding Available (for children aged 5–10)

See poster for full details. [Final Alyson Schafer CPIC flyer.pdf](#)