



St. Agatha News

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twitter.com/StAgathaSchool
tcdsb.org/schools/stagatha
School Calendar: goo.gl/Khb6QU



Virtue of the Month: Forgiveness

March 2019

Dear Families,

The promise of Spring is around the corner, and we are now entering as a school community on the Journey of Lent! Lent is a precious time in our Catholic schools when we prepare our hearts, homes, and school for the remembrance of the Passion of Christ, and look to the joy and celebration of the Easter Resurrection!

Our virtue for March is Forgiveness – what a powerful and important virtue to be recognizing and focusing upon at our school... especially during Lent. Helping others and being kind is also our focus. Pope Francis this year has called on Christians to ‘leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus’ Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them’. Over the course of the month we will be using the #bkind to highlight acts of selflessness, kindness and forgiveness.

We continue to have much activity ongoing at St. Agatha on the heels of our successful first term, and as we move towards the March Break! Carnivale was our highlight in February! Thanks Monsieur Naoum and all staff!!

We are very proud of the students and staff at St. Agatha. The ongoing support and collaboration of staff, parents and students continues to make our school a great place for playing and learning. Together we make a difference! In closing, our warmest wishes for an enjoyable March Break. 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-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: 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. You are not able to report an absence on the school's answering machine.

Morning Drop Off

Between 8:45 and 8:52, traffic flow in the Kiss-and-Ride is low compared to the minutes leading up to and after the school bell rings when we have seen over 100 cars in 8 minutes! If your child is driven to school, please consider adjusting your morning routine by 5 minutes. **Toronto Police Services will be visiting the parking lot in the AM and the PM to ensure safe practises throughout March. After, the parking enforcement officer may be called and those parking in illegally will be ticketed.**

Disadvantages of a Late Arrival

In many classrooms, the first 30 minutes is a math or language lesson. Please consider the following if your child is late 10 minutes on a daily basis:

- 50 minutes of curriculum instruction a week is lost = Almost 2 math periods lost
- 200 minutes of curriculum instruction a month is lost = Almost 7 math periods lost
- 1940 minutes of curriculum instruction is lost over the course of the year. = Almost 65 math periods lost

This accounts for a significant amount of precious instruction that students are missing. Staff want to give your children the best chance possible to succeed. Please support the school and your child's learning by making arriving on time a priority.

Early Arrival and Late Pick Up

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, **supervision ends at 3:45pm**. Parents are asked to pick their children by that time.

Internet Safety

We are encouraging all parents to sit down with their children and discuss their online behaviour on social media platforms such as Instagram and websites such as youtube. With the communication regarding Momo sent on March 1 and with issues that have cropped up recently with Instagram, it is suggested that parents sit down with their children and have them show them the conversations they are having with their peers on line or watch the videos they are watching. If there is anything out of the ordinary, parents may want to contact the police or contact the school for suggestions on next steps.

Talent Show- Save the Date

We are excited to have our talent show taking place this on **Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 11**. There will be 2 evening performances and both will begin at 6:30pm. Seating will be on a first come/first served basis and doors will open at 6:00pm. It should be a great evening of talent being showcased. There will be performances during the day for the school as well. Thank you to Mlle. Goguen and Mlle Metwally for organizing this event for our Junior and Intermediate students.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Tuesday, March 5th will be our Pancake Breakfast for our students. If you have not sent in a form, students cannot be served. Thank you to Mrs. McPherson for leading this initiative. This will also be Pyjama Day.

On Wednesday, March 6th, Ashes will be distributed for in the morning. All are welcome as we enter the season of Lent.

March Break

A reminder that March Break is March 11-15. Enjoy the week and if you are traveling, return safely.

CSPC Meeting and Thank You:

Our next CSPC meeting will take place on **Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome! Please see attached minutes from last meeting and a CSPC update.

This year, every school trip has been provided a free bus. This saves \$4-\$8 per student. Also, our Junior and Intermediate and some Primary classes have used their free scientists in the school which saves families \$8-\$10! Thank you CSPC!

Family Movie Night

Thank you to all the families that came to the Family Movie Night on March 1st. Over 130 people watched a movie in the gym and enjoyed the free popcorn and goodies supplied by the CSPC. Thank you Ms Katounas and all the parents who came to help set up.

Sports Update

Currently we have 3 sports on the go. Our School Hockey Team will travel to their tournament on March 19th and will have another tournament following this one. Thank you to Mrs. Sciberras, Mr. IlKay, and Mr. Mauro for coaching.

We also have our swim team for Gr. 4-8 which will have their swim meet in May. Thank you to Mrs. Fortin Mrs. Sciberras and Mme. Moreau for coaching and supervising.

Finally, junior volleyball will be starting soon, please look for permission forms for those interested.

Student Council News

Our Student Council has started intramurals at last recess for Gr. 4-6. They will be playing basketball. April will be for our Primaries and May will be the intermediates.

Public Speaking

Good luck to Sesen and Tiya at the English Public Speaking Contest on March 9th. Thank you to Ms. McCowan for organizing the speakers.

Also, congratulations to all of our French Public Speakers. They were fantastic and demonstrated how much the French language is alive at St. Agatha.

Curriculum Corner

Please see attached a list of resources that parents can access to support their children (French and English) at home. Thank you to Mlle Robino for providing this resource.

Also, we continue to work on problem solving in math. The EQAO website has some resources for parents. Please follow this link:

<http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/primary-division/parents/Pages/parents.aspx>

Gr. 6 can be accessed from the same page. Parents of students in other grades can still use it for reinforcement or enrichment purposes.

Civvies Day Donation

Thank you to all the students for their donation of \$326 to Kids Help Phone on our February Civvies Day. This was the best donation yet! In March, Civvies Day will be used to support the Canadian Cancer Society. April will be used for Sharelife. Currently, there are 436 students at St. Agatha and it would be great to have a donation that matched our student population.

Save the Date – Family Engagement Events

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

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

Wednesday, April 24 – Math Night starting at 6:00pm – The Focus will be on Math Games

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 March is Forgiveness. Our assembly is on **Tuesday, March 5th @ 1:00pm**. All are welcome.

Lost and Found

We have a number of items in the lost and found. After March Break, they will be donated so please take a look and see if you are missing any sweatshirts, pants or mitts at home.

Leaving St. Agatha Next Year?

A more formal letter will be heading home in April regarding any plans to move in September however, if you know you will not be at St. Agatha in the fall, if you could tell the school sooner than later, it would be much appreciated. Our student numbers are very important when staffing the school next year.

Transition Guide to High School for Parents

Entering high school is a very exciting time for students but it can also lead to some anxiety. Students are encouraged to learn as much as possible about the high school they plan to attend. The link below may help students and their parents become familiar with secondary schools in their expectations.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

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 Parents can still receive notifications in the app.

Photos of St. Agatha in Action – St. Agatha is now on Instagram!

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.

Also, the student council has started posting pictures on Instagram. The Instagram account will be administered by Mr. Aunger and followers of the account will not be allowed to comment about pictures. The Instagram account will follow the same procedures as the twitter account. Please follow @StAgathaCS

Extended French Consultation at Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame Catholic High School is one of the TCDSB 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, March 5th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Notre Dame High School (12 Malvern Avenue, Toronto) in the school gymnasium.** For more information visit: <http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/notredame/ExtendedFrench>

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.

St. Boniface Support

Every month, the parish is hosting a dinner to all families of students from different grades in the St. Agatha, St. Boniface and St. Nicholas school communities. For example, in February it was for all families in Gr. 3. Please consider supporting this event during the year of We Belong. Unfortunately, the March event had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

If your child is Grade 6, a reminder that next year they will have the opportunity to be confirmed. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the parish. If your child is in Gr. 7 and missed the chance, you can always participate in confirmation next year.

Save the Date – Our next Family of Schools Mass will be on Tuesday, May 7th at 6:00pm. All are welcome.