



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: Forgiveness

March 2020

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 calls for ‘a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world.’ Over the course of the month we will be using the #bkind to highlight acts of selflessness, kindness and forgiveness. Our SMILE and ESCLIT leaders will be focusing on activities once a day to encourage us all to be better to one another.

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.

God bless!
R. Auger
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 Pricininni | | 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 Auger |
| 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

Strike Action – First Week in March

Strike action continues into February and we would like to make parents aware of the following:

Thursday, March 5 – OECTA (Teacher) Strike – School Closed

We continue to pray for a resolution between the education unions and the province.

Morning Drop Off and Ensuring Full Stop at Cross Walk

There are posted Stop signs at the cross walk at the front door which many drivers are not adhering to especially when exiting the parking lot. Pedestrian safety is extremely important and drivers are asked to be aware of students and parents walking in the parking lot. In March, we will be looking to track drivers who use the stop signs properly to decide if contacting Toronto Police Services to assist with traffic safety is a good idea.

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! Also, please keep in mind, that an arrival at 9:00am in the parking lot means waiting a few minutes to drop off your child. If your child is driven to school, please consider adjusting your morning routine by 5 minutes.

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.

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, Tik Tok and Snap Chat. 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.

Shrove Tuesday

Thank you to Ms. MacPherson for organizing our annual Pancake Day and all the volunteers who came in to feed all of our students. It was a great morning.

March Break

A reminder that March Break is March 16-20. Enjoy the week and if you are traveling, return safely. Please see the attached travel advisory from Toronto Public Health.

CSPC Meeting and Thank You:

Our next CSPC meeting will take place on **Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome!

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!

Lunch Lady

We will be trying out a new lunch service for parents looking for a break from making lunches once and a while. Please see the attached flyer for the Lunch Lady. In March, there are 2 Lunch Lady dates. March 6 and March 13.

Family Lego Night

Thank you to all the families that came to the Family Movie Night on February 27th. Over 80 joined in the fun and it was a great night for families to connect. Thank you to Ms. Baksh and Ms Katounas for setting up.

Save the Date – Family Engagement Events

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

Tuesday, March 24 – 6:30pm – Parent Evening – Positive Parenting (Babysitting will be provided)
Wednesday, April 15 – Parent Engagement Evening – Internet Safety (Flyer attached)
Wednesday, June 3 – Art Show and Volunteer Appreciation Tea

Sports Update

With the current work to rule, all sports are on hold. Practises could still take place during the school day however, teams cannot travel to tournaments during the day because teachers are no longer accepting dispersed students

Public Speaking

Congrats to our English Public Speakers who competed in the Public Speaking Competition last weekend at St. Boniface. Our 4 speakers were Sesen, Izzy, Gabriella and Rylea. Thank you to Ms. McCowan for organizing the speakers.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw

Congrats to our Free Throw competitors who went to the Knights of Columbus regional competition last weekend. Our highest placing was Robert who place 2nd. Thank you to Mrs. McCowan for organizing the shooters.

Curriculum Corner

Please follow the link below to a host of resources for parents from the Ministry of Education.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/howcanihelp.html>

There are great web resources on this page and found in the math and literacy booklets.

Problem of the Week

Ms. De Agazio is a running a contest to encourage participating in the Problem of the Week contest. She has secured 2 tickets to see the Toronto Raptors vs. the Milwaukee Bucks on April 1. Every student who participates gets an entry into the draw even correct or not. All correct answers get a second entry. Please encourage your children to participate in this exciting activity.

Civvies Day Donation

Thank you to all the students for their donation to the Alzheimer's Society in the month of February. There will be an announcement of the amount of money donated next week.

This month, our Civvies day donation will be going to the Scott's Mission. A Christian Mission in Toronto that supports those less fortunate.

Dress Code

A reminder to parents that the appropriate dress code for students in blue and white clothing with no visible logos. Even sweatshirts have to follow this guideline.

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 3rd at 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.

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

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.

St. Boniface Dates

Please make note of the following dates this month at St. Boniface Parish

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 7:30p.m. and Holy Hour with Divine Mercy and Confessions at 8:00 p.m

There will be a World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, March 6th at 2:00pm in the Church Followed by a Reception in the hall

St. Boniface Parish day of confessions will be on Thursday, March 26th from 7:30 – 9:00 pm

First Share Life Collection is on the weekend of March 28th & 29th