



# Shark Tales



March 2, 2015

**St. Agatha Catholic School**  
49 Cathedral Bluffs Drive  
Scarborough, ON M1M 2T6  
416-393-5302  
[twitter.com/StAgathaSchool](https://twitter.com/StAgathaSchool)

G. Grant  
Superintendent

N. Crawford  
Trustee - Ward 12

B. Matyas  
Principal

N. Chahine  
Vice-Principal

S. Robinson  
Secretary

M. Pisciola  
Clerk Typist

B. Icaro/L.Deal  
Custodians

March Virtue of the Month  
**Forgiveness**



"To err is Human, to forgive is Divine."  
Alexander Pope

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

Hello St. Agatha Community!

Goodbye February!!! With only 5 days without an extreme cold weather alert and no days with a temperature above zero I think we can all agree that it's time for spring. Let's hope it gets here soon.

This Thursday, March 5th, St. Agatha will be having a panel discussion on the topic of safety and well being for our youth, moderated by Patricia Marra - Stapleton, TCDSB's chief Psychologist. If you have not already done so, please let us know if you will be attending and submit any questions that you may have for the panel. Please note that due to the sensitive nature of the topic this evening is for adults only and child care will not be available.

We received a very nice thank you letter from the Good Shepherd for the communities contributions to their food drive. A copy has been attached to the newsletter. In the same vein the school raised \$498.00 for the Angel Foundation for Learning through the board wide civvies day on February 12th. Thank you for your support of these worthwhile causes.

It was wonderful to see so many families out on Friday for our family movie night. A very nice community building event. Thank you to our CSAC for organizing the evening and Mrs. McCowan for organizing the snacks.

We welcome Mrs. Maria Pisciola to St. Agatha as our new clerk/typist. She started with us on February 17th and will be with us on Monday and Tuesday of each week. At the same time we say good bye to Mrs. Sybil Fernandes. She has been with us for over a year and we will miss her.

Sincerely,  
Béla Matyas

**Autism Awareness Day**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Over 1,300 students across the Toronto Catholic District School Board have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD is a neurological disorder that effects the way a person's brain and body works. A person with autism has difficulty communicating with others, making friends, or following directions.

Autism Awareness Day provides a valuable opportunity to recognize these students and all that they bring to our schools. During the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be recognizing and bringing an awareness of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, St. Agatha will be participating in a board-wide dance that will hope to join over 15,000 Toronto Catholic District School Board members, including staff and students as a community to perform in honour of Autism Awareness. As well, there will be an assembly to educate students

**Thank you, Thank you, Thank you...**

A great big thank you to all the parents and volunteers who came out on Tuesday, February 17th to support our Pancake Breakfast. Approximately 40 volunteers helped to mix, flip, cook, serve, set tables and clean up. An event this size would not be possible without such dedicated individuals. The students of St. Agatha and I thank you very much!

Mrs. Jennifer McPherson

**And Thank You**

It would also not be possible without someone to take the lead and organize the event. Mrs. McPherson took over this task three years ago and has done an outstanding job feeding St. Agatha's students and staff every year on Shrove (or Pancake) Tuesday, the last day before the beginning of Lent. On behalf of all the St. Agatha community, I would like to thank her for her time and effort in making this event happen.

**CSAC Corner**

At the last CSAC meeting the following items were discussed. The first was the creation of a school email list. This is an item that has come up in the past. This would be an easy and eco friendly way of sharing many of the items that we normally send out with our students. Some of our classes have their own lists usually started and maintained by a parent. If you are interested in being part of a St. Agatha email list please send an email to [sasecretary1@hotmail.com](mailto:sasecretary1@hotmail.com). We will keep you posted as to the success of this endeavor. The second topic was to offer the parents in the school an opportunity to take part in a First Aid/CPR course. A couple of options were presented and there would be a cost and a time commitment involved. If you are interested please drop a note to the CSAC secretary.

## *Cliffcrest Library*

Many of our classes take advantage of the library in Cliffcrest Plaza. They go to borrow books or for a presentation provided by the librarians. On occasion the librarian will come into the school to present to a class. Some of our students go to the library after school to work on a project, to meet a friend or wait to be picked up by parents and just to hangout and therein lies the issue. We have received numerous complaints from the library about the behavior of our students after school. They range from being loud, noisy and disturbing others to eating, drinking and making a mess by not cleaning up after themselves. Please remind your children that if they go to the library after school they are to behave and follow the rules and direction of the librarians. The students in their St. Agatha uniforms are a reflection of our community. Please help us by encouraging our children to present a positive image of St. Agatha to all of our neighbours.

## *Black History Month*

On January 29th, St. Agatha's students were treated to a performance by Jim Arnold called 'A Musical Journey to Africa.' This was an interactive performance and was very well received by both students and staff. The cost of this performance was covered by CSAC with the funds raised through our Dance - a - thon in October.

## *The Great Big Crunch*

Living in Toronto, we are so fortunate to be the benefactors of Ontario's bounty of fruits and vegetables. On Thursday, March 5th, 2015, "St. Agatha Stewards of the Earth" will be sharing a taste of Ontario with the school community in the Great Big Crunch. Each student will receive a delicious, juicy apple to crunch and munch... right after lunch!!

In the dead of winter, we are reminded that we need to include more fruits and vegetables into our diet to stay healthy. What better way to make that happen than eating produce provided by our local farmers.

Fruits and vegetables cost little, contain no chemicals or additives and require no wrappings, heating or cooling ... just wash and eat!

"Good things growwww in Ontario!"



## **Earth Hour – Saturday, March 28, 2015**

Join the “**St. Agatha Stewards of the Earth**” in making a difference that will affect the whole world on Saturday, March 28, 2015 by turning off your lights for one hour from 8:30 p.m.– 9:30 p.m.(or longer) We are the first generation to see the outcomes of Global warming and the last generation with a chance to make a difference by changing our attitudes about how we live. We need to use a little less and give a lot more towards becoming well informed about the world around us.  
Many hands make light work!! Help to make a difference!

**Be Bright, Turn off the Light!!**

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## **Scarborough Seedy Saturday and Green Fair**

Scarborough Seedy Saturday and Green Fair is returning  
on Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 11-4 pm  
at the

Blessed Cardinal Newman High School at 100 Brimley Road South  
( south of Kingston Road).

This event is hosted by the St. Agatha Stewards of the Earth, Newman Treehuggers and Live Green Toronto. With over 400 in attendance, and over 50 tables this annual gardening, heritage seed exchange/sale and eco fair is popular across Scarborough.

Groups that will be there include Live Green Toronto, ParkPeople, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, Toronto Master Gardeners East Scarborough Gardening Association, Scarborough Horticultural Association and more.

The members of the St. Agatha Stewards of the Earth will be presenting their studies of water testing, the importance of recycling batteries, the importance of soil, the Great Pacific Garbage Gyre and St. Agatha Earth Rangers kids speak about their passion for protecting endangered Canadian animals. Please come and support our students who wish to make a difference for our Earth.

## **Technology**

The school has been making an effort to update the technology in the school for the last couple of years. This year we have purchased fifteen laptops, six netbooks and five projectors. Some of the funds used to make these purchases have come from CSAC through the funds raised through the Dance - a - thon. Thank you.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

March 2 - Concours D'Oratoire - Junior - pm                      March 3 - Concours D'Oratoire - Intermediate - pm

March 4 - Lenten Mass @ 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome!

March 5 - Shoniker Fundraiser Hockey game @ 10:15 am - Birchmount Arena - Everyone is welcome.

- Big Crunch @ 12:45 pm

- Mental Health Panel Discussion @ 7:00 pm - **Adults only!**

March 6 - Carnival Outdoor Activities/Crazy Touque Day/Pizza Lunch.

March 9 - Autism Awareness Week begins/Scientist in the School - Mrs. Stuart's grade 7's - pm/Hockey Tournament at York University

March 10 - Autism Awareness Assembly/Police Presentations/ Boy's Primary Soccer

March 11 - Grad Pictures - grade 8 only/Subway Lunch/Autism Awareness Dance

March 12 - See and Hear testing/Girl's Primary Soccer

March 16 - 20 - March Break.

March 25 - Subway Lunch.

March 26 - CSAC @ 6:30 pm

March 27 - Civvies Day.

March 28 - Scarborough Seedy Saturday and Green Fair - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.

March 30 - Holy Week starts.

**Monthly Update from the Board**  
**March 2015**

**TCDSB Safe School Inquiry**

**Public Meetings**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2015**

6:30- 9:00 PM

St. Andrew Catholic School, 2533 Kipling Avenue

Etobicoke

**Wednesday March 25, 2015**

6:00 PM- 9:00 PM

Senator O'Connor Secondary School, 60 Rowena Drive

North York

\*All Public Meetings are open to any person or group from the TCDSB community wishing to present their views. No prior registration is required. Those wishing to testify may contact Christina DeLuca from TCDSB Corporate Services at 416-222-8282 ext. 2473 or by email: [christina.deluca@tcdsb.org](mailto:christina.deluca@tcdsb.org)

**Voices of Charity**

The Director of Education, Angela Gauthier, presents her latest webcast which focuses on the pursuit of innovation and excellence in TCDSB schools: <http://youtu.be/fD19Ff5ZaC4>

**Student Trustee Elections Coming Up April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Application deadline March 30<sup>th</sup>

Details: <http://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/opportunitiesforstudents/pages/student-trustee-elections-2015.aspx>

**Upcoming Information Sessions for Parents**

**CSAC Training Session**—Understanding school funding and the Board budget; more about fundraising--

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

**OAPCE Toronto hosts PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grants Workshop #1**

Partnerships, connecting to curriculum--April 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Information for Students:**

**Summer Employment—Focus on Youth** Accepting Applications Until March 27<sup>th</sup>

Check online for detailed information <http://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/focusonyouth/pages/foy-2015.aspx>

**Scholarships, Bursaries, Awards, Contests**—Get the latest information here: <http://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/AwardsScholarshipsBursariesContests/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Special Events for March**

**March is Celtic Canadian Heritage Month**

**March 2—School Support Staff Appreciation Day:** <http://www.tcdsb.org/pages/support-staff-appreciation-day-2015.aspx>

**March 6—World Day of Prayer**

**March 7—Lift Jesus Higher Rally:** <http://www.tcdsb.org/pages/lift-jesus-higher-rally.aspx>

**March 8—International Women’s Day**

**March 16-20—March Break**

**March 21—International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination:** <http://www.tcdsb.org/pages/international-day-for-elimination-of-racial-discrimination.aspx>

**March 21—World Down Syndrome Day:** <http://www.tcdsb.org/pages/world-down-syndrome-day.aspx>

**March 22—World Water Day:** <http://www.tcdsb.org/pages/world-water-day.aspx>

**Earth Hour—March 27<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. (for school); March 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 p.m. (at home)** <http://www.tcdsb.org/board/environment/earthhour/pages/default.aspx>

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

**March 3—Budget Committee**

**March 5--Student Achievement Committee**

**March 9--Special Board**

**March 10--Governance & Policy Committee**

**March 12--Corporate Affairs Committee**

**March 25—Special Education Advisory Committee**

**March 26--Board**

**March 30--OAPCE Toronto**

*(Meeting dates subject to change; check the website for the latest information: <http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/TrusteesoftheBoard/boardmeeting/information/Pages/Meeting-Schedule.aspx>)*

*Remember to follow us on Twitter @TCDSB for all the latest news and information, or visit our website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org).*