



St. Agatha News

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



Virtue of the Month: Peacemaking

November 2019

Dear St. Agatha Community,

As we enter into the month of November, our thoughts are drawn to the theme of remembrance and the importance of peace in our lives and in our world. The virtue of focus for the month of November is 'Peacemaking'. Students will be learning about the hazards of war, the importance of bravery and our call to be peacemakers in our families, our schools, our communities and our world. On Monday, November 11th, we will be gathering for a Remembrance Day Ceremony in the gym. Parents are most welcome to join us.

The month of November brings the first reporting period as the Progress Reports will go home on November 11th, followed by our first formal Parent-Teacher Conferences. We invite you to come and engage in conversation with your child's teacher's dialoging how to best support your child in meeting their full academic potential.

We wish to extend our gratitude to all parents and students who supported our annual Dance-a-thon. At last count, we have raised more than our goal of \$25,000 and look forward to using the funds raised to support both curricular and extra-curricular activities for the students. By raising more than \$25,000, the students earned an electronics day, a pajama day with movie in the gym, civvies for a week, a homework free day, an extra recess, another civvies day and and free ice cream from the ice cream truck on Play Day! A big thank you to Ms. Gina Katounas and all of the parents who helped make this an incredible event!

God bless!

R. Aunger
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 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	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

Dance a thon

Thank you to everyone for supporting the dance a thon this year

The Dance a thon Prize assembly will be held on **Thursday, November 7th** in the PM when over 250 prizes will be handed out.

This month, a flyer will be going home to families acknowledging all of our sponsors. Without these generous donations, are dance a thon would not be as successful. Please consider supporting these businesses as our way to say thank you.

Safe and Caring Schools

Thank you to everyone for keeping our children safe in the parking lot. A reminder that if there are no available parking spots at the end of the day, parents are asked to park on the street but not in the bus zone in front of the school.

Also, we have seen an up tick in cars in the morning at 9:00am. Between 8:55am and 9:05am, there are usually 50-90 cars through the kiss and ride. Please consider arriving earlier or encouraging your older student to walk to school if possible.

Finally, thank you to those parents that are respecting the kinder drop off procedures in the morning.

Sports Update

A big congratulations to our cross country team that placed 3rd at our Divisional Meet, 2nd at Regionals and 7th at Cities! Also, congratulations to our Special Olympians that participated at cities as well. This year we celebrated the best results, fantastic sportsmanship, effort and best of all we took our students with special needs for the first time to run for Special Olympics!! Our St. Agatha students made us so very proud! A big shout out to our Gr. 5 boys team that won the team medals at Divisional, Regionals and Cities.

Thank you to Mrs. McCowan, Mrs. Raso, Mlle Meade, Mme Flynn and Ms. Fortin and all the parent volunteers for their hard work.

Gr. 7 and 8 Volleyball is in full swing and we wish the teams luck at their tournament. Thank you to Mrs. Raso, Mr. Cianfarani and Mlle Gingras for their dedication.

In December, there will be the Primary Soccer Tournaments. If your child is in Gr .1-3, tryouts will begin mid-November.

EQAO

On the next page are our grade 3 and 6 EQAO results from last year. The first column in category is St. Agatha. We are surpassing the Board and province in Gr. 3 Reading, Writing and Gr. 6 Writing. As you can see there are areas of need like primary math, junior reading and math. This will be our focus this year. Visit <https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?Mident=6111&Lang=E> to see the results of St. Agatha.

Focus on Math

Every school in the TCDSB has a **SLIP (School Learning Improvement Plan)**.

Our **Junior/Intermediate** data, especially EQAO, tells us that numeracy in grade 6 is an area of need. The data tells us that Application and Thinking type math questions require greater attention and strategies to improve students learning in this area.

This year, our all teachers are focusing on Learning Cycles throughout the year where they are purposely working on problem solving once a week and have students complete an Assessment every 3 weeks. Please speak to your child about the types of problems that are completed in class.

While we have high expectations for our students in all areas of the curriculum we will work to improve Application and thinking type math questions this year. On October 23 and 24, Staff looked at our assessment practices to ensure that everyone is working on the same page and had some time to work on developing questions. This will continue throughout the year and our next sessions will be in late November. The schools's learning plan can be found by clicking the following link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stagatha/SchoolLearningPlan/Pages/default.aspx>

Online Math Tutoring for Students

TVO provides free online math tutoring for students in Grades 7-10. Students can log in and work through math problems with qualified teachers. Please google 'TVO online tutoring' or follow the following link: <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>. You can also find tutorials on thousands of math concepts.

Anti-Bullying Week

From November 18th to 22nd, St. Agatha will be recognizing Anti-Bullying Week. There will be a number of activities planned included a presentation from Telus called Wise Workshops for Gr. 1-8 and the return of our Peacemakers on the yard who are going to watch for kindness out on the yard. The following week, our Liaison Officers from Toronto Police Services will be in to speak to our Gr. 2s about safety, our Gr. 4s about Bullying, our Gr. 6s about Peer Pressure and our Gr. 8s about Youth and the Law. The focus for our students will always be on kindness, empathy and understanding. Thank you to Ms. P for all of her hard work.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair returns from November 11-14. Please see the flyer attached. Thank you to Mrs. Moulds for organizing this event for our students.

IMMUNIZATION

Please check with your local health care provider or local public health unit to make sure your child has all the vaccines needed to attend school. If your child has followed the immunization schedule, no further vaccines will be needed. Students who do not have up-to-date immunization records on file at their local public health unit may be suspended from school until records are provided.

Dress Code

The Appropriate Dress Code consists of any combination of white and navy blue garments (e.g. plain white top, navy blue bottom or, navy blue top and bottom, no denim, no logos). There is no restriction as to where clothing for school may be purchased. Students can wear their St. Agatha spirit wear as part of the dress code. Please take time to label your child's clothing.

Christmas Concert – Save the Date

We are happy to announce that our Christmas Concert will be on one evening in December. Please mark off **Monday, December 16th**. The concert will be taking place at Cardinal Newman in their auditorium. Due to the size of the school, and the lack of a venue that can accommodate the whole school, the Christmas Concert will be broken into 2 concerts that evening.

Concert #1 – Kindergarten to Gr. 2 (Including Mme Shahinyan) 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Concert #2 – Gr. 3 to Gr. 8 - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

We recognize that this is not ideal for families that will have children in both concerts however by having 2 shows, it allows for all our students to be showcased for our parents during the holiday season. Like last year, each student will receive 2 tickets.

More information will follow towards the end of the month in regards to parking and transition between the 2 shows.

Snacks and Treats for Classes

Due to the number and variety of allergies, parents are asked not to send food to school to celebrate events. Stickers, pencils and other consumable school supplies are always welcome. Thank you for respecting this policy.

HALLOWEEN TREATS & ALLERGIES:

If your child will be bringing some of their Halloween treats to school, please monitor the number of treats and the type of treat, keeping in mind that we have a number of students who have **dangerous, life-threatening allergies** to certain foods. **Please ensure that your child does not bring to school any items that contain peanuts or nuts (i.e. Crunchie Bar, Oh Henry Bar, Reese PB Cups, Nutella, Peanut Butter, any treat with nuts, etc.).** If a caregiver prepares your child's lunch and snacks, please remind them about this policy.

Remembrance Day:

On Monday, November 11th at 10:45 a.m., we will be gathering for a Remembrance Day Mass in the gym. Parents are most welcome to join us.

Poppy Donations:

We have received and will be distributing poppies on Remembrance Day so that the students can wear them during the ceremony. Students are asked to make a small donation to the Royal Canadian Legion in memory of those who have died so that we may live in peace.

Photo Retakes and Sibling Photos:

Photo retakes will be taken on Wednesday, November 6th. Retakes are for students who were absent on photo day. Please send a note with your child if you require a retake. Also, this will be an opportunity to have any sibling photos taken. If you would like a sibling photo taken, please make sure to make a note your child's agenda. Visit www.edgeimaging.com for answers to frequently asked questions. Picture package payment will be collected at the camera.

Gr. 7 students will have the opportunity to have retakes because they are heading to Cardinal Newman for the day.

Progress Reports:

The Provincial **Progress Report** Card is used to inform parents and to monitor students' progress towards achieving the overall and specific expectations so that timely, specific and descriptive feedback can be provided in response to student needs. A form will be sent home to request interview times; please return this form by November 6th.

Parent/Teacher Interviews:

This year, interviews will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The interview times are as follows:

Tuesday, November 12th (6:00pm – 8:30pm. and **Thursday, November 14th** (6:00 pm – 8:30 p.m.).

Please fill out the interview request form and return by Wednesday, November 7th.

As an alternative to the traditional parent/teacher interview, the Intermediate teachers have welcomed the idea of a student-led conference instead. Essentially, students will lead the discussion about their progress in terms of learning skills. The classroom teachers will act as facilitator of the conference process and will comment along the way. The benefit of this type of format versus the traditional format, is students will have had an opportunity prior to the conference to reflect on their progress and determine some goals. It is believed that students will be more invested in their learning when they are given the opportunity to own it.

CSAC Meetings:

Our next CSAC meeting will take place on **Thursday, November 21st at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome!

The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) has an Education Consultation open to all parents across the province! Please take the time to provide your input, your voice matters and we want the Ministry of Education to hear from you!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTWkjsRiQH8UUVAiZmc30JGWNEHyqZNPb84jFX3apfOsTZA/vi ewform>

Peace:

The virtue for the month of November is 'Peace'. The Spirit Assembly for the month of October will be on Tuesday, November 5 in the PM. Our assembly to celebrate the virtue of Peace will be in early December. Thank you to Ms. Bell for all of her work to make these events happen.

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.

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.

Inclement Weather

During extremely cold weather or on rainy days the students are allowed into the school at 8:45AM and they remain indoors for the recesses and noon hour if the inclement weather continues. For other than the above mentioned situations all pupils are expected to be outdoors. If a parent wishes his/her child to be indoors all day at school due to sickness, then that child is, in all probability, too sick to be at school. Exceptions must be discussed with the Principal.

Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately. Fresh air is good and healthy provided that we are dressed properly.

Bus Cancellation

From time to time busses are cancelled due to the weather. Follow the news, the TCDSB website, and the new transportation website for cancellation information. www.torontoschoolbus.org

Please remember that if busses are cancelled in the morning that they will remain cancelled for the afternoon and if your child was at school on a bus cancellation day that you will need to arrange to pick them up promptly at the end of the school day.

'Remind':

If you are interested in receiving reminders about school events via text message, you are invited to join 'Remind' (which is free), by sending a text to **(647)931-1274** with the message **@stagathacs. Rogers Customers are invited to use the Remind App to receive notifications.**

From St. Boniface

There are a number of events taking place at St. Boniface Parish over the month of November:

Family of Schools Mass on Tuesday November 19 at 6pm

Confirmation Parent Information Sessions Thursday November 7 at 7pm in the church and Saturday November 9 at 11am in the church.

Registration deadline is Friday December 6.

First Reconciliation sessions are Saturday's Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 16., Nov. 23, & Nov. 30.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation is Saturday December 7 from 10am to 12pm.

Parish Family Game Night is Saturday November 23 after the 5pm Mass.

The Children's liturgy program is on Sunday's at the 10:30 am Mass.

Geared towards children in Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 6.

Children's Choir is part of the Saturday 5pm Mass and Sunday 7:30am Mass.

New members are always welcome!

School Youth Lector at the 12pm Mass on Sunday November 17

Gr. 6 Rally at St. Boniface church on Thursday November 14

St. Boniface EDGE Youth Group Kick-Off Tuesday December 3 at 6:30pm in church Hall. EDGE is for Grades 6, 7, & 8.

Guidance Corner (November)

It's a busy time for Grade 8 students and the transition to High School! Open house nights took place last month, and the online application process through SOAR was initiated. As indicated on the application form, the closer the high school is to your child's elementary school, the greater the chance of acceptance. If your child is redirected, there are no guarantees of placement at the alternate choice school. The redirection will be to the closest high school that

has space. Also, the TCDSB does not have access to information for high schools outside of our own board. You will be receiving a Transition Guide for Parents, which contains important information regarding the transition to high school. There are translated guides in a number of languages, available upon request.

November is also Bullying Prevention month across Canada. You can help your child recognize the signs of bullying and what to do if they or someone they know is being targeted. In our age of technology, bullying can happen electronically, as well as face-to-face. Be aware of your child's activities online by asking them to show you what they are doing. Building empathy and compassion for other people's feelings, is key to stopping bullying before it starts. Here are some helpful websites you may wish to visit:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/safeschools.html>, <http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/bullying.html>
<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SafeSchools/BullyingAwarenessAndPrevention/Pages/default.aspx>

Also, as the time for Progress Reports gets closer, help your child focus on their Learning Skills and Work Habits.. These are Responsibility, Collaboration, Initiative, Self-Regulation, Organization and Independent Work. More information on how you can help your child with their Learning Skills and Work Habits can be found at the following links:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growSuccess.pdf> (pgs. 10-14)

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