



St. Agatha News

49 Cathedral Bluffs Drive
Scarborough, ON M1M 2T6
416-393-5302
twitter.com/StAgathaSchool
tcdsb.org/schools/stagatha
School Calendar: goo.gl/Khb6QU



Virtue of the Month: Hospitality

September 2019

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer. September is always an exciting time for staff, parents and students alike – a time filled with new beginnings, new friendships and nervous anticipation. On a monthly basis, we will continue to highlight theological virtues. The virtue of the month for September is **Hospitality**. Students will be encouraged to look for ways in which they can ensure that all members of our community feel welcome, included and valued.

This school year marks the 2nd year of the TCDSB three-year, pastoral plan ‘Rooted in Christ – We Belong, We Believe, We Become.’ Catholic education is built on the partnership among our families, parishes and schools and we are looking forward to celebrating the foundation of our school community.

Back to school season signals a time of new beginnings with high hopes and expectations for this new school year. We extend the virtue of hospitality to our new staff and students joining us and they all bring new talents, thoughts and ideas to the school. We are fortunate to welcome to the St. Agatha Family Mme. Fernandes (Gr. 5 & 6 FI) Ms. Fernandes (Gr. 6 AM) and Mme. Shahinyan (Gr. 2/3). Also, Mrs. Vandersluis joins us as our vocal music teacher. Finally, Mme Lundy and Mme Metwally will be working with our Gr. 8 French Immersion students.

Please plan to join us for the **Welcome BBQ and Curriculum Night** on **Thursday, September 26th**, beginning at 5:00 pm. (Please see form) This will be an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and learn about the curriculum and other expectations for the coming year while gathering for a BBQ.

At St. Agatha, we provide a quality French and English program where our students learn the 2 official languages of Canada. We look forward to working together with the parent, school and parish communities to provide an excellent Catholic and dual language education for all our students.

God bless!

R. Aunger
Principal

Ann De Agazio
Vice- Principal

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

2018-2019 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 Monday, September 2, 2019
First Day Tuesday, September 3, 2019
Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 14, 2019
Christmas Break December 23, 2019- January 3, 2020
Family Day February 17, 2020
Mid-Winter Break March 16-20, 2020 (inclusive)
Good Friday April 10, 2020
Easter Monday April 13, 2020
Victoria Day Monday, May 18, 2020
School Year Ends Thursday, June 25, 2020

St. Boniface Catholic Church
Father Robson
21 Markanna Dr. Scarborough
(416) 261-5983

Staff List

French Immersion

FI ELP – Mlle Meade with Mdm Naomi
FI ELP – Mme Robino with Mdm Catherine
FI SK/1 – Mme. Katu
FI Gr. 1 – Mlle. Goguen
FI Gr. 1/2 – Mdm Fossi
FI Gr. 2 – Mme Clarisse
FI Gr. 2/3 – Mme Shahinyan
FI Gr. 3 – M Attila
FI Gr. 4 – M Remigio
FI Gr. 5 AM – Mme Fernandes
FI Gr. 6 PM – Mme Fernandes
FI Gr. 7 AM – Mlle Gingras
FI Gr. 8 PM – Mme Lundy/Mme Metwally

English Program

ELP – Murphy with Mrs. Haskett (Formerly Ms. Fernandes)
Gr. 1/2 – Mrs. Balkovec
Gr. 3/4 – Mrs. Bell
Gr. 4/5 AM – Ms. Murphy
Gr. 4/5 PM – Ms. Murphy
Gr. 5 PM – Mr. Cianfarani
Gr. 6 AM – Ms. McCowan
Gr. 6 AM – Ms. Fernandes
Gr. 7 AM – Ms. Watson
Gr. 7 PM – Ms. Sciberras

Class Assignments:

At the end of each school year, class lists are created based on the projected enrolment for the following school year. The actual enrolment, however, rarely matches the projections exactly and it is often necessary to make changes to class groupings. For this reason, your child's class and teacher assignment should be considered tentative until the end of September.

Student Supervision:

Beginning at 8:45 a.m., an adult is in the school yard supervising students as they arrive at school. **Please do not drop students earlier than 8:45 a.m., since they will be unsupervised.**

Kiss and Ride and Safe Schools Policy

Please remember when dropping off students to be patient and pull ahead as far as possible. If you would like to walk your child to the yard, parents must park in an available parking spot. In the afternoon, only valid parking spaces are allowed for parking. If all spots are full, parents are asked to circle or park off site.

In the AM, there will be a gathering area set aside with cones in the yard for parents to socialize. This allows staff to properly supervise the students. This area will begin on the 2nd day of school.

All visitors are asked to report to the office and are not allowed in instructional zones during the school

Gr. 7 PM – Ms. Watson
Gr. 8 AM – Ms. Sciberras
Gr. 8 AM – Mrs. Raso
Gr. 8 PM – Mrs. Raso

French Specialty

M. Pelliccione
Mr. Cianfarani
Mrs. Kelly
Mlle Metwally

Core French

Mlle Gingras

Vocal and Instrumental Music – Ms. Vandersluis
Spec Ed – Ms. Ciechonska, Mlle Metwally
EAs – Ms. Al Turks, Ms. Flood, Ms. Jardine
CYW – Ms. Pirrotta
Library Tech – Mrs. Moulds
Lunchtime Supervisors – Ms. Borsuk, Ms. Malec, Ms. Novia, Ms. Mendonca, Ms. Madden, Ms. Morelli, Ms. Tilander, Mr. Rosario
Head Custodian – Mr. Icaro
Custodian – Mr. Pyke
Custodian – Mr. Papadopoulos
Secretary – Mrs. Poirier
Clerk Typist – Mrs. Burrows

day. It can be a lot quicker just to walk to the classroom but for the safety of all students, visitors are asked to wait in the atrium.

Permission to Leave:

Students are not allowed to leave the school property during the school day. The only exception to this rule is for students who are being picked up by a parent. Please check in at the office.

Absences & Lates:

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1 (833) 251-3286** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time up to a maximum of 10 consecutive days. It is important to note that when setting up your account you must register using the email address and phone number **provided to the school during registration**.



Students arriving after 9:00 a.m. must enter through the front door of the school and report to the office to get a late slip before going to class.

Please recognize that if your child is late, they are missing out on valuable curriculum time that can have a direct impact on their learning.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting our efforts to impress upon our students the importance of punctuality.



Student Accident Insurance:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board **does not** provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen. Some injuries incur medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent or guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

We do make available the insuremykids® Protection Plan for students through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian.

This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable rates. Benefits included are:

- ~ dental expenses (resulting from an accident)
- ~ total and permanent disability
- ~ paralysis/loss of use
- ~ special disability benefits
- ~ death benefits.

If your child is not covered by your employer's plan for medical/dental accident benefits not paid by OHIP, Reliable Life offers a plan tailored to your needs. Plan rates vary from \$13.00 to \$33.00 per child. All rates are one-time annual premiums. Family rates for 3 or more children are also offered.



If you wish to subscribe you may apply 24/7 directly at:

www.insuremykids.com



Any questions should be directed to Reliable Life Insurance Company toll free at:
1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Student Agenda Books:

This year we will be using the student agenda books that are provided for free to all students from Gr. 1 to 8. We strongly encourage the use of a planner to support the development of organization skills and to facilitate ongoing communication between home and school. Student agenda books for children in grades 1 – 8 are available and have been graciously supplied by our CSPC.

Dress Code:

All students are expected to wear appropriate Dress Code attire. The Dress Code consists of a combination of white or navy blue tops with navy blue bottoms, (e.g. plain white top & navy blue bottom or, navy blue top & navy blue bottom, navy socks, no denim, no stripes, no patterns, no logos). Any shoe colour is acceptable and running shoes are strongly recommended to ensure that the children can play safely (i.e. flip flops are not sturdy and could allow injury). Please note that the Dress Code does not require that you purchase any items from a particular supplier.

In late September, we will offer St. Agatha Spirit Wear which will include sweatshirts, t-shirts and toques. Please look for the envelope in your child's agenda.

Dress-Down Days:

Throughout the school year, there will be special 'dress down' days. On these days, students will be allowed to wear clothes other than the dress code, but are always expected to wear modest and appropriate attire. These dress down days usually take place on the last Friday of the month. **To make the donations easier for the year, parents will be able to make the donations for the year online as well.**

<https://tcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

School Photos:

School photos will be taken on **Wednesday, October 2nd**. Students are required to wear their uniforms for the photos.

Allergy Alert:

Please note that we have a number of students who have **dangerous, life-threatening allergies** to certain foods. For that reason, we expect that students will not bring to school any items that contain peanuts or nuts. If a caregiver prepares your child's lunch and snacks, please remind them about this policy.

If your child has an allergy for which an epi-pen has been prescribed, please contact your child's teacher and the Principal, to discuss your child's safety plan.

This plan must include two epi-pens: one to be carried by your child and one to be stored in the main office.

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.

Terry Fox Walk:

On Friday, September 27, we will be participating in our school 'Terry Fox Walk'. Students in Gr. 1 – 8 will walk in the neighbourhood and students in JK and SK will complete a modified (shorter) version. This is a fundraising event and students are encouraged to donate a 'Toonie for Terry' in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Students are allowed to wear red & white in support of this Canadian hero. If you can also choose



The Terry Fox Foundation

High School:

The list of 2019 TCDSB Secondary School Fall Open House dates for Grade 8 students is now complete and available on-line at:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Page/Default.aspx>

All Open Houses begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Grade 7 & 8 students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend one or more of the scheduled open houses to learn more about the various programs, services and activities as they prepare for a Catholic secondary school education. High school applications will be distributed at the end of October and due at school by early November (details to follow).

Snack Program

Our snack program will continue this year with Ms. Morelli leading the program. Please consider making a donation to the snack program which goes a long way to support child nutrition at St. Agatha. Also, please remember that in the AM, students receive a snack of a grain, dairy and vegetable/fruit when packing your child's lunches.

The snack program is delivered everyday at 9:00am and the classes are finished by 10:00am. If you have time to volunteer once a month, week or everyday please contact the office.

Please see the form that went home that provides information if you are interested in making a donation to support our nutrition program.

Every month, there will a communication regarding the types of food that will be offered that month.

Lunch Time Supervisors

We are always looking for lunchtime supervisors even on a substitute basis. Please contact the office if interested.

School Online Line Banking

This year, Cash on line will be the preferred method of payment. All school trips and any other event that requires money, will be found on line. Parents are still able to pay cash but are encouraged to pay on line.

Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for your child's class trips and so much more from your own home. All you have to do is register an account, attach your children and in no time you will be able to make payments online. Many different payments are accepted. Please visit <https://tcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> to begin the sign up process. If you have any difficulties or questions, please call the office and speak to Ms. Poirier.

CSAC Meetings:

All parents are invited to the meetings held by the Catholic School Advisory Committee. The first CSAC meeting for the year will take place on **Tuesday, October 1st at 6:30 p.m.** CSAC elections will take place at this meeting. If you are interesting in becoming involved, please join us!

CSPC Additions to St. Agatha

Over the summer, several amazing things have been added to the school courtesy of the fundraising done by the CSPC.

- Gym crashmats installed labelled with St. Agatha Sharks
- Lines in the yard have been repainted and new pavement games have been painted on
- 2 St. Agatha Banners have been purchased to hang at sporting and community events
- Water bottle filling station installed on the 2nd floor in the new addition
- Picnic tables have been built and put in our new outdoor classroom area.
- New W5H buzzer system has been purchased for classes to use

Thank you to the CSPC for their efforts to support our school.

Online Newsletter and Calendar

This newsletter is only going out electronically. If you know of anyone who is not receiving this, please advise them to call the office.

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.

'Remind':

The remind app has been an excellent way for the school to communicate with the parent community. At the end of July, Remind changed its policies and started charging institutions such as schools for the use of the app which does not make the use of the app cost effective. We will be searching for an app that is similar to Remind but for the time being, all online communication will be done through school messenger. Please make sure your emails are up to date to receive the latest communication.

Drumfit

On Tuesday, September 24, students from K to Gr. 6 will participate in 'Drumfit' a fantastic cardio experience set to music using drum sticks and exercise balls. The cost of Drumfit will be \$3 per student and a permission form will be going home during the 2nd week of school. For more information, go to <https://www.drum.fit/>

Sports News

St. Agatha continues the tradition at excelling in athletics making this school one of the top schools in Scarborough in most sporting events. In September, our intermediate flag football teams will compete at their tournament. Please look for permission forms detailing practises and the tournament if your child is in Gr. 7 and 8.

Cross Country training will begin in September. Training takes place at 8am leading up to the cross country meet in early October. Cross Country is open to Gr. 3-8.

Before and After Care

St. Agatha has a before and after school program. If you require more information, please contact Vanessa at Network Child Care Services stagatha@networkchildcare.com

Lake St. George – Gr. 7s

Our Gr. 7s are off to Lake St. George for three days and two nights from September 16 to 18 for an outdoor education experience. Thank you to Mlle Gingras, Ms. Sciberras and Ms. Watson for taking the time to be with our students. **There will be a parent meeting on Monday, September 9 at 5:30pm.**

Special Service from the TCDSB

As part of the TCDSB's goal of Fostering Student Achievement and Well Being, the Special Services department endeavours to support our special education students in achieving academic excellence and meeting the Ontario Catholic Graduate School Expectations. The department offers a variety of supports to students based on their need(s) and/or identification(s). For further information please visit the Special Services department link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/Pages/default.aspx>

Parents/caregivers are reminded that if they require support in accessing the Special Services department link, they may ask the school principal for assistance. Alternately, for families who require access to a computer to visit the site, they may access an electronic device through the Toronto Public Library.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY and ROUTINES

Well-rehearsed school bus routines are an important part of school bus safety. Please assist us by reviewing these expectations with your child:

Getting on the Bus Safely:

- Be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.
- Wait at the designated stop in a safe place, well back from the side of the road.
- Remember the 'Danger Zone' is anywhere close enough to the bus to touch it. The bus driver cannot see you when you are in the 'Danger Zone'.
- Wait until the bus comes to a full stop before attempting to get on the bus.
- Hold the handrail as you get on the bus.
- Do not push or shove.

Riding the Bus Safely:

- Take your seat promptly and sit properly, facing forward at all times.

- Hold backpacks, books and parcels on your lap.
- Do not stick your feet out into the aisle – someone might trip.
- Keep your head and arms – everything – inside the bus.
- Remain seated on the bus while it is moving
- Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate on driving the bus safely.
- Do not eat or drink while on the bus.
- Obey the bus driver at all times.

Leaving the Bus Safely:

- When you leave the bus, hold the handrail and take two large steps away from the bus.
- Items that can easily cause injury while getting on and off a bus include loose shoe laces, backback straps and the strings on hooded shirts. Please secure them.
- To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least ten giant steps. Cross only when the driver gives you the signal.
- If you drop something near the bus, do not pick it up. Tell the driver or an adult.
- If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push.
- **When you arrive at your bus stop, if you do not see the person who meets you there, tell the bus driver immediately.**

Students must remember that riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Out of concern for the safety of all, the privilege of using the bus will be removed in the case of serious or persistent misbehaviour.

Thanks to all families who have signed up on the transportation portal as it will allow us to communicate and keep you updated on service related issues. If you haven't signed up yet, please visit <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

**TORONTO CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEES 2018-2019**

Wards

1.	Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2.	Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3.	Sal Piccinini	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