

St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic School



St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic School News



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School Twitter Account:

<https://twitter.com/augustinetcdsb>

Web: (shortened link)

<http://tinyurl.com/p5f2g6d>

Principal

Mr. R. De Lorenzo

Vice-Principal

Ms. E. Della Mea

Secretary

Ms. S. Santino

Clerk Typist

Ms. G. Iaboni

Superintendent

Mr. M. Caccamo

(416) 222-8282 Ext. 2267

Trustee

Ida Li Preti

St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish

Pastor, Rev. Jose Signorelli

(416) 661-8221

Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Lunch hour: 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

**Catholic Parent Involvement
Committee (CPIC)**

<http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic>

OAPCE Toronto

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

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

December 2018 Virtue of the Month: Charity

Message from the Administrative Team

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have now come to the final month of the calendar year and as we enter the month of December, we shift our focus to the Virtue of Charity. We have entered into the season of Advent and have begun to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree for Christmas Day, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. Our quote for the month is —Where charity and love are, God is there. As St. Thomas Aquinas described it —Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God." (2a2ae, 25,4). How can we practice charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things?

In the month of November we engaged in many school activities. Firstly, our school participated in a beautiful Remembrance Day celebration led by our Grade 8 class honouring those women and men who have fought and died to protect our freedom. Progress reports were distributed and parents and teachers met during parent-teacher interviews. Our weekly skating program began for students between Grades 4-8 and is an important component of our daily active living initiative. Many Grade 5 and 6 students will be participating in an after school hockey program being run by the Toronto Police with the support of the NHL Player's Association and our intermediate students participated in the Boy's and Girl's Intermediate Volleyball tournaments. Lastly, our CSPC held their annual CSPC Santa Photo picture day.

During the month of December, we will be focusing on Christmas activities. This year, Christmas activities will be held in the classrooms. More about this later in the newsletter. Join us as we continue to focus on our faith as we prepare our hearts and minds during Advent for the celebration of Christmas.

Have a peaceful advent and Christmas season.

Mr. R. De Lorenzo
Principal

Ms. E. Della Mea
Vice-Principal

Staffing Updates

We'd like to welcome the following staff who have started at our school since September:

- Ms. Palleschi (new Grade 6 teacher)
- Ms. Abate (new grade 4/5 teacher)
- Ms. Galluzzo (new Grade 6/7 teacher)
- Ms. Maigue - Tallacca and Mr. Adonis (New French teachers)
- Ms. Sirro (Moving from Grade 6 LTO to permanent Kindergarten class)
- Ms. Maringola (covering Ms. Cattarozzi until her return)

Access the Toronto Public Library to Support Early Reading

Ready for Reading, found here:

<https://kids.tpl.ca/ready-for-reading/>

is Toronto Public Library's complete set of free programs, services, books, spaces and resources for children birth to age 5.



Key sections of the website include:

- Updated short videos for parents and caregivers about the 5 activities that build language skills.
- Updated short videos for parents and caregivers of fun storytime songs, rhymes and stories.
- Information on buying and borrowing the Let's get Ready for Reading resource guide.
- The First & Best 2018 booklist with annotations.
- Locations and photos of the KidsStop early literacy centres.
- Updated six Ready for Reading skills and the five skill-building practices.
- Highlight of staff expertise

Parents and caregivers can find branch information, branch programs, and new children's books and access the Growing a Reader Blog through this page.

Winter Weather Requires Winter Clothing!

As the winter weather has now arrived, it is important that children come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Unless it is raining or the temperature is extremely cold (as per TCDSB cold weather protocols), children will be going outside to get fresh air and exercise.

Here are some important reminders for all students:

- All students need to wear winter coats & snow pants
- Children need to have appropriate winter hats, gloves and scarves to keep them warm
- All students need to have outdoor shoes (i.e. water-proof boots)
- When inside the school, children need a second pair of shoes; indoor shoes help to ensure that classrooms remain clean and ensure that students' feet are clean and dry

At St. Augustine, we are always looking to help those families who are in need. If you need help in providing these winter items for your children, speak to your child's teacher. We may be able to help you provide some of these materials through donations of new or used items.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 School Year

We will begin registering students for Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year beginning on Wednesday January 16th 2019. Parents/guardians with children born in 2015 or earlier and who will be enrolling in Kindergarten, have the opportunity to apply on-line using the "Student On-line Admission and Registration" platform known as S.O.A.R. and found at the following link:



<http://soar.tcdsb.org>

Parents will be able to complete an application for registration from the convenience of their own home, the office, a public library, or anywhere there is internet access, 24 hours a day. The on-line application also offers access to translations in different languages with built-in help functions and features. Alternately, families may choose to register in person at our school.

As part of the registration process, school staff will meet with parents. These meetings may be scheduled on the electronic application or in person at the school. During the meeting, school staff will verify the original documentation required for registration. This consists of a Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and/or Passport, Immunization record, proof of residence and Application for Direction of School support.

Applications to register children in grades other than Kindergarten can also be done on the online S.O.A.R. application. Please share this information with any parents/guardians with school aged children in the community.

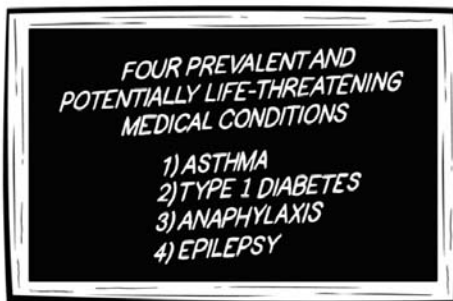
Please note that families wishing to register their children for Kindergarten must live within our school's catchment area.

EXTENDED REGISTRATION EVENING ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5th 2019 FROM 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Students of the Month - November's Virtue of Peace

Ms. Marchesan & Ms. Afram (FDK) Ava	Ms. Sirro & Ms. Reinoso (FDK) Tristan	Ms. Maringola & Ms. De Simone (FDK) Daniel	Ms. Pedro & Ms. Sicilia (FDK) Victoria	Ms. Zaroda (Gr. 1) Angelina
Ms. Sinapi (Gr.1) Nathaniel	Ms. Mettel (Gr.1/2) Pablo	Ms. Kelly (Gr.2) Atishan	Ms. Moretti (Gr.2) Ata	Ms. Opinion (Gr. 2/3) Jordan
Ms. Di Nardo (Gr 3) Lana	Ms. Tamburro (Gr. 3) Nathan	Mr. Amoruso (Gr. 3/4) Vincent	Ms. Boccitto (Gr. 4) Seyitan	Ms. Abate (Gr. 4/5) Lucas
Ms. Iannelli (Gr. 5) Ashron	Ms. Dinkha (Gr. 5/6) Frances	Ms. Palleschi (Gr. 6) Matia	(Gr. 6/7) Glence	Ms. Cimino (Gr. 7) Lucas
Ms. Grappone (Gr. 7/8) Dominik	Mr. Ponticelli (Gr. 8) Felix	Ms. Zabiene (L.I.) Migelo		

Information & Video; on Prevalent Medical Conditions



Many children have prevalent medical conditions including Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes and Epilepsy. The Ministry of Education and Edugains Website have Video & Print Resources for Staff, Students and Parents. Please find below links to the Ministry of Education and Edugains websites where you can find helpful print & video resources that outline:

- 1) PPM 161: Prevalent Medical Conditions
- 2) Roles and Collective Responsibilities: Parents/Guardians, Students, School Staff, Principal

Video: <http://www.edugains.ca/resourcesSafeHealthySchools/VideoLibrary/PrevalentMedicalConditions/mp4/OPHEA-English-NS.mp4>

Information: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/medicalconditions.html>

Information: <http://www.edugains.ca/newsite/SafeHealthySchools/medical-conditions/Prevalent-Medical-Conditions.html>

Christmas Activities - Classroom Level This Year

Due to ongoing issues related to both construction and staffing, we are unable to move forward with a Christmas concert this year. Instead, our school will focus on classroom - level Christmas activities. Feel free to contact your child's teacher if you wish to be advised as to the activities that they will be engaging children in inside the classroom.

If the situation permits, we will revisit a concert/performance during Lent for a possible passion play. More information to come at a later time.

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR,
DEUS IBI EST
- WHERE THERE IS
CHARITY AND LOVE,
GOD IS THERE.

~ LATIN HYMN ~

- REMEMBER THROUGHOUT ADVENT THAT CHARITY STARTS FROM THE HOME AND MOVES FORWARD IN ALL YOU DO.
- LET THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CREATE CHARITY IN YOUR ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- IF WE EXPECT OTHER PEOPLE TO DO CHARITABLE ACTS TOWARDS US, WE MUST FIRST REMEMBER TO SHOW GENEROSITY TOWARDS OTHERS.
- WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US, ESPECIALLY IN A SEASON FILLED WITH GIVING.



Important Reminders:

PA Day : Friday December 7th

No School for students

Christmas Break:

December 24th 2018- January 4th 2019

CHARITY

Student Illnesses

When children are ill, the best place for them to be is at home resting and recovering. Sending children to school when sick can potentially result in a number of difficulties:

- The child cannot concentrate on their learning;
- Spreading illness to other children in the class and in the school;
- An increase in the duration the child is ill as they are not getting the rest they need;

There have been times when parents have sent children to school requesting that the children stay inside for all recesses because they are sick. We cannot accommodate these requests due to the fact that supervision is provided in the school yard, not in the office. Also, if a child is too sick to go outside for recess, they are likely too sick to come to school. Please help us reduce the spread of illness at school by keeping your child home until they have fully recovered. If we notice that your child is ill, we will call you requesting that your child be picked up and taken to the doctor. Your cooperation is appreciated by staff, students and the parents of the other children in the class.

Importance of Punctuality

At St. Augustine, we have worked hard to create routines and schedules that maximize instructional time for students. For example, we have morning announcements at 11:30 AM to ensure that students get to class in the morning quicker and spend less time at the office waiting for a late slip.

We are using this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of ensuring students are at school for the full day. This maximizes learning for students. That means bringing children to school between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM to ensure that children begin the day on time and to pickup children in the designated areas of the school yard at 3:30 PM. Trying to schedule appointments outside of the school day where possible helps as well. Every little bit helps!

Mental Health Resources for Parents

Children and youth can experience mental health difficulties that range from mild to serious. As a parent or guardian, you are well-positioned to observe changes in your child's behaviour. It is often difficult to understand what the changes mean. Parents may wonder if it is a stage that their child or teen is going through. When a problem lasts more than a few weeks, and interferes with his or her daily life it has become a concern that requires further help.

Getting help can be overwhelming for many families. It may be helpful to start with people who know your child or teen:

- Educators are well-positioned to partner with you and to share what they notice during the time that your child or teen is at school. All schools have assigned to them psycho-educational consultants, social workers and speech and language pathologists who you may access through your school's principal or vice-principal.
- Guidance counsellors, chaplains, teachers and administrators are also there to help support students who may be experiencing difficulty or who are struggling.
- Your family doctor or pediatrician can ensure that there is not a medical cause for the behaviour you are observing. They may also be able to refer you on to resources in the community for additional support.
- Your local Catholic parish may also be a tremendous support.

New Safe Arrival Program Using School Messenger

As stated in an earlier correspondence, our school board is moving to School Messenger to record absences and to notify parents of absences. Starting January 7, 2019, our school will begin using School Messenger's Safe Arrival feature and will be asking parents to report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

While more detailed information will be emailed to parents in mid-December, kindly note that when we move to the new system, SchoolMessenger will use an automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up. If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival toll-free number, website or SchoolMessenger app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

We look forward to continuing to support advancements to our school's communication with the parent community.

News from the TCDSB

Latest Updates on Weather Related Cancellations or Closures

To get the latest information about school bus transportation, see

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>

Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the transportation portal to get real time information about any transportation issues: <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

Information is also shared via Twitter. Follow @TCDSB. For more information:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/healthandsafety/pages/weather-related-safety-concerns.aspx>



French Immersion and Extended French Info Nights:

December 5th, 2018 – February 20th, 2019

Elementary Schools with French Immersion and Extended French programs invite their communities to attend Information Nights as we approach Kindergarten Registration, which begins Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Click here for all French Immersion Info Night dates:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/FrenchImmersion/Pages/default.aspx>

Click here for all Extended French Info Night dates:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/Extended%20French/Pages/default.aspx>

Christmas Holidays

The last day of classes before the Christmas break will be Friday, December 21, 2018. Schools will reopen on Monday, January 7th, 2019.

SAVE THE DATE!

Kindergarten Registration Begins January 16th at 10 a.m. Visit www.tcdsb.org for details.

Apply online starting January 16th at <https://soar.tcdsb.org>

PRESTO Cards for TCDSB Students

Over the past few weeks the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the Toronto Student Transportation Group have been working closely with the TTC on the logistics for providing complimentary PRESTO cards to all students ages 6 to 12 (child cards) and 13 to 19 (youth cards). The purpose of this initiative is to help students smoothly make the transition away from TTC passes, and tickets, to the PRESTO electronic fare card. Please note that the TTC will stop selling tickets and tokens on August 3, 2019. The TTC is providing the PRESTO cards to school boards free of charge.

Santa Photos 2018 - Thank You from our CSPC!

On Tuesday November 28th, our CSPC hosted our annual Santa Photos event. It was another successful event and the popularity of taking photos with Santa continues.

Our CSPC wishes to express their thanks to the entire St. Augustine parent community for their support again this year. In addition, we thank the school photographer, Edge Imaging, for providing their professional service again this year.

Photos will be sent home in the next couple of weeks - stay tuned!





MONTH of December, 2018 – Virtue of Charity

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 25 Christ the King	Nov. 26	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	1
2 First Sunday of Advent	3 - Student of the Month Assembly	4	5 - Advent Confessions (Grade 4-8)	6 - Pizza Nova Workshop (Gr. 3) - Immunizations (Grade 7)	7 PA Day No School for Students	8
9 Second Sunday of Advent	10 - Grade 3 & 4 trip to the Science Centre	11	12 - Advent Mass @ 9:30 AM – St. Augustine Church - Christmas for Kids event at Royalton	13	14 - Grade 5 trip to the Science Centre	15
16 Third Sunday of Advent	17	18 - Gr. 7 Confirmation Retreat – St. Augustine Church	19	20	21 - Student of the Month Assembly - Last Day of School: Dismissal 3:30PM	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
