

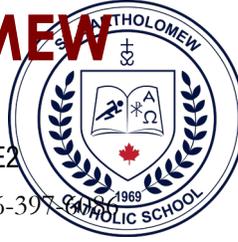


ST. BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The Christmas Season

The Christmas season is nearly at hand once again. For so many of us it can be a hectic time of the year with shopping for presents and preparing for visits with family and friends. However, let us all relish in the moments of peacefulness and inner reflection and find benefit in all that the birth of baby Jesus has allowed us to enjoy and to experience. Take thought of all He has given to us and how He has allowed us to proceed through life under His guidance and care. It is a period of the year when we have hopefully more time to relax but as well consider our life path and its meaning for us here on earth. It is a time of brotherhood and peace and it is a time for us to give thanks to all those around us and how we can even better share our skills and time with others, most especially our children. It is a time to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ and all that He has so graciously given to us.



**'You will have joy and gladness
and many will rejoice at His birth,
for He will be great
in the sight of the Lord'
Luke 1: 11-15**

R. Chubb

PRINCIPAL

P. Aguiar 416-222-8282

SUPERINTENDENT

Garry Tanuan 416-512-3408

TRUSTEE

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church 416-291-5250

59 Heather Road, Toronto M1S 2E2

PARISH

Charmaine Von Vulte

CSPC CHAIR

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)

83	9:00-3:30	11:45-12:45
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ENROLLMENT	HOURS OF OPERATION	LUNCH HOUR
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NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393-5334 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 2383.

For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, please visit the website at www.tcdsb.org

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year: Follow @TCDSB on Twitter.



December 2019 Monthly Update from the Board

Labour Update

Letter from Director of Education and Chair to Parents/Guardians of Children Attending TCDSB Elementary Schools

We are writing to inform you that late last week we learned the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representing approximately 430 Designated Early Childhood Workers (ECE), will be taking work-to-rule measures effective Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

As per ETFO communications, we expect all ECE's to continue to perform core duties and do not anticipate any disruptions to your child's care. Actions to be expected include:

- Wear red clothing and/or accessories to show their support for the ETFO labour movement.
- Will not participate in any extracurricular activities.
- Will not attend staff meetings unless it is an emergency meeting.
- Will continue to communicate learning/provide feedback by collaborating with teachers both verbally and in writing. Their regular contributions to report cards will continue.
- Christmas concerts and regularly scheduled Masses will continue.

The health and safety of your child remains our top priority. Our principals, vice-principals and board administration will continue to communicate with you throughout any labour disruption to mitigate any challenges, and ensure the safety and security of our students, staff, parents and volunteers in our school facilities. Information will be shared with school communities through the Board's website (www.tcdsb.org), twitter and email via School Messenger.

We remain hopeful that the Council of Trustees Association and the provincial government will be able to reach a new central agreement with ETFO.

Important Information for Parents

Latest Updates on Weather Related Cancellations or Closures

Traffic congestion and varying road conditions can impact on the flow of traffic in Toronto, and this is particularly true during the winter months when snow and ice can be a major factor. The Toronto Student Transportation Group is pleased to provide information about school bus delays digitally through [their website](#). Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the transportation portal to get real time information about any transportation issues throughout the school year: <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

Follow @TCDSB on Twitter to get the latest weather related updates.

Accountability and Responsibility in a Digital World

Online safety and social networking with Paul Davis
Senator O'Connor College, 60 Rowena Drive

December 4th, 2019

OCS Auditorium

6:30pm

All parents welcome

Go Digital

Sign up for...

- **School Cash Online** <https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/schoolcashionline/pages/default.aspx>
Pay for excursions and other optional activities for your child online. No need to send cheques or cash to school.
School Messenger—report your child’s absence online and receive updates about absences and lates.
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/signupschoolmessenger.aspx>.
The app also allows for urgent communications from your child’s school or from the Board such as labour updates, school closures, opportunities to participate in board-wide consultations etc.
- **E-News**—For those who are not on Twitter, you can still access much of the same news and information sent to your email on a weekly basis. To see recent issues, or sign up for the free news service, see:
<https://www.tcdsb.org/News/eNews/Pages/default.aspx>

Kindergarten Registration

Registration begins Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Apply online at <https://soar.tcdsb.org>

Opportunities for Students

We Believe

For the second year of our pastoral plan, “Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become”, students are invited to consider who inspires you, who nurtures your faith, who acts as a mentor and role model of Catholic living. Is it your school chaplain? A parent or other family member? Your pastor or other member of your parish? A teacher or other staff at your school? A colleague or friend? Why not sit down to have a chat with them, and interview them about their experiences of living their faith. Share your experience through a STEAM project, written work (poem, story, article), a short video, art, music or technology. Celebrate those who have guided you on your own journey of faith. Share your ideas and initiatives on social media (@TCDSB #TCDSBelieves). Send your submissions to ncc.team@tcdsb.org.

Your submissions will be showcased on the TCDSB website and shared via social media (twitter/Instagram).

Reminder: OCSTA Short Video Contest

OCSTA is pleased to announce the call for submissions for the Association’s 2019 short-video contest for students in grades 4 through 12 at Ontario’s publicly funded Catholic schools.

This year’s theme is: **Igniting Hope**

Deadline December 10, 2019

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/OCSTAShortVideoContest.aspx>

The Merit Award Bursary Program--Application is Open!

The Merit Award Bursary Program provides bursaries to senior high school students as an incentive to stay in school, recognizing those who demonstrate a commitment to their schoolwork, extra-curricular activities and communities. The bursaries are granted to students who attend one of the participating schools. Before starting an application, please check to ensure your school is on the list.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/MeritAward.aspx>

CHRISTMAS DRAWING CONTEST 2019

The Catholic Register's popular children's drawing contest is back!

Submission due December 13, 2019

Details:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/ChristmasDrawingContest.aspx>

Scholarships/Bursaries/Awards

Check out our website for the latest information

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/AwardsScholarshipsBursariesContests/Pages/default.aspx>

City of Toronto Job Fairs and Information

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/CityOfToronto.aspx>

CITY OF TORONTO YOUTH WEEK KICK-OFF AUDITIONS

The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation is preparing for the fourth annual National Youth Week from May 1st – 7th. The vision for Toronto Youth Week is to celebrate youth engagement and showcase youth abilities and talents in the arts, sports and leadership. Youth are invited to submit auditions by **January 10, 2020**.

For more information, please see [poster](#) or contact PFRYouthWeek@toronto.ca.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DONATE TO RELIEF FUND FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY GOSFORD FIRE

On November 15, 2019, a devastating fire broke out in a North York apartment building displacing hundreds of residents, including 22 TCDSB students. Some have lost most, if not all, of their belongings and it remains unclear when they will be able to return home. While local school communities are supporting students and their families in any way they can, many of you have also reached out to help.

This is why we are launching a central campaign to raise funds for the affected families. All proceeds will go towards clothing, food and other essentials to help these members of our community rebuild their lives.

Donations can be made via The Angel Foundation for Learning at angelfoundationforlearning.org or [click here to access the AFL donation page](#). Donors can select “Assisting students and families of the Jane St and Steeles Ave. fire” in the “Apply your donation...” drop-down menu.

Your generosity is truly appreciated as we come together to support our students and their families.

Nominations are invited for the 2020 TCDSB Awards.

Awards Night is our traditional celebration to launch Catholic Education Week and an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our alumni, students, staff and friends of Catholic education. Nominations are invited for the following awards:

- [Download the TCDSB Alumni Award Nomination Form here.](#)
- [Download the TCDSB Award of Merit Nomination Form here.](#)
- [Download the TCDSB Friends of Catholic Education Award Nomination Form here.](#)

The deadline for all nominations is January 31.

December's Virtue is Charity

Find all the resources related to the monthly virtue, as well as other resources to support faith development and Religion and Family Life on our website here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Default.aspx>

TCDSB Celebrates Advent and Christmas—Advent Begins November 30/December 1

Visit the board's website for the latest news and information from TCDSB schools including food and clothing drives, Christmas baskets for needy families, Christmas concerts and other special events.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2018/pages/Advent-and-Christmas.aspx>

Dates to Note

- December 1-7 ESL Week
- Friday, December 6—System-wide PA Day
- December 6—Staff Arts Christmas Concert
- December 9-13—Hour of Code
- December 10—World Human Rights Day
- December 23, 2019-January 3, 2020 inclusive—Schools closed for Christmas Break
- December 24, 2019-January 1, 2020—Administrative Offices closed for Christmas Break
- January 1, 2020—New Year's Day and World Day of Peace
- January 7, 2020—Eastern Rite Christmas

For more events and information, visit www.tcdsb.org

Vision Health

Did you know that 1 in 4 school-age children may have a vision problem that could affect their ability to learn? An eye exam is the best way to help detect a vision problem and it is covered by OHIP every year for children and youth age 19 and under. Some signs that your child may be having difficulty seeing include:

- Squinting or holding objects close up
- Turns or tilts the head when viewing objects or covers one eye
- Excessive blinking, rubbing or itching eyes
- Complains of blurry or double vision

Source: Canadian Association of Optometrists

To find an optometrist near you visit www.optom.on.ca

For more information, visit [Toronto Public Health website](#) or call [Toronto Health Connection](#) at 416-338-7600 and speak with a [Public Health Nurse](#).

Attention Parents/Caregivers of Children in JK (born 2015)

Is your child currently in JK and has not had their vision checked this year by an Optometrist? Be sure to book an appointment to take advantage of the [Eye See Eye Learn® program](#). [Students born in 2015 are eligible to participate up until June 30th 2020.](#)

[Eye See Eye Learn® is a program through the Ontario Optometrist Association that provides an eye exam and a free pair of eye glasses if required. Find a participating optometrist near you at \[https://www.optom.on.ca/OAO/Find_a_Doctor.aspx\]\(https://www.optom.on.ca/OAO/Find_a_Doctor.aspx\)](#)

[For more information about Vision Health in School Age Children Visit the TPH website](#)

Was an eye exam on your child's back to school checklist?

- Eye exam done
- Immunization up-to-date
- School supplies purchased

Make your child's eye exam a part of your fall routine. An eye exam is the best way to help detect a vision problem and is covered by OHIP every year for children and youth age 19 and under. [To find an optometrist near you visit www.optom.on.ca](#).

[For junior kindergarten students, the Eye See Eye Learn program provides an eye exam as well as a free pair of eye glasses if required.](#)

Eye exams should be part of your child's ongoing health checkups

- For optimal health and learning, a comprehensive yearly eye exam is recommended for all students
- OHIP covers an annual eye exam by an optometrist for children and youth up to 19 years old
- [You can locate an optometrist near you at www.optom.on.ca](#)

[For more information, visit Toronto Public Health website or call Toronto Health Connection at 416-338-7600 and speak with a Public Health Nurse.](#)

[Parents, don't wait for your children to tell you that they are having problems with their vision before booking an appointment for an eye exam. Here are some reasons why:](#)

- Young children may not know that they have a vision problem and assume everyone sees the way they do
- [Some vision problems are more successfully treated when detected at a young age](#)
- [Annual eye exams for children and youth up to age 19 are covered by OHIP](#)

[Locate an Optometrist near you.](#)

[For more information, visit Toronto Public Health website or call Toronto Health Connection at 416-338-7600 and speak with a Public Health Nurse.](#)

REMINDER

Winter has put in an earlier appearance than usual. With that comes delays on school bus routes. Please monitor the website at <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/> for the latest information.

For any other weather related cancellations, please visit the board's website at <http://www.tcdsb.org> or the board's twitter @TCDSB.

All are reminded to exercise caution and allow additional time to travel to and from work safely.

LATE ARRIVALS

Some of your children might arrive late. The announcements can be heard outside the door. Please refrain from ringing the doorbell when you arrive late as this disturbs the students and the announcements. The bell can be heard throughout the school when this happens, and the announcements cannot be heard. It is also a sign of respect that we do not move during the anthem and the prayers. We will open the door for your child once announcements are done.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Please consider registering for School Cash Online. Details in the attached brochures. This is an easy way to pay for trips/donations, etc. The website to register is tcdsb.schoolcashonline.com

STOPPING/PARKING IN CHURCH PARKING LOT/LANEWAY

When dropping and picking up your child/children, please take the extra step of parking in a spot at the church parking lot to drop or pick up your child. Please do not just stop near the gate, let your child out to make his/her way to the gate by themselves and wait for your child to enter the gate. This causes a bit of a traffic jam and is a disruption to anyone trying to enter/exit the laneway.



We take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.