January brings with it the beginning of a new calendar year and the hopeful resolutions of change or the promise of attempting to better oneself. There are as well many noble causes that are in need and typically can benefit by our encouragement and assistance. We don’t assist others to be recognized individually for the generosity we provide but we help others because we know it is the righteous thing to do. When we help others as a willing giver then we are becoming more like Jesus. As we grow into the image of Christ, our generosity will also grow the more we become like Him. So too our generosities of the Christmas spirit extend into the new year. We help others and give of ourselves to our friends, our children, our students and to our full community. Everyone benefits by our positive sense of helping others which in turn fuels more reciprocal giving and goodwill on the part of others to ourselves.

Clothe yourself in kindness, humility and patience.

Colossians 13
Monthly Update from the Board
January 2017

Long Term Accommodation and Program Plan
TCDSB wants to hear from parents, students, staff and Catholic stakeholders about the proposed LTAP and LTPP. The survey deadline has been extended to January 13, 2017. For detailed information and links to the online surveys, see: https://www.tcdsb.org/board/planningandfacilities/consultationsltapltp/pages/default.aspx

Important Reminders:

University Application Deadline is January 11, 2017 https://www.ouac.on.ca/deadlines/
Community College Application Deadline is February 1, 2017 http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/apply/important-dates
OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program https://www.ontario.ca/page/osap-ontario-student-assistance-program
You can get grants and loans to help you pay for university or college when you qualify for OSAP.

Night School Registration Begins January 12, 2017 https://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2017/Documents/NS-Sem2-2017%20FINAL.pdf for credit courses and EClass. EClass drop in support is available daily between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on February 15th, 21st, 22nd, 27th and 28th at the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East. www.tcdsb.org/eClass

Kindergarten Registration Begins
January 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
Apply online at soar.tcdsb.org
Imagine the Possibilities
Info: https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/Kindergarten/KindergartenRegistration/Pages/default.aspx
For information about French Immersion and Extended French: https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/French/Pages/default.aspx

French Immersion and Extended French
The Toronto Catholic District School Board offers French Immersion and Extended French programs at several TCDSB sites. The French Immersion program is offered to students beginning in Junior Kindergarten. The Extended French Program is offered to students beginning in grade 5.
Interested parents are encouraged to attend an information evening to learn more about the program. Please note dates, times and locations for sessions planned for January through to March available on the French Immersion and Extended French sites. Information: (416) 222-8282 ext. 2540 or https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/KindergartenRegistration/Pages/French-Immersion.aspx.

Friday, January 20th is a PA Day for Elementary Schools
No classes for elementary students on that day.

Audited Financial Statements
For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2016 http://www.tcdsb.org/board/financialstatement

Cold Alerts and Weather-Related Cancellations/Closures
Throughout the winter months, Twitter and the board website are the best sources of information relating to cold weather alerts, cancellations and closures. Get all the information here: https://www.tcdsb.org/
FORSTUDENTS/HealthandSafety/Pages/Cold-Weather-Alerts.aspx and here https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/HealthandSafety/Pages/Weather-Related-Safety-Concerns.aspx
And remember to check the Toronto Student Transportation Group website for any school bus delays throughout the year. http://www.torontoschoolbus.org/

Toronto Catholic District School Board is declaring **Friday, May 5, 2017 as Parish Family Day**.

His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins will be in attendance at the first board meeting in January (Thursday, January 12th) for a special presentation of the Proclamation.
The meeting is open to the public, and will be broadcast live via the board’s website at https://www.tcdsb.org/LiveAtTCDSB/Pages/Default.aspx.

A special **Parish Family Day Celebration** will be held at the Catholic Education Centre on **Friday, May 5th, 2017** to showcase student work focusing on the many ways that our parishes and our parish priests contribute to our schools and communities.

Students are invited to create a short video, or piece of original artwork, write a short story, poem or letter, or express themselves in any way artistically to highlight the relationship that the students have with the local parish and/or the priest/pastor at their church.

**Completed projects should be submitted via email to parish.project@tcdsb.org.**

**Deadline for submissions Friday, April 7, 2017.**

Please visit the website for criteria and other details. https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearoftheParish/Pages/Parish-Family-Day-Celebration.aspx
You are invited to view and share this short video clip in anticipation of our board-wide Parish Family Day Celebration. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-9COag552o

**TCDSB AWARDS NIGHT IS MAY 1, 2017 – NOMINATIONS WELCOME**
Nominate a member of the TCDSB family for our annual awards:

**Ashif Jaffer Award for Excellence in Special Education Support**
Recognizes a Toronto Catholic District School Board teacher, education assistant, peer tutor/helper or volunteer who has demonstrated excellence in the support of Special Education. The award is in the form of a commemorative plaque. **Deadline: February 17, 2017.**

**Sister Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students**
Named after Sister Mary Hamilton, a former TCDSB principal and resource person who had a very special ministry to exceptional students, the award (in the form of a bursary and a framed certificate) is to recognize personal achievement or contribution to the lives of others. **Deadline: February 24, 2017.**

For more information on TCDSB awards, including nomination forms or for a list of past recipients, visit www.tcdsb.org/awardsnight
**January 2017 Schedule of Board and Committee Meetings**

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<tr>
<th>January 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Student Achievement and Well Being</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Catholic Parent Involvement Committee</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>Governance and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td>Board</td>
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<td>January 30</td>
<td>(OAPCE) Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education, Toronto</td>
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**Other Upcoming Events to Note:**

- **World Day of Peace, January 1st.** "Nonviolence: A style of politics for peace" is the theme Pope Francis has chosen.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is January 16, 2017
- **Family Literacy Day** is January 27, 2017
- Canada has declared January as **Tamil Heritage Month** [https://garyanand.liberal.ca/news-nouvelles/canadian-parliament-adopts-tamil-heritage-month/](https://garyanand.liberal.ca/news-nouvelles/canadian-parliament-adopts-tamil-heritage-month/)

**Message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board**

As we look forward to the celebration of Christmas and the coming of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, it’s a time for us to rejoice and reflect on the many blessings Our Lord has bestowed upon us. Christmas allows us the opportunity to rekindle relationships with old friends and make new ones, and spend quality time with our loved ones sharing meals, exchanging gifts, decorating the tree, and singing and praying together.

As a Catholic Community, we are called to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and that Jesus offers the greatest of all gifts: His salvation.

We must also remember those for whom the joy of the season is diminished by loss, illness, loneliness or poverty. We are grateful for our schools and offices who have dedicated their time and effort to support some of these families through food drives, fundraisers and charitable donations. It is through these acts of charity and kindness that we are truly living God’s work.

During this Year of the Parish, let’s renew our connection with our local Church and take advantage of the many celebrations that will take place Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Let us work to be caring and giving members of our parish communities throughout the holidays and beyond, sharing our gifts with those around us, and let us use the remaining days of Advent to prepare our hearts for the spirit of Christmas.

We are pleased to share with you this video featuring many examples of Advent and Christmas celebrations that took place across the TCDSB: [https://youtu.be/lXDcQzJj0B4](https://youtu.be/lXDcQzJj0B4) and we look forward to the many more celebrations taking place throughout the week.
As this year comes to an end, we thank all the staff, students, families, parishes and supporters of Catholic education for the commitment and dedication that you have devoted to our school and parish communities. We look forward to welcoming 2017 with a continued focus on our shared priorities of Nurturing our Catholic Community, improving student achievement and building our capacity to lead and learn.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Senior Team, we wish you and your loved ones the peace of Christ at this very special time of year.

Sincerely,

Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education  

Angela Kennedy  
Chair of the Board

Once again our students of St. Bartholomew C.S. will be participating in three ice skating adventures at the Agincourt Recreation Centre during the months of January and February. Our CSPC parent committee will once again as in past years provide hot chocolate and cookies after the afternoon skating on each day.

Our school has been able to collect donated ice skates for boys and girls from those children who have outgrown their sized skate. Most of the available skates are for younger girls but there is a variety available for borrowing. If you might want to check out the available skates please come with your child on Tuesday, January 10 or Thursday, January 12 from 4:00 pm to 6:45 pm in the school gym.

The borrowed skates are available for the months of January and February. There is no cost to the borrowing simply return the skates to the school when you are finished.

Please remember as well that your child’s skates should be sharpened and that SKATING HELMETS ARE MANDATORY – no bike helmets please...SNOWPANTS, GLOVES, HATS, GLOVES and an EXTRA CHANGE OF CLOTHES SOCKS/PANTS is also recommended.

AGINCOURT RECREATION CENTRE – GLEN WATFORD ROAD north of Sheppard Avenue...south of Heather Road

Our skating dates are:

Wednesday January 18, 2017 1pm
Wednesday January 25, 2017 1pm
Wednesday February 1, 2017 1pm
Each session will be from approximately 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Parents are welcome to come to the rink to help tie skates and get the students ready for the rink and skate. If you intend to help please call the school office or let your child’s teacher know so that we can be aware of your arrival at the rink.

*** PARENT VOLUNTEERS PLEASE MEET US AT THE RINK ***
*** THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ***

Guidance Corner

I hope you and your families have had a peaceful Christmas season! January is a good time for students to reflect on goal-setting; looking at what they have already done well, and planning for what they would still like to accomplish by the end of the school year. In anticipation of the Term 1 report card, a focus on the Learning Skills continues to be encouraged for students of all grades. A few excellent websites to help your child develop self-regulation skills are: http://www.gonoodle.com, http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/shanker.pdf, http://www.cdd.unm.edu/ecspd/resources/pdfs/QualityChildcare/Resource%20Guide/SelfRegulationTipsandStrategies.pdf

Grade 8 students have been working with the AFTER8 guide to gather information about different aspects of high school such as: The Credit System, Course Types, Timetables and Special Programs. The more information students have before going to high school, the easier the transition becomes. Talk to your Gr. 8 child about their fears and anxieties that they are having about going to high school, and help them gather as much information as possible. Your Parent Transition Guide is filled with helpful information to answer many of your questions. Grade 8 students will spend some time reviewing the annual TCDSB Program and Course Calendars in January, in anticipation of receiving their high school acceptance letters early next month.

Many junior and intermediate Students have been engaged in activities at http://www.myblueprint.ca to complete their Individual Pathway Plans or to work on the e-portfolios in All About Me. Ask your child(ren) to show you what they have been doing on this highly interactive, education planning site. Primary children will soon have access to start their All About Me journey!

Intermediate students will be exploring strategies for managing stress using a resource called, "From Stressed Out to Chilled Out". Developing healthy strategies to handle stress and anxiety is an important life skill, helping students to become more resilient. More information on how parents can help their child manage stress can be found at: http://psychologyfoundation.org/Public/Public/Programs/Parenting_for_Life_/Parenting_for_Life.aspx

G. Vincent

Elementary Guidance Teacher/Counsellor

Area 7 & 8

Reminders

**Classes resume January 9, 2017**

**Kindergarten registration January 18, 2017 10:00 am**