March 2018

Principal’s Message

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, the Church began the Lenten journey with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. For centuries, Lent has been a spiritual journey and experience for the followers of Jesus Christ. For forty days Moses, Elijah and Jesus fasted and prayed to prepare themselves for a life’s work. Lent invites us to turn from our own selves, to come together in community. Self-denial is one way we express our repentance and our recognition of the needs of others. Self-denial is threefold, Matthew’s gospel advises us to pray in private, to fast and to give alms. “Keep your deeds of mercy secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.” Through the Lenten exercise of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we spring clean our lives, sharpen our senses, put tomorrow in its place and treasure the day at hand. Lent is a time for us to discover the reasons for the pious practices, disciplines and devotions of our Catholic Christian tradition. We regard a need to "share bread with the hungry and clothe the naked." Fasting creates authentic solidarity with millions of hungry people throughout the world but we must not forget that there are alternative forms of fasting. There is as well the fasting from condemning and dismissing others. We need Lent to help us recognize that our identity and mission are rooted in Jesus’ dying and rising. Prayer, almsgiving and fasting are the pillars of the Lenten journey for Christians. Lent is a time to fast from certain things and also a time to feast on others. Fast from discontent, anger, bitterness, self-concern, discouragement, suspicion, guilt. Feast on gratitude, patience, forgiveness, compassion for others, hope, truth, commitment and the mercy of God. Help others in need and you will feast in the rewards. Lent is a time of fasting and feasting.

... let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.
Monthly Update from the Board
March 2018

TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2018-2019 APPROVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of school days</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Professional Activity Days</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>September 3, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Instructional Day</td>
<td>September 4, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>October 8, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Break</td>
<td>December 24, 2018–January 4, 2019</td>
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<td>Start of second semester for secondary schools</td>
<td>February 4, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Day</td>
<td>February 18, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Winter Break</td>
<td>March 11–15, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 19, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>April 22, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Day</td>
<td>May 20, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of classes for elementary students</td>
<td>June 27, 2019</td>
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Seven (7) Professional Activity (PA) Days for ELEMENTARY schools:
  October 5, 2018 Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development
  November 16, 2018 Parent-Teacher Conferences
  December 7, 2018 Provincial Education Priorities
  January 18, 2019 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
  February 15, 2019 Parent-Teacher Conferences
  June 7, 2019 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
  June 28, 2019 Provincial Education Priorities

Seven (7) Professional Activity (PA) Days for SECONDARY schools:
  October 5, 2018
  November 16, 2018
  December 7, 2018
  February 15, 2019
  June 26, 27, 28, 2019
  - Three PA days devoted to Provincial Education Priorities and supporting Article 19 of the Collective Agreement.
  - One PA day devoted to Faith Development.
  - One PA day devoted to numeracy across the curriculum.
  - The remaining two PA days will be devoted to system priorities, annual learning plans and local goals articulated in the School Learning Improvement Plans.

*Secondary schools, in consultation with their Local School Staffing Advisory Committee, may schedule a Professional Activity Day to align with the day following one of the Parent-Teacher Interview nights.

Upcoming Board-wide Consultations

The Board is interested in your opinion and views. All TCDSB employees, Catholic Stakeholders, including parents, students and the general public are encouraged to participate in upcoming consultations the following issues. Further details and online surveys will be posted on the Board website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)
WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY (A.39)

The Board of Trustees has approved this new policy for consultation. This “Whistleblower” policy supports the TCDSB’s commitment to provide a framework for the disclosure and investigation of alleged wrongdoing. Any individual or employee in the TCDSB who has knowledge of an occurrence of a wrongdoing, or has reason to suspect that a wrongdoing has occurred, has the right and obligation to report the occurrence using the channels of reporting provided under the various policies, procedures, and collective agreements. Under the new policy, an individual or employee may choose to report the incident to a third party whistleblower hotline.

The new policy is committed to safeguarding the public interest and trust in public educations and sets out conditions to ensure those who make disclosures of such information are free to do so without reprisal or threat of reprisal.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR 2018-2019 TCDSB BUDGET

The Board’s annual budget consultation process will begin at the end of March 2018. The public consultation is an important planning tool to ensure the development of an effective and balanced budget that supports the academic achievement of our students.

Under the Education Act (Section 232), the Board is required to prepare and submit a budget to the Ministry of Education outlining estimates of its revenues and expenses for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year by end of June 2018. Stay tuned for more details and information on our school and Board website.

Let’s Help Catholic Charities by Supporting ShareLife

Last year, as our pastoral plan called us to celebrate the “Year of the Parish”, our students, staff and their families across the Board were able to increase TCDSB’s participation from 20% of our schools supporting ShareLife to 85% participation. Thank you! This short video here highlights the impact our board has had in our local community.

2017-18 marks the "Year of School." It is an opportunity to celebrate our school communities and to celebrate in the lives of our students. Catholic education is built on the partnership among our families, parishes and schools, and during the Year of the School we will truly celebrate that foundation. During this Lenten season, and throughout the coming months, we invite our staff and our school communities to once again consider supporting the important work of ShareLife as it continues to “work wonders” in our own community and around the world.

ShareLife’s mission is to “Live the Gospel by providing for those in need” This is done through their support of many diverse Catholic social service agencies here in the GTA and beyond.

This year, ShareLife Week will be celebrated the week of March 18-23. As we did last year, we invite everyone to participate in a Board-wide Civvies Day on Friday, March 23, 2018 to raise funds for the ShareLife campaign. Your donation of a loonie or a toonie will go a long way to supporting youth, the elderly, the marginalized and the vulnerable.

We thank everyone in the TCDSB community for all that they do throughout the year to help others—giving of their time and their resources to make a difference. We applaud those efforts, and take great pride in the commitment to living our Catholic values and putting faith into action.

Important Information for Parents:

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Applications Now Open

Opportunity for Catholic School Parent Councils to receive funds to support parent engagement projects. Details online: https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/CSPC/Pages/pro-grant.aspx
CPIC/OAPCE Parent Summit—Mark Your Calendars
Helping Parents Get to Know
Saturday, May 5th, 2018 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
At the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

Ministry of Education Consultation: A New Vision for Student Transportation
Consultation for families relying on school bus transportation is open until March 29, 2018

Important Information for Students:

Focus on Youth—Summer Employment Opportunity
Application Deadline: March 8, 2018
https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/FocusOnYouth/pages/employmentapplication.aspx

Student Job Fair
May 2, 2018
Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Road, North York
Work Connections . . . Be the One . . . Get Hired
Looking for work? Taking a gap year? Finishing school?
https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/Job-Fair.aspx

Applying for College/University?

Mental Health Newsletter for March
Featuring “Mental Health Benefits of Prayer” and “Making Room for Our Negative Feelings Can Actually Make Us Happier” and more.

Produced by the TCDSB Mental Health Department.
https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/mhs/newsletters/March%20Mental%20Health%20newsletter%202018.pdf

Mr. Steve Camacho Appointed Chief Information Officer

TCDSB is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Steve Camacho to the position of Chief Information Officer for the Toronto Catholic District School Board, effective March 19, 2018.

Mr. Camacho brings a wealth of knowledge to the Board’s newly created Chief Information Officer portfolio that features over a decade of Information Technology and Infrastructure management experience. Most recently, he was the Director of Technology Services for the Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning at Humber College, overseeing multiple large-scale projects that included leading a province-wide technology sourcing initiative, the amalgamation of on-site support teams, and the installation of new IT networks and upgrades across the College.
**Important Dates to Note:**

March is Celtic Canadian Heritage Month  
March 3—Lift Jesus Higher Rally  
March 5—Education Support Staff Appreciation Day  
March 8—International Women’s Day  
March 12-16—March Break  
March 21—International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
March 21—World Down Syndrome Day  
March 22—World Water Day  
March 23—Earth Hour (schools)  
March 24—Earth Hour 8:30-9:30 PM  
March 30—Good Friday  
April 1—Easter Sunday  
April 2—Easter Monday  
April 2—World Autism Awareness Day

**Coming Soon:**

**Angel Brigade Week Introduces New Event!**

The Angel Foundation is busily preparing for Angel Brigade Week from April 16-20. This is a week set aside to educate, celebrate and instate the important work this foundation does. This year we are introducing a new event, The Angel Foundation for Learning Bowl-A-Thon on April 21st. The entire TCDSB community - students, staff, families and friends are invited to come out to celebrate and support our students. Lots of surprises to be announced but space is limited so get your teams together and register! More information can be found at: [www.angelfoundationforlearning.org/bowlathon/](http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org/bowlathon/).

**Autism Awareness Evening**

**April 8, 2018 6:30-9:00 p.m. at** the Catholic Education Centre  
Featuring Aspie Comedian Michael McCreary

[https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/Autism/autismawareness/Pages/2018-events.aspx](https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/Autism/autismawareness/Pages/2018-events.aspx)

**Guidance Corner**

With the virtue of March being Forgiveness, you can help your children to continue to develop positive relationship skills. Using good manners, being respectful to peers, showing empathy, apologizing when necessary and resolving conflicts peacefully, go a long way in building healthy relationships with others. Some helpful websites are listed here:

[https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-encourage-good-sibling-relationships-620105](https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-encourage-good-sibling-relationships-620105)  
High School registration nights are currently taking place for Grade 8 students. Please check the admission package that your child received to confirm dates and times. Signing your child up for the Summer credit course is highly recommended. There are also a number of other forms that are required to be handed in on registration night, along with school fees.

Skills Ontario will be visiting all my schools at the end of March and beginning of April, to help build an awareness of the Skilled Trades and Technologies in Ontario. There are over 150 highly skilled jobs across the province that require an apprenticeship training, and many skilled trades will be looking to build their workforce in the coming years. It is important to remember that all types of work are valuable and work in the Skilled Trades and Technologies, can lead to a successful and rewarding career.

http://www.skillsontario.com/

G. Vincent
Elementary Guidance Teacher/Counsellor
Area 7 & 8

Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year began January 17th at 10am. Please register for Junior Kindergarten at soar.tcdsb.org if you have a child born in 2014.

Lake St. George was a great trip with many new experiences.

I enjoyed all of the outdoor activities, like the nighttime scavenger hunts, building shelters and hikes around the lake. It was great to spend time outdoors, as I normally would not at home. Without all of my everyday distractions, I noticed my surroundings more.

I also liked that I was able to spend quality time with my friends and classmates. We played ping-pong, cards and did lots of team building activities.

The one thing I would say that Lake St. George could improve on would be the accommodations. The rooms were very small and the mattresses were very uncomfortable.

Overall, Lake St. George was a memorable trip filled with fun times and adventures.

Sofia

Lake St. George was an amazing experience as my first overnight trip. The food was so great, the games were fun and were based on the histo-
ry of the place and property surrounding us. Of course without the staff, we would not have had a great time. I learned so much and would recommend this trip to the younger grades.

At Davies Hall (Dining Hall), we completed the “Zero Waste Challenge”, for all 4 days, meaning, we did not waste any food from our meals. We stayed at Snively House, named after Mr. and Mrs. Snively, who lived at Lake St. George a long time ago. We played many activities, including games where we had to hole punch papers, after finding locations on the map. One version of that game that we played the first night, was super scary, considering we were still getting used to the property and it was very late at night. We learned how to use compasses and how to read maps, as well as, how to take really cool artsy photos of nature, including techniques as, “rule of third’s, colour and natural framing.” These were just a few of the amazing moments we had. I would definitely go back and also recommend it to others.

Sofia

The good thing about the Lake St. George trip is that we lived new experiences and learned a lot of new things like making a bonfire, using a compass and more, also the walks. Even the landscapes were so beautiful that it looked like a forest and that’s what I liked being in touch with nature.

I did not like that the rooms are very small.

Natali

This February the grade 5-8 classes were fortunate enough to join St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School on a four day trip to Lake St. George. The trip was amazing for the students as we were able to bond in a very different way than we do at school, not only with our classmates and teachers, but with the other school as well. The daily activities took place mainly outdoors and were led by awesome instructors, who were friendly and a ton of fun. We participated in a lot of team building activities that helped us learn to work together, including scavenger hunts, photo orienteering, nature photography, couers de bois and so much more. My personal favourite was the nature photography because I was able to pause and view the beauty of nature that we sometimes take for granted. The activities helped us better understand how newcomers used to live on this land. We learned the history of Lake St. George during the Legends of Lake St. George stories; the stores were so scary and so much fun. Watching movies, playing cards and having bon fires made the nights something to look forward to. I am so grateful to have been part of this amazing trip and the memories will last a lifetime. I loved Lake St. George.

Olivia