



ST. BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

OCTOBER 2020

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www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)

93	9:00 3:30	11:45- 12:45
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ENROLLMENT HOURS OF OPERATION LUNCH HOUR



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:

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Bartholomew Family,

The Virtue of the Month for October is Gratitude. Whenever we gather as a Catholic community to celebrate the Eucharist, meaning thanksgiving, we give praise, glory and thanks to God for the Lord's holy and living sacrifice, and all of creation. As we prepare for the celebration of Thanksgiving, we are urged to take time to remember our blessings and give thanks for all of God's gifts.

The October 2020 Virtue Calendar offers various reflections to manifest the virtue of gratitude in our daily lives. We have also included an attachment entitled "Liturgy of the Word-Virtue of Gratitude." We invite you to share this liturgy with your family during the month of October to further instill the Catholic virtue of gratitude within your home.

October also brings National Custodial Workers Recognition Day, World Teachers' Day, and Early Childhood Educator and Childcare Worker Appreciation Day. This month the TCDSB acknowledges these staff members for inspiring our students to achieve our Catholic School Graduate Expectations through academic excellence and our Catholic faith in action. Thank you to our custodians, teachers and early childhood educators!

Thank you to all for a great start to the year, and for your patience and flexibility as we implemented new health and safety protocols and routines. Our St. Bartholomew family is united as ever, and we are thankful for all of our families. As our pastoral plan highlights, "We All Belong" to the Body of Christ and to one another.

On behalf of the staff at St. Bartholomew, we wish you all a restful and blessed Thanksgiving.

Serving you in Catholic education,

Mary Catherine Badali
Principal

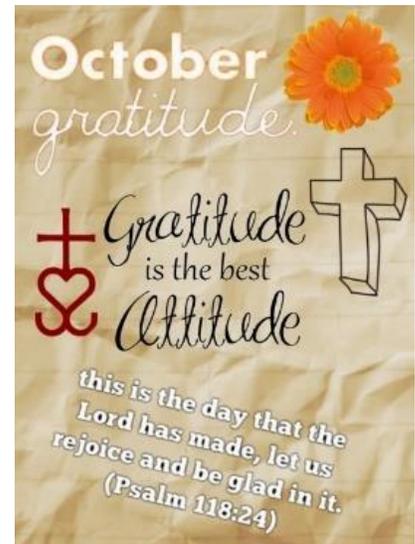


Virtue of the Month for October - Gratitude

October's virtue is **Gratitude**. It is no coincidence that we will be celebrating Thanksgiving in just a few days. Karen O'Leary said, "...it is a grateful heart that sees the blessings in each new day. It is the peaceful heart that reviews the past without feeling the guilt. It is the inspired heart that looks to the future with anticipation and hope. It is the faith-filled heart that lights up the world by blending the three." Let us continue to remind our children of the many ways we can give thanks in a day.

Proven benefits of being grateful:

- Gratitude opens the door to more fulfilling relationships
- Gratitude improves physical health
- Gratitude improves psychological health
- Gratitude enhances empathy and reduces aggression
- Grateful people sleep better
- Gratitude increases mental strength



Virtue of the Month Award

The Virtue of the Month Award is to recognize students' positive characteristics and actions towards other students, staff and parents in our school community. The Virtue of the Month for September was **HOSPITALITY**. We would like to congratulate the following students who were chosen as recipients of the Virtue of the Month Award for September:

ELKP	Amara
Grade 1/2	Vitus
Grade 3/4	Anthony
Grade 5/6	Kristine
Grade 7/8	Morgen



Sacramental Preparation & Sacramental Celebrations

Sacramental preparation and sacramental celebrations will continue to be the responsibility of the Parish where the student/family is registered. If you have a child that is of age to receive a sacrament, please contact your Parish. Families attending St. Bartholomew Catholic School who wish their child to prepare and receive the sacraments at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, must register as parishioners and attend mass at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church. Furthermore, families must be registered at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church to ensure communication is received about the timelines and dates for sacramental preparation and celebrations. Information regarding preparation for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation for this year will follow. A date has yet to be determined for Confirmation for students who prepared for Confirmation last year.

Liturgy of the Word

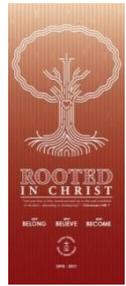


In lieu of school masses, Father Serrano will share a Liturgy of the Word with staff and students over the P.A. System on the following dates: October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6. Dates for February and onwards will be determined at a later date. Please see Father Serrano's Thanksgiving message attached to this newsletter.

3-Year TCDSB Pastoral Plan 2018-2021:

Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become

Inspired by St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, "Live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith...abounding in thanksgiving", our pastoral plan strengthens our sense of belonging to God and one another, expresses our belief in God through our vision and mission, and works to achieve our goals as people on a common mission. This year our focus will be "Rooted in Christ: we Become."



Staffing

We would like to welcome one new staff member to the St. Bartholomew Catholic School Learning Community:

Ms. Wright Grade 3/4 Long Term Occasional Teacher until June 2021

Ms. Wright brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her new position. Ms. Wright requires the use of a trained service dog—a hypoallergenic Havanese named Kailey. To ensure the health and safety of everyone involved, general safety tips and appropriate behavior expectations concerning service animals have been reviewed with the students. Ms. Garcia continues to teach at the Virtual School and will now be working from home effective immediately.

School Hours



Start of School Day:	9:00 a.m.
Morning Recess:	10:42 a.m. to 10:57 a.m.
Lunch Hour:	11:45 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Afternoon Recess:	2:10 p.m. to 2:25 p.m.
Dismissal:	3:30 p.m.

The school office is opened from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. An automated answering system is available for messages 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Messages can be left on voice mail if calling outside of school hours.

School Learning Plan

We continue our School Learning Plan with a focus on Mathematics in the area of critical thinking while problem solving. We will begin to implement the new Ontario Math Curriculum which will support our continued work with our School Learning Plan.



Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) AGM & Elections



The CSPC Annual General Meeting/Elections will be held on Monday, October 5 at 6:30pm on Zoom. The meeting agenda and Zoom link will be sent to all parents on Friday, October 2. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the CSPC, whether as one of the Executive positions (Chair/CoChair, Secretary, Treasurer) or as a Member at Large, is invited to complete a self-nomination form or have another parent complete a nomination form. Preliminary ideas for school events and initiatives will be discussed after elections. Nomination forms are attached to the newsletter. If you need a paper copy of the nomination forms, please contact the office. Please submit completed nomination forms to the office as soon as possible. Please consider joining the CSPC! Be part of a vibrant group of parents who seek to enrich the overall experience of all our students within the school. Let us all work together to further enhance our wonderful school, and that of our children and families within our journey of faith and learning. If you have any questions regarding the CSPC, please contact the school or send the parent council an email: charmaine.vonvulte@hotmail.com. All CSPC meetings will take place on Zoom until further notice. We look forward to seeing everyone on October 5.

Water Bottle Filling Station and Handwashing Station

Many thanks to the CSPC for purchasing a water bottle filling station for the school. Once received in approximately eight weeks, the water bottle filling station will be installed on the first floor near the Girls Washroom. We also wish to thank the TCDSB for providing a handwashing station for the second floor.



Virtual Curriculum Night

We will hold a Virtual Curriculum Night on Tuesday, October 20 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. We will begin with a 15-minute presentation on Zoom facilitated by Ms. Badali, followed by teacher presentations on Google Meet within your child's Google Classroom. More information and specific instructions will follow the week of October 12.



Secondary School Applications & Open Houses

Secondary School Applications will become available on Thursday, October 8 at secsoar.tcdsb.org. Applications are due no later than Thursday, October 29. Further communication will be sent home the week of October 5.

All Toronto Catholic District School Board secondary schools welcome grade 8 students and their families to open houses each fall. This is an opportunity to meet some of the staff, check out school facilities and learn more about the various programs, services and activities as you prepare for Catholic secondary school education. A complete schedule will be communicated as soon as it is received.



School Guidance Update



Welcome back to a new school year! My name is Mrs. Ricetto, your school's new elementary guidance counsellor. I am pleased to support your school community this school year. We are currently in communication with the Admissions office regarding high school applications. Dates will be established as soon as they are made available. I am available to support your child's social-emotional learning. If you have an urgent request for Guidance support, please contact the school principal for further direction. I am in the process of determining the Guidance scheduling and programming needs for all my current school communities, your patience is appreciated. I look forward to working together with students, school staff and parents, and I wish you all the best this upcoming year.

School Gear Now Available!

Our CSPC has begun to sell school gear through Hunter's Sports. With Hunter's Sports, school gear can be ordered throughout the school year. A percentage of each purchase will be donated back to the school. Ordered items can be shipped directly to your home or if you place an order by October 16, it will be delivered to the school. Purchases can be sent home with your child or we will call you to arrange for pickup. Please note that school gear is Dress Code compliant. Thank you for your support. Please see attached flyer for further details. Virtual School families are also welcome to purchase items. Happy shopping!



School Photo Day with Lifetouch

School Photo Day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14. Students must be in Dress Code for Photo Day. Only individual student photos will be taken. **Virtual students are also welcome to have their photo taken on Wednesday, October 14 between 9:30am and 10:30am- please call the school to make an appointment and screen your child for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at the school.** Lifetouch safety protocols include enhanced cleaning, no-contact posing and social distancing, pre-session health check for employees, safety training and masks. Due to COVID-19 protocols, a class photo will not be taken. An alternative to a class photo is being explored. Please see the attached flyer for more information. In addition, you are invited to view Lifetouch's Picture Day Safety video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LevtvXI9I2Q>



Dress Down Days



Thank you for supporting our Orange Shirt Day. It was a great success! We will continue to hold various Dress Down Days throughout the school year. On these days, students may wear appropriate, non-Dress Code clothes to school. There may be special themed Dress Down Days as well, for example, Red Shirt Day, Red/White/Green Day etc. Students are encouraged to donate \$1 for each Dress Down Day. All funds collected will be given to our CSPC to support school initiatives. There will be one Dress Down Day in October-Friday, October 16.

Halloween at School

Students may wear a Halloween costume to school on Friday, October 30. There is no charge to wear a costume. Students must wear a cloth or non-surgical mask on this day. Weapon-like accessories are not permitted. Please do not send any treats to school.



Nutrition Program

Many thanks to Ms. Dadlani for continuing to be our Nutrition Program Coordinator. The Nutrition Program will begin on Monday, October 5. Each student will receive a snack before morning recess. Due to COVID-19 protocols, all food provided will be "grab and go" only.

Student Forms



A number of student information forms were sent home the week of September 21 for review and completion. Please return these forms to your child's teacher by Friday, October 2.

Students, Staff and Essential Personnel Only

Due to COVID-19 protocols, only TCDSB staff, students and essential personnel are permitted into the school building and on school grounds. Should you wish to speak with a staff member, kindly call the school to make a phone appointment.

SchoolMessenger

The TCDSB uses the **SchoolMessenger** system for parental outreach, emergency broadcasts, and other electronic communications. **SchoolMessenger** enables each school to communicate with families using an automated system to phone and send emails to parents. **We will use the email contact information on file to send messages to you exclusively via SchoolMessenger beginning Thursday, October 1, 2020.** If your contact information has changed, please advise the school as soon as possible. The SchoolMessenger system will replace emails we send via Ms. Fernandes' TCDSB email address. You can also download the **SchoolMessenger Mobile App** to receive messages (available on Apple App store or Google Play store).



Attendance and Punctuality

Regular school attendance and punctuality are important for student success. Children should be kept home only when they are ill. Appointments, whenever possible, should be arranged outside of school hours. The bell rings promptly at 9:00 am for the start of the day. Being on time for the start of class is important. Your child should be in the school yard by this time so that s/he can assemble with her/his peers and be involved in all activities from the beginning of class.



SafeArrival Program

Please report any absences or lates using any of these convenient methods, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

- Call: 1-833-251-3286 (toll-free)
- Online: go.schoolmessenger.ca
- **SchoolMessenger Mobile App** (available on Apple App store or Google Play store)



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 associated with your child's student record. When a child's absence is not reported, the School Messenger automated notification system will contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted to the absence. If the SchoolMessenger system is unable to reach a parent/guardian, the office staff will follow up. We strongly encourage you to use this new system; however, parents/guardians will still have the option of calling the office at (416) 393-5334. Please continue to make sure that all students who arrive late check in at the front office.

School Buses & Safe Departure Program



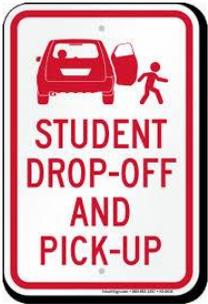
Thank you to everyone for your patience and flexibility with our school buses. We will continue to implement a "Safe Departure" program at St. Bartholomew. Attendance will be taken on each bus prior to departure at the end of the school day. Please note that if your child is registered to ride the school bus, s/he must ride the bus daily. **Should your child not be taking the bus on a particular day, please write a note to your child's teacher or contact the office no later than 2pm.** This will allow us to accurately update our bus attendance prior to bus departure. Furthermore, students are only permitted to ride the bus for which they are registered. Delays in bus service are beyond our control. For the most updated information regarding bus delays, you are invited to access the transportation portal at: www.torontoschoolbus.org and select the "Parents" link in the top right hand corner of the page. You can create an account, look up your child's specific transportation information and subscribe to the late bus notification. Please note masks are required on the bus.

Anaphylaxis Alert

We would like to inform you that we are an **allergen aware school**. There are students in attendance who suffer from severe and life-threatening allergies to certain foods such as **peanuts and nut products**. **Anaphylaxis is a severe and life-threatening allergic reaction**. Please refrain from sending any lunches or snacks that may contain peanuts or nut products, including Nutella. Please remind your children not to share food in the classroom. As well, please check prepared foods for traces of peanut oil or nut products. These items could potentially harm a child. We thank everyone for being diligent in following this request. We must maintain a safe environment for our students. Since all our students share the school building space in their daily activities, we need to take precautions to minimize any cross-contamination issues.



Drop-Off and Pick-Up



Parents/guardians may only use the St. Bartholomew Catholic Church parking lot for drop-off and pick-up before, during and after school. We are grateful for this privilege and we thank Father Serrano. Please park in the designated parking spaces in the centre area of the Church parking lot behind the Church and walk your child(ren) over to the gate. **Please refrain from parking along the Church fence or along the Church building.** Please respect physical distancing protocols in the Church parking lot and along the fence area. Once you drop-off or pick-up your child, please step away from the fence, return to your car and exit the Church parking lot. Supervision in our school yard begins at 8:40am-a staff member will be at the gate to greet you and your child(ren). Please do not drop-off your child(ren) prior to 8:40am. Due to COVID-19 protocols, parents/guardians are not permitted in the school yard or in the school building.

At the end of the school day, students in Kindergarten to Grade 4 being picked up will be escorted to the Church parking lot gate for pick-up; students in Grades 5-8 will make their way to the gate following dismissal. Should you need to drop off your child after 9:00am or pick up before 3:30pm, kindly call the office when you arrive in the Church parking lot and proceed to the front doors of the school. A staff member will greet you at the front doors of the school or escort your child(ren) to the front doors of the school. On inclement weather days (rainy days, extreme cold), students will enter the school yard from the Church parking lot and proceed directly to the East Doors of the school for screening and then proceed directly to their classroom. A staff member will be at the Church parking lot gate for assistance.

Please do not use the staff parking lot, walkway or Heather Road for drop off or pickup. Use of these areas creates safety concerns for everyone. We thank you for your support.

Dress Code

All students are expected to come to school daily appropriately dressed, and in a manner that reflects the aims and atmosphere of a Catholic school. St. Bartholomew School has a **NAVY BLUE AND WHITE DRESS CODE**, which consists of the following: a solid navy blue bottom (pant, skirt, shorts, dress); a plain white or navy blue shirt or top; and a white or navy blue sweater or pullover. School gear is considered Dress Code. Some examples of items not permitted are: leggings or tights unless worn under a skirt or dress (blue tights only), lycra pants, spaghetti strap or tank tops, lace tops, jeans/denim material, white pants, black pants, pants with stripes in any colour and short-shorts.

Lunch Routines

Please refrain from bringing student lunches to school after 9am. Please ensure your child has packed a lunch prior to leaving home. Students are only permitted to leave the school building for lunch if they **accompanied by a parent/guardian**. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms prior to returning to school at 12:45pm. Please provide your child with a note or write a note in their agenda book indicating they will be going home for lunch.

Registration for New Students 2020-2021

Registration applications for new students wishing to attend Kindergarten to Grade 8 this year are to be submitted using the following website:

<https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>

Outdoor Play



Outdoor activity is a regular part of each school day. If there are rainy conditions/extreme cold, outdoor activity will be limited or curtailed. Children need to be dressed and prepared for some outdoor activity each day. Dressing in layers is a good practice given variable weather conditions. Hats and sunscreen are strongly recommended throughout the year. **Please identify your child's clothing so that it can be returned should it become lost.** To support COVID-19 protocols, each class will be given a designated area of school yard to play in. Staff will be monitoring these spaces to ensure the safety of your children. Students may take off their masks while outdoors; however, physical distancing protocols must be followed while outdoors. **Until further notice, students are not permitted to bring sports/play equipment or toys to school.**

Student Injuries

Children sometimes get accidentally injured at school. We do our best to make our students comfortable and staff trained in first aid will attend to injuries. In most cases, parents will be informed of a minor injury through the agenda or through a phone call. If a child has an injury that is more severe, parents will be notified by telephone immediately. Please ensure that home, work and emergency numbers are up to date.

School Cash Online

St. Bartholomew has implemented the School Cash Online system. Please see the attachment in our newsletter attachments for registration information. School Cash Online is an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents and guardians to pay for their children's school activities. Families can still pay by cheque or cash for school activities; however, cheque is the preferred option to help minimize cash in the school. You may also refer to the TCDSB School Cash Online website for more information:



<https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/schoolcashionline/pages/default.aspx>

Student Personal Devices



Any type of technology/personal communication device (iPad, laptop, cell phone) is to be used only with teacher permission for instructional purposes and under direct adult supervision. Otherwise, all technology/personal communication devices must be powered off and stored out of view throughout the school day. Students and parents are reminded that in the case of an emergency, the office phones are always available. Due to COVID-19 protocols, students are not permitted to share any personal devices.

Progressive Discipline

When inappropriate behaviours occur, disciplinary measures are applied within a framework that is corrective, supportive and restorative. The school will utilize a range of interventions, supports and consequences that include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour. Utilizing the progressive discipline approach represents an opportunity to tailor solutions based on individual student need, her/his circumstances, and the nature and severity of the behaviour. On most occasions, parents will be notified.

Inclement Weather

School closures due to inclement weather will be reported through news releases to all media outlets in Toronto, through the Board's 24-hour information line at 416-222-8282 (ext. 2873), Twitter @TCDSB and www.tcdsb.org.

St. Bartholomew on Twitter



St. Bartholomew is now on Twitter. You are invited to follow us at our Twitter handle:
@StBartholomewCS



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2020 - 2021

Wards

- | | |
|--|--------------|
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| 3. Ida Li Preti | 416-512-3403 |
| 4. Teresa Lubinski | 416-512-3404 |
| 5. Maria Rizzo | 416-512-3405 |
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