Join **Art in Action at St. Cecilia** for our next art adventure and make a new project each week. Create a winter forest scene at sunrise, a river illuminated by a street light in the snow, a rose for Valentine's Day, winter Arctic glaciers, a sleeping dragon and more!

Inspired by famous artists our program has an art history component as well as the tactile experience of working with a variety of art materials including watercolours, acrylics, collage materials, oil pastels, chalk pastels and more. This art enrichment program is geared for success with approachable step-by-step projects.

Wednesday's after school, Jan 16 - Mar 6

To register please go to [artinactiontoronto.com](http://artinactiontoronto.com). Questions? Please email us at [artinactiontoronto@gmail.com](mailto:artinactiontoronto@gmail.com)

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**Choir at Legislative Assembly**

Below is a link to our grade 4-8 choir member's performance last Monday at the Legislative Assembly.

Also, a very short clip of us was featured at the end of CBC Toronto's News on December 3. Click the link below and go to the last 30 seconds of the hour.

[https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1387691587845](https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1387691587845)
St. Cecilia Choir Performs for St. Paul's Christmas Concert

A small but mighty group of students from our school choir sang at the annual St. Paul of the Apostle Christmas concert on Friday December 14. The students sang Silent Night and Deck the Halls for their last event of the season. Some students were also selected to play some percussion instruments with the local community band who also performed at the concert. Thank you to our dedicated choir members and families!

Hard Surfaced Balls

In order to ensure student and staff safety during the recess periods all hard surfaced ball will be replaced with foam/sponge balls. All classes have received a soccer ball, basketball, volleyball and football. Primary classes have access to a playground bin that contains additional items for student use outside. The limited playground space and the number of students engaged in various activities make the use of soft balls a safer option while supporting active play during outdoor play.
We thank our kindergarten team:

Mlle Padovani,
Ms Valerio
Mlle. Bubienczyk
Ms Da Silva
Mr Villa
Mme Pazio
Mrs. Fox
Ms Aguayo

Special thanks to Mme Spalding for working with teachers and students.
We thank all parents for attending the kindergarten Christmas performance and for your great reviews!!!!
On Thursday, December 6th, four students went to St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School for the Cardboard Boat Competition. Jace, Nylah, Noah, and Grace strategically built a boat out of cardboard and actively problem-solved throughout the building process. Well done!

Thanks to Mme. Faion-Kralik and Mr. La Gamba for providing students this great experience!
Kindergarten Registration at St Cecilia Begins January 16, 2019

Junior Kindergarten provides children with a variety of learning experiences in a caring, faith based environment. Students develop a positive attitude about themselves and others, become more independent and responsible, develop self-regulation skills and appropriate social skills, and solve problems.

We look forward to welcoming new students for September 2019. Registration for kindergarten begins Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 10 a.m. EST.

Registration options:

Online:
Parents can complete their application online beginning at 10 a.m. EST on January 16, 2019, at SOAR.tcdsb.org, and follow up with an appointment to visit the school to present the required documents. The online application is available 24 hours. To ensure equity in the registration process school walk-ins will be redirected to the SOAR website to register. Computer access is also available at all Public Libraries. Once you have received a date/time stamp you can complete the application at any time. Print this information for future reference.

At the School on January 18th from 9:00-2:00pm with the required documents. Appointments must be made on-line to verify your documentation.

Registration documents:

- Child’s Birth Certificate or Passport/Immigration documents if child was not born in Canada
- Child's Catholic baptismal certificate (or proof of Catholicity of parent)
- Proof of residency in Toronto (some examples: a lease agreement, utility bill)
- Immunization Record

Please contact the school if you require further information 416 393-5218, or visit www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration

If you have children currently attending St. Cecilia with siblings that will be entering kindergarten in September, you are asked to inform the office so a place can be reserved for your child.
Safe Arrival

December 19, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At St. Cecilia, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are in the process of introducing a new, more efficient student absence reporting feature called SafeArrival. Your child's school is one of the first schools in the Toronto Catholic District School Board selected to implement this new system starting on January 7, 2019. SafeArrival feature is a within the SchoolMessenger App. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, making it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unreported student absences.

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these three convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at https://go.schoolmessenger.com). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, https://go.schoolmessenger.com. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1 (833) 251-3286 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. 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.

In addition, we will use the SchoolMessenger as 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.

Starting January 7, 2019, please report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing.

Starting January 7, 2019, staff will be using the School Messenger automated notification system to let you know if your child is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).

If you have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools. This system will eventually be rolled out to all schools within the TCDSB.

Attached you will find a SafeArrival FAQ to provide you with more information and step-by-step instructions. Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any additional questions or concerns. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Additional Information about Data Collection

The TCDSB collects, uses and shares personal information for the purposes of planning, administering, and delivering its educational programs and services, and to ensure the safety of its pupils. The purpose of this use of personal information is to allow two-way electronic communication between your family and the school. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information for this purpose are expressly authorized under the authority of sections 58.5, 170(1) and 171(1) of the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E. 2. The information is retained in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M. 56. The information will be shared with authorized TCDSB staff and the School Messenger/Safe Arrivals software provider, West Communications, in order to administer the above purpose.

SafeArrival FAQ

What is SafeArrival?

SafeArrival is an absence management feature with School Messenger that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

You are asked to report your child's absence in advance whenever possible using one of these convenient methods:

SchoolMessenger app (free)

1. Provide your email address to the school.
2. Get the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at https://go.schoolmessenger.com).
3. Tap Sign Up to create your account.
4. Select Attendance from the menu, and then select Report an Absence.

Web and Mobile Web: go.schoolmessenger.com

1. Provide your email address to the school.
2. Go to the website.
3. Click Sign Up to create your account.

Interactive Toll-free Phone

1. Call the toll-free, interactive telephone system at 1 (833) 251-3286.
2. Follow the instructions to report an absence.

Absences can be reported in advance

- 24 hours/day
- 7 days a week
- For any school day in the school term

Up to the cut-off time on the day of the absence.

Whenever an absence is reported or updated, you will receive a confirmation notice by email and/or text message (assuming you have provided your contact information to the school).

If you don't report your child's absence in advance, the automated notification system will try to contact you (using the communication preferences if you have set them up in the SchoolMessenger app). This may include push notifications to the app, email, SMS text.
message, phone calls. You will be asked to provide the reason for your child's absence immediately. You may do so using the phone line, website or mobile app.

If an absence is not explained within approximately 20 minutes of the time that the school starts the notification process, school staff will follow-up to make sure that your child is safe. If you try to explain an absence using SafeArrival but are then told that it is past the cut-off time, please contact the school directly.

**If you don't want to receive notifications when your child is absent, be sure to report your child's absence in advance.**

**If you do receive notifications of your child's absence, be sure to provide the reason as quickly as possible, using one of the 3 methods listed above or during the phone call notification itself.**

**Why do I need a SchoolMessenger app account?**
A SchoolMessenger app account is not required to use the toll-free phone line to report absences. However, we strongly recommend that you provide your email address to the school and set up your SchoolMessenger app account. This allows you to review and update absences, review your contact information and communication preferences and more.

Please see related SchoolMessenger app documentation for setting up your account, resetting your password, reviewing contact information, and specifying communication preferences. Once you have set up your account, choose ATTENDANCE from the menu.

If you cannot set up your account, you do not see the ATTENDANCE option, or you do not see your child(ren) listed in your account, please contact the school directly to check that your correct email address is associated with your child (ren).

**How do I use the toll-free phone line?**
When you call the toll-free phone line, follow the instructions for reporting an absence.

If the phone number you are calling from matches a phone number on file with the school for your student(s), you will hear your student’s name(s). If the system doesn't recognize your caller ID, you will be asked to enter the student's home phone number.

If you have difficulty using the toll-free phone line, please consider using the School Messenger mobile app or website. Otherwise, contact the school directly.