

Saint Cecilia Catholic School

355 Annette Street
Toronto, Ontario, M6P 1R3
Phone# (416) 393-5218
Fax # (416) 397-6045

Principal: Nick Biagini
Vice-Principal: Heather Hickey

Superintendent: John Wujek
(416) 222-8282 x5371

Trustee: Barb Poplowski
(416) 512-3410

Parish: St. Cecilia C.S. 161 Annette
St. (416) 769-8163

CSPC Chairs:
Marisa Cicero, Olga Geryluk

CPIC (Parent Engagement-TCDSB)
www.tcdsb.org/cpic

OAPCE Toronto (Provincial Voice for
Parents)
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

Enrollment: 670
Hours of Operation: 8:30am -3:00pm
Lunch Hour: 11:15am -12:15pm



Principal's Message

Welcome back everyone to St. Cecilia! A special welcome to the new families, staff and parishioners who have joined our community. St. Cecilia Catholic School extends its warmest and best wishes to you! I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new teaching members-Mr. Brian Hunt will be replaced for this year by Ms.Neave McCann. Ms.Caitlin Reilly will be covering Ms.Kowalenko until the end of Dec.2016. Mr. Carmin Cianfarani will be replacing Ms.Amankwah as our Educational Assistant. This will also be for this school year. We welcome back Ms.Alyson DaSilva who will be replacing Mr.Cabral as the DECE in M.Jacoby's class(formerly Mme.Choquette). We welcome back Ms.Zurawik in the Sk/1 English and M.Myrthil in the Sk/1 FI. We welcome Ms.Heather Hickey as our new Vice Principal.

I look forward to working with the whole community in order to continue to build on the school's long lasting tradition of maintaining high academic, athletic and artistic standards. But we cannot achieve this goal on our own and we solicit the support of our parent community in order to help our students, your children, to settle for nothing short of excellence in all that they undertake.

A very special thanks to our present **CSPC** for all of their efforts in providing so many additional learning opportunities for our students. Help your children to set realistic, attainable goals in the areas of academics, athletics and the arts and remind them always that only with God's help and support can they achieve that which may initially feel impossible. We will surely remind them here at St. Cecilia to never, never, never give up.

When the children came to school on Tuesday, September 6th, class and grade organization were in place. The decision as to which class a child was placed in was completed with discussion between the teachers and the principal. The various abilities, needs and strengths of the students were considered in their class placement. It is important to understand that due to a possible increase or decrease in enrolment, changes may need to be made in grade organization, teacher assignments and the placement of children, during the month of September.

A reminder that our school colors will be white top and dark blue pants. We anticipate many successes this year and know that we can count on your support. Due to the early disruption in our coterminous Boards to administer the EQAO assessment, the results will not be posted until November. This year our focus will continue to be in the area of primary literacy and numeracy across all grades.

Our first school mass will be on **Tuesday, September 27 at 10:00 a.m.** Our Curriculum Night Community BBQ will be **Tuesday, September 20th.** The BBQ is funded and hosted by our CSPC, and it is great opportunity to meet the parents and staff that make up our community. This is followed by a visit in your child's classroom to learn what will be studied over the course of the next year. I look forward to meeting you all on the first day of school or at the BBQ.

Nick P. Biagini, Principal

Saint Cecilia Parent Advisory Committee (CSPC = Catholic School Parent Council)

Welcome back to all of our returning families and a special welcome to all of our JK and new families!

We hope you had a fun and happy summer and are looking forward to (re)connecting with our St. Cecilia families and staff community as the school year starts. September is a very busy month for students, families and CSPC alike.

Here are some of the highlights:

Activity Fee - You should have received a notice home about our Activity Fee, check those backpacks! Families have told us that they love this approach to fundraising as it's the only ask we make throughout the year and as our main fundraiser it supports everything we do: augment student programming, beautify our grounds, support graduation and sacramental events, equip sports teams, support clubs and provide for staff sundry needs. It's the same pricing as last year and there are lots of easy ways to pay: Munchalunch (our online do everything system), in person via the Activity Fee box in the office or at the Welcome Back BBQ/AGM.

Welcome Back BBQ - This yearly, fun event is put on by CSPC and allows us to come together as a community over a hot dog! This year's BBQ is planned for September 20th and more details will follow soon-please save the date!

T Shirt Sales - People loved the uniform approved Tiger athletic t shirts and thanks to some amazing volunteers, we will be arranging a group order if you'd like to purchase some more. Full details and ordering is available online at www.munchalunch.com (under the "Fundraising" tab).

CSPC AGM and Election - The fall is the time we elect our parent and executive members at our AGM. This year it will be held on **Tuesday October 4th at 7pm** in the school gym. Please plan on attending even if you don't plan on standing for a position as it's a great way to connect with your community. Information about the AGM and election will be distributed by our Election Committee soon.

How to stay in Touch - As you can see, we are busy community with a lot going on. There are a few ways to stay in touch: 'like' the St. Cecilia Facebook page www.facebook.com/stceciliaparents/, sign up for the blog <http://stceciliaparentcouncil.weebly.com/> sign up for Twitter alerts via text by texting xxxxx and feel free to contact us at cspc.stcecilia@tcdsb.org if you have any specific questions.

Olga and Marisa
CSPC Co Chairs

School Masses & Monthly Virtues

Tuesday, September 6 **Back to School!**

Tuesday, September 27 **Mass: New Beginnings**

Monthly masses will resume and the dates will be published for parents as soon as they are available.

We will also be resuming our Student of the Month. These students will be selected for best modelling and encompassing the monthly virtues.

September **Hospitality**

October **Gratitude**

November **Peace**

December **Charity**

January **Courage**

February **Love**

March **Forgiveness**

April **Justice**

May **Compassion**

June **Faithfulness**

Virtue of the Month: HOSPITALITY



And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household. **ACTS 16:34**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ATTENDANCE: Our school has established procedures to monitor regular attendance at school. Prolonged absence or sporadic attendance will result in a lack of continuity in learning. Chronic lateness or absences are tracked by our computer system and will cause the generation of an automatic referral to guidance and or social work. Note that this is a TCDSB tracking system.

RECESS: All students are required to go outside during recess. We will not, of course, send children out during severe weather, but please ensure that your child is always dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

FIRE DRILLS: Fire drills are held on a regular basis to ensure that the school can be evacuated in an orderly, panic-free manner in case of an emergency. The first will be in September. The wearing of indoor shoes is mandatory since fire drills are unannounced and every person must leave the building when the fire alarm sounds. Varied lockdown drills will also be held throughout the school year.

PERSONAL PROPERTY: Parents are requested to see that their children's clothes, boots, gloves, scarves, running shoes, lunch kits, etc. are marked with the child's name. Clothing can be misplaced and many children have identical or similar clothing. If a child has lost or misplaced an article of clothing, there is a good chance it will be in the Lost and Found box. Children should look in this box; parents are also encouraged to come to the school and look for lost items. When the collection becomes unwieldy these items are collected and sent to charitable organizations.

CELL PHONE POLICY: All personal devices such as cell phones are to be powered off and stored out of view in instructional spaces and washrooms. Use of these devices in other areas of the school, school property, or on school trips during school hours is also prohibited. See policy # S.S. 09.

AGENDAS: We encourage ongoing dialogue with the home, and we rely on your help to reinforce the good work and study habits which we will be promoting at school. The agendas include important information such as school routines and rules, and are an excellent organizational/ communication tool. They continue to cost \$8.00.

BOARD WIDE DRESS CODE: Consistent with board-wide dress code for all elementary schools, St. Cecilia has a colour dress code for all students registered. To assist you when purchasing articles of clothing for your children please note: TOPS: should be WHITE or NAVY: dress shirt/blouses, tshirts, golf shirts, turtlenecks, white or navy sweater, vest or pull-over. BOTTOMS: NAVY dress pants or cotton pants, walking shorts, skorts, yoga pants or capri pants (no jeans). All tops and pants are to be plain with no visible logos, stripes, plaids, etc.

DRESS CODE (cont.) Clothing should provide appropriate coverage. Undergarments, armpits and midriffs should be covered. Shorts and skirts should fall to mid-thigh or fingertip length. If you are unsure if an item conforms to the code please check with your child's teacher.

BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS, ROLLERBLADES, PETS: We encourage students to bike to school. Reminder—proper fitting helmets are required. All students are expected to walk their bicycles when on school property. Bicycles must be locked. The school does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen bicycles, so please use a good lock. Skateboards, scooters and rollerblades should not be brought to school or used on school property. Pets, regardless of size or breed or 'cuteness', should not be brought into the yard or school between the hours of 8:00 and 4:00, unless they are part of a supervised visit program. Pets should also be kept away from students being supervised by the PLASP program which continue until 6:00 pm.

HOMEWORK Any homework that is brought home by the students is work that should have been completed during regular class time, needed practice, or a longer term project. It also includes reading with your child. Children at this age require "play time" after five hours of work at school. A general rule of thumb for homework is 10 minutes X the grade level as a maximum plus reading i.e. 10 X 3 = 30 minutes, 10 X 7 = 70 minutes. If your child seems to be doing homework for a prolonged period of time, please contact your child's teacher.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Fitness and development of kinesthetic skills are an integral part of each child's program. Physical education affects fitness and has a marked influence on healthy attitudes and habits. All students are expected to participate in the prescribed course of study (dictated by the Ministry of Education) except in the case of illness or injury.

SACRAMENTAL & RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION Religion is integrated within all aspects of the education experience and that is one of the reasons we can say that "Catholic Schools are schools with a difference." The children in our school, with the help of parents, priests, and teachers, are made ready to receive the Sacraments. All children must take part in religious instruction and celebrations and may not be excused from participation. We also encourage the children to attend Sunday Mass regularly with their parents, as the Mass is the very centre of our worship.

DISCIPLINE and GENERAL CONDUCT It is our goal to have a well-disciplined school and to enable our students to choose appropriate behaviour and to develop the skills for lifelong learning. Together, parents, teachers and students can help each other recognize that appropriate behaviour is learned and self-discipline is a sign of growth. Any discipline must seek to teach and be progressive. We discipline with dignity.

Guidance Corner

My name is Mr. Amato. I support 13 schools in Areas 5 & 6 including this one. Unfortunately, due to the large number of schools that I service, I am only regularly available to this school once every two weeks for half a day. During my school visits, I work with students, school staff and administrators. Together our goal is to continue to foster a happy and safe environment by strengthening:

- Learning skills and study habits
- Healthy relationships
- Career exploration and educational planning
- Student safety and well-being

That being said, a large part of my focus will be in assisting with the transition of grade 8 students into grade 9 and working with intermediate teachers to encourage their students to complete their Individual Pathways Plan and helping the younger students work on their All About Me portfolio on www.myBlueprint.ca.

Individual and small group counselling is available to your children through a referral process.

I look forward to working in your school throughout the year. For an informative letter about homework basics, click here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9yleTamNDc4cGdqV1FveWVZWxc/view?usp=sharing>

Frank Amato

Elementary Guidance Counsellor

Area 5 & 6

Holy Family, St. James, James Culnan, St. Pius X, St. Cecilia,
St. Vincent de Paul, St. Rita, St. Luigi, St. Helen, Pope Francis
St. Michael Choir, St. Michael Annex, St. Mary

Grade 1 French Immersion Information

If your student is in the grade 1 French Immersion program, Mme. Czulo has created a welcoming document - click here to view it: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9yleTamNDc4UHI3TEVKUklpMUU/view?usp=sharing>

Used Clothing Drive

Once again, the Green Committee of St Cecilia's CSPP is collecting gently used, clean navy and white clothing to be sold at the Curriculum Night BBQ September 20. Please send clothing donations to your child's classroom by Tuesday, Sept. 20. All proceeds will be put towards greening initiatives at the school.

Thank you for your support!

Colleen Murphy & the CSPP Green Committee

2016-17 School Calendar Year

Labour Day	September 5, 2016
First Instructional Day	September 6, 2016
Thanksgiving Day	October 10, 2016
Christmas Break	December 26, 2016– January 6, 2017
Family Day	February 20, 2017
Mid-Winter Break	March 13- 17, 2017
Good Friday	April 14, 2017
Easter Monday	April 17, 2017
Victoria Day	May 22, 2017
Last day of classes	June 29, 2017

Professional Development Days:

October 7, 2016	Provincial Education Priorities
November 18, 2016	Parent-Teacher Conferences
December 2, 2016	Provincial Education priorities/Faith
January 20, 2017	Assessment & Reporting
February 17, 2017	Parent Teacher Conferences
June 9, 2017	Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting
June 30, 2017	Provincial Education Priorities

Administration of Medication

Principals, teachers and support staff of the Toronto Catholic District School Board are **NOT** permitted to administer any type of prescription medication during the school day, unless we have written signed authorization from you, the parent AND the prescribing physician. The forms to dispense any medication must be updated on a regular basis and are available from our school office. These forms, once completed, are kept on file at the school. This includes, most importantly, EpiPen prescriptions for students with allergies. If your child has an anaphylactic allergy, an up to date EpiPen(s) **MUST** be supplied to the school. Should you require additional information or have any questions about this protocol, contact the Special Services Department at (416) 222-8282 ext. 2486. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated

Health and Safety

Safe Arrival of Children

Safety is one of our primary concerns. One of our goals is to help the students distinguish between school personnel and strangers. In order to achieve this, we ask that when you bring your children to school **you leave the schoolyards by 8:20 a.m.** Teachers will be on duty to supervise the children. Please support this initiative as we work towards maintaining a **safe school environment**.

If your child(ren) are absent from school due to illness or any family matter, it is your responsibility to notify the school. Dial the school number and press '1' for our answering machine, which is available 24 hours a day. Please indicate the name of the child, his/her teacher and the reason for the absence. Attendance callouts are very time consuming, and our office may not be able to contact you promptly. By speeding up the process we can ensure the safe arrival of all the children in a timely manner.

Parents **CANNOT** use the staff parking lot for drop-off or pick-up of students because of the limitation of space. Our staff experiences difficulty with the congestion in our parking lot. Parents can drop-off and pick-up on nearby streets, keeping in mind that the area in front of the school is a bus-loading zone, please do **NOT** stop there. Please be respectful of our neighbors on Evelyn Avenue and do not block driveways. It is the best practice to park on a neighboring street and walk your child to the school.. Our safety program - Kiss and Ride will be starting shortly.

End of Day Pick Up

St. Cecilia Catholic School dismisses at 3:00 p.m., It is the responsibility of the parent to make arrangements for students to be picked up on time. We understand that emergencies and delays happen occasionally, but please keep in mind that our office staff cannot always keep a close eye on children that are left behind, and we do not want to compromise their safety. We would also like to discourage parents calling our office just minutes before the dismissal bell. Trying to locate a child at the last minute to change plans can risk the safety of our children. Please make your plans before or after school hours.

Accidents

Despite the constant reminders and attention given to issues of safety, occasional accidents do happen. In the case of minor accidents (cuts, scrapes) band aids and ice will be provided. In the event that a child continues to experience discomfort or is in distress, it is the school's practice to notify the parent/guardian. It is absolutely imperative that the school has, at all times, an up-to-date telephone number for your home and work, as well as numbers for your emergency contact person.

**SAINT CECILIA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
STAFF LIST 2016/2017**

ENGLISH PROGRAM

JK/SK	Linda Cicchelli Fox & Ruth Aguayo (ECE)
SK-01/1	Andrea Zurawik
02/03	Maggie Tavares
03/04	Natalie Pelech
04/05	Cris Tucci
05/ESL	Elizabeth Payne
05/06	Christine Terplak
06/07	Neave McCann
06/08	Antonietta Grossi
07/07	Caitlin Reilly
08/08	Robert Bordignon

FRENCH PROGRAM

JK/SK/1	Anne Marie Jacoby & Alison Da Silva (ECE)
JK/SK/2	Vanessa Padovani & Jennifer Valerio
JK/SK/3	Patricia Pamula & Jolanta Pazio (ECE)
SK-01/01	Fabienne Myrthil
01/1	Letitia Macri
01/2	Monika Czulo
02/1	Gabrielle Faion Kralik
02/2	Kate Walsh
02/3	Susan Balgavy
03/1	Diana Pamula
03/2	Sandra Wilson
03/3	Melissa Guitard
04/1	Jovanie Nicoyishakiye
04/2	Maryanne Pasquale
French Specialty/05-06	Susan Nash
07/07	Nele Verelst
07/05	Alex La Gamba
08/06	Nicholas Thirwall
Core French	Clara Enotera-Gregori, Rita Santaguida
French Specialty	Brennan Caverhill, Susan Nash, Edward York
Special Education	Anna Marafioti
Instrumental Music	Chester Manoharan
Vocal Music	Graziella Mastrangelo
Physical Education	Colin MacLeod, Gianna Cargnelli, Carmela La Rosa
Educational Assistants	Crystal Petryszyn, Carmin Cianfarani
Library	Mark Arlotto
Caretakers	Andrew Platnar, Joseph Kole, Alberto Toma