

# Newsletter

## Principal's Corner



### St. Charles Catholic School

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## FEBRUARY 2017



**Prayer to  
St. Charles Borromeo,  
Patron of Catechists  
Feast Day – Nov. 4**

O Sainly Reformer, Animator of

Spiritual Renewal of Priests and Religious, You organized true Seminaries and wrote a standard Catechism. Inspire all Religious Teachers and Authors of Catechetical books.

Move them to love and transmit only that which can form true followers of the Teacher who was Divine.

Give me the ability to teach this Faith to others without pride, without ostentation and without personal gain. Let me realize that I am simply an instrument for bringing others to the knowledge of the wonderful things God has done for all his creatures. Amen.

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Principal      | R. Bottero                           |
| Secretary      | D. Iaccino                           |
| Parish         | St. Charles Borromeo                 |
| Pastor         | Fr. James Reposkey<br>416-787-0369   |
| Superintendent | M. Caccamo<br>416-222-8282 ext. 2267 |
| Trustee        | M. Rizzo<br>416-512-3402             |
| CSPC Co-Chairs | G. Leo and F. Franco                 |

### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2016 – 2017

#### Wards

1. Joseph Martino
2. Ann Andrachuk
3. Sal Piccininni
4. Patrizia Bottoni
5. Maria Rizzo
6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair
7. Michael Del Grande
8. Garry Tanuan
9. Jo-Ann Davis
10. Barbara Poplawski
11. Angela Kennedy, Chair
12. Nancy Crawford  
Karina Dubrovskaya, Student Trustee  
Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee

February is the month dedicated to love possibly because the feast of St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers, falls mid-month. We generally associate love with the church as it houses the ultimate love – the Blessed Sacrament. We also recognize familial love as the cornerstone of society. We don't necessarily think of school as a place of love. In this newsletter, I will share with you some of the very tangible and palpable love that is found here at St. Charles Catholic School.

I see teachers who love their students so much that they stay at school long hours after the dismissal bell has rung planning interesting lessons that will motivate the children in their care when they should be at home spending time with their families. I acknowledge the teacher who put her students ahead of her own well-being as she did not take the time for a full recovery necessary to heal because she so desperately wanted to return to her class. We have music teachers who love their students that they bring out the very best in them. You would think that they are ready to audition for *Canada has Talent*. Our specialty teachers demonstrate their love by sharing their passion for their subject areas. In fact, classes come in and they are so familiar with what is expected of them that they can start the day's lesson on their own. I see teachers who love their students that they do so much to ensure that their students are in the optimum learning environment. It is also evident to see how much teachers love their students by the respect and admiration that the students give them in return. One teacher spends countless hours reviewing the day's events and thinking of ways to bring about positive change. Other teachers expend significant energy creating lessons that are motivating and engaging thus enhancing students' love of learning. Other teachers show their love by the amount of time that they spend providing support for individual students making sure that they have understood the new concept introduced in the day's lesson.

Next I turn to support staff who never miss an opportunity to be of help. They jump right in wherever there is a need. Individual students, entire classes and the whole school benefit from their love as witnessed by their enthusiasm and dedication. Our custodians show their love by keeping our students in a building that is safe and that complies with all the regulations that we are expected to follow. We are so fortunate to have a secretary who loves all those she encounters. Parents on the phone or at the window; teachers who come in with specific requests; students who need special attention. She knows them by name and her love is demonstrated by her calm manner and gentle approach. Finally, we come to the school principal who so urgently wanted to get back to her school that this forced her to delay her re-entry. These all confirm that not only is love found and felt at St. Charles, it abounds.

Serving you in Catholic Education,

S. Camilleri, Acting Principal



**To report an absence, please call 416 393-5250 (5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.)**

### SKILLS CANADA

On Tuesday, January 10th, the intermediate students were challenged to think outside of the box when we listened to the Skills Canada presentation. We were introduced to several different jobs and career paths that were linked to our talents and interests. This presentation opened our minds to going to college in our near future as we discover our paths in life. This was a wonderful opportunity for us and definitely gave us something more to think about!

Brianna E. and Isabella R.  
Grade 7, Mrs. Galati

### RAFIKI BRACELET SALE

From Monday, February 13th - Thursday, February 16th, the Me to We committee will be selling Rafiki Bracelets during morning recess. Each Rafiki bracelet costs \$10.00. They are made using beautiful, colourful glass beads on a 48" elastic string. (Wrap several times to wear as a bracelet, can also be worn as a necklace, anklet or headband). The bracelets are all about empowering women and global equality for women! In Swahili, the word "Rafiki" means friend. Celebrate your friendship by purchasing a bracelet for you or a good friend in your life! One size fits all. When you receive your new Me to We Artisans accessory, look out for the unique code on the back of your product package. Enter it online at [trackyourimpact.com](http://trackyourimpact.com) to learn more about the life-changing impact your purchase makes. Your support empowers women on a global level!

Zachary H. and Juliana U.  
Grade 8, Mrs. Galati

### PIZZA NOVA MAKING WORKSHOP

The Grades 1, 1-2, 2-3 classes took part in a super fun pizza making session. We learned what goes into making the dough and we had a chance to work with the pizza dough. The instructor taught us how to flatten the dough and how to make the crust. We had fun throwing the pizza dough in the air and trying to catch it! We also talked about how pizza uses ingredients from 4 Food Groups! We all received a loot bag full of cool stuff. The best part was when we had a pizza delivered to our classroom and we got to eat it! All students received a free coupon as well for a free pizza! Thank you to Pizza Nova for this amazing, cool FREE workshop!

### JUNIOR BOYS' AND GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

As their coaches, we were pleased to coach such a great group of boys and girls. Not only did they show a great level of commitment to the sport but they also demonstrated good sportsmanship. Each week, they came to practice excited and ready to break a sweat, encourage each other, and try their best. Both the boys and girls brought this same level of excitement to their tournaments where they both did not give up without a fight. They may have not earned first place in their tournaments but the growth that came from this experience is one to be recognized. We are so proud of you!

Love your coaches,  
Mrs. Alves and Ms. Demski

### MORNING STUDENT DROP-OFF

Parents who drive their child(ren) to school are respectfully asked not to drop-off your child(ren) in the staff parking lot. Parents entering and backing out of the parking lot are creating jams for staff who are trying to enter the parking lot. We fear that this is creating a situation where a potential accident could occur. Kindly drop-off your child(ren) on Cork Ave. close to the entrance of the school yard, but away from the bus loading zone. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

### FROM ELEMENTARY TO HIGH SCHOOL

TCDSB Community Relations Department and CPIC, invite all grade 7 and 8 students and their parents to attend an information session **"From Elementary to High School ...Transitioning night!"** We are pleased to welcome Math, Program and Pathways resource teachers as well as Special Education who will be facilitating this presentation. The presenters will offer an in-depth look at the TCDSB resource **'MyBLUE print and Transition Guide for Grade 8 Students.'**

The presentation will take place on **Wednesday, February 8th** at *Bishop Marrocco Tomas Merton CSS* located at 1515 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON, M6P 1A3 from 6.30-8.30 pm.

**We encourage all grade 7 and 8 students and their parents attend this important presentation.**

At the end of the presentation, there will be an opportunity for a question and answer session. However, if you have specific questions you would like addressed during the presentation, please indicate so below. We would also appreciate knowing if you can attend. Please complete the following form to reserve your spot and return to your School teacher no later than *Tuesday January 31st, 2017*. The presentations are carried out by our teachers in English. Interpretation services will be available throughout the presentation.

### SCHOOL ABSENCES

Now that we are in the midst of winter and absenteeism tends to be more prevalent, we would like to review procedures for reporting absences. If you know your child will be absent or late (due to an appointment), please call the school early in the morning and leave a message on our answering machine (prior to 8:30 a.m.).

When calling the school, please clearly state the grade or teacher's name of each child you are reporting absent. Please spell your child's name and clearly and slowly state the reason for his/her absence. Our Safe Arrival Program will run more smoothly and unnecessary phone calls will be avoided by following the above procedures. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation in this matter.

### EXTENDED VACATION

We understand that there are times when family circumstances are such that parents notify the school that their child will be absent for a period of time. Absences of one week, while disruptive to a child's learning, are understandable. However, absences that extend over a period of two weeks to one month are extremely concerning to us. Interruptions to learning of this length cause gaps in learning. For some students, recuperating this lost time is easy while for others the gaps in learning become more pronounced. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of daily attendance. Please consider carefully your child's learning before arranging extended vacations beyond one week.

## **WINTER MONTHS**

Parents are asked to ensure that their children have hats, gloves, boots, scarves and warm winter coats that are clearly labelled with the child's name. All students are expected to play outdoors for all three recesses. **The school's policy maintains that students who are not well enough to go outdoors should be kept home to prevent the spread of coughs and colds.**

**We strongly encourage children to have a pair of shoes at school so that they can remove wet and colder boots while indoors.**

An extra pair of clearly labelled pants and socks are also highly recommended, if you know your child likes puddles or sprawling on snow.

## **IT'S HEARING AND VISION SCREENING TIME!!!**

School Screening Association will be visiting our school this year on February 10th to conduct their clinic.

**Your child's hearing and Vision should be screened every year.**

- Growing children are very susceptible to middle ear problems and one of the best ways to prevent **hearing loss is early detection of middle ear function issues.**
- Two ways to have your child's hearing tested:
  1. You can talk to your child's doctor and ask for a referral to a Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist (Otolaryngologist) – this service is covered by OHIP.
  2. You can make an appointment with an Audiologist – referral by your family physician is not required. However, if the Audiologist is not in a hospital clinic, the visit may not be covered by OHIP and a fee upwards of \$50 maybe charged.
  3. Your child's hearing is not being monitored unless they are being seen by an Audiologist or and E.N.T.

Free vision screening is included with the Hearing Clinic. Eye examinations are covered by OHIP. A fee of \$15.00 is collected to help offset the cost of bringing this clinic to our school.

A permission form will be sent home with your child approximately 2 weeks before the clinic date. Please fill out the form, include \$15.00 fee and return to the school prior to the clinic date.

***Good Grades start with Good Hearing and Vision***

## **MCDONALD'S NEWS**

Many parents are aware through media reports of McDonald's Canada's announcement that its menu items "*may contain*" food-related allergens such as peanuts, milk and butter.

The health and well-being of all students and staff is always our first priority and we recognize that every school has its own unique circumstances and student population. It is for this reason that the Board's Anaphylaxis Policy (Anaphylaxis SM.15) is designed to create allergen-aware environments in our schools and workplaces. The policy does not ban food items, but specifically outlines strict guidelines and measures that must be taken to ensure the health and safety of students with allergies. As well, it is also complies with Sabrina's Law, 2005, S.O. 2005, Chapter 7.

Here is the link to the policy on the TCDSB website: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Pages/SM15.aspx>

## **FREE BOOK DISTRIBUTION**

Thanks to the generosity of Sts. Cosmas and Damian we have been invited to participate in a **FREE book distribution** event taking place at Sts. Cosmas and Damian on **Saturday, February 25, 2017** from **12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The school address is 111 Danesbury Avenue and the event will take place in the school gym. Please avail yourself of this wonderful opportunity made possible by the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity day of service

## **CSPC CORNER**

Hello St. Charles Families!

We cannot believe it is already February! 2017 is flying already! Valentine's Day and Family Day will be here before we know it! Lots happening at St. Charles, here are a few brief updates. Students have just wrapped up presenting their amazing speeches this past week. Soon, students from grades 1-8 will be participating in an exciting school trip to go watch a Toronto Marlies Hockey Game! In case you did not know, a portion of the Marlies game has been subsidized by CSPC. The CSPC is also in the planning stages of our next major fundraiser, The Chocolate Fundraiser, which will be kicking off just before Easter. If any parents know anyone/any company that is able to donate some prizes or make a monetary donation so we could purchase some great prizes to motivate the kids to raise money for the school, please let us know! If you personally are able to donate some prizes that will go directly to the students, your help would be greatly appreciated. As with any fundraiser, it takes many people to put it all together. If you are able to help out with the planning, please feel free to join us on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> in the school library, where we will be holding our next Fundraising Committee meeting. All parents are always welcome. Come help make the Chocolate Fundraiser a huge success!

"Many Hands Make Light Work".

Also, our next CSPC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** in the school library. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

F. Franco & G. Leo (CSPC Co-Chairs)

