



St. Dunstan Catholic School

14 Pharmacy Avenue
Toronto, ON M1L 3E4
Phone # (416) 393-5241
Fax # (416)393-5801
www.tcdsb.org/stdunstan



D U N S T A N

DECEMBER 2019



From the Principal:

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):
On behalf of the staff at St Dunstan Catholic School, our sincere wishes and season's greetings to you as we prepare for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Advent Season is a joyful, spiritual and precious time in the school year.

The word Advent means "coming" in Latin. Each week during our Advent service, we light a candle.

The first candle is called the "Prophet's Candle" which symbolizes Hope, reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The second candle is called the "Bethlehem Candle" which symbolizes Faith, reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is called the "Shepherd's Candle" which symbolizes Joy, reminding us of the Joy to the World experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The fourth candle is called the "Angel's Candle" which symbolizes Peace, reminding us of the message from the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

We are looking forward to all the many wonderful activities we have planned here at St Dunstan and we cordially invite you all to our school **Advent Celebration on Thursday, December 12th, 2019 at St Dunstan Church at 6:30 p.m.**

It is our hope that your homes are filled with the light and peace of Christ during the Christmas season and throughout the year.

Best Wishes and God Bless,

S. Gardiner-Hunt

Christmas Holidays:

Dec 23, 2019 – Jan 3, 2020

Classes Resume:

Monday, Jan. 6, 2020

CONTACTS:

Principal: Sharon Gardiner-Hunt
Secretary: Debbie Petropoulos
CSAC Co-Chairs: G. VanWeezel & M. Lozano
Superintendent: Kevin Malcolm
(416)222-8282 (x2263)
Ward 12 Trustee: Nancy Crawford
(416)512-3412

CPIC (Parent Engagement--TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

OAPCE Toronto

(Provincial Voice for Parents)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

BELL TIMES:

9:00 ARRIVAL
10:25 A.M. RECESS
11:45 LUNCH HOUR BEGINS
12:45 LUNCH HOUR ENDS
2:25 P.M. RECESS
3:30 DISMISSAL

St. Dunstan Catholic Church

Pastor:

Rev. Fr. Jeffrey Masterson
3150 Danforth Avenue
Toronto, ON M1L 1B6
Phone: (416) 694-2811
Fax: (416) 694-2809
stdunstan@rogers.com

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2019-2020

Wards

1. Joseph Martino
2. Markus de Domenico
3. Ida Li Preti
4. Teresa Lubinski
5. Maria Rizzo, Chair
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7. Michael Del Grande
8. Garry Tanuan
9. Norm Di Pasquale
10. Daniel Di Giorgio
11. Angela Kennedy- Vice Chair
12. Nancy Crawford
Student Trustees
Taylor Dallin
Kathy Nguyen

PICK UP and DROP OFF ZONE

This is a reminder to parents to please NOT park in the Bus Loading zone in the morning or the evening when dropping off and picking up your children. The signs are there for the safety of all and we need the space for our big buses as well as our small buses.

Winter Weather and Appropriate Attire:

As winter arrives, we are bound to encounter some very frigid temperatures. Of course, living in Canada, we expect to endure some cold days and recognize that, when dressed appropriately, we can enjoy fun-filled, outdoor activities. Students are expected to come to school with all that they need to participate in outdoor recesses.

Appropriate winter clothing includes: winter boots, a winter coat, snow pants, a hat, a scarf and warm mittens or gloves. All students are expected to have a pair of indoor shoes that may be left at school for the duration of the snowy/wet season. It is highly recommended that each student has an extra pair of dry socks in their backpack.

Please be assured that on exceptionally frigid days, outdoor recess will be shortened or cancelled. However, it is our intention to ensure that the students receive opportunities for fresh air and exercise on a regular basis throughout the winter season.

Absences & Lates:

Please use our Safe Arrival School Messenger Program to report student absences and/or lates using one of the options, below:

- 1) The **SchoolMessenger app** (Apple/Google Play Store)
- 2) Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>.
- 3) Call the toll-free number:
1 (833) 251-3286

Student Supervision:

Beginning at 8:45 a.m., an adult is in the school yard supervising students as they arrive at school. **Please do not drop students earlier than 8:45 a.m., since they will be unsupervised. Also, school ends at 3:30. Please make sure your child is picked up at that time.**

Register: School Cash Online

A safe & convenient payment option that eliminates the need to send cash or cheques to school. There is no fee. To register, visit:

www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/schoolcashonline

Bus Transportation Information and Updates:

Please register on the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) portal by visiting www.torontoschoolbus.org. This portal provides TCDSB parents with online access to their children's transportation information and up to the minute email notifications regarding school bus cancellations or delays.

WALK-A-THON:

Congratulations to all involved in supporting our Walk-a-thon:



Top fundraisers

1st prize: Dylan (Gr.7)

2nd prize: Jiyu (Gr. 3/4)

3rd prize: Josephina (JK/SK)

Raffle Prize Winners

~ Raptors Tickets:

Dylan -Grade 7

Ife-Grade 1/2

Lunch with Mrs. Gardiner- Hunt:

Althea- JK/SK

School-wide Prizes:

~ Red/Green Day:

Friday, December 20th

~ No Homework Day:

Thursday, January 16th

~ Students Dress Down:

Friday, February 7th

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten Registration will begin for all Elementary Schools on **Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

Parents/guardians with children born in 2016 or earlier and who will be enrolling in Kindergarten, have the opportunity to apply on-line using the "Student On-line Admission and Registration" platform known as S.O.A.R. and found at the following link: <http://soar.tcdsb.org>.

Parents are asked to complete an application for registration from the convenience of their own home, the office, a public library, or anywhere there is internet access, 24 hours a day. The on-line application also offers access to translations in different languages with built-in help functions and features.

As part of the registration process, meetings with school staff will be scheduled on the electronic application. During the meeting, school staff will verify the original documentation required for registration. This consists of a Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and/or Passport, Immunization record, proof of residence and Application for Direction of School support.

Applications to register children in grades other than Kindergarten can also be done on the online S.O.A.R. application. Please share this information with any parents/guardians with school- aged children in the community.

For more information, visit tcdsb.org or call 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314

Sacramental Preparation:

All children expecting to receive sacraments in the coming year **MUST** register at the parish. Please contact the church for all information (416-438-6729).





Monthly Update from the Board December 2019

Labour Update

Letter from Director of Education and Chair to Parents/Guardians of Children Attending TCDSB Elementary Schools

We are writing to inform you that late last week we learned the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representing approximately 430 Designated Early Childhood Workers (ECE), will be taking work-to-rule measures effective Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

As per ETFO communications, we expect all ECE's to continue to perform core duties and do not anticipate any disruptions to your child's care. Actions to be expected include:

- Wear red clothing and/or accessories to show their support for the ETFO labour movement.
- Will not participate in any extracurricular activities.
- Will not attend staff meetings unless it is an emergency meeting.
- Will continue to communicate learning/provide feedback by collaborating with teachers both verbally and in writing. Their regular contributions to report cards will continue.
- Christmas concerts and regularly scheduled Masses will continue.

The health and safety of your child remains our top priority. Our principals, vice-principals and board administration will continue to communicate with you throughout any labour disruption to mitigate any challenges, and ensure the safety and security of our students, staff, parents and volunteers in our school facilities. Information will be shared with school communities through the Board's website (www.tcdsb.org), twitter and email via School Messenger.

We remain hopeful that the Council of Trustees Association and the provincial government will be able to reach a new central agreement with ETFO.

Important Information for Parents

Latest Updates on Weather Related Cancellations or Closures

Traffic congestion and varying road conditions can impact on the flow of traffic in Toronto, and this is particularly true during the winter months when snow and ice can be a major factor. The Toronto Student Transportation Group is pleased to provide information about school bus delays digitally through [their website](#). Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the transportation portal to get real time information about any transportation issues throughout the school year:

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

Follow @TCDSB on Twitter to get the latest weather related updates.

Go Digital

Sign up for...

- **School Cash Online**
<https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/schoolcashionline/pages/default.aspx>
Pay for excursions and other optional activities for your child online. No need to send cheques or cash to school.
- **School Messenger**—report your child's absence online and receive updates about absences and lates.
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/signupschoolmessenger.aspx>. The app also allows for urgent communications from your child's school or from the Board such as labour updates, school closures, opportunities to participate in board-wide consultations etc.
- **E-News**—For those who are not on Twitter, you can still access much of the same news and information sent

to your email on a weekly basis. To see recent issues, or sign up for the free news service, see:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/News/eNews/Pages/default.aspx>

Kindergarten Registration

Registration begins Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Apply online at <https://soar.tcdsb.org>

For Your Information

Donate to Relief Fund for Families Affected by Gosford Fire

On November 15, 2019, a devastating fire broke out in a North York apartment building displacing hundreds of residents, including 22 TCDSB students. Some have lost most, if not all, of their belongings and it remains unclear when they will be able to return home. While local school communities are supporting students and their families in any way they can, many of you have also reached out to help.

This is why we are launching a central campaign to raise funds for the affected families. All proceeds will go towards clothing, food and other essentials to help these members of our community rebuild their lives.

Donations can be made via The Angel Foundation for Learning at angelfoundationforlearning.org or [click here to access the AFL donation page](#). Donors can select "Assisting students and families of the Jane St and Steeles Ave. fire" in the "Apply your donation..." drop-down menu.

Your generosity is truly appreciated as we come together to support our students and their families.

December's Virtue is Charity

Find all the resources related to the monthly virtue, as well as other resources to support faith development and Religion and Family Life on our website here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Default.aspx>

TCDSB Celebrates Advent and Christmas—Advent Begins November 30/December 1

Visit the board's website for the latest news and information from TCDSB schools including food and clothing drives, Christmas baskets for needy families, Christmas concerts and other special events.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2018/pages/Advent-and-Christmas.aspx>

Dates to Note

- December 1-7 ESL Week
- Friday, December 6—System-wide PA Day
- December 6—Staff Arts Christmas Concert
- December 9-13—Hour of Code
- December 10—World Human Rights Day
- December 23, 2019-January 3, 2020 inclusive—Schools closed for Christmas Break
- December 24, 2019-January 1, 2020—Administrative Offices closed for Christmas Break
- January 1, 2020—New Year's Day and World Day of Peace
- January 7, 2020—Eastern Rite Christmas

For more events and information, visit www.tcdsb.org