



## St. Elizabeth Catholic School

5 Redcar Avenue  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9B 1J8  
Tel: (416) 393-5278  
Fax: (416) 393-5048

Principal: Mrs. R. Tropea  
Superintendent: P. Keyes  
(416) 222-8282 ext. 2732  
Trustee: Ann Andrachuk  
(416) 512-3402  
Parish: Our Lady of Peace  
3914 Bloor St. W.  
(416) 239-1259  
Pastor: Fr. Yaw  
CSPC Chair: S. Medina  
CPIC (Parent Engagement--TCDSB)  
[www.tcdsb.org/cpic](http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic)  
OAPCE Toronto (Provincial Voice for  
Parents)  
[www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto](http://www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto)  
Enrollment: 230  
Hours of Operation: 8:30 – 3:00  
Lunch Hour: 11:15 – 12:15



October, 2018

# St. Elizabeth School News

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A very prominent tradition during the month of October is that of *thanksgiving*. In keeping with that tradition, the partnership of parents, students, teachers, trustees, and school board personnel which identified appropriate virtues to be celebrated each month of the school year very appropriately selected the virtue of **gratitude** for the month of October.

A timeless indigenous American proverb captures beautifully the essence of the virtue of **gratitude** that all of us are invited to embrace this month. The proverb states simply but eloquently:

*If you see no reason for giving thanks (ed. note: gratitude), the fault lies within you.*

In fact, an inescapable aspect of the virtue of **gratitude** is the necessity for each of us to be reflective. In our reflections, each of us should be able to identify with great joy how we are grateful for the many gifts we enjoy: gifts of family, friends, memories, promises, health, happiness, even possessions. But as wondrous as these and many other gifts may be, the gift we should possibly treasure above all other gifts is the gift of our faith. It is in and through our gift of faith that we may be gifts to others and, in being gifts to others we can celebrate more fully our calling to be more Christ-like.

In our reflection about **gratitude**, we come to realize that we should take nothing for granted. We should recognize that anything done for us by others is an act rooted in kindness and compassion. In response to those actions, we should train ourselves to never put off the opportunity to express our **gratitude** to others. There is a true calmness in a life that is lived with **gratitude**. A quiet joy surrounds those who are genuinely grateful for all the positives that they experience in life.

As we enter the month of October and we embrace the virtue of **gratitude**, may each of us more completely understand and accept the challenge echoed in the famous Prayer of St. Francis:

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; where there's despair, let me bring hope; where there is darkness, let me bring light.*

If each of us is able to do just a little more for all those we meet each day during the month of October, when we arrive at the end of the month we will be able to look back with a real and genuine sense of **gratitude**.

R. Tropea

J. Cassidy

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: **GRATITUDE**



## ***Curriculum Night Reflection***

On Thursday, September 27, we enjoyed a wonderful evening with a significant number of our parents as they joined the staff for brief presentations regarding the various curricula for different grade levels and disciplines. The encouraging numbers of parents in attendance that evening reflect the very positive relationship which is shared between home and school. It is through the strong partnership between parents and the school that we are most likely to ensure the ongoing success of our students. As a staff, we are deeply appreciative of the positive involvement of the parent community with us at the school.

## ***Student Safety***

Here at St. Elizabeth Catholic School, the entire school staff is very committed to doing everything possible to ensure the safety and well-being of each and every student entrusted to our care. In keeping with that commitment, it is appropriate that our monthly parent newsletter may address certain topics related to student safety. Different safety topics may be mentioned in different months but for the month of October, the following topics are presented for your information or as a reminder to all.

- **Safe Arrival Practice:** Regular daily attendance is taken by every classroom teacher. If a student is absent from school, it is appreciated if a written note is provided to the classroom teacher on those occasions when a family knows in advance that a student will be absent. Notes can be included in the student agendas, where applicable, or in a separate note. For unexpected absences or illnesses, a telephone call to the school secretary should be made. Any unexplained absences automatically result in a telephone call from the school secretary to determine the reason for absence.
- **Severe Student Medical Concerns, Including Significant Student Allergies**  
We urge all parents to ensure that the school is made aware of any serious medical conditions or severe allergy concerns for any of our students. We are best able to accommodate or respond to potentially serious medical conditions or severe allergies if we are provided with up to date and accurate health information for students in such circumstances. Parents of children with severe allergies who require the availability of epi-pens are urged to ensure that currently effective epi-pens are at the school. Out-dated epi pens can be returned to the parents upon request and upon in-person pick up.



- **Nut Free Environment**  
At St. Elizabeth Catholic School, every possible precaution is taken to attempt to provide a nut-free environment in the school. Parents are encouraged to do everything possible to ensure that all food (including snacks) coming to the school is nut free. Please extend your vigilance to any food products that ‘may contain’ even traces of peanut or other nut products.
- **Parents/Visitors At Our School**  
For the safety of all of our students, parents and visitors at our school are expected to report directly to the school office. No parent or visitor to the school should proceed beyond the main office at any time during the school day unless they are accompanied by appropriate school personnel. Often, there is a temptation, especially by parents of younger students who may arrive late for school on any given day to want to walk the student to the door of the classroom. That should not happen. School personnel will escort the child to the appropriate classroom.

When the child is in the school, she/he is well looked after and supervised by staff in the school.

- **End of Day Student Pick-Up**

As all parents realize, students who are bused home at the end of each day are carefully supervised by staff who ensure that every student is safely boarded and seated in the school buses.

For students who are being picked up by parents, the pick-up area at the front of the school is also supervised by staff. No student is released to a parent until the supervising staff member has made visual contact with the adult who is doing the pick-up.

- **Students Leaving School Early**

Any student who may have to leave school before the end of the school day must be picked up from the main office by an adult. That adult is expected to fill out the appropriate 'sign out' binder which is located beside the main office.

Other safety topics may be addressed in ensuing monthly newsletters. As parents should readily see, the guiding principle in all of our school procedures is to ensure the safety and security of our students to the maximum of our ability to do so.

### ***Use of School Parking Lot***

This is basically a gentle reminder to all parents that due to the very limited size of our school parking lot, and to ensure the safety of all of our students, accessibility to the school parking lot is strictly limited to school staff and/or school board personnel. Parent cooperation with regard to this restriction is greatly appreciated.

### ***School Fundraising Initiatives***



Throughout the school year, there will be a carefully managed number of fund-raising events. It is through these fund-raising efforts that the school is able to broaden and enrich the school experiences for the students. Funds are applied to special presentations and speakers in the school as well as to help to defray the cost of some excursions. Every effort is undertaken to ensure that funds raised in the school will be equitably distributed across all divisions in the school so that every student benefits in some way from the fund raising efforts.

Parents are encouraged to support each fund raising initiative in one of two ways. The most obvious way is for the parents to participate in the actual fund raiser by, for example, purchasing boxes of chocolate almonds. However, if some parents prefer not to actively participate in a particular fund-raiser, another alternative is for that family to make a cash donation to the school in lieu of participation in that event.

However various families choose to participate in the fund-raising initiatives is entirely at the discretion of each family. The school staff does thank, in advance, the enthusiastic participation of the families in all of the fund-raising events of the year.

### ***Promotion of Good Student Practices***

Undeniably, every parent is anxious to foster routines and practices which will help to ensure better student performances. To that end, parents are encouraged to possibly have a conversation with their children about the following suggestions.

- **Preparedness and Punctuality:** A good student can often be characterized as a student who is well organized (homework/assignments completed on time and to the best of the student's ability) and who always arrives at school on time! Even things like bringing required forms

back to school on time and in good condition are signs of engaged, responsible and industrious students.

- **Rested:** Any student who wishes to maximize potential should make every effort to be well rested to begin each day.
- **Attentive to Personal Health/Hygiene/Cleanliness:** Especially as students advance through the grades, students looking to succeed begin with attention to personal hygiene and neat, clean attire. (And, it is always a positive when students do not neglect to brush both teeth and hair on a daily basis).

### ***Hints for Parents***

Parents can ‘assist’ their children along the journey to being self-disciplined students by establishing some basic routines at home. Depending on the age of the child, parents are even encouraged to involve the child in the establishment of some of these ‘routines’.

While every family unquestionably has a very busy lifestyle, no schedule should ever completely overlook the need for a child to engage in some school-related time each day. Thus, it could be a family discussion to set out a portion of each day (ranging from as little as ten minutes for younger children to perhaps 40 – 50 minutes for Grade Seven –Eight students) where the child engages in either homework or book-related activities. During that chosen time period, distractions such as telephone calls or texting or electronic gaming devices should be ‘off limits’.

It is a very well established fact that those children who learn to love to read will generally become better students!

A direct correlation between students with good listening skills and success in school performance is relatively easy to trace. Therefore, parents can easily become active participants in the academic growth of their child by setting clear expectations in the home about proper listening skills. Gently guiding the child to listen attentively to whoever is speaking, even at home, would be valuable to the child. Having the simple expectation that the child should listen until the speaker is finished and only then respond is a communication skill that has been overlooked by many in all settings. As a result, very often critical information is either only partially heard or missed entirely.

### ***Sharing School Event News***

- **St Elizabeth ‘Me To We’ Student Committee**

The ‘*Me To We*’ Student Committee at St. Elizabeth has had an exciting start to the 2018-2019 school year. This year, we have 20 Grade Eight committee members who volunteer their time to raise awareness and to fundraise for a world-wide initiative known as ‘*Free The Children*’.

There were 8 of the *Me To We* committee members who were able to attend ‘*We Day*’ at Scotiabank Arena on September 20. The students were inspired by many famous speakers during that day. When they returned to our school, the Grade Eight students had smiles on their faces and a determination in their hearts to help other children.

This year, the *Me To We* Student Committee has a goal of raising \$800. These funds will enable our St. Elizabeth Catholic School community to send medical supplies to needy students in Haiti. Parents will see the return of certain popular events from years past as part of the fund raising initiatives: our annual candy cane sale at Christmas, as well as ‘*We Scare Hunger*’. In preparation for the ‘*We Scare Hunger*’ event, information will be provided to all students during the month of October by school announcements and classroom presentations. At the end of October, the committee will be collecting food donations for the local area food bank.

The *Me To We* Student Committee looks for to an exciting year as they strive to reach out in support of students in other parts of the world who are far less fortunate.

- **National Science Reading Day for Grade Five/Six**

On Wednesday, September 20, our Grade Five/Six class participated in National Science Reading Day, an event designed by The Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Students were asked to select from an assortment of science readings and then to spend one period reading from texts including non-fiction, science fiction novels, scientists' biographies, science magazines, etc. After reading, the students had many interesting ideas to share and questions to ponder. The experience was wonderfully worthwhile and enriching for the students!



- **Extra-Curricular Athletic News**

Many of our students, both girls and boys, are already in full preparation for athletic competitions which take place at various times throughout the school year. These extra-curricular events provide the students with an opportunity to develop both personal and team skills as well as allowing the students to display leadership abilities both on and off the playing fields.

Early in the month of October, our school Cross Country team will participate in a large competition at Centennial Park. Thank you to the team coaches, Mrs. Tulino and Ms Nicholas for working with the students and, of course, best wishes to the students during the competition. May each of you represent yourselves and St. Elizabeth Catholic School well!! Later in the fall, there will be competitions in Intermediate Volleyball tournaments for both girls and boys. Both teams are already working hard in practice under the careful guidance of their coach, Mr. Pedra. Again, best wishes for a successful season to all players and Mr. Pedra as their coach.

### ***Upcoming Events in The Month of October***

Parents are encouraged to refer frequently to the October calendar to be informed about various events and activities that will be occurring throughout the month. Certain events will be highlighted here in an effort to ensure that these particular events do not 'arrive as a surprise'!

- **October 4:** St. Elizabeth Catholic School Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church; 10:00a.m.. In the spirit of being a true 'family' event, we invite and encourage any parents, grandparents to join us for that mass.
- **High School Open Houses:** All Grade eight parents should note the dates of local Catholic High School open houses and plan to attend!
- **October 10:** Cross Country Meet at Centennial Park.
- **October 15** All Chocolate Almond funds to be submitted; unsold chocolates to be returned
- **October 19** Pizza Day/Civvies Day
- **October 26** Photo Day!



# Monthly Update from the Board October 2018

## **Municipal Election October 22, 2018**

### **New ward boundaries will be in effect**

**Existing Trustee Wards, including the local Catholic schools they represent, remain unchanged and the new boundaries DO NOT come into effect until December 1, 2018.**

These changes do not affect the current number of Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustees which will remain at 12. However, it impacts the distribution areas of Trustee Wards and the local schools they represent.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/trusteesoftheboard/pages/new-trustee-ward-boundaries.aspx>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Although these changes do not come into effect until December 1, 2018, registered Catholic ratepayers will be voting for candidates based on these 12 new Trustee Wards for the Municipal Election on October 22, 2018. For more information regarding elections: <https://myvote.toronto.ca/home>

**OAPCE-Toronto hosts a Catholic School Trustee Meet and Greet October 1, 2018 at the Catholic Education Centre** <https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/oapce-toronto/pages/default.aspx>

## **TCDSB Seeks Parent/Community Representatives**

Representatives are needed for:

**Safe Schools Advisory Committee** (October 5, 2018)

**Indigenous Advisory Committee** (application deadline October 12, 2018)

Details online: <https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/pages/current-openings--parent-membership-on-committees.aspx>

## **Night School Begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Details here: <https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/continuingeducation/pages/default.aspx>

## **CPIC Elections October 2, 3 and 15**

Become a Voice for Catholic Parents

Representatives sought for Wards 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. Election October 2, 2018.

Elections October 3, 2018 for vacancies in Wards 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9

Election of Parent Members at Large, October 15, 2018 at the Inaugural Meeting.

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

## **High School Open Houses**

Open houses are happening this fall in all TCDSB secondary schools. For a complete list of dates, times and locations visit <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/openhouses/pages/default.aspx>

## **TCDSB School Donations**

Donations to schools are used to enhance local fundraising efforts, which support school initiatives that are not funded through Provincial Ministry of Education grants. School Cash Online makes donating to schools easier than ever, and all donations will receive a tax receipt. Click here to learn more or donate today:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Pages/TCDSB-School-Donations.aspx>

## **Newcomer Conference we Belong--October 12, 2018**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forcommunity/newcomers/pages/newcomer-conference-registration.aspx>

## Interim Trustee Coverage for Ward 4 Schools

Ward 4 Trustee Patrizia Bottoni has tendered her resignation from the Board of Trustees effective September 20, 2018. The Board thanks Ms. Bottoni for her years of service to the Board and to the Catholic school communities in Ward 4, and wish her well in her future endeavours. Her departure leaves a vacancy in Ward 4, but given that we are just four weeks away from the election of Catholic School Board Trustees on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Board has decided not to fill the seat in the short term. Schools in Ward 4 will be represented by Trustees Sal Piccininni and Maria Rizzo, who have volunteered to support the Ward 4 area until the new Board of Trustees takes office on December 1, 2018.

The breakdown of Trustee representation is outlined below:

**Trustee Sal Piccininni** ([sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org](mailto:sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org) 416-512-3403)

- Blessed Margherita of Citta di Castello
- James Cardinal McGuigan
- St. Augustine of Canterbury
- St. Charles Garnier
- St. Jane Frances
- St. Wilfrid

**Trustee Maria Rizzo** ([maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org](mailto:maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org) 416-512-3405)

- Madonna
- St. Conrad
- St. Jerome
- St. Martha
- St. Norbert
- St. Raphael
- St. Robert

TCDSB thanks Trustee Piccininni and Rizzo for their willingness to be a voice for Ward 4 schools.

## Angel Foundation For Learning

By attending The Angel Foundation for Learning's, **An Evening to Feed the Soul Gala** on **November 9th**, wondrous things are made possible!

- Funds are made available to schools through the **School Allocation Fund** to help reduce the costs associated with school trips or leadership activities so that all students share these invaluable experiences.
- TCDSB students will be assisted with some of life's basic needs such as warm clothing or food through the **Social Work Emergency Fund**.
- TCDSB students will be able to attend Summer Camp and after-school sports activities through the **AFL Camp Fund**.
- You, your friends and co-workers will enjoy a gala encompassing all the magic of the Gatsby era!

For more information about the [Angel Foundation for Learning](#) or how to get your tickets for the [Evening to Feed the Soul Gala](#), go to [www.angelfoundationforlearning.org](http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org).

## Staff Arts Presents Shakespeare on the Green

November 2,3, 9, 10

<https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/staff-arts-presents-shakespeare.aspx>

## International Languages (Elementary) Program Update: October, 2018

### International Languages Parent Survey

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Trustees of the TCDSB approved a motion to survey parents **in all TCDSB elementary schools** to determine whether parents wish to continue or initiate an International Languages (Elementary) program at their child's school.

Surveys will be sent home with the progress report the week of November 12<sup>th</sup>, with the only or oldest child in each family. Families are asked to complete **one survey per family** and **submit it to the school principal by November 27, 2018.**

Should parents wish to have a translated version to assist with the completion of the English survey, they are asked to request a copy from the school principal or a special web page will be set up with translated versions of the survey. Translations will be available in the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Arabic, Filipino, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional) Tamil, and Italian.

To ensure that results reflect the school community, surveys will be coded to ensure reliability, as well as, surveys from 67% of all families in the school must be completed and returned in order for the results to be considered viable. In the current schools that offer International Languages within the five hour school day, in order to determine if the program is to be continued using the Board approved model, or to move the IL program to an alternative model, the majority of 51% should be attained for the preferred selection.

For updated information regarding the International Languages Program please visit:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/schoolprograms12/internationallanguages/pages/change-to-international-languages-program.aspx>

## Dates to Note

October is...

- [Autism Awareness Month](#)
- [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)
- [Latin-Hispanic Canadian Heritage Month](#)
- [Learning Disabilities Month](#)
- [Walk to School Month](#) (Walk to School Day October 3)
- National Principal's Month
- [Elementary Cross-Country—various dates](#)
- October 1—International Day of Older Persons
- October 2—National Custodial Workers Day
- October 4—Rosary Day  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Rosary-Day.aspx>
- October 5—World Teachers' Day
- October 5—System-wide PA Day
- October 7--Thanksgiving
- October 10—World Mental Health Day  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/specialeducation/mhs/Pages/Default.aspx>
- October 11--International Day of the Girl <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/international-day-of-the-girl.aspx>
- [October 15-21 Waste Reduction Week](#)
- [October 17--International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- [October 20—CSPC and School Administrator Welcome and Orientation Event](#)
- [October 22-26--School Bus Safety Week](#)
- October 24—Early Childhood Educator and Childcare Worker Appreciation Day
- [October 31 – All Hallows Eve](#)
- [November 1—All Saints Day](#)
- [November 2—All Souls' Day](#)

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<https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>