



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

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Parish:
St. Francis of Assisi Church
72 Mansfield Avenue
Toronto, ON
M6J 2B2
416 536-8195
Fr. J. Zammit

Hours of Operation:
8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Lunch Hour:
11:15 am to 12:15 pm



December 2016/January 2017

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School News

Principal's Message

The virtues on which we have focused, so far this year, have been Hospitality, Gratitude, Peacemaking and Charity. We remind students that these monthly virtues are to be practiced daily and we encourage them to do so through simple, daily acts. As parents/caregivers, please help to reinforce these virtues at home by asking your child what he or she is learning about each virtue and how he or she is demonstrating it.

With the beginning of the Advent season, it is important to spend time with our children, to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. When we give of our time and efforts towards others, to show we care, that is when the spirit of Charity becomes alive and visible. Through simple acts, we can accomplish so much. During this season, consider having discussions with your child about how to be more charitable in words and actions.

As we look forward to the New Year, let us take this as an opportunity to renew our spirits, make promises and develop a plan to see us through and be successful. The virtue for January is Courage and it takes a great deal of courage to accept that we need to change things sometimes and to be more reflective, thoughtful, empathetic and compassionate regarding our choices and actions towards others.

On behalf of myself and the staff of St. Francis of Assisi, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas full of blessings and a happy, joyous New Year full of endless possibilities.

A Cianchetti
Principal

Christmas Prayer

**God of patience and love,
Your Kingdom of Justice, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit
is a wonderful gift to our communities.**

**During this season of Advent,
may we take the time
to open our minds to your wisdom;
to open our ears to your work; and
to open our hands to do your work.**

**May our schools look to your coming
with hope,
that we may learn to act in justice;
with patience,
that we may learn to live in peace; and
with faith,
that we learn to find joy in all things.**

**We ask that your Holy Spirit be with us in this time of waiting –
activating, animating, and motivating us to the fullness
of our potential.**

Amen

Allergy Reminder and Classroom Celebrations

We appreciate your co-operation in ensuring that products which contain nuts, peanuts, peanut by products and/or peanut oil are not brought into the school. **Furthermore, please do not send in any type of food treats throughout the year on birthdays and for other celebrations.** Some alternative suggestions are: small toy items, pencils, stickers, crayons, a small loot bag (1 or 2 items) or party hats.

Entrance

For the security and safety of all children in our school we must all be diligent about security issues. Please read and respect the following:

- Supervision of the students begins at 8:15 am. The students must wait outside in the school yard until the bell rings for admission.
- Parents and visitors are to sign in at the office whenever entering the school building.

Winter Weather and Outdoor Recess

Children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors. Indoor recesses will take place only when warranted by weather conditions.

Winter is Here and so is the Winter Weather.

Get all the latest information about cancellations and closures throughout the winter months, and find out what's happening across the Board all year long by following @TCDSB on Twitter.

Indoor Shoes, Extra Pair of Socks, Pants

All students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather conditions. For safety reasons, students should be wearing boots or outdoor footwear in the winter and running shoes indoors.

Having a pair of 'indoor' running shoes helps reduce the amount of dirt and mud brought indoors. It will also assist our custodial staff in keeping our school clean. It is also important because if the fire alarm goes off students cannot stop to put shoes on. Having an extra pair of socks at school is also suggested in case feet get wet during the snowy months ahead, along with an extra pair of pants (especially if your child does not wear snow pants outside).

Pediculosis

Pediculosis, commonly known as **lice**, is common, but sometimes problematic in schools and among children. Children are reminded not to share caps, hats, combs, brushes, or other hair accessories.

Parents are encouraged to check scalps regularly and to use preventative measures to ensure that their child does not contact lice.

Roll of Paper Towels and Tissue Box

We kindly ask that you provide one roll of paper towels and one box of tissues for your child's classroom in the new year and then to do the same after the March Break. The paper towels will be used by students after washing their hands in the classroom sink and the tissues for the many runny noses this winter! Thank you for your contributions!



Advent Has Begun

For prayers, liturgies & other resources:
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Pages/Season-of-Advent.aspx>

Christmas Break

A reminder that schools are open through to December 23, 2016. Christmas holidays begin Saturday, December 24th and continue through to Sunday, January 8th. Classes resume, Monday, January 9th.

Our Eastern rite families will celebrate Christmas on January 7th. We wish everyone a safe, happy and blessed Christmas

Kindergarten Registration for September 2017

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2013 to register for Kindergarten beginning Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at 10 am EST.

Registration options:

Online: Parents will be able to complete their application online at: <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>.

A follow-up with a visit to the school to present the required documents will be scheduled by the school following the online application.

In Person: To accommodate the busy schedules of parents, **St. Francis of Assisi will host a registration session on Thursday, January 26th, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.**

Please call the school to book an appointment with the secretary.

Please bring the following 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)
- 2 Proof of residency in Toronto (for example: a lease agreement, utility bill, realty tax bill)
- Immunization Record

Information is available by telephone at 416 222-8282 ext. 5320 or ext. 5314, or visit www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration

Get Ready for High School

Everything you need to know can be found in the Transition Guides for parents and students:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolPrograms/K12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolPrograms/K12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/TransitionGuidesOct282016/TCDSB_STUDENT_GUIDE.pdf

Toronto Police Service Seeks Crossing Guards

Interested individuals should drop in to their local police division to inquire about application.

November Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were this month's ambassadors of the virtue of Peacemaking:

Ms. Mazzuca/Ms. Abbatino	Lucas A
Ms. Jennings	Catarina P
Mr. Sorrentino	Hudson J
Mr. Pietramala	Keira H
Ms. Abate	Ardian A
Ms. Silva	Sofia I
Ms. Rodrigues	Victoria A
Ms. Prsa	Dan T
Ms. Sobol	Justin R
Ms. Calautti	Nicole M

Macbeth

On October 20, 2016, the Congregated students from our board took a bus to Stratford to watch "Macbeth." This is what we thought:



"Despite having an understudy play the main character, they still delivered an extraordinary performance."

Kyle H, Lan N, Destiny C, Hugh C, Matteo O
"It was a highly compelling and interesting experience."

Thomas L, Theo J, Dan T, Lucas A

"It was dramatic, suspenseful and well written. It was worth the trip. A good educational experience. The witch scenes were cool, awesome and creepy."

Rogene T, Linh P, Maya F, Emily P

"Everyone acted very well and very fitting for the role, especially the witches. The fight scene at the end was great!"

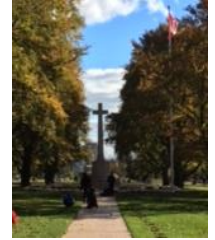
Spencer B, Matthew C, William C, Matteo M

War Memorial at Prospect Cemetery



On Friday, November 11th, a crisp, fall afternoon, the Grade 6, 7, and 8 students in Ms. Sobol and Miss Silva's classes went to visit the War Memorial at Prospect Cemetery. They participated in a prayer service held at the Cenotaph to commemorate and pay homage to all of

the people who dedicated their lives to keeping peace in the world. After the ceremony, each student took some time to explore the tombstones, which revealed information like the soldier's age, rank and battalion. This excursion provided a perfect opportunity for students to appreciate the peaceful country they live in, as well as connect with the men and women who served their country with pride. Lest we forget.



Harbourfront

On the morning of November 15th, the congregated sixes



gathered with the other congregated fives and sixes from TCDSB. We were dispersed into art groups. We participated in activities like painting, digital photography, colographing, and many more. We learned about

different art techniques and by the end of the day we left with a new knowledge and artwork. This was a very awe-inspiring experience. Every time we've been to Harbourfront, we've discovered something new and amazing; this time was no different.

Hugh C, Matthew C, William C, Maya F, Emily P, Linh P, and Spencer B in spirit

Scientist in the Classroom

On Thursday, November 24th, the Grade 6's participated in a "Scientist in the Classroom" presentation on flight. We learned



lots of concepts like viscosity, drag, thrust, lift and gravity as it applies to air. We learned about how high and low air pressure affect lift. We did a variety of experiments including making propellers, making paper airplanes and following the path of

water flow. It was an extremely fun afternoon and we learned hands-on about flight.

Thank you to Mrs. Fitzgerald for sharing her knowledge and excitement of flight.

Brianna PS, Roberto R

TRUSTEES 2016 – 2017

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

Student Trustees: Rhea Carlisle
Karina Dubrovskaya



Angela Gauthier, Director of Education

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