



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

80 Clinton Street Toronto, ON M6G 2Y3

Telephone: 416 393-5206 Fax: 416 393-5782

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The virtue of love is the focus for the month of February. There are many ways to show each other that we love and care for one another. A simple gesture like saying good morning to someone, helping someone with their homework, being a good listener when someone has a problem, and being a friend to someone who is lonely can show how much you care for them. These are all simple things that we can encourage one another to do throughout this month. Have a conversation with your children and help them come up with other ways to show how much they care about others. Have members of your family or group make a list of ten things they love most and then talk about why these "things" may deepen your gratitude to God and bring greater happiness to your life. Most importantly, spend time together with your loved ones because that is the most precious gift in life. Now more than ever, this pandemic has taught us that we need to rely on each other to get through this. The sacrifices we have been making for this past year will enable us to face a safer future. Remember, that although most activities have been cancelled, one thing that is not cancelled is family time. Take the time to play board games, talk, go for a walk and just hang out together as a family. When everything goes back to 'normal', we will have happy memories of the time spent with our children.

On another note, we ask that you contact the school if you expect your child will be transferring to another school before the next school year commences in September 2021. Also, if you are planning an extended summer vacation, whereby your children will not be returning until after the first week of September 2021, please let us know as soon as possible. Staffing and classroom organization are directly related to student enrolment and therefore it is crucial that we have the most accurate information possible as we begin to plan for next school year.

Happy Valentine's Day!

A. Cianchetti
Principal

FEBRUARY VIRTUE - LOVE

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, HE GAVE IT HIS ONLY SON."

John 3:16

- **Let your actions be guided by the idea that God says we should love one another as He has loved us.**
- **Jesus said we should love our enemy.**

A. Cianchetti

PRINCIPAL ⓘ

Kimberly Dixon 416-222-8282 x. 5371

SUPERINTENDENT ⓘ

Norm Di Pasquale 416 512-3409

TRUSTEE ⓘ

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

72 Mansfield Avenue 416-536-8195

PARISH ⓘ

Rosemary Pacheco

CSPC CHAIR ⓘ

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB) ⓘ

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO ⓘ
(PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)

130

ENROLLMENT ⓘ

8:30 – 3:00

HOURS OF OPERATION ⓘ

11:15 – 12:15

LUNCH HOUR ⓘ

NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org
Call **416-393-5206** or the
TCDSB Admissions Department
at 416-222-8282, ext. 2383.

For general information about the
Toronto Catholic District School
Board, please visit the website at
www.tcdsb.org

Stay in touch with the latest news
throughout the school year:
Follow **@TCDSB** on Twitter.

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- **The bible says that love is always patient and kind.**
 - **Live your life in a way that makes others know you are a follower of Christ.**

VALENTINE'S DAY AND FOOD ALLERGY REMINDER

Although school is temporarily closed, 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 when it re-opens. Furthermore, please do not send in any type of food treats throughout the year on birthdays and for other celebrations. Please keep this in mind for Valentine's Day. Some alternative suggestions are pencils, stickers, crayons, or art supplies.

COLD ALERTS AND WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS/CLOSURES

Throughout the winter months, Twitter and the board website are the best sources of information relating to cold weather alerts, cancellations and closures.

To get the latest information about school bus transportation, see <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>

Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the transportation portal to get real time information about any transportation issues: <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

Cancellation of school bus transportation will also be reported via ENews (<https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>), Twitter @TCDSB, and the 24 hour telephone information line 416-222-8282, extension 2873, and posted to the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org

WINTER WEATHER AND OUTDOOR RECESS

Children need an opportunity to exercise and have free play time outdoors. Please ensure that your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for the weather. This includes hats, scarves, gloves/mitts and winter boots. Indoor recesses will take place only when warranted by weather conditions following the Board policy.

WINTER SCHOOL YARD SAFETY

Parents, please discuss with your child the importance of playing safely in the school yard, especially in winter conditions. For the safety of all students, we do not allow snowball throwing, sliding, piling on top of one another, hockey type checking, sliding into other students, or any other rough play. The school yard used to be divided into Primary, Junior, and Intermediate division play areas so that same-aged, same-sized children play together to avoid injury. However, due to COVID restrictions, students are now in cohorted areas outside. Students must stay in their cohorts at all times and not cross over to other areas. This is to ensure their safety and that of other students and staff around them. Students must always be visible to teachers on duty and must play in their assigned cohorted areas.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Interviews will most likely take place on the **evenings of Tuesday, February 9, and Thursday, February 11**, from 6pm-8:30pm. More information will follow in a separate communication once confirmed by the Board. Friday, February 12 is a PA day and the school will be closed and/or no Virtual classes will take place. In addition, Monday, February 15 is Family Day and the school will be closed and/or no Virtual classes will take place.

WINTER WALK DAY 2021

Winter Walk Day will be taking place this year on **February 3, 2021**. Winter Walk Day is an opportunity for all of us—students, staff, families—to focus on improved health and well-being, active lifestyles and building safer communities for everyone. [Click here for more information.](#)

REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN CONTINUES

Kindergarten registration began on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 10am EST for children born in 2017. Parents are able to complete their application online at <https://www.SOAR.tcdsb.org> and follow up with an email to the school to present the required documents. Due to COVID restrictions, we are not booking in person appointments. The online application is available 24 hours. Please call the school if you require further information.

Registration options:

Online: Parents can complete their application online beginning at 10 a.m. EST on January 20, 2021, at [SOAR.tcdsb.org](https://www.SOAR.tcdsb.org), and follow up with an email to the school to present the required documents. The online application is available 24 hours.

Registration documents required:

- 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)
- Proof of residency in Toronto (some examples: a lease agreement, utility bill)
- Immunization Record

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

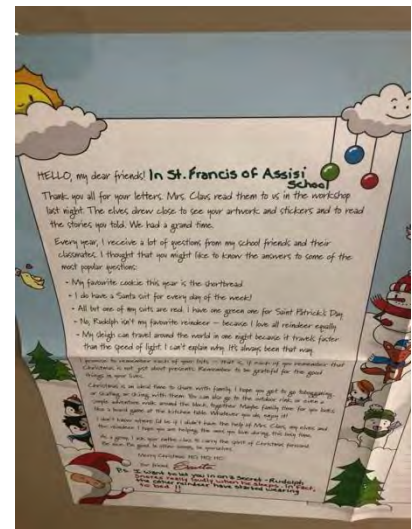
STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students who are the February ambassadors of the virtue of Love:

Miss Mazzuca	Abigail R.
Mrs. Dos Santos	Noah R.
Mr. Sorrentino	Eva K.
Ms. Nina	Elisa D.S.
Miss Silva	Luca A.
Mrs. Rodrigues	Peter Z.
Ms. Calautti/Ms. Mannella	Maya S.
Ms. Prsa	Maia R.

SFA – CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK COLLAGE





CELEBRATING LOVE THROUGH PRAYER

FROM WILLIAM BAUSH A WORLD OF STORIES

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, And I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, And I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a favourite cake for me, And I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you say a prayer, And I believed there is a God who I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me goodnight, And I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, And I learned that sometimes things hurt, But it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you cared And I wanted to be everything I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked and wanted to say thanks For all the things I saw When you thought I wasn't looking.

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to remind students that they are loved and teach them how to love others!



Helpful tips for parents to make sur Valentine's day is a positive experience for all students.

A PARENTS GUIDE:

Making the most of parent-teacher interviews

Prepare Ahead: Read your child's report card. Write down any questions or concerns to have handy when speaking with the teacher.

Ask Questions: Ask the teacher what area of the curriculum motivates your child most regularly. Ask what skills your child needs to develop further. Find out how your child gets along at school with other teachers and students.

Share Your Perspective: Share your child's interests, hobbies, and extracurricular activities, as well as any areas where your child needs extra encouragement. Let the teacher know if there are any issues completing homework.

Listen: Hear all comments and concerns raised by the teacher with an open mind and an eye towards problem solving.

Make a Plan: Ask what strategies the teacher is using to support learning – especially in areas that are challenging for your child. Discuss what you can do at home to support your child's learning and social skills. Share your contact information and ask how to get in touch with the teacher if you have more questions or concerns.

Follow-up: Share the teacher's positive comments with your child. Let your child know how you are all going to work together to help with any area that needs support.

Is it the February Blues???

Sadness is a natural part of being human, and feeling this way for a few days can be normal.

While we may think of low mood or other challenges as adult problems, they can affect people at any age. Sometimes it can be difficult for adults to understand how difficult children's problems can be because we look at their problems through adult eyes.

<https://ontario.cmha.ca/documents/children-youth-and-depression/>

Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600
Connected Parenting: 416-781-4700 <https://connectedparenting.com/>



Monthly Update from the Board

February 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Energy Awareness Month Kits & Activities: 4 Days - 4 Themes - One Month

Improve your Energy Awareness this month with TCDSB Energy Awareness Kits (tailored to age groups), and join us each Friday for our awareness activities in support of energy conservation:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/environment/energymonth/Pages/default.aspx>

Kindergarten Registration 2021

Registration is now open online at soar.tcdsb.org. Children born in 2017 are eligible to attend Kindergarten. For detailed information on eligibility and required documentation:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/Kindergarten/KindergartenRegistration/Pages/KindergartenRegistration.aspx>

Return to School Update

The Government of Ontario has announced that all publicly funded schools in Toronto will **return to in-person instruction Feb. 11**, following the end of the current emergency order at midnight on Feb. 10.

Update for Families: In-Person and Virtual Transfers

We remain committed to offering families an opportunity to choose their child's preferred learning model and also recognize that classroom stability is important to student learning and development. <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Documents/tcdsb-communication-to-families-dec-2020.pdf>

COVID-19 Resources and Information

For updates and information relating to COVID-19, please see

- **Frequently Asked Questions:** <https://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/back-to-school/pages/faq.aspx>
- **Resources:** <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/resources.aspx>
- **Latest Updates:** <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>

For information specifically about the virtual school (St. Anne Catholic Academy) please refer to <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/virtual-school.aspx>

PARENT OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

[Transition to High School Guidelines](#)

Mental Health Resources

- CMHO: [Your Child's Mental Wellness and Remote Learning](#)
- City of Toronto: [COVID-19: Mental Health Resources: It's OK not to feel OK](#)
- Ontario: [Mental health services for children and youth](#)

Reminder: School Year Calendar for 2020-21 including PA Days

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Calendar/PAandExamDays/Documents/tcdsb-school-year-calendar-2020-2021.pdf>

Sign Up for School Messenger for Absence Reporting and More

The student absence reporting system is also used to send critical and urgent messages from your school, and from the school Board. For more information <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>.

Get Updates on School Bus Service

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

Anti-Racism Video Contest: Voices of Challenge and Change

Students in grades 7 to 12 are invited to get creative and submit their video reflections about race. Group or Individual submissions accepted. Prizes will be awarded for the top three videos.

Deadline: March 5, 2021 at 5 p.m.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/AfricanCanadianHeritage/Pages/Anti-Racism-Video-Competition.aspx>

B'Nai Brith: Diverse Minds Creative Writing Competition

Students in Grades 9-12 are invited to reflect on the values of diversity and inclusion by writing and illustrating a story for elementary school students. **Deadline: April 9, 2021.**

<https://www.bnaibrith.ca/diverseinds/>

Need someone to talk to?

- **Kids Help Phone** is there for you with 24/7 confidential support. Counsellors can be reached by phone at 1-800-668-6868 or by texting CONNECT to 686868. <https://kidshelpphone.ca>
- **LGBT YouthLine** offers confidential and non-judgemental LGBTQ+ peer support through telephone, text and chat services. <https://www.youthline.ca>

EVENTS AND OBSERVANCES

February is:

[African Canadian Heritage Month](#)

[Energy Conservation Month](#)

[Psychology Month](#)

Virtue of the Month: [Love](#)

Don't Miss Out on the Latest News and Information:

- Visit the Board's website www.tcdsb.org
- Follow @TCDSB on Twitter, @TorontoCatholicDSB on Instagram, and visit Toronto Catholic District School Board on Facebook to get updates throughout the day.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2020 - 2021

Wards

1. Joseph Martino, Chair	416-512-3401	8. Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
2. Markus de Domenico	416-512-3402	9. Norm Di Pasquale	416-512-3409
3. Ida Li Preti	416-512-3403	10. Daniel Di Giorgio	416-512-3410
4. Teresa Lubinski	416-512-3404	11. Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405	12. Nancy Crawford, Vice-Chair	416-512-3412
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406	Keith Andre Baybayon, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
7. Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407	Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee	416-512-3417