



**St. Francis
of Assisi
Catholic School**

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Toronto, ON M6G 2Y3
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Principal:
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Superintendent:
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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



February 2017

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School News

**VIRTUE FOR FEBRUARY:
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.
- 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.



At A Glance – Some Important Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, February 14 th	Report Cards Sent Home
Thursday, February 16 th	5:30 – 8:30 pm Parent-Teacher Conferences
Friday, February 17 th	PA DAY – no classes for students 9:00 – 11:00 am Parent-Teacher Conferences
Monday, February 20 th	Family Day
Tuesday, February 28 th	Shrove Tuesday

Valentine's Day and Food Allergy Reminder

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. Please keep this in mind for Valentine's Day.** Some alternative suggestions are: small toy items, pencil, stickers, crayons, or a small loot bag.

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. Get all the information here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/HealthandSafety/Pages/Cold-Weather-Alerts.aspx> and here <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/HealthandSafety/Pages/Weather-Related-Safety-Concerns.aspx>

And remember to check the Toronto Student Transportation Group website for any school bus delays throughout the year. <http://www.torontoschoolbus.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 is divided into Primary, Junior, and Intermediate division play areas so that same-aged, same-sized children play together to avoid injury. Students must be visible to teachers on duty and must play in their assigned areas.

Kindergarten Registration Continues

Parents are able to complete their application online at SOAR.tcdsb.org, and follow up with a visit to the school to present the required documents. The online application is available 24 hours. Please call the school if you require further information or would like to book an appointment to register your child.

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were December's ambassadors for the virtue of Charity:

Ms. Mazzuca/Ms. Bellissimo	Evangelia K
Ms. Jennings	Madeleine DS
Mr. Sorrentino	Matteo DS
Mr. Pietramala	Maia R
Ms. Abate	Liam DS
Miss Silva	Rita M
Ms. Rodrigues	Isabella G
Ms. Prsa	Hugh C
Ms. Sobol	Emma C
Ms. Calautti	Maliya S-S

Congratulations to the following students who were January's ambassadors for the virtue of Courage:

Ms. Mazzuca/Ms. Bellissimo	Nicholas M
Ms. Jennings	Matteo L
Mr. Sorrentino	Matthew R
Mr. Pietramala	Justin C
Ms. Abate	Elisa I
Miss Silva	Michael V
Ms. Rodrigues	Mia P
Ms. Prsa	Destiny C
Ms. Sobol	Laura I
Ms. Calautti	Julia C

Powwow

On November 24th, Ms. Abate's Grade 4/5 class went to St. Joseph's all girls high school to attend an Aboriginal dance



called Powwow. They were joined by many other schools as they not only watched this amazing performance, but attempted to learn the dance too. The Powwow dancers demonstrated the dance so that the kids could try to follow along with them. The performers invited the kids to

try to dance with them. The dancers were many different ages and there were many different styles of Powwow dancing shown throughout the show.

The Grade 4/5 class definitely had a wonderful day at the Powwow.

By: Siena C

Aboriginal Workshop

On Wednesday, November 30th, the Grade 1 and 2 students participated in an Aboriginal workshop as part of their Social Studies learning.

Briar came to visit. She captivated the students when she arrived in her traditional cone dress. It was mesmerizing to watch her dance because of the cones and the noise they made as she performed.

Briar is an Ojibwe from a community north of Thunder Bay. We learned that her name is Little Otter and she is from the Loon Clan. The Loon Clan are the leaders within their community. Briar, AKA Little Otter, danced for us and introduced us to some of the special dances her people have for different ceremonies.

We learned that the drum beat in Ojibwe music represents the heartbeat of Mother Nature. We also learned how to say "hello" (Aaniin) and "see you later" (Bamapii) in Ojibwe. It was a really special afternoon learning more about Ojibwe cultures, traditions, and language.



Cavalcade of Lights

On Wednesday, November 30th, the St. Francis of Assisi Choir performed at the annual Cavalcade of Lights. Students, parents and neighbours gathered at Johnny Lombardi Square to enjoy some festive songs and treats, and to turn on the Christmas lights. The bright lights paled in comparison to the SFA bright stars who sang with angelic voices: Renée F, Maia R, Mary R, Brianna PS, Rita M. Shunera C, Hailey P, Rebecca F, Amanda C, Roberto R, Calen S, Christian D, Theo J, and Matteo DMO.

It was a fantastic opening to the Christmas Season. A special thank you to Ms. Nasato and Miss Silva, for leading the choir, and to parents and students who supported the choir members.

Christmas Line Art



It was a December afternoon and Ms. Abate's Grade 4/5 class did line art. This line art was a Christmas themed line art.

It involved lines with six different Christmas patterns and they all have to be unique. In the middle was the main focus which was the Christmas tree. It took us three art periods to complete our art because we had to do it in stages.

Stage one was to draw the Christmas tree in the middle and make our line patterns around the tree with pencil. Stage two was to outline everything with a black Sharpie. Stage three was to use watercolour paint to paint the whole thing in different colours.

It took a long time, but they came out beautifully painted in glory! We had a lot of fun!

By: Kyle C

Primary Mixed Soccer Tournament

Mr. Sorrentino and Mrs. Jennings would like to thank the girls and boys on the mixed primary soccer team for all their hard work, determination, excellent sportsmanship and strong play during the Primary Mixed Tournament at St. Raymond's school on December 7th. We won our first two games against St. Bruno and St. Michael, but unfortunately we lost our playoff game to St. Rita.

The team consisted of:
Luca A, Madeleine DS,
Alyson HL, Matteo DS,
Francesco D, Sophia P-M,
Matthew R, Bianca DF,



Hudson J, Luca S, Adam DS, Peter Z, Mary R, Maia R, and Renée F.

They represented St. Francis of Assisi School proudly. Way to go girls and boys!!!

Junior Boys Soccer Tournament

Mr. Sorrentino and Mr. Pietramala would like to congratulate the boys' junior soccer team for all their hard work, determination, excellent sportsmanship and strong play during the tournament on January 24th. They placed first and represented St. Francis of Assisi School proudly.

Congratulations to: Shane B, Brian C, Justin C, Ruben DC, Cristiano DF, Liam DS, Jamie F, Luca F, Lucas F, Axl G, Roberto R, Alexander S, and Guilherme S.

Way to go boys!

Junior Girls Soccer Tournament

On Wednesday, January 25th, the junior girls participated in their divisional soccer tournament. In round robin match-ups that got progressively difficult, the girls were more and more motivated to win, pushing themselves into the semi-final game. In the extremely tight match, the girls defeated St. Sebastian by a score of 1-0. In the finals, the girls led most of the game by one goal, but couldn't overcome the two quick goals scored by St. Pius in the final four minutes. The girls placed second overall, but first in sportsmanship and heart.

The amazing group consisted of: Siena C, Maya F, Elisa I, Sofia G, Emily P, Isabel P, Linh P, Nicole P, and Nina Z.

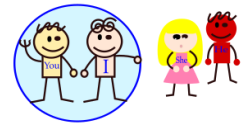
A big thank you to the referees and scorekeepers: Jackson A, Nathan A, Victoria A, Jaime DS, Zachary F, Isabella G, Mariana M, Erin PM, and Gabriella TT.

2016 National Creative Writing Contest

Congratulations to Linh P who received an award of excellence in the 2016 National Creative Writing Contest!

We Group Report

Since September 2016, the We Group of St. Francis of Assisi has been working to help raise funds to share with the less fortunate people, both in our own community and in the developing country of Haiti.



We

The We Scare Hunger campaign collected 1147 items of

non-perishable food which was distributed by the St. Vincent De Paul Society of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Through chocolate chip cookie sales, dress down days, and Christmas gift donations, we have raised \$1,012.29 and, if we count the 'raficki' bracelet sales, the total goes up to \$1,512.29!!!

Through the We Take Charge campaign, we have been trying to take care of our environment by promoting litter-less lunches, by turning off the lights when we are not in a room, by not letting taps run when we are brushing our teeth and by having shorter showers.

In addition to this, we are continuing participation in The Zinc Saves Lives Battery Recycling Campaign by collecting used batteries.

But we can't forget the people who have supported us in these initiatives.



Many thanks to all our caregivers, teachers, and all staff and students who helped and participated in all these campaigns. Your generosity is inspiring and you know we can't do it without all

of you!!

A big thank you to Ms. Cianchetti for supporting these endeavours and for providing an extended recess period in the Spring as a reward for their contribution. To Ms. Melo for her ever cheerful willingness to always lend us a hand and to Mr. Dos Santos for giving up his planning time to provide a prize for our Grade 8 Class for their amazing contribution to the food drive.

We will be continuing our work through the school year and thank you again for your amazing support. Please stay tuned for fun times ahead for Valentine's Day!

By: Thomas L for We Group



The Toronto Catholic District School Board has declared **Friday, May 5, 2017 as Parish Family Day.**

A special *Parish Family Day Celebration* will be held at the Catholic Education Centre on **Friday, May 5th**, to showcase student work focusing on the many ways that our parishes and our parish priests contribute to our schools and communities.

Students are invited to create a short video, original song or piece of original artwork, write a short story, poem or letter, or express themselves in any way artistically to highlight the relationship that the students have with the local parish and/or the priest/pastor at their church.

Completed projects should be submitted via email to parish.project@tcdsb.org.

Deadline for submissions Friday, April 7, 2017.

Let's continue to celebrate our parishes!

February is Psychology Month

The Psychology Department of TCDSB invites the community to explore and discover the many different ways psychology can help improve our everyday life and

overall well-being, and balance the many roles and responsibilities we have. Psychology is for everyone!

HELP YOUR CHILD FLOURISH: HOW TO ACHIEVE MENTAL HEALTH

A presentation for parents and educators on **Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 4:30 – 6:30 pm**
Catholic Education Centre, 3rd Floor,
80 Sheppard Avenue East

Learn more about the programs and services provided by the Psychology Department, TCDSB

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/psychology/Pages/default.aspx>

February is:

* National Inclusive Education Month

Learn more about the TCDSB's Catholic Equity and Inclusive Education Policy:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Pages/hm24.aspx>

* African Canadian Heritage Month

Celebrating the rich history, tradition and contribution to Canadian culture, literature, science, medicine, technology and the arts.

Friday, February 10, 2017

Mass and Cultural Expose at:

St. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy,
10:00 am – 1:30 pm

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/AfricanCanadianHeritage/Pages/default.aspx>

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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
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Angela Gauthier, Director of Education

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