



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

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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



November 2016

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School News

Principal's Message



"Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you."

John 14:27

The month of November is dedicated to the virtue of Peace. It is a time when we silently reflect and pray for guidance, good judgement and for support in creation of a world where peace and love are apparent in our everyday decisions.

In November, we also celebrate Remembrance Day. On this day, we remember and honour our soldiers and all of our war veterans by wearing a red poppy. It is important that we never forget the bravery of our soldiers and war veterans who fought for our freedom. We commemorate them through liturgies, assemblies and we keep their memory alive for future generations so that we never forget how important our freedom and peace are.

Because our school is named after St. Francis of Assisi, we pray and keep his words in our hearts:

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.



O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

Yours in peace,

A Cianchetti
Principal

At A Glance: Some Important Dates to Remember

November 3 rd	Last Session of Swim to Survive for Gr. 4 and 5 Students
November 5 th	Change Clocks – 1 Hour Back
November 9 th	AM – Sibling Pictures and Retakes
November 15 th	1:30 pm Remembrance Day Mass at SFA Parish
November 17 th	5:30 – 8:30 pm – Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 18 th	PA Day – no classes for students 9:00 – 11:00 am – Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please see the monthly calendar for additional information and events.

Grade 3/4

Welcome to Mr. M. Pietramala who is our new Grade 3/4 teacher. He is a certified teacher who comes to us with much experience and knowledge.

Entrance

For the security and safety of all the 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/caregivers are not to enter the school building at morning drop off. Please Note: during rainy days, students are to be dropped off in the atrium and staff will ensure that they go directly to the music room to be supervised until the morning bell.
- Parents and visitors are to sign in at the office whenever entering the school building.

Medication



Principals, teachers and support staff of the TCDSB are not permitted to administer any type of prescription medication during the school day, unless we have written authorization signed by you, the parent, and the prescribing physician. The forms to dispense any medication must be updated on a regular basis and are available from the school principal. Please be advised that staff in TCDSB schools will not dispense nonprescription medications to students. Students who require an Epi-Pen must have 2 Epi-Pens at school. One to be kept in the office and one to be kept with the student at all times. Students that require “puffers” should have one at school and at home. All medications will be stored in the main office. Please notify the school if your child suffers from any type of allergy.

It's Flu Season

Toronto Public Health Tips for Avoiding the Spread of Flu and Other Viruses:

- Get your flu shot
- Wash your hands often
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Do the knuckle bump instead of shaking hands
- Stay home if you are sick



Indoor Shoes, Extra Pair of Socks, Pants

In order to keep our students warm and comfortable and to help keep their workplace clean, please ensure that your child has a pair of “**indoor shoes**”. It will reduce the amount of dirt and mud brought indoors. In addition, 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).



Dressing for the Cold Weather



Soon we will be experiencing cold weather and with winter on its way, we need to prepare. It is important for students to come prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the forthcoming colder weather, including having hats, boots, and mittens/gloves.

Progress Report Card and Parent-Teacher Conferences

“The progress report cards are intended to become a central part of rich discussions with students and their parents in the context of proactive interviews or conferences that will help to establish a positive tone for the remainder of the school year. In this way, students and parents can gain a better understanding of students’ learning skills and work habits, and students’ learning goals can be clarified and understood by all.” (Growing Success Document, Pg. 66.)

Conversely, the first and second term report cards (in February and June) provide a summative assessment of the curriculum expectations covered. Student’s development of Learning Skills during each term will also be reported. Communication with parents and students about achievement occurs throughout the school year and it is not limited to the three formal reporting months (November, February and June). Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher to request a meeting to discuss your child’s progress and achievement.

October Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were this month’s ambassadors of the virtue of Gratitude:

Ms. Mazzuca/Ms. Abbatino
Ms. Jennings
Mr. Sorrentino
Mr. Pietramala
Ms. Abate
Ms. Silva
Ms. Rodrigues
Ms. Prsa
Ms. Sobol
Ms. Calautti

Leo M
Luna GM
Peter Z
Renée F
Kyle C
Calen S
Jaime DS
Kyle H
Jenevieve M
Michael T

Hot Docs

On Thursday, October 13th, the Grade 7 and 8 students walked over to the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema to watch “What Tomorrow Brings”, directed by Beth Murphy. Beth Murphy took her camera inside this all-girls school in Afghanistan to teach us the importance of education, the struggles that many women face around the world and to remind us of just how fortunate we are.



“This documentary was about girls who cannot go to school because they have to stay home and work. I was very touched by this documentary because it shows the realities that some girls face just to go to school. I felt so sorry for the girls because they have to struggle every day and they want to go to school so badly. Even the teachers struggle to get to school. I hope that everyone watching appreciates how easy it is to go to school in Toronto.”

Mariana M

Our Lady of Fatima



On Friday, October 14th, Sra. Chaves' Grade 6 and 7 students walked to St. Mary's Catholic Church to see the Pilgrim Image of Fatima. The beautiful image, enclosed in a protective glass case and adorned with white flowers, is one of thirteen replicas of the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and the first to ever come to Toronto. Over the course of ten days, she has been welcomed in many of the Portuguese-speaking churches of the Greater Toronto Area. In a special private moment, students were able to see the image up close and pray for her intercession. This once in a lifetime opportunity allowed them to personally connect with the image that serves as a reminder of Mary who appeared to the three shepherd children ninety-nine years ago. Just before leaving, the students participated in the Portuguese tradition of bidding the image adieu by waving a white cloth.



Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Portuguese Illustrator



On Wednesday, October 19th, Sra. Danuta Wojciechowska, a Portuguese illustrator, visited a few of the primary and junior classes. In two separate presentations, she spoke to students about her experiences with the Portuguese, French, and German cultures. To prepare for her arrival, the Grade 6 and 7 students designed their own traditional mosaics and created creatures using corks and toothpicks, two activities that appear in her activity book, Portugal: for Children. The primary students designed number posters that mimicked her picture book, Um, Dois, Tres, Conta Lá Outra Vez. The students were very excited about meeting the illustrator and learning about her imaginative ideas. A special thank you to Sra. Chaves for organizing the visit with Sra. Danuta.



Regional Cross Country Meet



On Tuesday, October 18th, ten students participated in the Regional Cross Country Meet at the Beaches Boardwalk. The weather conditions were perfect for long distance



running: a sunny, warm day with a fresh cool breeze. Each student gave it their all and represented SFA with pride. Congratulations to Luca S, Emily P, Maya F, Rebecca F, and Ethan M who all had fantastic runs. The other five runners will be advancing to the City Finals (the most we have ever had in the finals): Matteo O who came in 1st, Nathan A who came in 12th, Jackson A who came in 13th, Max L who also came in 13th, Kayla H who came in 21st.

The Year of the Parish: The Celebration Continues

We look forward to continuing the celebration of the Year of the Parish throughout the school year. It is a wonderful opportunity for our schools and parishes to connect, or re-connect, and plan activities and ongoing initiatives together that will support the important partnership between Family, Church and School. Information about our pastoral plan here:

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

Free English as a Second Language Courses for Adult Immigrants

The TCDSB Adult Education Program offers free language training courses for eligible adult immigrants at various locations across Toronto. After an assessment of language ability, eligible immigrants can enroll in our courses throughout the year. For more information and to locate courses using our online Course Finder, visit

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/AdultEducationESL/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Prime Minister's Awards

Do you know a terrific teacher or early childhood educator? Consider nominating them for a 2016-17 Prime Minister's Award! This prestigious program honours innovative and outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers and early childhood educators who are helping prepare Canadian youth for the challenges of tomorrow.

Looking for inspiration? Check out some of our previous [teaching](#) and [early childhood education](#) award recipients.

2016-17 nomination packages are now available at www.pma.gc.ca.

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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