



ST. HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1196 College Street, Toronto, ON M6H 1B8

Telephone: 416-393-5208

Fax: 416-397-6142

Virtue of the month: COURAGE

"Do not be afraid, I am with you."

Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity of Work and The Rights of Workers: If the dignity of work is protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.

Catholic School Graduate Expectation: A Responsible Citizen: Because I accept my responsibilities, I can make a difference, and I will live my life like Jesus.

Prayer for the New Year

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,

Thank you for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for us,

A time to grow in faith and love,

A time to renew our commitment to following your son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessings for us,

A time to cherish our families and friends,

A time to renew our efforts at work,

A time to embrace our faith more fully.

Walk with us, please,

In every day and every hour of this new year,

That the light of Christ might shine through us,

In spite of our weakness and failings.

Above all, may we remember this year that

We are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.

Amen.

Wishing everyone a healthy, safe and productive New Year!

M. Sardo-Antunes

O. DeFigueiredo

Principal

Vice-Principal

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 6th – Welcome Back to School 8:30 a.m. start

January 8th – ME Bowling

January 10th & 24th – Pizza Day

January 10th – Grade 4 OSLAT8 testing

January 10th to 24th – Socks for Souls Campaign

January 14th & 28th – Pita Pit Lunch ** new order forms

January 15th – Kindergarten Online Registration starts at 10 a.m.,

St. Helen School Mass at St. Helen Church 1 p.m.

January 17th – PA DAY (No School)

January 22nd – CSPC Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.,

Kindergarten Evening Registration 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Twitter: @StHelenCS Website: www.tcdsb.org/schools/sthelen

Winter Weather Updates: check www.tcdsb.org and school website for winter weather updated information

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY 2020

Manuela Sardo-Antunes	Odile DeFigueiredo	
PRINCIPAL ↗	VICE-PRINCIPAL	
John Wujek 416-222-8282 ext. 5371		
SUPERINTENDENT ↗		
Frank D'Amico 416-222-8282 ext. 3406		
TRUSTEE ↗		
St. Helen Catholic Church 416-531-8188		
1678 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6K 1V3		
PARISH ↗		
Liz Croatto/Cindy Sousa-Kang 2019-2020		
CSPC CHAIR/CO-CHAIR ↗		
www.tcdsb.org/cpic		
CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB) ↗		
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto		
OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS) ↗		
390	8:30 am – 3:00 pm	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
ENROLLMENT	HOURS OF OPERATION	LUNCH HOUR



NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393-5208 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 5320.

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

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year: Follow @TCDSB on Twitter or Toronto Catholic DSB on Instagram



**VIRTUE OF THE MONTH FOR
January is COURAGE**

“Do not be afraid, I am with you.”

We encourage our students to demonstrate the monthly virtues. Students will be recognized with certificates on the bulletin board outside the office and with a Medal of Virtue presented during our school monthly virtue assembly. During the Month of January we will be celebrating the virtue of Courage.

DECEMBER 2019 Student of the Month Awards: Virtue of the Month: CHARITY

Teacher	Student	Teacher	Student
Ms. Salvato	Nicholas S.	Ms. Andrade-Marcos	Ines C.
Ms. Andrade	Toni Helena J.	Mr. Da Silva	Katherine C.
Ms. Ciarrocchi	Anthony S.	Ms. DeMichele	Adriana S.
Ms. Hrzina	Gabriel C. & Lucia M.	Ms. Krzyzanowski	Julia B.
Mr. Carinci	Mikayla C.	Ms. Rebelo	Tyler V.P.
Mr. Hewitt	Eldana A.	Ms. Oliveira	Hayley P.
Ms. Nesci	Logan C.	Mr. Reis	Rachelle P.
Mr. Carnovale	Marcus F.	Ms. Remondini	
		Ms. Pyskir	

NOVEMBER 2019 Student of the Month Awards: Virtue of the Month: PEACE

Teacher	Student	Teacher	Student
Ms. Salvato	Logan C.	Ms. Andrade-Marcos	Gabriel L.
Ms. Andrade	Juliano M.	Mr. Da Silva	Joseph E.
Ms. Ciarrocchi	Mikaela M.	Ms. DeMichele	Michael L.
Ms. Hrzina	Justin A.	Ms. Krzyzanowski	Joca R.
Mr. Carinci	Ana Alice D.	Ms. Rebelo	Julian F.
Mr. Hewitt	Kayky F.	Ms. Oliveira	Justin D.
Ms. Nesci	Katherine F.	Mr. Reis	Olivia P.
Mr. Carnovale	Alex R.	Ms. Remondini	
		Ms. Pyskir	Ellis R.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ABOVE STUDENT RECIPIENTS FOR BEING CHARITABLE & PEACE MAKERS AND FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

WEEKLY EMAIL RECAPS

Reminder that electronic email communication is sent out every Friday to families with updates and reminders for the upcoming week. Please let the office know if your email address needs to be updated, edited or deleted.



WINTER WEATHER NOTICES

Check TCDSB and St. Helen school websites for information on winter weather updates and school bus cancellations.

SOCKS 4 SOULS FUNDRAISER

The Me to We Team will kick off its annual sock drive in the New Year. Throughout the month of January, we will be collecting new socks on behalf of the non-profit organizations Socks 4 Souls Canada. This volunteer organization provides socks to homeless communities across our city. Please help support us as we are committed to contributing comfort and dignity to those who are less fortunate.



JOIN THE DANCE

Our Grade 5 students will be participating in the popular Join The Dance program starting in January. Thank you to our C.S.P.C (Parent Council) who funds this great experience each year for our students.

LUNCH LADY - WEDNESDAYS

Lunch Lady is very excited to be serving our students hot lunches for the 2019-2020 school year. Information has been sent home in regards to online ordering. Every lunch will meet provincial nutritional standards and are designed with kids' good health in mind. All meals will be made in a nut-free commercial kitchen and can be modified for kids with allergies or special food needs. If you have any questions email/call anthony@thelunchlady.ca 647-436-9134.





PIZZA LUNCH – Jan. 10th & 24th

CSPC will be coordinating our hot pizza lunch days for our students. Volunteers are greatly needed to assist with these hot lunches. If you are able to volunteer an hour of your time on pizza days, please fill in a volunteer form available in the office and someone will contact you. **** new pizza forms for February to June will be coming home soon.**



PITA PIT LUNCH DAYS – Jan. 14th & 28th

*** new order form**

Online ordering (as well as manual paper orders) for Pita Pit lunches has started. Pita lunches will continue on alternating Tuesdays. Pita Pit follows the Food and Beverage Policy.



ECO CLUB – Think before you Toss

Students are encouraged to join Ms. Henderson in the St. Helen EcoClub. The

Eco Club has been hard at work educating students & trying to help the planet by putting waste in its place! St. Helen is encouraging: No plastic bottles, plastic wrappers in the garbage, all food waste goes in the compost bins, Reduce garbage with litterless lunches, Reuse things or replace and fix them up, Recycle paper glass and tin items.

ROSARY CLUB – TUESDAYS

Students are encouraged to join Ms. Vitale Rebelo, Ms. Michael and Ms. DeMichele every Tuesday at 11:45 a.m. to pray the Rosary.



INTERMEDIATE INTRAMURAL VOLLEYBALL (Co-Ed) THURSDAYS

Students in grades 6 – 8 that are interested in joining an intramural volleyball lunch session are invited to see Mr. Reis on Thursday's during the lunch hour. Teams will be made up on both boys and girls and will play against each other in this fun activity.

JR. W5H

Grade 4 – 6 Students are encouraged to join Ms. Krzyzanowski in trying out for the St. Helen Jr. W5H Team.



CHOIR

Students from Grade 3 and up are encouraged to join Mr. Cotter in our St. Helen Choir. Listen to announcements for dates of practices. All choir members perform during our school masses.



YEARBOOK CLUB

St. Helen is bringing back the yearbook in 2020! Intermediate students who are interested in being part of this initiative are to meet Ms. Strods and Mr. Reis. Stay tuned for information on how every student can participate in a yearbook cover contest!

ME to WE TEAM

Intermediate students are encouraged to join the Me to We Team run by Ms. Oliveira. Our Team goal is to make a difference in our society and help children all over the world who need our support. Stay tuned for more information on Me to We initiatives and fundraisers.



INTERMEDIATE BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Students are encouraged to try out for the Intermediate basketball teams. Students are to listen to announcements for tryout dates and practices. Coaches – Girls – Ms. DeMichele and Mr. Cotter, Boys – Ms. Vitale Rebelo and Ms. DeMichele. Good Luck everyone!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Intermediate students have been working hard on their election platforms for the St. Helen Student Council. Thank you to Mr. Reis for heading up this important initiative so that our students have a voice and role at St. Helen School. Look forward to announcements of council members who are elected and what initiatives will be coming soon!



REGISTRATION INFORMATION



Families with children born in 2016 or before, are invited to apply online for registration starting January 15th, 2020 at 10 a.m. Parents can complete their application via the Board's new Online Registration Website: <http://soar.tcdsb.org>. The following documents are required for applying online and the originals are needed for the application appointment:

1. Child's Birth Certificate (Certificate of Citizenship or Landed Immigrant Status)
 2. Child's Catholic Baptismal Certificate (or other proof of Catholicity)
 3. Child's Immunization Record
 4. Proof of residency in Toronto (e.g., landline phone bill, Tenant/Landlord Agreement, utility bill)
- General information is available by telephone at 416-222-8282, ext. 5314 or via the board's website at www.tcdsb.org.

EVENING REGISTRATION JANUARY 22ND

FROM 4:30 – 7:30 P.M. Please call the office to schedule an appointment or go to <https://soar.tcdsb.org> and pick an appointment time.

Welcome to the Parent Council

The Council meets regularly and encourages the attendance of all community stakeholders. Please join us at our monthly scheduled CSPC meetings at 6:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be on January 22nd. Future scheduled meetings to be announced in the upcoming newsletters. We encourage your involvement.



FLIPGIVE

FUNDRAISING – CSPC

CSPC has joined and started an online shopping campaign to raise funds for our school. Simply shop online like you normally would and a percentage of the sale will be given back to the school. Go to www.flipgive.com and join code ZTNBWS.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

The Toronto Catholic District School Board strives to be efficient and environmentally-conscious by communicating electronically whenever possible. Communications can include information on school specific special events, newsletters, calendars, Board communications, and much more. ***St. Helen School will be adopting the goal of electronic communication, and will begin to send home communications via email with the goal of reducing our paper consumption.*** All emails will be sent under blind carbon copy with email addresses remaining private and confidential. If there is an email address that you wish to add/edit/delete on your child's student data file, please send in writing to the office the student name, parent name and email address that you wish to add/edit/ change. Thank you for your continued support in making St. Helen an Eco-Friendly Environment for all.



CELL PHONE USE

Although many students bring cell phones to school as a communication device for parents to keep in contact with their children after school hours, please note that **CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.** Students are to keep their cell phones powered off and out of sight during the day and while on school property. Class time is precious and students will not be allowed to engage in texting/calling/ emailing during school hours. If you need to contact your child, please call the school and we will make every attempt to relay the message to your child and/or to bring your child to the office telephone. Failure to follow school policy

may result in the confiscation of the cell phone.

Any use of cell phones/electronic devices, whether intentionally or unintentionally, to intimidate others will result in confiscation of the phone.



DRESS CODE

The “Appropriate Dress Code” consists of any combination of solid white and navy blue garments. (i.e., plain white top, navy blue bottom; navy blue top and bottom; no denim). **Any sweaters or hoodies to be worn in the school should conform to the blue/white dress code.** Thus any articles of clothing with writing/pictures/logos other than the school crest are not appropriate wear. This also means any articles of clothing in colours other than blue and white are **NOT** appropriate. Clothing with stripes and checkers are also not appropriate school wear. The school will contact parents when their children are not adhering to the school dress code. Please ensure that your child is equipped with appropriate wear.

Students are to be dressed properly for a safe physical education class. Running shoes for gym use should not be black soled as they mark up the gym floor. Makeup and jewelry are not appropriate for elementary students. Excessive make-up is not allowed.

All school related activities shall be governed by the dress code. Students are expected to dress in a manner that demonstrates respect for God, self and others. ***If students are not adhering to the dress code, parents will be notified and alternate arrangements are made. Student dress code is monitored daily.***

DRESS CODE FOR WARM WEATHER

In warm months, students should still be dressed in our **Navy and White dress code as well as dressed modestly.** Tops with spaghetti straps, short shorts, torn clothing and jeans are not appropriate wear. Students are to be attired properly for a safe physical education class. Running shoes for gym use should not be black soled as they mark up the gym floor. Makeup and jewelry are not appropriate

for elementary students. Excessive make-up is not allowed. All school related activities shall be governed by the dress code. Students are expected to dress in a manner that demonstrates respect for God, self and others. **If students are not adhering to the dress code, parents will be notified.**

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SAFE ARRIVAL
SCHOOL
MESSENGER

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. We would like to inform you of some changes that will be coming early in the new school year.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure TCDSB has introduced a new, more efficient student absence reporting system called SafeArrival. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, making it easy for you to report your child’s absence and easy for staff to respond to unreported student absences.

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child’s absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

3. Call the toll-free number 1 (833) 251-3286 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

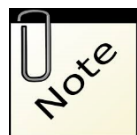
These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time up to a maximum of 10 consecutive days. It is important to note that when setting up your account, you must register using the email address and phone number associated with your child's Trillium account.

In addition, schools will use the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE / LATES

Our school day begins at 8:30 a.m. It is imperative that the students arrive before the 8:30 a.m. morning bell and that they are ready to line up for school entrance with their class. When students are late, they miss important morning announcements that the Principal needs to make as well as important instructional time. The student who is late disrupts the classroom lessons that have been started. Student attendance is monitored closely and warning letters are being sent home when a student is consistently late and/or absent. Lateness is also monitored by the School Social worker.



PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL

If your child is required to leave school (before normal dismissal times) a note, which is dated and signed by the parent stating the reason for early dismissal, should be presented to the teacher before the student is permitted to leave. A "sign-out" book is located in the office and all persons picking up students or students with written parental permission leaving early must complete the sign-out information before leaving the school. Parents who send friends, neighbours or relatives to

pick up their children must inform the school in advance of changes.

SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Our children are supervised in our kindergarten yard and schoolyard **from 8:15 a.m.** to entrance time. Over the lunch hour, the students remaining for lunch are supervised by staff. For safety purposes, parents and guardians are kindly asked to keep the schoolyard clear by waiting on the other side of the fence from 8:15 a.m. and throughout the school day.



DISMISSAL

Parents picking up children should be at the school only five minutes before the dismissal bell in order to maintain an uninterrupted learning environment and to ensure the safety of all students. In the interest of safety, parents are asked to meet siblings and other children that they pick up in the schoolyard. Parents and caregivers are reminded that supervised dismissal time for students at the end of the school day is from 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. If a student is not picked up by 3:15 p.m. in the school yard, the supervisor will bring the student to the office where a call will be made to arrange for pick-up of the student. The school office closes at 4:00 p.m.

SOFT FOAM BALLS IN SCHOOL YARD

If everyone follows this simple rule then we can all ensure student safety.



BIRTHDAYS & PROMOTING NON-EDIBLE TREATS

Birthdays are announced over the P.A. and children are invited to the office to choose a small token in celebration. Sending something for your child's birthday for the class is not necessary; however, if you wish to do so, we encourage non-food items (e.g., pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.).

ALLERGIES / SHARING FOOD

St. Helen's is an allergen aware school. There are children in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanuts or other



nut products (this includes Nutella). Please let the school know if your child has a new allergy. Please remind your child to refrain from sharing snacks and lunches. **Students with ANAPHYLAXIS must carry an EPI-PEN with them at all times as well as having a second EPI-PEN stored at the school office.**

Parents/ Guardians will be given a form: TCDSB REQUEST AND CONSENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF INJECTION OF MEDICATION IN AN EMERGENCY

which is to be completed by the parent/guardian as well as the child's doctor. An EMERGENCY ALLERGY ALERT FORM EPI-PEN ONLY will be completed with the student's photo and placed on the Medical Alert Board in the office, staff room and student's classroom. When on excursions children will be taking their epi-pens with them.

NO STOPPING ON COLLEGE ST.

Parents and the community must ensure that the safety of the children is the first priority when using surrounding streets to drop off children for school and picking them up. There are still illegally parked cars on College Street in front of the school and along Brock Street. Those individuals have been warned or have received tickets. The City of Toronto and Toronto Parking Authority have zero tolerance for offences in school zones and that people must understand that safety comes first over convenience. There is no need for illegal parking or on the sidewalk. The following parking tickets will be issued for certain parking violations: Stopping and Parking in a No Stopping Zone: \$60.00, Parking in a No Parking Zone: \$40.00, Stopping and Parking in a Bus Loading Zone - \$40.00. In addition, these zones are in place to make sure that there are no cars impeding the safe flow of traffic. Parking Enforcement is allowed to call for vehicle towing in the following circumstances: parking on a sidewalk, 9 metres from an intersection, in front of fire hydrants, in a no



stopping and no standing zone. It is vital that the flow of traffic not be impeded in case of emergencies eg. EMS, Police and Fire need access to the school or neighbours (which in some circumstances may be a matter of life and death) and the current illegal parking does not allow for this flow of traffic. With all of this being said, we as a community need to make this our motto "Safety over Convenience" and abide by the parking by-laws.

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Parents and the community are reminded that the parking lot behind the school is private parking for The Toronto Catholic District School Board and to be used by staff members. It is private property and any unauthorized vehicles will be tagged and/or towed away at the owner's expense. (Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 915).



REGISTER NOW: SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Parents/guardians are reminded to create their School Cash Online profile, in order to receive updates and information on upcoming school activities, including pizza lunches, civvies days, field trips, and much more. Paying through School Cash Online offers a safe and convenient payment option that eliminates the need to send cash or cheques to school. For more information and to create your account visit

www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/schoolcashionline

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2019 - 2020

Wards

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 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, Chair | 416-512-3405 | 12. Nancy Crawford | 416-512-3412 |
| 6. Frank D'Amico | 416-512-3406 | Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee | 416-512-3413 |
| 7. Michael Del Grande, Vice-Chair | 416-512-3407 | Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee | 416-512-3417 |



Rory McGuckin, Director of Education

80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, ON · Website: www.tcdsb.org