

ST. JAMES NEWSLETTER

December 2015



230 Humbercrest Boulevard
Toronto, Ontario
M6S 4L3

Telephone: 416-393-5275

Principal:
K. Schneider

Superintendent:
416-222-8282 x 2732
Dr. J. Saraco

Trustee:
Barbara Poplawski
416-512-3410

Parish:
St. James
728 Annette Street
Toronto, Ontario
416-767-6451

Classes start 9:00 a.m.
Lunch Hour: 11:45-12:45 p.m.
Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.



Principal's Message

We are looking forward to many different things at Christmas: holidays from school or from work; gifts; parties; time to be with family and with friends. We look forward with joy, and sometimes wonder about what Christmas will be like. No matter how we see Christmas, we wait for it. The season of Advent is a season of waiting. We are waiting for the little baby Jesus to be born. This little baby who is the fulfillment of God's promise to send a great light in the darkness, to give sight to the blind, to put an end to sin and death, to fill us with comfort and hope, to give us more than we could ever hope for or imagine and to fill us with his peace and joy. During Advent we also remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, waiting for that great moment of joy; giving birth. She waited in patience, in faith, and in the love she shared with Joseph. We pray for a belief in our own lives that God is with us, that God has an interest in our lives, and that God calls us to do good things in our lives.

On behalf of the staff of St. James School, I extend our best wishes during this Advent season to you and your family. We hope that you will be blessed with the spirit and gifts of that first Christmas - peace, love and goodwill toward all mankind. May the promise of Christmas help to show God's boundless love for you, and may you be blessed with good health, prosperity and happiness throughout the New Year as we strive to work with and for you in providing excellence in Catholic education in our community.

Krystyna Schneider

The Mitten Tree



Tis the season to decorate our Annual St. James Mitten Tree. Your generous contributions in the past have been greatly appreciated by the less fortunate in our community. We are asking for new hats, scarves and mittens for our Christmas tree that will be donated to children in need.

Please send these items to school with your children and they can bring them down to the tree on the first floor of the school.

Winter Weather

It is that time of year again when children need to be reminded of the necessity of dressing properly for the weather, (mittens, hats, boots, etc.) Labelling items is helpful as many look the same. Many items make their way to the lost and found and are never claimed.

Except under inclement conditions children go outside for recess and lunch hour. **If your child is too ill to go outside they should be resting at home.**



Volleyball

The Girls Intermediate Volleyball team played at the Toronto Catholic School Board's City Finals. They played with enthusiasm, dedication, sportsmanship, and teamwork. They represented St. James proudly. With plenty of bumps and bruises and after some challenging games St. James lost in a tiebreaking match. We'd like to congratulate the following athletes for their dedication and effort over the past month. Congratulations to the following girls.....



Danielle S., Jasmine D., Kyara C., Ariam N., Michelle T., Jocelyn S., Sarah E., Julia S., Israel S., and Janeysa M.

The Boys Intermediate Volleyball team was also successful this year. They were tournament champions at Archbishop Romero and they placed well at the Divisional Tournament. Congratulations to the following boys...

Kallon E., Raul G., Ryan J., Christopher, Alejandro T., Malik M., Nicolas A., Jester H., Kyle D., Kornel B., Jordan N., Verchiel C., and Alex K.



Ms. Pacheco's Grade 1/2 Field Trip

On Thursday November 19th our class went on a trip to Loblaws. Katie, the store dietician, took us on a tour of the store. She showed us the fruits and vegetables, grain products, meat and alternatives, and milk and alternatives. Our favourite part was when we got to touch a live lobster! At the end of our tour we had a healthy snack of carrots, snap peas, and grape tomatoes with hummus dip. We had fun and learned a lot about healthy eating.



Thank you!



A big thank you to Mr. Eduardo Queiroz, father of Victoria (Mrs. Bugeja's 2/3 class) and Miguel (Mrs. Costanzo and Mrs. Amato's JK/SK class) for the beautiful rosaries for the entire staff.

Me to We

During November Mrs. Ludkowski-Scace's class held their We are Silent initiative. The students vowed to remain silent for half the day on Thursday, November 19, 2015 on behalf of the millions of children around the world

who are denied their basic human rights. Their silence helps raise awareness of the poverty and exploitation of many children. The class raised 298.75 with this initiative. This money will be added to the Halloween Dance money and a cheque is being sent to Free the Children.



Learning Plan

Our #1 Learning Goal for the 2015-2016 school year is on math skills in the area of computation and problem solving skills. For parents who receive this newsletter electronically the learning plan is attached. If you receive a hardcopy of the newsletter and would like a copy of the Learning Plan, please call the school office. Please read it to understand what our staff will be doing this year to help all of our students in math. We also need your help at home. Please make sure that your child brings home their agenda every day and completes their homework. All students from Gr. 1 to 8 have been introduced to Math Prodigy at school and each child has been given their own log in . Please encourage your child to practice at home on a daily basis. As a parent you are able to monitor their progress on math prodigy. If you need assistance please contact your child's teacher.



EQAO Results

The EQAO results are in. Please follow the link for the full results.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/sites/CommonData/Grade3AndGrade6Assessment/StJames20142015Grade3AndGrade6Assessment.PDF>

Kindergarten Registration Starts January 13, 2016

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2012 to register for Junior Kindergarten beginning Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. EST.

Registration options:

Online: Parents will be able to complete their application online beginning at 10 a.m. EST on January 13, 2016, at [SOAR.tcdsb.org](https://soar.tcdsb.org), and follow up with a visit to the school to present the required documents. The online application is available at: <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>

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)

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

Information is available by telephone at 416-222-8282 ext. 5314, or by visiting <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/KindergartenRegistration/Pages/default.aspx>



High School Transition

The TCDSB website has resources for students and parents preparing for the transition to high school.

Helping students prepare for high school

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Documents/AFTER%20%20TRANSITION%20GUIDE%202015.pdf>

Transition Guide for Parents is available in several languages

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

St. James Parish

On December 19th St. James Parish will hold their Christmas Concert at 7:30 pm. The Children's Choir will be performing along with invited Adult Choirs from the community. Tickets are \$10.00 each and proceeds will benefit the Children's Choir.



Nordic Walking

Our PALS club has been enjoying Nordic Walking over the past 3 weeks. The program started on November 20 and will continue until December 11. The program is a partnership between Four Villages Community Clinic and Toronto Public Health. Every Friday our PALS leaders go for a brisk lunch hour walk. Thanks to Ms. Demonte-Bahr and Mr. Seriani for volunteering with this program.





Guidance Corner

Frank Amato - Elementary Guidance
Teacher Counsellor

We All Belong – Bullying Awareness Week

November was Bullying Awareness Month and it served as a reminder that the elimination of bullying behaviour will only occur if parents, students and staff work together. We encourage students to speak up if they are victims. We remind bystanders to stand up for those who are being bullied. And we remind parents to work in conjunction with the staff to settle any issues that may arise.

And above all, we should always remember that “We All Belong”. Let us celebrate our differences and make everyone feel a part of our community. We all deserve to feel accepted.

Season's Greetings

Mr. Amato, the TCDSB Elementary Guidance Counsellors, and the Student Success team would like to wish the school community a Blessed Christmas and best wishes throughout the New Year.

Upcoming Events

Our entire school will be presenting a Christmas concert on Wednesday, **December 9, at 7:00 pm** in the school gym.

Dec 11 – Advent Confessions

Dec 16 – School Mass

Dec 18 – Civvies Day

Dec 18 – Pizza Lunch

Dec 21- Jan 3rd – Christmas Break

Jan 4th, 2016 – Back to School



Virtue of the Month- Charity

As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is CHARITY. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on the 25th, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. Our quote for the month is "Where charity and love are, God is there".

As St. Thomas Aquinas described it, "Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God." How can we practice charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things? Let's make this the challenge that we all strive to achieve for the month of December!

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2015-2016

Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4. Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair	416-512-3406
7. Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407
8. Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9. Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy, Chair	416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
Karina Dubrovskaya, Student Trustee	416-512-3417
Allison Gacad, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR,
DEUS IBI EST
- WHERE THERE IS
CHARITY AND LOVE,
GOD IS THERE.

~ LATIN HYMN ~

- REMEMBER THROUGHOUT ADVENT THAT CHARITY STARTS FROM THE HOME AND MOVES FORWARD IN ALL YOU DO.
- LET THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CREATE CHARITY IN YOUR ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- IF WE EXPECT OTHER PEOPLE TO DO CHARITABLE ACTS TOWARDS US, WE MUST FIRST REMEMBER TO SHOW GENEROSITY TOWARDS OTHERS.
- WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US, ESPECIALLY IN A SEASON FILLED WITH GIVING.



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for him at the inn. (Luke 2.7)

CHARITY