



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

Bonne et Heureuse Année à tous!

While January sees the beginning of the New Year, many of us also regard it as the true beginning of winter. In this sense it is apt that the virtue for January is COURAGE. The quote for this month is Isaiah 41:10, "Do not be afraid; I am with you" "Be not afraid!" is also what the angel tells Mary at the annunciation. (Lk 1:30) and at the resurrection, another angel uses the same words to tell the women at the tomb that Christ has risen. (Mt 28:5) Jesus himself uses these words to strengthen his apostles. (Jn 6:20) It takes a lot of courage to practice and be true to our Catholic faith and to speak up for it. In our secular society it is considered "not cool" to be a follower of Christ and many times it is safer to remain silent and say nothing. Let us all have the courage to profess the presence of Christ in our daily lives and with the people we interact with. This month at St. James we will demonstrate our courage to live our faith by speaking out respectfully when we see that someone is speaking unkindly or doing an unkind act to another person.

On December 9, 2015 we had our annual Christmas concert with our JK- Gr. 4 students and Junior/intermediate choir participating. Thank you to all the parents for coming out to participate in this important community event with your

child. It was a wonderful time to celebrate the spirit of Christmas together. We wish to thank all the teachers who made this concert possible.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Ms. Scace, our Gr. 8 teacher and Ms. McDowell, our school administrative assistant will be leaving us at the end of January. Ms. Scace has devoted 37 years to education and has done an excellent job in preparing her students for secondary school. We thank Ms. Scace for her commitment to academic excellence for all the students she has taught and wish her all the best as she begins another chapter in her life.

Ms. McDowell has been with us for a short time and her presence will be missed. We thank her for always going that extra mile for all the students, teachers and parents. What are we going to do without the trivia questions in the morning announcements? We wish her all the best in her future endeavours and hope to see her again at the school.

As we begin the New Year let us continually give praise and thanks to God for all our blessings. Wishing you all the best in your endeavours for 2016.

Krystyna Schneider



Guidance Corner

Frank Amato - Elementary Guidance
Teacher Counsellor

Supporting Your Child in Developing Learning Skills and Work Habits at Home

During this time of new beginnings, we can take time to support our children in setting goals for themselves. This might be a good time to review the six Learning Skills and Work Habits and think about ways that we can grow in these areas. Learning skills and work habits are study skills and thinking skills that are an integral part of your child's learning. Developing these learning skills will help prepare your child for life-long learning as well as foster independence in learning, problem solving, decision-making and organizing. We can find the six Learning Skills and Work Habits on the first page of the report card. They include: *Responsibility, Collaboration, Initiative, Organization, Independent Work and Self-Regulation.*

Learning Skill	Parent Support at Home
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help your child set goals• Take a few moments every day to chat about the school day and be a good listener: "How was your day?"• Make sure to always check and sign the agenda and monitor your child's progress

ST. JAMES NEWSLETTER

January 2016

	<p>and homework completion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate regularly with your child's teacher • Encourage your child to be punctual • Establish a balance between homework and other activities
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	<p>experiences and provide guidance as needed – encourage child to read instructions carefully and attempt different ways to solve problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote independence as much as possible • Create a checklist of work to be completed • Help your child refer to and or access assignment criteria or rubrics
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Learning Skill	Parent Supports at Home
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide your child with a suitable environment for working at home (neat and free from distraction) • Work out a specific time for studying and homework completion • Provide your child with the proper tools and supplies (e.g., computer access, writing material, calculators, post-it notes etc.) • Establish a balance between homework and other activities • Encourage researching for information from a variety of sources (internet, books, magazines)

Learning Skill	Parent Supports at Home
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a balance between homework and other activities • activities (to be a part of a team) • Provide opportunities for your child to practice his/her skills with others • Help your child to build healthy peer-to-peer relationships by visiting the public library for story time, attending summer camp, plays and musical events • Encourage your child to work with others in group settings such as clubs, organizations and teams • Monitor on-line social networking carefully • Encourage child to work out problems with others in a civil manner (find a compromise), on

Learning Skill	Parent Supports at Home
Independent Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in occasionally by asking questions and talking about how the work is going • Participate appropriately in homework

	their own when possible
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Learning Skill	Parent Supports at Home
Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote risk-taking learning activities Encourage curiosity Encourage your child to start asking questions Turn everyday activities into homework such as searching newspapers, reading recipes, creating shopping lists, plotting out routes on a map, reading directions on how to set up a game console Visit places in Canada and abroad Encourage child volunteer responses in class When failing or making mistakes, be supportive and allow children to learn from their experiences

Learning Skill	Parent Supports at Home
Self-Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help your child set goals Participate appropriately in homework experiences by clarifying expectations and providing guidance as needed Provide strategies that best suit your child's learning style

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge your child's efforts Motivate your child to persevere when responding to challenges Encourage child to develop interests in multiple hobbies Encourage child to reflect on their efforts Connect your child's interests with possible careers in all pathways
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Skills Ontario Presentations

A representative from Skills Ontario visited our school to speak to the intermediate students about careers in the skilled trades. Here are some interesting facts about the trades:

1. The skilled trades are not for students with good grades. **FALSE** – If you like to work with your hands and are creative, the skilled trades are a good choice. These careers require people with strong skills in reading and writing, math and science.
2. University is the only path to a good career. **FALSE** – Working in the skilled trades is a great career choice. Canada is experiencing skills shortages, leading to higher wages and more job opportunities in a large number of trades
3. Skilled trade work is dirty, noisy and physically demanding. **FALSE** – Most trades involve "hands-on" work and many tradespeople will tell you that they like to get their hands dirty. But for many, this type of work is far more

rewarding than any desk job could be.

- Jobs in the trades are dead-end jobs. **FALSE** – Apprenticeship is only the first step to a career in the trades. Once certified you can expect opportunities to advance to supervisory roles, management or even open your own business. The possibilities are endless.
- The skilled trades are not for students with good grades. **FALSE** – Skilled trades require dexterity, stamina, good hand-eye coordination and balance—not just physical strength. Women make excellent tradespeople.
- People who work in the skilled trades do not get paid well. **FALSE** – Average salary for skilled trade workers is \$10,000 higher than the average Canadian salary.

Visit <http://www.skillsontario.com/> for more information.

Weather Updates

With the approach of winter weather, Twitter and the board website are the best sources of the latest information relating to cold weather alerts, cancellations and closures. Get all the information 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/>

Cold Weather Alerts

A Cold Weather Alert will be issued when temperatures are expected to be -15C or colder, or wind chill is expected to be -20C or below. Other environmental factors, such as heavy precipitation, are taken into consideration.

A cold weather alert may not necessarily translate into the need for an indoor recess as there is a low to moderate risk of frostbite.

An Extreme Cold Weather Alert will be issued by the Medical Officer of Health when temperatures or wind chill are expected to reach -30C or colder for at least two hours. This corresponds with the Extreme Cold Warning issued by Environment Canada. The alert is for the entire population that extreme low temperatures are expected.



Dress Code

Our school is special because it is a Catholic School and we have Christ as our example. This gives us the important responsibility of acting in a Christian manner at all times. What we wear speaks volumes and therefore we should all wear appropriate clothing to school. Clothing with narrow straps, crop tops or short shorts/skirts are not acceptable. Hats are **not** to be worn inside the building. The length of shorts should be just above the knee for all Gr. 4-8 students. If leggings are worn under a short skirt or shorts the skirt or shorts must be of an appropriate and acceptable length. The appropriate length of shorts also applies to gym classes and all after school activities.

St. James also has a no makeup policy for all students. This was voted on in our November Parent Council meeting. Students in elementary school must be confident on how they look naturally.

Appropriate Dress Code (Navy & White)

JK- Grade 8

Tops

- White or navy golf/polo Shirt
- White cotton blouse/shirt
- White or navy turtleneck shirt
- Navy Sweater/Sweatshirt
- White or Navy T-Shirt

Bottoms

- Navy trousers/cargos/capris (no denim or jeggings)
- Navy sweatpants
- Navy skirts/shorts/skorts (all just above knee)
- White/Navy dresses
- Leotards or tights can be white or navy

- Knee socks can be white or navy
- No white bottoms from gr. 4-8**

Immunization

Students must be up-to-date with their immunization or have a valid exemption form to attend school in Ontario. The required immunizations protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, meningococcal and varicella (for students born on or after January 1, 2010). Important boosters are given to children in kindergarten and again during the high school years.

Please note that your doctor does not send the information to Toronto Public Health.

Every time your child has an immunization, report the information to Toronto Public Health by one of the following ways:

- Online at www.toronto.ca/health and click on "Report your school-aged child's vaccine"
- Fax: 416-338-2487
- Mail a copy to:
Toronto Public Health,
Immunization
235 Danforth Avenue, 2nd Floor
Toronto, ON
M4K 1N2

For more information visit our website at Toronto.ca/immunization or call us at 416-392-1250. Interpreters are available Monday to Friday 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

Good Shepherd Ministries

During Thanksgiving St. James School community collected food for Good Shepherd Ministries. We received the following thank you letter on December 1st.

Dear Principal, Staff, and Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for generously participating in Good Shepherd Ministries' 2015 Thanksgiving Food Drive.

With your support, the food drive was a success, resulting in an increase in donations of non-perishable food items.

Good Shepherd Ministries currently serves, on average, more than 1,100 meals a day and is Toronto's largest free meal program. With your active participation in the food drive, you are helping to provide more than 400,000 nutritious meals to people in need this year.

Thank you for remembering those in need in our community. Thank you for making a difference!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ferguson

World's Finest Chocolate

Well the numbers are in and the prizes for our top sellers were awarded in December. The following is a list of winners.

<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Boxes Sold</u>
Brady W.	6	12
Alan S	2/3	6
Zoe A	6	5
Jomana S	5	5
Kyara C	7	5
Lillian S	ELP	5
Sara T	1/2	4
Linda C	6	4
Kayla B	3/4	4
Samantha	5	4
Veshaun G	5	4
Matteus L	2/3	4
Jamal G	6	4

Congratulations to all the Winners!

Grade 8 Watercolour Project

The grade 8 class had an opportunity to participate in an art project in November and December. An Artist came to the school to teach 5 classes on watercolour technique to the students. This was funded by the board from a grant obtained by Mrs. Ludkowski-Scace/. The grade 8's then created a work of art based on the Group of Seven using their own style. The art work will be displayed at the CEC. For now you can see the art work displayed near the main office.



The Intermediate Ski Trip

Well it has been a great winter from a commuter's perspective but not so great for skiers! The intermediate ski trip has been postponed until January 25th. It looks like Mother Nature is finally cooperating and we should have more favourable ski conditions soon. This ski trip has been made possible with financial assistance from CSPC. The students will receive all day lessons and equipment rentals at a very reasonable rate.



Attention Parents

The Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes outstanding educators. The awards are a great way to say thank you to our teachers who have made a difference in your children's lives. Nominations are open until March 31, 2016. Find out more at www.ontario.ca/teachingawards.



Upcoming Events

January 13th - JK Registration
January 13th - JK Evening Registration
5 - 7 PM
January 15th - Pizza Lunch
January 21st - Grade 3/4 Cadbury
Chocolate Factory
January 21- Pita Pit lunch
January 21 - Vaccination Clinic 7/8
January 21 - Girls in Government 4pm
January 22 - P.D. Day
January 26 - Junior boys soccer
January 27 - Junior girls soccer
January 29 - Civvies Day
January 29 - Pizza Day

Virtue of the Month- Courage

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**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 |

DO NOT BE AFRAID,
I AM WITH YOU.

~ ISAIAH 41:10 ~

- LET YOUR ACTIONS BE GUIDED BY THE IDEA THAT GOD IS INSIDE EVERYONE.
- KNOW THAT SOMETIMES DOING THE RIGHT THING IS VERY TOUGH BUT WITH COURAGE YOU CAN DO THE RIGHT THING.
- STAND UP RESPECTFULLY WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING WRONG THAT IS BEING DONE.
- LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A WAY THAT MAKES OTHERS KNOW YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.

COURAGE



*Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know
you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance
in waiting for you, and a hope of finally
embracing you.*

Amen.