

ST. JAMES NEWSLETTER

March 2016



ST. JAMES

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

How timely that the virtue for this month is FORGIVENESS, not only because we are in the season of Lent but also because it is an important cornerstone of our faith and one that Jesus modeled for us in his life and death.

We are reminded that forgiveness is a gift to ourselves as we let go of the burden of resentment when we forgive another person. It is also a gift to our children when we teach and model it to them. If we were unable to forgive, our anger and resentment will eat us alive. It will physically make us sick. Being able to forgive definitely makes our minds and hearts lighter and our physical bodies healthier.

Our Lenten season has come early this year and it means that Spring is just around the corner. We are getting close to celebrating the resurrection. These are happy thoughts. During Lent though, I think of Jesus, His forty days in the desert and how He must have felt. He knew what was going to happen to Him yet persevered. Would we be able to do this? Probably not. It is easy to get distracted from Jesus by many things- our everyday business, our resentments and arguments or the idea that life isn't fair, or wanting something so much that we forget what's really important. I know this happens to me. Let us put the human Jesus and what He did for us right before our eyes and stare in His direction. Our prayer, fasting and acts of charity to others will help us to see Him more clearly and to hear His voice in our hearts. Each of us can think about how we talk and listen, how we think and act, and how we treat one another. The next time you wake up in the middle of the night, the house is quiet and you can't sleep, listen quietly. Jesus is speaking to you. You will hear Him in the silence.

Krystyna
Schneider

Board News

Board Approves Multi-Year Recovery Plan

At the February 18, 2016 meeting of the Board, the Board of Trustees approved option 3 which proposes budget reductions totaling \$28.4 million spread out over the next three years with the objective of not increasing the accumulated deficit in each year, and eliminating the accumulated deficit in the 3rd and final year of the Multi-Year Recovery Plan. The Board also approved a recommendation for the Director of Education to quantify additional cost pressures identified in the report, and address the \$3.7 million additional bussing transportation costs for a total required expenditure reduction of \$32.1 million in the annual budget planning and consultation process. Option 3 was selected by 47% of those who responded to the online survey.

The MYRP was submitted to the Ministry of Education at the end of February. A detailed budget consultation plan is in development and will be presented to the board for approval in March. Please stay tuned for details on how you can be involved in providing input into the budget setting process. www.tcdsb.org

Immunization Update

You may have seen on the news that Public Health has begun to send out suspension letters to students who have not been properly immunized.

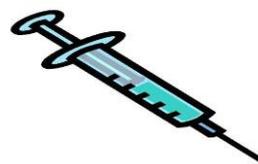
Students must be up-to-date with their immunization or have a valid exemption form to attend school in Ontario. The required immunizations protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, meningococcal and varicella (for students born on or after January 1, 2010). Important 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 the website at Toronto.ca/immunization or call 416-392-1250. Interpreters are available Monday to Friday 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.



Angel Foundation

St. James is pleased to announce that **The Angel Foundation for Learning**, the charitable organization devoted to assisting students within TCDSB schools, has approved our school's funding request in support of The Dancing Classrooms Program for our Grade 5 & 8 classes.



Serving TCDSB students and making a positive difference, we congratulate The Angel Foundation for Learning for helping students since its inception in 1987.

Donations to the Foundation are welcome and can be sent to: The Angel Foundation for Learning, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON M2N 6E8. Tax receipts for donations of \$10.00 or more will be issued. For more information about the Foundation visit www.angelfoundationforlearning.org



Education Support Staff Appreciation Day

For the past few years, the Toronto Catholic District School Board has declared the first Monday in March, March 7, as Education Support Staff Appreciation Day.

As we celebrate the dedication and support from our Education Support

Staff, we are reminded of the tremendous contribution that these individuals make to nurture student achievement and well-being.

Our family of Support staff are trusted adults who provide mentorship, inspiration, support and friendship to some of our most disadvantaged, challenging and vulnerable young people. They support learning, they contribute to the extracurricular activities in our schools through supervision of many activities. Most importantly, they act as role models, nurturing and guiding these young people to becoming the best that they can be.

To all our support staff, we thank you for the energy, enthusiasm and love that you devote to our schools and our students. We applaud you for your successes, and we ask for God's continued blessing on the invaluable work that you do each and every day.

Autism Awareness Evening

All families and staff are invited to participate in an evening dedicated to promoting the gifts and talents of TCDSB students. Please join us at a bistro inspired entertainment event featuring refreshments, light snacks, student performances, and artwork.

Thursday March 31, 2016
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Catholic Education Centre

RSVP to Franca Dellorso at franca.dellorso@tcdsb.org or phone 416-222-8282 ext 2799

Fostering The Family:

The TCDSB Pastoral Plan 2015-18 "Together With one Voice: Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish, and School" 2015 focuses on the FAMILY

Spending time as a family is very important. Play not only helps to develop cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills but also helps to strengthen family relationships. When you spend time playing together and having fun everyone in the family feels happy and positive about themselves and each other. Playing together as a family promotes cooperation and conversation as well as skills such as turn taking, following rules, problem solving, and being a good winner or loser. So turn off the computer screens, tablets or phones and engage in some "old fashioned" fun!

- *Have a family game night. It's important to make sure that the games are suitable for the youngest player.*
- *Listen to music, or make music together and sing along.*
- *Build a puzzle together*
- *Paint a picture*
- *Play outdoors*



Guidance Corner

In March, most of our junior division students will have begun to develop their All About Me (AAM) portfolio

using www.myblueprint.ca. In accordance with the Ministry of Education's document *Creating Pathways to Success (2013)*, all students are asked to contemplate four questions: Who Am I? What Are My Opportunities? Who do I Want to Become? and What Is My Plans for Achieving My Goals? The answers to these questions will be reflected in the work that they do on their AAM Portfolio. Ask your children to share their progress with you by logging into their account at www.myblueprint.ca home.



Professional Learning

EQAO's School Support and Outreach team facilitated a Math Learning Forum for Grades 3-6 math educators on March 2, 2016. The session was held at the Holiday Inn International Airport, 970 Dixon Road, Toronto from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dan Koenig, Superintendent of Curriculum and Accountability invited St. James School to attend. Ms. Bugeja, Gr. 2/3, Ms. James Gr. 3/4, and Ms. Pascucci, Sp. Ed. Gr. 5 & 6 attended this Math Learning Forum. We were the only school from the TCDSB today and we enjoyed mingling with other teachers from all across Ontario.

At this session, EQAO focused on building capacity to use evidence to inform everyday instructional practice. Dr. Christine Suurtamm, Associate

Professor of Mathematics Education at the University of Ottawa, lead the full-day math learning forum, which provided an opportunity for professional learning concerning some fundamental math concepts developed in the junior grades.

We found it very informative about student thinking processes in math problem solving.



Names in the picture from L. to R. Margaret Flare from EQAO, Dr. Chris Suurtaam, University of Ottawa, Ms. J. Bugeja, Ms. J. Pascucci, and Ms. K. Schneider from St. James School, Lorraine Giroux and Mike Young from EQAO.

St. James News

Chess Club

We are delighted to bring a chess club to St. James. The form will be sent home this week. You may also access the form on line following the chess registration form link:

http://chessmath.org/pdf/toronto/registrationform_stjamescs.pdf

You can print the form, fill it in and send back to the school. Alternatively you can register on line. Just follow the following link:

<http://strategygames.ca/stjames>



Movie Night

St. James CSPC hosted a movie night on February 25. The evening was a great success and we raised over 500.00 for the school. We would like to thank the volunteers who made this evening a success. Mrs. Lever, Jordan's mom, Mrs. Aurelio, Zoe's mom, Mrs. Celluci Sarafina's mom, Mrs. Sousa Alan's mom and Mrs. Hammond Cameron's mom. CSPC would like to thank Fresh Co for the generous donation of food.



Boys Basketball

The boys' basketball team participated in an exhibition game against St. Pius and the divisional tournament in February. The boys played well and had a lot of fun! Congratulations to the team members Kallon, Paul, Ryan, Luis, Alejandro, Malik, Jester, Nicholas, and Drelan.



Thank You

St. James School would like to thank St. James Church for the generous donation of Spanish books to the school. The librarian Mrs. Feikis has set up a Spanish section in the library.

Tumblebooks

Our school now has unlimited access to the TumbleBookLibrary! TumbleBook Library is an online collection of animated, Talking picture books, read-along chapter books, graphic novels, non-fiction stories, and educator resources.

You can log in to the free trial at:

www.tumblebooklibrary.com

Username: read4

Password: love

Math Help

Math is one of the most important subjects we teach your child. Math is a skill and must be practiced every day. The web has given us access to many resources to help your child. Here is one that will provide opportunities to practice math at home

[https://ca.ixl.com/promo?partner=bing&adGroup=EQAO+%28ontario%29&campaign=1460&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Search%20-%20State%20Tests%20-%20Broad%20-%20CA&utm_term=eqao&utm_content=EQAO%20\(ontario\)](https://ca.ixl.com/promo?partner=bing&adGroup=EQAO+%28ontario%29&campaign=1460&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Search%20-%20State%20Tests%20-%20Broad%20-%20CA&utm_term=eqao&utm_content=EQAO%20(ontario))

If you are reading this on line you may access the site directly from this link by holding the ctrl key and clicking on the link.

Earth Rangers

On February 4th we had an Earth Rangers Assembly in the school. The kids from JK-grade 6 were treated to a live presentation. They met 4 wonderful creatures; a skunk, fox, falcon, and a pine marten.



Upcoming Events

March 7 – Scientist in the School 2/3
March 8- Girls Volleyball (St. Mary's)
March 9 – Dancing Classrooms
March 11 – Lent Confessions
March 14-18- March Break
March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
March 21-25- Holy Week
March 24- Stations of the Cross 9:30
Parents welcome
March 25 – Good Friday (no school)
March 28- Easter Monday (no school)
March 30- School Mass 9:45
March 31- Civvies Day
March 31- Girls in Government @ St. James School



100th Day of School

The Kindergarten class celebrated the 100th day of school on February 17th. The students brought in collections of 100 items and took celebratory photos in the 100th day photo booth.



The 100 Day Photo Booth



Counting Up to 100 with Gumballs

Earth Hour

On Friday March 11th, 2016 from 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m., St. James will be turning off lights where it is safe to do so, and where it will not adversely disrupt the normal classroom teaching.

Lenten Prayer

We travel through deserts and despair, as we focus on how Christ was crucified, and is crucified in the world today.

We agree to make this journey, this pilgrimage, and to leave life as usual, business as usual, to pay attention, to be present to pain and suffering.

The journey to the Light of Easter can only go this way. We choose to learn this hard truth, to accept the ashes, to witness the darkness, to walk the way of the Cross as it happens in our world.

Let us journey together, open to the world so we may be re-newed and help bring to all the renewal of Resurrection.

-by Jane Deren 2008 Education for Justice

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 |

TO ERR IS HUMAN,
TO FORGIVE IS DIVINE.

~ ALEXANDER POPE ~

- LET YOUR ACTIONS BE GUIDED BY THE IDEA THAT JESUS SAID, "LET HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN, CAST THE FIRST STONE."
- THE FIRST STEP TO FORGIVENESS IS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
- IF YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN, YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU FORGIVE OTHER PEOPLE.
- LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A WAY THAT MAKES OTHERS KNOW YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.



FORGIVENESS