



**St. John
Catholic School**
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Parish :
St. John Catholic Church
794 Kingston Road
(416) 698-1105
Pastor: Fr. John Newton

St. John Catholic School **September 2017**

Dear Families:

Welcome Back Everyone! On behalf of the St. John Catholic School Community, we would like to welcome everyone back to another exciting school year. We would like to extend a special welcome to all our new students, parents and staff. "Welcome" is our priority this month as we recognize the Virtue of the Month program with the virtue of Hospitality.

As we begin this new year, we will once again focus our attention on improving student learning and achievement. We want all our students to achieve academic success. We will focus our attention again on literacy and numeracy as these are vital curriculum areas that are vehicles to ALL learning. As a school community, we are also paying close attention to how the various learning skills will assist students in achieving their academic success. Please help us by encouraging your child(ren) to read daily and look for math in daily life. Help your children see how mathematics is everywhere and use it as an opportunity to learn. Also, help your child (ren) find effective ways of extending their learning skills into their daily lives. During our opening assemblies, we challenge all our students to be the best people that they can be and to do their best in all that they do, at home and school.

This year we also turn our focus to "The Year of the School", as part of our pastoral plan focusing on Family, Parish and School. This will be a time for us to put our Catholic Faith and Hope into action through the good work that we do in our schools and communities.

May God continue to bless everyone in the St. John community with Faith, Hope and Charity.

Serving You In Catholic Education,

*D. Comacchio
Principal*

GET READY TO:
LEARN **see** DO
read **EXPLORE**
question **GROW**
laugh **SMILE**
IMPROVE **SHARE**
try write **CONNECT**
imagine **DO YOUR VERY BEST**



2017—2018
Is the YEAR OF THE
SCHOOL

STANDARDIZED SCHOOL HOURS 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Start of School Day: 8:30 a.m. - classes begin

morning announcements have been moved to 11:00am

Morning Recess: 10:12 a.m. to 10:27 a.m.

Lunch Hour: 11:15 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.

*11:15 - 11:55 - students out for recess (40 minutes)

*11:55 - 12:15 - students in class having lunch (20 minutes)

ELP (Kindergarten classes) Lunch Hour:

*11:15 - 11:45 - students outdoors (30 minutes)

*11:45 - 12:15 - students having lunch (30 minutes)

Afternoon Recess: 1:40 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:00 p.m.

SAFE SCHOOL ARRIVAL PROGRAM



Please leave a message by calling the school at **416-393-5220** when your child will be absent or late. Please make sure that all students who arrive late check in at the front office.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Please ensure that all information regarding your child is up-to-date. We need to have the correct home telephone numbers, work numbers, home address and emergency contact. If these numbers change please let the school know promptly, IN WRITING.



LUNCH ROUTINES

Students who remain at school for lunch (11:15-12:15) may NOT LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS anytime during the lunch hour without written parent permission. Students who do have permission to leave, are to return no sooner than 11:35 and be back by 12:15. For safety reasons, **ONLY GRADE 7 & 8 students**, with the written permission of a parent, may leave school property for lunch. Students will not be permitted to phone to obtain permission to leave property during lunch.

STUDENT AGENDAS



We will continue to use student agendas. The cost for each Agenda is \$8.00. We highly recommend the use of the Agenda as a communication tool between school and home. Please take some time to review the content in the opening pages. They include policies, procedures and St. John's Code of Conduct information, as well as the school's Progressive Discipline Plan.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

A reminder that **all parents and visitors must enter the school building through the front doors and report to the front office**. We ask that in the interest of safety for all students and to ensure that classes are uninterrupted, **we need everyone's total co-operation and understanding on this matter**.

Adults are reminded that for safety reasons, while students are in the yard, only staff should be in the yard.

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, kindly call and make an appointment. Your child's teacher will be happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time.

APPROPRIATE DRESS CODE POLICY

All students are expected to come to school daily appropriately dressed and in a manner that reflects the aims and atmosphere of a Catholic school. Please refer to the St. John dress code policy as outlined in your child's agenda.

DROPPING OFF & PICKING UP STUDENTS

For the safety of all students, we ask that in the mornings you drop off your children in the appropriate sections of the school yard and leave them with our staff. **Please make sure that your child is dropped off no earlier than 8:10 a.m. Supervision in our school yard begins at 8:10 a.m.** This will help the students develop routines and it will also help our staff ensure a safe school yard.

If you are picking up your child(ren) early from school, please come to the office and sign out your child. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

WASTE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The Board approved the introduction of a **"Waste Free Lunch Program"** at all elementary schools in 2010. This program is an integral part of the TCDSB's commitment to promote and teach our students the importance of being stewards of the earth.

We are asking you to fully participate with your child as we continue to introduce and/or expand the **"Waste Free Lunch Program"** at our school this year. Be part of helping us become leaders in this environmental friendly waste reduction program. It involves the following three steps:

- Pack lunches and snacks in re-usable containers, not in disposable bags.
- Use containers that are re-sealable in order to avoid spills.
- Ensure the safety of students who suffer life threatening anaphylactic reactions by placing all foods in reusable containers in their original package or wrapper. This will allow the food ingredients to be clearly indicated and help all staff and students to be aware of possible allergens introduced in the school environment.

Any leftover food can be disposed of in the TCDSB Organics Program (Green Bin) at every school, or will be returned home with your child.

AGM/(CSPC) ELECTIONS



Annual General Meeting/CSPC Elections will be held on **Wednesday September 20th at 7:00 pm** in the library. To meet the needs of our students, the council will work with the school to address three pillars to support our students: mind, body and spirit.

The St. John community would also like to thank last year's CSPC for their dedication and time to providing so many wonderful opportunities for our students.

ANAPHYLAXIS ALERT

We would like to inform you that we are an **allergy aware school**. There are students in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods such as **peanuts, nut products, bananas, sesame seeds, eggs, seafood and shell fish**. Anaphylaxis is a severe and life threatening allergic reaction.



We are asking that you be mindful of this when sending lunches or snacks that may contain peanuts, nuts, bananas, eggs, seafood, shell fish and sesame seeds. As well, please check prepared foods for traces of peanut oil or nut products. These items could potentially harm a child. **We would also ask that you please do not send food for birthdays or special occasions.** There are many other alternatives such as stickers and pencils. Please remind your children not to share food in the classroom.

We thank all of you for being diligent in following this request. We must maintain as safe an environment as we possibly can for our students. Since all our students share the school building space in their daily activities, we need to take precautions to minimize any cross contamination issues.

Useful Websites

Parents are encouraged to visit the following websites for additional information

CSPC

<https://sites.google.com/site/stjohncsac/>

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

<http://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/default.aspx>

Helping your child learn & love Math

<http://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/schoolprogramsk12/numeracy/thinkmath@home/Pages/default.aspx>

CURRICULUM NIGHT and WELCOME BBQ

Curriculum Night will take place on **Thursday, September 14th from 5:30 – 7:10pm**. Parents are invited to come for a Welcome BBQ organized by the St. John CSPC from 5:30 – 6:30. Parents can then meet their child(ren)'s teacher(s) from 6:30 – 7:10pm and become informed about the curriculum and student expectations. Hope to see you all there!

School Year Calendar 2017 – 18

Labour Day	September 4/17
Thanksgiving	October 9/17
Christmas Break (inclusive)	December 25/17 – January 5/1
Family Day	February 19/18
Mid-Winter Break (inclusive)	March 12-16/18
Good Friday	March 30/18
Easter Monday	April 2/18
Victoria Day	May 21/18
Last Day of School	June 28/18

Professional Activity Days 2017-2018

October 6,/17	Provincial Education Priorities
November 17/17	Parent-Teacher Conference
December 1/17	Provincial Education Priorities /Faith Development
January 19/18	Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting
February 16/18	Parent-Teacher Conference
June 8/17	Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting
June 29/18	Provincial Education Priorities

Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee 2017-2018

1. Joseph Martino
2. Ann Andrachuk
3. Sal Piccininni
4. Patrizia Bottoni
5. Maria Rizzo
6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair
7. Michael Del Grande

8. Gary Tanuan
 9. Jo-Ann Davis
 10. Barbara Poplawski
 11. Angela Kennedy, Chair
 12. Nancy Crawford
- Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee
Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee





Class Assignments:

Please be aware that classes and teacher assignments are determined based on the projected enrolment for the following school year. Actual enrolment is often different in September and this may require changes in class structure and may necessitate moving students from one classroom to another. For this reason, **CLASS PLACEMENT ARE TENTATIVE UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER.** Current enrolment numbers indicate we will need to restructure several classes. I would like to thank all of the families who may be affected for their understanding and co-operation.



The TCDSB does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen. Some injuries incur medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. Accident and Insurance policies are available through Reliable Life Insurance company. This insurance is voluntary and payable by parent/guardian. Flyers detailing the plan were sent home earlier this week.

Administration of Medication at school:

Occasionally students may need to take prescription medication at school. In order for this to take place, parents/guardians and physicians will need to complete and sign the appropriate Special Services Medical Forms' which can be requested through the school office. The purpose of these forms is to ensure that any medication that is being administered at school is carried out as prescribed by the attending physician by school staff. Non-prescription medication cannot be administered to students. Additionally, students are not allowed to self-medicate.



Safety Smarts:

Please take time to review street safety rules with your child. Parents are asked to review stranger danger rules with their children. Reminders not to talk to, follow or go with anyone home unless the parents has had a discussion with them will help keep your child safe. Having a pre-determined plan for safe arrival and departure



Hospitality



Bus Information

Information, including safety tips and up to the minute reports on cancellations or delays can be found online here:

<https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>

Your responsibility as a Parent

- Parents are responsible for their children's safety before they board their school bus, and after they are dropped off in the afternoon.
- While on the bus, students are responsible to the school principal for their conduct. Transportation privileges may be revoked if a student's behaviour creates problems, the length of the suspension varying with the severity of the incident. If transportation privileges are revoked, it becomes the parent's responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.
- Parents are also responsible for transporting their children to and from school in cases of inclement weather or mechanical difficulty.



On the Bus

- The driver is in charge of the bus and must be obeyed at all times.
- Sit where you have been assigned and remain seated for the duration of your trip.
- Be quiet and behave sensibly. Horseplay, fighting, eating, drinking and foul language are forbidden.
- Keep your belongings on your lap or under the seat; aisle must be left clear.
- Don't open a window without the driver's consent, and never lean out the windows.
- Never throw anything inside the bus or out the windows.
- Respect the bus equipment. Students will be held responsible for any damages to the vehicle.
- Avoid conversation with and distraction of the bus driver while the vehicle is in operation.

Waiting for the Bus

Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes prior to scheduled time

****Purple Equals Parent Initiative (PEP program)****

TCDSB, along with our transportation companies will continue implementing the PEP Program.

It is designed to minimize the possibility of a student who requires supervision being released from a school bus without a responsible adult or sibling available to receive the student. Pamphlets describing the program will be sent home with our FDK students.

Parents are now able to access bus route information, i.e. pick-up and drop-off times, on our School Board Website at:

<https://www.torontoschoolbus.org>

High School Open Houses

Grade 8 students and their families are invited to learn more about their secondary school options at open houses this fall. For a complete schedule, see:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/default.aspx>

Get all the latest news

Follow @TCDSB on Twitter to get the news as it happens.

Or subscribe to Enews to receive information via email one or more times per week.

<https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Despite teacher vigilance, accidents will occur. Parents are strongly advised to mail in their completed application forms directly to the insurance company. **DO NOT RETURN THE FORM TO THE SCHOOL.**

INFORMATION SHEET AND GENERAL PERMISSION FORMS

Please complete and sign the forms that were sent electronically and return them to school as soon as possible.

Local Excursions

From time to time classes take local walking trips in the immediate neighbourhood. Formal consent forms will be used for excursions beyond the local community area. Please complete and return the appropriate form that was sent electronically for visits to parks, public library and walks in the community.

