



St. John The Evangelist CATHOLIC SCHOOL

23 George St. Toronto, Ontario M9N 2B4

Telephone: 416-393-5244 Fax: 416-393-5032



PRINCIPAL'S AND VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

During the month of March, we demonstrated our commitment to our faith and God's creation by practicing the virtue of forgiveness. We also participated in the World Day of Prayer, World Water Day, Earth Hour Challenge and Holy Week. We also demonstrated an appreciation for diversity and inclusion through our participation in International Women's Day and the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

In March, we welcomed back Ms. Porretta and Ms. Di Cesare and also welcomed our new Child and Youth Worker, Cristina Reis who has joined our community to help support our students. We bid farewell to Ms. De Francesca and Ms. Picarelli who replaced Ms. Porretta and Ms. Di Cesare. We thank them for all their help and support to our community. We will miss them. Ms. Picarelli has since been assigned to a long term occasional position to replace Mr. Baird during his absence in our ME/DD class. We will miss Mr. Baird.

As April begins, we celebrate the sacred Triduum, that memorializes the passion of Jesus ending with Easter, our highest point in the liturgical year. Easter celebrates Jesus' resurrection and our salvation. This month we will be focusing on the virtue of Justice. Justice is the ability to be fair in everything we do. Justice allows us to see with our own eyes and not judge by what others tell us. Being just is about taking responsibility for our mistakes and making amends so that every person's rights are protected. Justice is also an important part of Catholic teaching beyond Christ's Death and Resurrection. The need to be just comes from the obligation to respect the dignity of every human person. This dignity comes from being created in God's image. At SJE, we will be practising justice by not hurting or taking advantage of others. We will work on thinking for ourselves, avoiding gossip, owning up to our mistakes and accepting the consequences, and sharing fairly with others. We will also continue to see people as individuals.

Yours in Christ,
Antionietta Grossi
Principal

Elizabeth Russell
Vice Principal

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

April 2021

Antionietta Grossi Elizabeth Russell

PRINCIPAL

VICE PRINCIPAL

Adalgisio (Joe) Bria 416-222-8282 ext. 2732

SUPERINTENDENT

Daniel Di Giorgio 416-512-3410

TRUSTEE

St. John The Evangelist Church 416-241-0133
Father Maderak

49 George St., Weston, Ontario M9N 2B4

PARISH

R. Cesario – Chair

E. Fiadzinu – Co-Chair

CSPC CHAIR

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)

527	8:30am-3:00pm	11:15am-12:15pm
-----	---------------	-----------------

ENROLLMENT	HOURS OF OPERATION	LUNCH HOUR
------------	--------------------	------------

NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393-5244 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 2383.

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

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year: Follow @TCDSB on Twitter and @SJECES

Virtue of the Month - Forgiveness

Congratulations to the following recipients of the March virtue of the Month award for recognition of Forgiveness:

Ms.Green/Ms. Manimtim: Andrew I/ Deon S
Ms. Violo/Ms. Machado: Jaxson P/Jazaria R
Ms. Toth/Ms. Pinto: Oliver K./ Theo A.
Ms. Da Silva/Ms. Paun: Zoe & Aiden
Ms. Serrao/Ms. Loduca: Oluoma A
Ms. Mesic: Mina J
Ms. Carbone: George A
Ms. Buccitti: Elisa C
Ms. Porretta: Fiba F.
Ms. Waslenko: Deborah B
Ms. Tanga: Lilyanna P
Ms. Decassan: Aida O/Mateo R
Ms. Del Zotto: Blessing A
Ms. Giovenco: Mirna Y
Ms. Tropea: Janelle L
Ms. Amaral: Carlos D/Albertina O
Mr. Veleno: Elizabeth J
Ms. Renda: Israel U
Ms. DiCesare: Maria A
Ms. Manuel: Annabel O
Mr. Vossen: Jeremiah A
Mr. Perri: Diola V
Ms. Pasquali: Giovanna M
Mr. Baird: Noah D

Our Daily Nurture

The Nurturing Our Catholic Community (NCC) Team continues providing daily reflections as a resource for spiritual help and hope during the COVID-19 pandemic. To review these daily reflections on the TCDSB Website, please click on bit.ly/2ZZ1znH or see them posted daily on our Twitter account: [@TCDSB_NCC](https://twitter.com/TCDSB_NCC).

Celtic Heritage Month

Celtic Canadian Heritage Month is celebrated during the month of March to commemorate Irish immigration to Canada. At SJE we celebrated Celtic Heritage month with an announcement of its remembrance. We also celebrated St. Patrick Day to commemorate the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and to celebrate the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Staff and students were invited to wear green on this day.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer began by women in Canada and the United States in 1922 and is observed worldwide. World Day of Prayer encourages young men and women "to share their spirituality and prayer; to respond to national and international issues affecting women; and to take action

together for justice. This year's World Day of Prayer was observed Friday, March 5, 2021 and the theme is: "*Build on a Strong Foundation.*" Our sisters from Vanuatu invited us to focus on the Bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells a story about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which the house is built. We celebrated this day as a school community during our morning prayers.

International Women's Day

March 8th was International Women's Day. This global celebration focusing on equity and social justice reflects TCDSB's vision that equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusivity are integral to the Catholic community. This year the theme for is 'choose to challenge' which highlights the importance of challenging biases and misconceptions in the interest of creating a more inclusive and gender-equal world. As a school community, our morning prayers raised an awareness of the worth and dignity of women and invited everyone to celebrate and recognize women's achievements and daily contributions socially, economically, culturally, and politically.

International Day for Elimination of Racial

Discrimination

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was established by the United Nations in 1966 to commemorate the Sharpeville tragedy. This event involved police opening fire and killing 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid "pass laws" in Sharpeville, South Africa on March 21, 1960. Today, at St. John The Evangelist Catholic School we encourage everyone to fight racism and promote tolerance in our community and lives.

World Water Day

On March 22, 2021 we celebrated World Water Day. During our morning announcements we spoke about the theme of World Water Day 2021 and discussed its value. From <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>, we talked about how water has enormous and complex value for our households, food, culture, health, education, economics, and the integrity of our natural environment. If we overlook any of these values, we risk mismanaging this finite, irreplaceable resource. We also raised awareness that water is a critical resource for everyone.

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

On March 25th, during announcements, we celebrated this day and spoke about how this day offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at

the hands of the brutal slavery system and to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.

Earth Hour Challenge

Did you know that one large tree can provide a day's oxygen for up to four people? We, on Friday, March 26, St. John The Evangelist took part in the Earth Hour Challenge. Lights, computers, and all unnecessary electrical equipment were turned off for one hour between 10:00 am and 11:00 am. By taking part in this shared responsibility, we made a commitment to increase our awareness of the crucial part we need to take in becoming stewards of God's creation. Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia on March 31, 2007. In just one hour the collective effort of individuals and businesses taking part reduced Sydney's energy consumption by 10.2%. At 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, 2021, you are invited to join millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories, by switching off their lights to show support for our planet.

Bingo D'Hiver

During the month of March, we participated in a bingo type game to win a movie and snack afternoon. We congratulate Ms. A. Del Zotto's class for winning Bingo D'Hiver.

March 15-19, 2021

We participated in some fun activities during this week by wearing our favourite colour, wearing green on St. Patrick Day and dressing like we were on vacation on Friday.

ELP Nurse Visit

On March 11, 2021 the ELP division participated in a zoom virtual presentation with Nurse Naila. Our students were educated on how to do their part in preventing the spread of the virus. Our students learned how mask wearing and hand washing as well as maintaining distance helps to keep everyone safe. It was such a great experience to have Nurse Naila with us. We are in hopes that we can schedule more sessions with her in the future.

How To Speak To Your Kids About Race

We are offering a parent presentation on Wednesday April 7, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This is a virtual presentation is entitled: "How to Speak to your Kids about Race".

The purpose of this presentation is to provide parents/guardians with strategies to address the subject, utilizing an Anti-Racist Education framework



for discussion and learning. This is an interactive session whereby parents/guardians are also the co-creators of their own strategies in order to address the needs of their children.

It will be presented by Kirk Mark, President - Canadian Alliance of Black Educators and Kaydeen Bankasingh, Member of the Board of Directors - Canadian Alliance of Black Educators.

To register for this event please complete the form below by April 3, 2021 to receive the zoom link.

<https://forms.gle/cUdxjip764hDEcbH7>

Fire Drill

Tuesday March 23, 2021, we practiced our fire drill while maintaining Covid Protocols and staying physically distanced.

Hold and Secure Practice

On Friday, March 26, 2021, as per our School Safety Plan, we practiced a Hold and Secure (for a threat in the community). All classes stayed indoors, and we monitored the entrances and exits..

Did you know that our school field measures approximately 203 metres by 17 metres?

During a math unit on measurement, students in Ms. Ventura's class were curious to find out the perimeter and area of the back field. They put their minds and tools to work, by measuring the length and width of the field and discovered that our field measures 203 metres by 17 metres. That gives us a total area of 3,451 square metres, and a total perimeter of 440 metres. Special thanks to the students who calculated this information. Great job!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

COVID19 Information

Per School Board protocol, a reminder to please ensure that your child(ren) come(s) to school with the signed COVID-19 screening passport EVERY morning. The student passport for April is [blue](#).

Student Drop Off/Pick Up

When dropping off and/or picking up your child(ren), we ask that after you drop off/pick up your child(ren), [you go directly to your vehicle or walk home](#). Please do NOT congregate with other people. It is important that we do

not have groups of people coming together, including students from different cohorts. The city of Toronto is still in lockdown. Please also wear a mask when dropping off/picking up your child(ren).

Church Parking Lot

A reminder that when dropping off or picking up your child(ren), please be careful and remain vigilant of pedestrians and other drivers. Please do not park on the side of the driveway. We almost had a serious accident recently.

FOOD ALLERGIES

As in the past, please note that **we have a growing number of students in our school that have severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts, nuts, eggs, coconuts, and/or fish.** This is a medical condition that may cause a severe anaphylactic reaction to specific foods that can be fatal. Although this may not affect a student in your child's



class directly, we ask that you **DO NOT SEND ANY PRODUCTS THAT MAY CONTAIN PEANUT, NUT, EGG, COCONUT, AND/OR FISH PRODUCTS TO SCHOOL,** as children can come into contact with one another elsewhere in the school. For this reason, students are not allowed to share food at school. **We are also requesting that "fast food" not be sent with your child as many of the food items at these locations contain these food products; we encourage you to take your child out to enjoy these foods together.** We thank you in advance for your support in helping to keep every child in our care safe.

Student Absences



Please remember to call in student absences on Safe Arrival. This process is required even during distance learning absences.

Appropriate Dress Code

As the warm weather arrives, we remind our students and families about proper dress code attire. Students are expected to come in full dress code attire as follows:

- blue bottoms and white or blue tops.
- Hats, tuques, or hoods are not to worn indoors
- No tank tops
- No belly tops
- No short shorts
- If wearing tights, please wear a long top

General Student Behaviour Expectations:

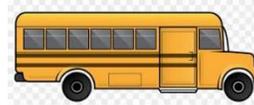
Please review the student expectations with your child(ren) that are listed on the front pages on the school agenda.

A reminder that electronic devices are NOT to be used during recesses, lunches, in washrooms, school bus, and school excursions. Cell phones should be powered off and put away during school hours. As well, students should never post pictures of other students nor post inappropriate comments on social media. Please review social media applications age requirements with your child(ren). Should you have questions please contact the school.



Students on School Bus

The school bus is a service that is provided, and as a result it is an extension of the school. Therefore, students on the school bus are expected to follow school bus rules for the safety of all. Students are always to remain in their assigned seats (no moving seats), keep their hands and feet to themselves, do not eat nor drink on the bus, do not shout on the bus, do not use inappropriate language, etc. Please review with your child. If students do not follow these rules, bus services for your child(ren) may be withdrawn. **Also, if your child will not be taking the bus home, a written note from a parent/guardian is required the morning of. This note needs to be dated and signed.** **Unfortunately, phone calls will not be accepted.**



CSPC NEWS:

Parent Council Meeting:

Our next CSPC Meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held virtually. Please join us! All are welcome! We value your support! An email form to sign-up to receive the CSPC meeting zoom link will be sent to all families via School Messenger.

CSPC Fundraising Initiative Reminder: FLIPGIVE!

This season, fundraising for St. John the Evangelist CSPC is going to be so much easier with FlipGive, a free team funding application.

Information/details about this program can be found in the URL below.

The school earns cash back on every purchase we make all year long! All you have to do is shop anytime with the brands you already love, like Home Depot, Walmart, Sport Check, Indigo, Old Navy, Apple, Esso, and Loblaws. No more going door-to-door selling chocolate bars - it's completely virtual and contactless with no added costs to purchases. Join our team and you'll get a \$5 bonus the first time you shop: <https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode= SXBNZ2>. Or enter this code: **SXBNZ2**

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Our CSPC is sponsoring a parent workshop called [Managing Meanness by Cultivating Kindness](#) from Arts Express to help our children develop effective strategies to deal with bullying and everyday negative social encounters. This virtual workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend. To register, please complete the form found on the following link: <https://forms.gle/Pt2WhF22FYdn6fkf8>

We thank our CSPC for sponsoring a parent workshop called T.A.S.A.M in March from Arts Express. This workshop was informative and provided many tips for helping our children and adults manage anxiety and stress. We were also provided with some resources to help us. If you missed the presentation and would like a copy of the resource shared, please contact the school office and we will email you the information.



Monthly Update from the Board April 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2021-2022 Budget Consultation and Virtual Town Halls

Share your feedback about student supports, staffing and facilities! This year's consultation will feature an online survey from April 1 – 30, 2021, in addition to three themed Virtual Town Halls:

- **Theme 1 Students:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- **Theme 2 Staffing:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- **Theme 3 Facilities:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

For more information, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit www.tcdsb.org/budget2021

Easter Holiday and April Break Reminders

- Please be advised that all TCDSB schools and offices will be closed on Friday, April 2 (Good Friday) and Monday April 5 (Easter Monday). Classes will resume Tuesday, April 6, 2021.
- The Ministry of Education has announced that March Break for all publicly funded schools in Ontario will now take place **April 12 to 17, 2021**.

Update RE: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Please note TCDSB will not administer the optional OSSLT for students in Grades 10 and 11 planned for the spring of 2021.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Documents/osslt-tcdsb-march-2021.pdf>

Information and Resources for the 2020-2021 School Year

- [TCDSB Top 10 Health and Safety Reminders](#)
- [Equity Student and Family Community Resources](#)
- [Supporting Students' Mental Health During a Pandemic \(COVID-19\)](#)

Equity Student and Family Resources

Resources for students and families to support 2SLGBTQ+ students, racialized students, and students experiencing poverty, grief/loss, and homelessness.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/CommunityRelations/Equity-Events-Resources/Pages/Student-and-Family-Community-Resources.aspx>

Anti-Asian Racism Statement from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/BoardAdministration/DirectorofEducation/Documents/tcdsb-statement-march-2021.pdf>

TCDSB Race Relations Committee: Applications for Membership

Members of the TCDSB community are invited to consider serving on the Race Relations Committee (RRC). **Deadline to apply: April 2, 2021.**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/CommunityRelations/AdvisoryCommittees/Documents/race-relations-committee-application-form.pdf>

FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

EarlyON Centres ONLINE Programs

TCDSB Early ON Child & Family Centres - located at 19 TCDSB schools - are currently offering ONLINE programs & services to families, including interactive fun, stimulating early learning activities to do at home, provided by qualified ECEs. Contact your nearest EarlyON Centre for details:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/EarlyON/Pages/default.aspx>

JVS Toronto: Path 2 Work

JVS Toronto offers free services to help youth and adults with developmental disabilities find employment. <https://www.jvstoronto.org/>

Toronto Public Library Brainfuse: Online Homework Help For students in grades K-12 offered daily from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Also includes practice tests, support for adult learners, writing assistance, skills building and more.

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDMEDB01938&R=EDB0193>

Mental Health Resources

- CMHO: [Your Child's Mental Wellness and Remote Learning](#)
- City of Toronto: [COVID-19: Mental Health Resources: It's OK not to feel OK](#)
- Ontario: [Mental health services for children and youth](#)

Sign Up for School Messenger for Absence Reporting and More

The student absence reporting system is also used to send critical and urgent messages from your school, and from the school Board. For more information <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>.

Get Updates on School Bus Service

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

Anti-Racism Video Contest: DEADLINE EXTENDED

What's your message for standing up to injustice? Students in grades 7 to 12 are invited to get creative and submit their video reflections. Individual or team submissions. Cash prizes for winning entries.

Deadline: Friday, April 9, 2021 at 5 p.m.

Questions? Contact jodelyn.huang@tcdsb.org.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/AfricanCanadianHeritage/Pages/Anti-Racism-Video-Competition.aspx>

STEM Camp: Summer 2021 Camp Counsellor Jobs

Stem Camp has 85 locations across Ontario and are hiring 600 camp counsellors this summer.

<https://stemcamp.ca/summer-camp-jobs/>

Reason One Mentorship & Scholarship Program

One \$10,000 scholarship and five (5) \$1000 micro-scholarships awarded to Black students between the ages of 17-35 years old enrolled or recently accepted in a digital-discipline program, pursuing or with plans to pursue a career in tech. Deadline: April 20, 2021.

<https://www.reasononeinc.com/romsp>

Need someone to talk to?

- **Kids Help Phone** is there for you with 24/7 confidential support. Counsellors can be reached by phone at 1-800-668-6868 or by texting CONNECT to 686868. <https://kidshelpphone.ca>
- **LGBT YouthLine** offers confidential and non-judgemental LGBTQ+ peer support through telephone, text and chat services. <https://www.youthline.ca>

EVENTS AND OBSERVANCES

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month

[Virtue of the Month: Justice](#)

Important Days

April 1: Holy Thursday

April 2: Good Friday (schools and offices are closed)

April 2: Autism Awareness Day

April 3: Holy Saturday

April 4: Easter Sunday

April 5: Easter Monday (schools and offices are closed)

April 5-9: Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 7: World Health Day

April 9: Vimy Ridge Day

April 14: International Day of Pink - LGBTQ antibullying awareness

April 22: Earth Day/School Clean-up Day

April 28: Administrative Assistants Day

April Meetings

April 6: Governance & Policy

April 7: Audit Committee

April 7: Portuguese Speaking Advisory Committee

April 8: Filipino Speaking Advisory Committee

April 8: Student Achievement & Well-Being

April 15: Corporate Services

April 19: Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
April 21: Special Education Advisory Committee
April 22: Regular Board Meeting
April 28: Nurturing Our Catholic Community

All Agendas and Minutes:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/TrusteesoftheBoard/boardmeeting/Pages/BoardMeeting.aspx>

Don't Miss Out on the Latest News and Information:

- Visit the Board's website www.tcdsb.org
- Follow @TCDSB on Twitter, @TorontoCatholicDSB on Instagram, and visit Toronto Catholic District School Board on Facebook to get updates throughout the day.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2020 - 2021

Wards

1. Joseph Martino, Chair	416-512-3401	8. Garry Tanton	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	416-512-3405	12. Nancy Crawford, Vice-Chair	416-512-3412
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406	Keith Andre Baybayon, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
7. Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407	Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee	416-512-3417