



# St. John The Evangelist CATHOLIC SCHOOL

23 George St. Toronto, Ontario M9N 2B4

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



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The month of November provided many opportunities for our community to work together to achieve our goals. We highlighted the virtue of the month, Peacemaking, with an Afrocentric Lens and celebrated Remembrance Day with a virtual assembly prepared by Ms. Pasquali's grade 8 class. Our candidates whose sacraments were postponed from the spring, received their sacraments in November.

Our first cases of COVID-19 provided us with reminders on the importance of wearing masks, sanitizing, and physically distancing, and of prayerful reflection.

During the month of December, as we prepare for the birth of our Saviour, we will celebrate the season of Advent and focus on the virtue of charity by practicing charitable actions, including being considerate and kind toward each other. We offer the following prayer:

Spread love everywhere you go; First of all, in your own house.  
Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor...  
Let no one ever come to you  
Without leaving better and happier.  
Be the living expression of God's kindness; Kindness in your face,  
Kindness in your eyes, Kindness in your smile,  
Kindness in your warm greeting.

This year, we will be celebrating the season with the opportunity to participate in Holy Mass virtually each week with Father Maderak.

On December 27, 2020, we also celebrate the Feast Day of St. John The Evangelist, our school Patron Saint. John was called the "beloved disciple." He is known because of his life example and teachings of love throughout his gospels. For St. John, love is light and life and all perfection: "Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" John 4:7.

May the Lord grant you and your family a blessed Christmas and a very prosperous New Year filled with love, joy, health, and peace.

Yours in Christ,  
Elizabeth Russell



# CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

December 2020

Elizabeth Russell

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

CSPC CHAIR ↻

[www.tcdsb.org/cpic](http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic)

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB) ↻

[www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto](http://www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto)

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS) ↻

520	8:30am-3:00pm	11:15am-12:15pm
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ENROLLMENT HOURS OF OPERATION LUNCH HOUR

## NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: [soar.tcdsb.org](http://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](http://www.tcdsb.org)

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

### Remembrance Day Service

On November 11, 2020, Ms. Pasquali grade 8 class organized and led a virtual assembly to honour and remember the sacrifices made by those who fought in War to protect our freedom.

### Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion provided the school community with lovely poppies for Remembrance Day. We thank our school community for their generous donations for these poppies as all donations received through the Poppy Campaign directly support veterans serving militaries, and their families. Thank you!

### COVID-19 Information

We thank Toronto Public Health, Women's College Hospital, and Sick Kids Hospital medical personnel for helping to keep our school community safe by providing ongoing support and opportunities for testing on December 3 and 4, 2020 at the school.

*Per School Board protocol, a reminder to please ensure that your child(ren) come to school with the signed covid screening passport EVERY morning.*

### Winter Clothing

Winter is a fun season for students that allows them to experience and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities and sports if they are dressed appropriately. During the winter months, students should be wearing coats/jackets, mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, and boots when they go outside to play at the recesses. It is also important that coats/jackets are buttoned or zipped up. Please take the time to work with your child to ensure that he/she knows how to button/zip up his/her coat/jacket.



Also, all students must have a pair of indoor closed toed shoes at school. Boots are for outdoor use and not to be worn in the classroom. Students need to have closed toed shoes on at all times, especially when going to the washroom, changing classrooms, or participating in emergency drills for fire or evacuation. It is also a good idea to have your child carry a clean pair of socks in his/her backpack in case of wet feet.

Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring your children are coming to school dressed properly.

### Inclement Weather

With the approach of winter, please note that should it become necessary to cancel school bus transportation or close schools due to inclement weather, the Communications

Department and the Toronto Student Transportation Group will endeavor to provide announcements and updates by 7:00 am through the following means: News releases to radio and televisions outlets in Toronto, the TCDSB 24-hour information line at 416-222-8282, Ext. 2873, the Board's website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org), and the Toronto Student Transportation Group at <http://www.schoolbus.to/chome.asp>. Get all the information all year long by following Twitter @TCDSB.

### We offer the following reminders:

#### SUPERVISION

A reminder that supervision in the school yard begins at 8:15 am. On inclement weather days, staff will begin checking passports and letting students inside from 8:15 onward.

#### STUDENT PICK-UP

If you normally pick up your child up at the end of the day, please wait at your child's designated dismissal location for the 3:00 p.m. bell

#### FOOD ALLERGIES



As in the past, please note that we have a growing number of students in our school who have severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts, nuts, eggs and/or fish. This is a medical condition that may cause a severe anaphylactic reaction to specific foods, and it 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 AND/OR FISH 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. **Due to COVID-19 and the protocols around shared items, in addition to allergy concerns, we are asking you to refrain from sending in items to be shared with the class.** Please note that if a student in your child's class has another kind of food allergy, you will receive a note home informing you to refrain from sending in foods containing said allergen (e.g., sesame seeds). We are also requesting that "fast food" not be sent with your child or delivered at lunch time, as many of the food items from these locations contain allergens that could pose a risk within our school. 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.

All are welcome!

## **Student Absences**



Please remember to call in student absences on Safe Arrival

## **General Student Expectations:**

A reminder to review the student expectations and code of behaviour with your children that are listed on the front pages on the school agenda. 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. Any students who do not follow these rules may have bus services withdrawn. Also, if your child will not be taking the bus home, a written note from a parent/guardian is required the morning of the day that they will be picked up. This note needs to be dated and signed. Unfortunately, phone calls will not be accepted.

## **Grade 8 Graduation Photos & Retakes:**

The grade 8 graduation photos and retakes are re-scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2020. SJE Graduates attending St. Anne virtual school will have Grad photos taken after school, by appointment only.

## **Christmas Sprit Week (December 14-18)**

To celebrate and get in the Christmas Spirit, we have a week of fun organized for the last week of school:

December 14 - Red Day

December 15 - Green Day

December 16 - Pyjamas Day

December 17 - Hat and Scarf Day

December 18 - Christmas Sweater Day; uniform bottoms

**Let's get in the spirit!**

## **Parent Council Meeting:**

We held our virtual CSPC meeting on November 25, 2020. At this meeting, we welcomed Superintendent Bria and Trustee DiGiorgio. We also thank all parents and staff who attended and participated. We value your support!

Our next CSPC Meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held virtually. Please join us!

## **St. John The Evangelist Parish News**

### **ALL PUBLIC MASSES ARE CANCELLED**

As of Monday, November 23, 2020, due to the lockdown in Toronto and Peel, all public Masses have been cancelled and the parish office is closed until further notice. Please click on the link below to read the letter from Cardinal Collins: COVID-19 Provincial Measures (November 20, 2020).

<https://www.archtoronto.org/media-centre/news-archive/chancery-news/letter-from-cardinal-collins-covid19-provincial-measures-november-20-2020>

Please visit our web page regularly at <https://stjohntheevangelistwe.archtoronto.org> for updates as we will post new information as it is made known to us.

### **ALL WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED**

During the lockdown, please join us every weekend for the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m. and the Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses as they will be livestreamed on Facebook. You can watch the livestreams here: <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Evangelist-Weston-101082665044541> or go to our website at [stjohntheevangelistwe.archtoronto.org](https://stjohntheevangelistwe.archtoronto.org) and click on the Facebook symbol. You do not require a Facebook account to view online.

### **FRIDAYS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Everyone is invited to join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays. It will be livestreamed from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Eucharistic Adoration begins with the Litany of the Sacred Heart, followed by the Rosary. You can watch the livestream on Youtube by clicking on the following: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCXUahTw6s4jhFaQXcYjSgaw>

### **FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

This year, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist is replaced by the Feast of the Holy Family since it falls on the Sunday after Christmas.



# Monthly Update from the Board December 2020

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **COVID-19 Resources and Information**

This is a reminder that the attestation form needs to be completed and returned to our child's school if they are returning after being ill. <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/9095-Attestation-for-Return-to-School.pdf>.

As you are aware from the last communication you received, families will have the opportunity to switch learning models at each quadmester for secondary and at the end of term 1 for elementary. The next opportunity to switch learning models will take place during the January to February timeline.

For other updates and information relating to COVID-19, please see

- **Frequently Asked Questions:**  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/back-to-school/pages/faq.aspx>
- **Resources:**  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/resources.aspx>
- **TCDSB Reopening Plan:**  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/reopening-plan.aspx>
- **Latest Updates:**  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>

For information specifically about the virtual school (St. Anne Catholic Academy) please refer to <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/virtual-school.aspx>

### **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>

## PARENT OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

### OAPCE Toronto Meeting Dates/Agendas

The next meeting is **Tuesday, December 8** which is also the commissioning ceremony. Please note the previously listed November date was incorrect.

### Transition to High School Guidelines

### Gifted Congregated Information Night & Virtual Sessions

Families interested in full-time elementary Gifted Program for their child with the exceptionality of Giftedness, are invited to attend the virtual information sessions:

- **December 1:** Transfiguration of Our Lord
- **December 3:** St. Victor

### CSPC Consultation - S.P.05 - International Languages Elementary

At a CSPC meeting, please provide a forum for consultation with the parent community and submit **one** response reflective of the collective voice of the parent community. **Deadline: January 29**

### **Public Consultation: Policy S.P. 03, Age-appropriate Placement: Curriculum and Program Supports – New Deadline**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) is in the process of creating a policy on Age-appropriate Placement: Curriculum and Program Supports, Policy S.P. 03. The TCDSB is committed to the learning of all students and provides a range of differentiated placements, programs, and interventions to support student success. While the TCDSB adopts the Ministry of Education mandate of placing students in age-appropriate settings ([Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12](#), p.52), it also commits to providing individualized accommodations to students with abilities/disabilities in order to enable them to have meaningful access to education services.

Details: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/TCDSB-Community-Consultations/Pages/PolicySP03Age-appropriatePlacement.aspx>

This survey will be open until **Friday, January 22 at 3:00 PM** (please only submit one response). All responses will remain confidential.

### **Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) Annual Report**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/ParentInvolvement/Publications/Documents/cpic-annual-report-2019-2020.pdf>

### **Reminder: School Year Calendar for 2020-21 including PA Days**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Calendar/PAandExamDays/Documents/tcdsb-school-year-calendar-2020-2021.pdf>

### **Virtue of the Month for December: Charity**

Resources and information:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Pages/Default.aspx>

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS**

### **Virtual Focus Groups for Black Students**

The Equity Department is working on the Board's Dismantling Anti-Black Racism (DABR) Strategy and wants your input in its development.

### **Safe Schools Secondary Symposium**

Students who register will enter for a chance to win a \$50 gift card and class set of calculators through Safe Schools. The symposium will take place **Tuesday, December 1 at 3:00 pm (virtual)**.

### **Career Discovery Expo**

Hosted by Dream Big Toronto on **Wednesday, December 9** from 6 - 8:30 p.m., this FREE event invites **young women in Grades 7 to 12** explore new career pathways. Registration required.

### **Tamil Canadian Heritage Month Poster Contest**

Deadline **December 7 at 5 p.m.**

### **Ontario University Fair**

Due to continued health concerns, this year's in person event has been cancelled. **Application** deadline is **January 15, 2020**. <https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/>

### **City of Toronto Parks and Recreation is Hiring**

Details: <https://jobs.toronto.ca/recreation/>

## **EVENTS AND OBSERVANCES**

### **December Observances**

- **December: Virtue of the Month: Charity**
- **December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**
- **December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
- **December 6: The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women**
- **December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- **December 7 - 13: Hour of Code Week**
- **December 10: International Human Rights Day**
- **December 11: Hannukah (Judaism - Festival of Lights)**
- **December 18: Last day of class before Christmas break**
- **December 24: Advent ends**
- **December 25: Christmas**
- **December 26: Kwanzaa begins**

### **December Meetings**

- **December 2 - Special Education Advisory Committee**
- **December 3 - Student Achievement**
- **December 7 - Governance**
- **December 7 - Catholic Parent Involvement Committee**
- **December 9 - Corporate Services**
- **December 10 - Regular Board**

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](http://www.tcdsb.org)

- Follow @TCDSB on twitter to get updates throughout the day

**TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2020 - 2021**

**Wards**

1. Joseph Martino, Chair	416-512-3401	8. Garry Tanuan	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, Vice-Chair	416-512-3411
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405	12. Nancy Crawford	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

