



# 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 February, we practiced the virtue of love. We observed Ash Wednesday with a virtual liturgy, reminding us of God's love for us. We joined other TCDSB communities and other Canadians nation-wide in activities that honour the legacy of African Canadians, past and present. For example, our ELP students participated in a workshop about Viola Desmond, our grade 4 and 5 classes participated in a workshop on Elijah McCoy, our ELP to grade 6 classes participated in a presentation from Maestro Fresh Wes. We also commemorated 100 days of school in our primary classes with different activities. We thank you for partaking in Parent-Teacher conferences. Together we can best meet the needs of our children and increase student achievement and well-being.

In February, we welcomed Ms. Mataire, affectionately known as Ms. Vee, who joined our school community as a permanent Educational Assistant. We also welcomed Ms. Noelruban to support our students as an Educational Assistant. On March 1, Mr. F. Brundia joined our custodial staff and will be working in the afternoons. We are excited that they will be working with us to help our community.

During the month of March, as we continue our Lenten journey and prepare for Easter, the most holy day of the year, we will practice the virtue of forgiveness through prayers, lessons, and by example. Jesus asks us to model our forgiveness of others by the way God has forgiven us, "You are the people of God; Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another...as the Lord has forgiven you." (Colossians 3:12-13). He is our greatest example.

Yours in Christ,  
Antonieta Grossi  
Principal

Elizabeth Russell  
Vice Principal

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



# CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

March 2021

Antonieta 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](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)

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

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

### Virtue of the Month - Love

Congratulations to the following recipients of the February virtue of the Month award for recognition of Love:

Ms.Green/Ms. Manimtim	Nathan A/Alen L.
Ms. Violo/Ms. Machado	Logan A./Cali E.
Ms. Toth/Ms. Pinto	Azara A.
Ms. Da Silva/Ms.Paun	Aizan/Thamar
Ms. Serrao/Ms. Loduca	Alyssa C/Greatest A.
Ms. Mesic	Ariella O.
Ms. Carbone	Lucas T.
Ms. Buccitti	Debora V.
Ms. De Francesca	Lucas C.
Ms. Waslenko	Gabriel F.
Ms. Tanga	Praise A.
Ms. Decassan	Hannah M/Mila D.
Ms. Del Zotto	Osasenaga O.
Ms. Giovenco	Hannah M/Mia D.
Ms. Tropea	Brianna P/Silas D.
Ms. Amaral	Favour A/Zaire W.
Mr. Veleno	Ana Julia S.
Ms. Renda	Samikel C.
Ms. Picarelli	Williams O.
Ms. Manuel	Oluwatosin K.
Mr. Vossen	Kayla A.
Mr. Perri	Emmanuel D.
Ms. Pasquali	Stella Mae D

### Our Daily Nurture

The Nurturing Our Catholic Community (NCC) Team is also 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](https://bit.ly/2ZZ1znH) or see them posted daily on our Twitter account: [@TCDSB\\_NCC](https://twitter.com/TCDSB_NCC).

### African Canadian Heritage Month

During the month of February, St. John The Evangelist joined, the TCDSB and Canadians nation-wide in activities that honour the legacy of African Canadians, past and present. We learned more about these Canadian stories and the many important contributions African-Canadians have made to the settlement, growth and development of Ontario and Canada. For example, our ELP classes participated in an interactive zoom presentation about Viola Desmond, our grade 4 and 5 classes participated in an interactive zoom presentation about Elijah McCoy, entitled, All Aboard, our ELP to grade 6 students participated in an a virtual presentation about Maestro Fresh Wes entitled Stick to Your Vision. Our grade 8 class watched a video

entitled "What's In a Word?" The students discussed how the piece fuses street vernacular and academic language to unpack the etymology of the N-word and the well documented debate concerning its usage in music and everyday conversation. Our morning announcements included prayers highlighting saints of African descent.

### Pink Day-February 24, 2021

On Wednesday, February 24, 2021, we celebrated Pink Shirt Day. On this day we raised awareness around bullying prevention and healthy relationships, and specifically around bullying due to homophobia and gender roles. We



encouraged everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that we do not tolerate bullying. Pink Shirt Day began several years ago when a grade nine student was bullied for wearing a pink

shirt to school. The student's friends organized a protest to wear pink in support of him. Students took a stand against this gender bullying by distributing pink shirts to all the boys in their school. Since 2007, this movement has grown with almost 180 countries last year, demonstrating their support of Pink Shirt Day through social media posts and donations. The following websites provide additional information for parents and families.

-[PREVNet Resources for Parents](#) (Eng. & Fr.) Canada's authority on Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Intervention. This link provides **tips and resources for parents and guardians on 2SLGBTQ+ (Two Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender Queer and Questioning, Plus) Youth.**

-[John Hopkins Resources for Parents](#) **Tips for parents and guardians for 2SLGBTQ+ Youth.**

- [WITS](#) (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Seek Help) (Eng. & Fr.) Resources for **elementary school** educators and families.

-[Media Smarts: Talking to Kids About Gender Stereotypes](#) Great **tip sheet** for teachers and parents.

### COVID Pre-testing Clinic

In partnership with our school, Women's College Hospital provided the opportunity for the SJE community to be tested prior to returning to school. The goal of this clinic was to identify potential asymptomatic positive cases prior to returning to school, and therefore reduce the possibility of having classes dismissed for self-isolation, as well as reduce the spread within our community.

The COVID pre-testing clinic took place in the school

Gym on February 12th. We invited students, staff and families from St. Bernard, St. Fidelis and St. Francis Xavier schools to participate in the testing clinic that day as well.

Thank you to those families who came out on the PA Day to be tested. The medical team from Women's College Hospital and Sick Kids hospital tested 171 individuals from the four school communities. There were 48 students and 3 staff tested from SJE, in addition to their parents/family members. All tests completed at the clinic were negative. Women's College Hospital has been a wonderful support to our community over the past few months. We thank them for working to keep our community safe and healthy, and we look forward to additional opportunities to partner with WCH again in the future.

### **Messages from Our In-Person Classes**

**Please read the messages from some of our classes.**

#### **Ms. Toth and Ms. Pinto's ELP Class**

During the month of February, Ms. Toth and Mrs. Pinto's class completed many activities both virtually and in the classroom. Some highlights include learning to make our own graphs, drawing dinosaurs using the 2D shapes we have been learning about,



cooking every Friday, and celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Our students have become quite the chefs and in the above picture are learning to make egg bites for their family.



#### **Ms. Violo and Ms. Machado ELP Class**

Ms. Violo's Class participated in an author reading. We listened to the story of the life of Viola Desmond. We learned that she opened the first African Canadian beauty school, and we learned how she stood up for her rights and was sent to jail for doing so. We also participated and learned about "rainbow breathing" with Goldminds with Mrs. Cynthia. We learned how to control our breathing when we are feeling hyper, and we learned how to express ourselves in positive ways. Every other Friday was our bake-less treat day. We made healthy treats without the oven. We had a lot of fun! The ELP division, hosted a spirit week: We had jersey day, PJ DAY, colour day and costume day. We had Dr. Ashleigh Molloy and Lindsey Molloy put on a musical show for us. We had a lot of fun singing and dancing

with our friends online. We want to dance with Dr Ash over zoom again soon.

#### **Ms. Tanga's Grade 2 Class:**

We cannot believe that it's the end of February!! My Grade 2 class has many things to be proud of. We began the month learning from home and have made it back to in-person learning. The students continue to demonstrate their eagerness to learn, no matter the platform. The month of February was filled with love, diversity, and knowledge. The students were engaged when learning about Rosa Parks, Harriette Tubman, Ruby Bridges and Martin Luther King. They participated in many activities surrounding the virtue of Love, where they learned that you can show love in many different ways. Our class traveled to the Toronto Zoo...virtually of course. This was a great way to conclude our unit on Growth and Changes in Animals. Presently, they are learning about the Properties of Liquids and Solids. In Math the grade 2's are collecting and organizing data. They enjoyed creating their own survey question and displaying the data on a pictograph. The students also participated in the "WE ARE STARS" dance in recognition of World Autism Day. Stay tuned for the board wide joint video to be released on April 6<sup>th</sup>!!

#### **Mrs. Waslenko's Grade 2 Class:**

In the month of February, Mrs. Waslenko's grade 2 students enjoyed learning about the Virtue of Love through literature, art, family life and religion. Read Alouds on the topic were carefully selected, cards of love were prepared for special people in the children's lives, we wrote a Love Poem, and we even created a Love Bug while online. Together, we acknowledge, on a daily basis through prayers and discussions, Jesus' love for us. We also discussed the saints of African descent. We hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day! ❤️

#### **Mrs. Giovenco's Grade 3/4 Class**

February has been a busy month in our class. The students are very happy to be back at school. For Language, we have been learning about Black History achievers who have been great role models to bring about change. In Writing, we continue to work on sentence structure and paragraph writing, as well as using adjectives to write winter list poems and make writing more descriptive. In Media, the students learned about the different types of print, broadcast and internet media and used the effective techniques discussed and observed to create and share their own media messages about Covid 19. The results were impressive! In Religion, we have been reflecting on Jesus' sacrifices and good example, and we have been praying for God's guidance to help us to keep our Lenten promises. We have been learning about multiplication and division in

---

Math. Measurement will be the next strand studied. In Social Studies, we finished off our units about the physical regions of Ontario (Grade 3) and Canada (Grade 4). In Science, the Grade 3s have been working on Forces and Movement and the Grade 4s have been learning about Pulleys and Gears. We are sure that March will be another month filled with much learning and fun!

#### **Ms. Tropea Grade 4 Class**

During the month of February, Ms. Tropea's Mask-eteers have been working away. In Mathematics, students have learned to solve problems involving the multiplication and division of two- and three-digit whole numbers by one-digit. In Writing, students have been perfecting the writing process of pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. They are in the process of completing their final good copy of a compare and contrast report based on topics they have chosen. In Reading, the students have learned how to support their answers by using text connections (Text-Self, Text-Text, and Text-World) and made sure that their answer is a DEEP connection rather than a quick/surface connection. In Media Literacy, students have learned how certain messages are conveyed and/or communicated. They had the opportunity to create a simple COVID-19 SAFETY message through a public service announcement (PSA). In Religion, the students are learning the importance of Lent and how it is a special time for spiritual growth. During the Lenten season, students have been focusing more intently on 'almsgiving'. They have been learning how to make the needs of others their own and perform acts of charity. They are currently raising funds for The Angel Foundation. The students have also been introduced to multiple influential African Canadians. They had the opportunity to create and design a large collaborative "quilt" to showcase many of the notable individuals and their achievements. Lastly, the students took part in the Virtual Literacy Storytelling Presentation: All Aboard! Elijah McCoy's Steam Engine which they thoroughly enjoyed.

#### **Ms. Amaral Grade 5 Class**

Mrs. Amaral's Grade 5s have had a smooth transition back to the classroom. Over the last month, students worked on tweets for Bell Let's Talk Day, and Mrs. Amaral tweeted them out to participate in the great cause. Students also participated in a virtual visit from the Dairy Farmer, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Royal Ontario Museum. During African Canadian Heritage Month, students researched a notable Black Canadian and completed a one-page poster. In addition, the class participated in an online storytelling presentation about Elijah McCoy (African Canadian inventor and engineer), a motivational visit from Maestro Fresh Wes, and an inspiring

presentation on Shaedism and Loving Black Hair. The students are also currently practicing a dance for Autism Awareness which we will film before the end of the month. In Math, the students have been working on measuring angles and transformational geometry (translations, reflections, and rotations). In Religion we are continuing our Lenten activities and discussions and we took part in an online Liturgy for Ash Wednesday. In Social Studies the students are continuing their studies of the interactions between the early European Explorers and the First Nations people in what would become Canada.

#### **Ms. Picarelli Grade 6 Class**

For the month of February, Ms. Picarelli's grade 6 class has been tapping into our creative side! As you may know, February is African Canadian Heritage Month. Our class has enhanced our media literacy skills by researching and using technology to learn more about an inspiring African-Canadian! Not only this, but we even created an Instagram page for them using Google Slides! We thought about what our inspiring African-Canadian might say if they were going "live" on Instagram too! Come by our classroom to check out our awesome Instagram profiles. Just when you think we cannot get any cooler, we even went one step further in our math class by coding our own African-Canadian hero using digital coding technology! We made our hero fly, speak, play games, and more! We were so inspired by the love that our African-Canadian role-models have shown us during our celebration of the virtue of the month of love! We thank the African-Canadians who continue to motivate us, inspire us, and spread love in our world.

#### **Ms. Renda Grade 6 Class**

Although February was a short month it has been a busy month in Ms. Renda's class. In February we celebrate the virtue of Love. As a class we discussed who we love and how we can show love to those that we care about. After reading "The Reflection in Me" we discussed what we love about ourselves and how we show love to ourselves. To celebrate African Canadian Heritage Month the students have been hard at work researching and preparing classroom presentations on different African Canadians that they wanted to learn more about. Along with their presentations every morning we start our day discussing a different notable African Canadian, such as Portia White, Donovan Bailey, and Oscar Peterson.

With the start of the Lenten season upon us, we have been discussing the three pillars of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The grade 6 students have made their own Lenten promises for the 40 days Lent.



### Mr. Vossen Grade 7 Class

We have been adapting well to returning to in-class learning so far. I have got to say how impressed I am with all my students for overcoming the challenges of online learning and putting forth such a dedicated and responsible effort and ensuring that we continued to make our way through the curriculum.

Since we've returned, we have readjusted to regular routines and have completed our African-Canadian Heritage Biographies and digital timelines, which look pretty good!

We've also gotten started on our Group of Seven paintings, and are looking forward to beginning new units in Science and Health. We have started up another area of focus in Math: Measurement.

We look forward to the upcoming months and warmer weather and are hoping to be able to get outside a little more for some outdoor learning experiences.

### Carnaval

We will be acknowledging Carnaval in a few ways throughout the month of March! Vive le Carnaval!

### March 15-19, 2021

We will be having some fun activities during this week. On Monday we invite students to wear their favourite colour, on Wednesday, students are invited to wear green and on Friday, to dress like they are on vacation.

## 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 March is green.

### 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.

### 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/gymnasium. Students need to always have closed toed shoes on, 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 winter, season in full swing, 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 vehicles: News releases to radio and television outlets in

Toronto, the Board's 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.

### SUPERVISION

A reminder that supervision in the school or yard begins at 8:15 am. **Supervision in the yards is available from 8:15 a.m. onward.**

### 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.



### General Student Behaviour Expectations:

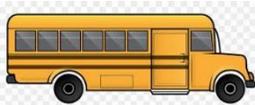
Please review the student expectations with your child(ren) that are listed on the front pages on the school agenda.

A reminder that electronic devices are NOT to be used during recesses, lunches, in washrooms, school bus, and school excursions. 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 the following two parent workshops to help support our school community. All parents are welcome to attend. To register, please complete the form found on the following link: <https://forms.gle/Pt2WhF22FYdn6fKf8>



St. John the Evangelist presents-

The T.A.S.A.M. Program  
(Tackling Anxiety and Stress through Arts and Mindfulness)  
**Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-7:30pm** on Zoom

An evening presentation to discuss childhood anxiety, parental intervention and how to help your child create the tools needed for a lifetime of wellness.

The topics that will be addressed by this program will include:

- Identifying the seriousness of your child's anxiety and stress levels
- Tools to use to help alleviate minor everyday anxieties and stress
- Kid-friendly approach to developing useful strategies
- Leading by example
- The importance of exercise
- Communicating with your anxious child without frustration
- Developing a safe structure within the home environment
- Knowing when to seek professional help

The Managing Meanness by  
Cultivating Kindness Workshop  
**Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-7:30pm** on Zoom

An engaging and practical evening workshop that helps parents help their children to develop effective strategies to deal with bullying and everyday negative social encounters.

The topics that will be addressed by this program will include:

- Social meanness and how it effects human development.
- The importance of using communication to help facilitate dialogue to create solutions.
- Developing strategies to not allow situations to escalate and to find alternative responses.
- Learning to identify a potential problem and to address it immediately to avoid future issues.
- Recognizing the different roles children can play in a negative situation
- Implementing the use of empathy, compassion, tolerance, and inclusiveness.

Arts Express is a trusted, leading provider of co-curricular and extra-curricular arts programming in Canada. Last school year, we ran in more than 200 schools, building self-confidence and self-esteem in our participants in a safe and nurturing environment.

416-239-3093  
[www.ArtsExpress.ca](http://www.ArtsExpress.ca)



# Monthly Update from the Board

## March 2021

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### **Return to School Update: April Break**

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**.

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

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

- **In-Person and Virtual Transfers:**  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Documents/tcdsb-communication-to-families-dec-2020.pdf>
- **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>
- **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>

### PARENT OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

#### **OAPCE Parents 4 Parents Press**

The first newsletter of 2021 from Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15a3xRT2iY-B0jTjFjGGgYOTLtlCjQ97i/view>

#### **NURTURING OUR FAMILIES OF FAITH NEWSLETTERS**

These regular newsletters are designed to support the faith journey of students, staff and their families across the TCDSB.

### **Parish News**

We have begun the Liturgical Season of Lent - the 40-day period where we prepare for the great Solemnity of Easter. It is in this solemn time of preparation where we spend time in meaningful reflection of our sinful human nature and turn back to God. We remember in this time to turn our focus away from ourselves and onto God by acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Some practical reminders and suggestions to help us all in this time of Lent. Firstly, we should remember that all Fridays, but particularly the Fridays of Lent are days of penance. This is lived out by the fact that we abstain from meat from these Fridays. This canon law binds those from the age of 14 and up - but it is a good idea to start this practice with your children at a much younger age as it teaches them how to make sacrifices. Also, there are many opportunities to enrich your prayer life this Lenten season - both as families and individuals. Please visit our website at <https://stjohntheevangelistwe.archtoronto.org/> for resources to develop your faith. You can also visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Evangelist-Weston-101082665044541> to join us for livestreamed Masses on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. While this certainly isn't the same as attending Mass in person, it keeps you connected to the Parish and allows for you to pray together as a family with our Parish community. We also will be livestreaming the Stations of the Cross this Lent, every Friday at 7:00 p.m. You can visit the Stations of the Cross page on our website to find information, resources, links and a booklet, complete with pictures of our own Stations of the Cross, that you can use not only for the livestream Stations, but also any time you wish to pray this beautiful devotion. You can find these resources at: <https://stjohntheevangelistwe.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/news-archive/parish/stations-of-the-cross/>. If you cannot join us live, you can always find the archived videos of the livestreamed stations at: [https://www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Evangelist-Weston-101082665044541/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Evangelist-Weston-101082665044541/videos/?ref=page_internal)

While we continue this difficult time of pandemic, let us truly make this a fruitful Lent by coming closer to our ever merciful Lord. Do not be afraid to come back to Him or to grow closer to Him. "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2: 13).

May God Bless you.

Fr. Maderak

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/DistanceLearningResources/Pages/Nurturing-Our-Families-of-Faith-Newsletters.aspx>

[Transition to High School Guidelines](#)

### **St. Michael's Choir School Auditions**

Auditions for September 2021 admission at SMCS have begun, visit [www.smcs.on.ca/auditions](http://www.smcs.on.ca/auditions) for information on how to audition.

<https://smcs.on.ca/auditions#how-to-audition>

### **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: Voices of Challenge and Change**

Students in grades 7 to 12 are invited to get creative and submit their video reflections about race. Group or Individual submissions accepted. Prizes will be awarded

for the top three videos.

**Deadline: March 5, 2021 at 5 p.m.**

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

### **Julia Riccobene Excellence in Community Service Award**

Open to individual or group (12 years old and above) who show voluntary collaboration and engagement with the surrounding community that have a positive social, civic, cultural, or environmental impact, and supports values of equity, diversity and inclusion. **Deadline: March 10, 2021.** <https://ynotservices.org/Julia-Riccobene-Award.php>

### **Toronto Community Housing: Investing in our Diversity Scholarship**

Applications are open to resident students entering any year of study, as long as they have not received an IIOD Scholarship in the past. **Deadline: Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5 p.m.**

<https://www.torontohousing.ca/iiods>

### **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**

**March is [Celtic Canadian Heritage Month](#)**  
**[Virtue of the Month: Forgiveness](#)**

### **Important Days**

**March 1-7:** [National Social Work Week](#)

**March 5:** [World Day of Prayer](#)

**March 8:** [International Women's Day](#)

**March 17:** [St. Patrick's Day](#)

**March 19:** [Feast Day of St. Joseph](#)

**March 21:** [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

**March 21:** [World Down Syndrome Day](#)

**March 22:** [World Water Day](#)

**March 27:** [Earth Hour](#)

**March 28:** [Palm Sunday](#)

### **March Meetings**

---

**March 2: Nurturing Our Catholic Community**  
**March 4: Student Achievement & Well-Being**  
**March 11: Corporate Services**  
**March 24: Special Education Advisory Committee**  
**March 25: Regular Board Meeting**  
**March 30: Ukrainian Speaking Advisory Committee**

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, @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 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	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