



St. John The Evangelist CATHOLIC SCHOOL

23 George St. Toronto, Ontario M9N 2B4

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



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

September is an exciting time of year! It is filled with new beginnings: new books, initiatives, and in our case a brand new school building and location! It is with much enthusiasm that we welcome all of our new and returning students, families, and staff from summer vacation. My name is Antonietta Grossi and it is my honour and my privilege to have been appointed Principal and serve this great school community.

This year, we will continue the great work done at St. John The Evangelist, focusing on student achievement and well-being, creating a safe and caring Catholic learning environment that is equitable and inclusive, and building good relationships with our parent community and parish. One of the initiatives we will be working on this year is the continuation of the pastoral plan, Rooted in Christ: We Belong, We Believe, We Become; focussing on believing.

As you may be aware, each month the TCDSB focuses on a virtue to help students develop attitudes, qualities, and values founded on our Catholic faith and traditions and mature into caring and responsible citizens who promote social responsibility, human solidarity, and the common good. Students who display qualities such as kindness, respect, justice, and compassion will be recognized with a virtue ribbon on a monthly basis. September's virtue is HOSPITALITY. Galatians 3:28 reminds us, "All are one in Christ". Let us all strive to make everyone feel welcomed.

We look forward to working with you on building a safe and nurturing school environment where your child(ren) will continue to learn and grow in the love and light of Christ. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions throughout the year, do not hesitate to call the office. May God bless us all as we journey together through this coming school year.

Antonietta Grossi
Principal

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

September 2019

Antonietta Grossi

PRINCIPAL

Maria Meehan 416-222-8282 ext.

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
F. Buttigieg – Co-Chair

CSPC CHAIR

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)

495	8:30am-3:00pm	11:15am-12:15pm
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ENROLLMENT	HOURS OF OPERATION	LUNCH HOUR
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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

WELCOMES and FAREWELLS

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome back our staff, and to greet all of our new arrivals. A special welcome to Ms. Renda (Gr.6), Mr. Perri (Gr. 8), Ms. Neal (Gr 1), Ms. Alves, (DECE), and Mr. Sacco (Head Caretaker).

We wish Ms. Mandarin, Mr Scully, Ms. Leo-Del Duca, Mr Battistella, and Mr. Luceno continued success as they embark on different adventures.

Traffic Flow On George St

In July, City Council approved that during school drop-off and pick-up times, vehicular traffic is restricted to only enter George St from King St (please see map below), deeming it one-way traffic during these times. The turn restriction signs should be installed on both King St and Church St., before schools opening on September 3rd. As a result, we will have buses dropping off students in the bus loop, and children will depart the buses on the school side for safety.



Traffic Flow Direction on George Street during School pick-up and Drop-off Times at HJ Alexander Community School and St John the Evangelist Catholic School as of August 29, 2019

STUDENT INFORMATION

Please ensure that all information regarding your child is up-to-date by completely filling out the **forms** sent home, for each child that you have attending the school. Please return them to the school as soon as possible. **This will ensure that we have correct information for your child regarding home address, home, work and cell telephone numbers, caregivers, emergency contact numbers, and medical information which may have changed. If changes occur to this information during the year, please notify the office in writing so that we can keep our files current. All information will be kept in the strictest confidence.**

Included are the **General Permission Forms** (sent separately) that allow the staff to take students to nearby locations and on community walks as the need arises. Please complete these forms and return them to the school. Also included is the Student Internet Agreement. Please review the **TCDSB Acceptable Use Policy** carefully with your child, sign it and return it promptly. Students will not be allowed to access the internet at school without your prior written consent being on file.

EXCURSION PERMISSION FORMS

From time to time your child will be attending excursions and sporting events that are valuable components of their school life. Teachers will send home permission forms that must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Unfortunately, for safety reasons, **NO VERBAL PERMISSIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.** These forms must be returned to the teacher with your signature. If there is no signed form, your child cannot phone home and request verbal permission—this is a legal issue. Also, let us remember that we are helping students to develop positive character traits when we model these habits of organization and responsibility.

BUSSING



Due to the move, we have received most of the information on transportation routes. It is the responsibility of the bus companies to provide parents with information and inform you of any changes; often the school is advised much later. Staff continues to do their best to sort out issues and ensure the safety of students taking the bus. Additional bussing and transportation information is provided on the updates from the Board toward the end of this newsletter.

Student Safety and Expectations on the Bus and in Bus Lines

- Observe the instructions of the bus driver at all times
- Remain seated and facing the front at all times until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Respect property of others and do not cause damage to the bus in any way
- Do not talk loudly, yell, throw objects or fight on the bus or in the bus lines
- Keep your hands and head inside the bus, do not lean out the window, spit or throw objects out of the window
- You are not allowed to board another bus for any reason e.g. friend's birthday party
- Unless a note is provided or a telephone call is made to the school with pickup instructions, you will always go home on the assigned bus
- Do not eat or drink on the bus
- Show respect to the bus driver and fellow passengers at all times

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Despite staff vigilance, accidents may occur. Parents are strongly advised to mail their completed Student Accidental Insurance application form, directly to the **Insurance Co.**

STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION

Kindly provide the school with any information regarding medical conditions that your child may have, or conditions they may be affected by, to enable us to assist your child if a medical emergency arises.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

From time to time 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 secretary. The aim of these forms is to ensure that any medication that is being administered at school is carried out as prescribed by the attending physician. Non-prescription medication **WILL NOT** be administered to students, nor should they be sent to school.

EPI-PEN DROP OFF

If your child has an Epi-pen that was picked up at the end of the school year, please ensure it is sent back to the office. Students with epi-pens are required to keep one on them at all times, and the school is to have one in the office.

PIZZA DATES

We will be implementing an organized monthly Pizza Day on Thursdays. These will begin shortly, The date will be specified on the order form and will run for 10 week sessions. All pizza must be pre-ordered to minimize disruption to our order. Also, by having a standing order, there will be no financial loss.

SUPERVISION

Most buses arrive at 8:15 a.m., and therefore supervision in the school or yard begins at 8:15 am. **Supervision in the yards is available from 8:15 a.m. onward.**

STUDENT PICK UP

If you normally pick up your child up at the end of the day, please wait at the back of the school for the 3:00 p.m. bell

CLASSROOM INTERRUPTIONS

We strive to keep our school a safe place and to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum in order to maximize the time our students spend learning.

Please assist us by:

- Reporting to the office whenever entering the school as per TCDSB policy.
- Not calling the school to speak to your child on the phone, since we do not have any way of ensuring that the person on the phone is indeed who they say they are, or if they are entitled access to the student. If it is essential, we will have your child call you back at recess or lunch time.
- Making arrangements ahead of time (before the school day begins) for picking up students for appointments etc., and notifying the teacher in writing.
- To speak to your child's teacher, please call and make an appointment at a mutually convenient time by calling the office and/or writing a note in your child's agenda



AGENDAS

Agendas have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive shortly. Please send in \$7.00 to purchase one. These are crucial organizational tools and we encourage every child to have one. Not only do they help students keep track of homework and assignments, but they can also be used by parents to communicate with the teacher. There is a tip sheet for parent and student information attached to this newsletter. It outlines effective strategies for using an agenda.

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 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 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. This includes treats that you may wish to send for celebrations such as birthdays. **If you wish to treat the children for a special occasion please purchase non-food items, such as pencils, stickers etc. that can be shared without risk.** Please note that if a student has another kind of food allergy, you will receive a note home informing you to refrain from sending in foods containing said allergen. We are also requesting that "fast food" not be sent with your child as many of the food items at these locations contain food products. We thank you in advance for your support in helping to keep every child in our care safe.



OUR SCHOOL DRESS CODE

As a community that strives for excellence, we abide by the TCDSB dress-code. Students must be in uniform, unless it is a civies day or special occasion (which will be indicated in our newsletter/calendar). The following quote underscores all the day to day things we encourage our children to do to ensure their success: *"We choose what attitudes we have right now. And it's a continuing choice."*

— John C. Maxwell (1947-),

Being in uniform is part of the attitudes we cultivate. Our dress code is as follows:

- **A White Top**, such as a T-shirt, Golf Shirt or Turtleneck with No Logo, or with a Very Small Logo and No Lace;
- **NO Muscle Shirts, Tank Tops, or Hoodies are allowed;**
- **White or Dark Blue Sweaters and Sweatshirts** to go over the white top without a Logo, or with a Very Small Logo, and without Lace trim; **NO Hoodies are allowed;**
- **Pants, and Skirts or Shorts** that are **KNEE LENGTH**, are to be only **Dark Blue** and not **Blue Jean Fabric**;
- Skirts are acceptable, but girls may find playing in one awkward, or be cold wearing one in the winter;
- **Short skirts with tights under them ARE NOT acceptable uniform items.**
- Please **DO NOT** purchase for school:
Any Denim (Blue Jean); Tops/bottoms with Lace Trim or Large Logos; Short Skirts or Short Shorts or leggings.

If you are unsure, please feel free to call us before buying any uniform items.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please do not allow your children to bring electronic devices to school, unless requested by the teacher for educational purposes. We have no way of ensuring that they will not be damaged, lost, or stolen. The school cannot be responsible for students' electronic equipment. Students may have a telephone at school for safety reasons. As part of that same safety issue, students are not permitted to use their cell phones during school hours, except for educational purposes. If you need to contact your child, please call the office and we will ensure that they receive any messages you may need to forward. **If students are using their telephones during school hours, and not for educational purposes, the phone may be removed from them.**

TENTATIVE CLASSES

During June, staff and administration established tentative class lists using the information provided in letters received from families indicating they would be returning in September. Projections for the number of new students who would arrive were also put in place. At the same time, if at the end of August and during the first two weeks of this school year, new students were to register, or some students not return, there may be fluctuations in the enrolment numbers. As a result, there may be class reorganizations. Please remember that all classes are tentative until September 30, 2019. Changes to enrolment may necessitate combining some classes.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

In the interest of safety for all of our students, please abide by the following during school hours. Visitors must enter the building through the front doors located by the office and report directly to the office. **Only staff may move beyond office area; all other adults must be accompanied by a staff member. Student safety is our main concern.** A sign-in procedure is in place for anyone visiting the school at any time. Parents, unless it is an emergency, please make prior arrangements to speak to staff at a mutually convenient time. Commitment by staff to their students and their programs take precedence over unexpected visits and interruptions. We need to control access to our school in order to provide a safe, secure learning environment for all students.

SCHOOL MASSES

Mass and liturgies will continue to be planned on a monthly basis throughout the year. Parents, family members and parishioners are always welcome to attend.

PHOTO DAY

This year's photo day is **Tuesday, September 24, 2019**. Students are to be in uniform for their pictures.

IMMUNIZATION DAY

Grade 7 Immunizations are on **Friday, September 27, 2019**. Information and permission forms will be sent home shortly.

LOCKDOWN AND FIRE DRILLS

We are required to have a number of fire and lockdown drills. Therefore, from time to time, we will practice lockdowns and fire drill procedure with staff and students. This will ensure that we are all confident of our students' safety in the unlikely event that one of these should be needed. Students are always aware ahead of time, and teachers work to alleviate any anxiety our students may have.

Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC)

The CSPC fosters a positive relationship between the home and school and encourages a sense of community within the school. Included in its mandate are items such as: advising the Principal on various aspects of the school and a general "coming together" for the betterment of all students and staff. Check the school calendars for the dates of upcoming meetings.

Your active participation would be greatly appreciated. Parents are invited to attend this very important meeting for the election of members and officers of CSPC for 2019 - 2020. Election Nomination forms are available at the office and should be submitted to the principal by **Monday, September 16th, 2019**.



September 2019

Monthly Update From the Board

Update on the School Crossing Guard Program for the 2019-2020 School Year

Please be advised that starting in September 2019, the City of Toronto will be assuming full responsibility of the School Crossing Guard Program. The locations of the school crossing guards have not changed. Each school can expect the same school crossing guard locations to be served. To view the citywide map and list of school crossing guard locations, please visit: www.toronto.ca/schoolcrossingguard.

Important Reminder About Liability Insurance

All parents are reminded to consider checking the adequacy of their liability insurance through their homeowners'/tenants' insurance policy to cover claims arising out of injuries caused by their child at school. Student Accident Insurance application forms are forwarded to schools for distribution, and can also be purchased on-line at www.insuremykids.com. TCDSB's Risk Management continues to strongly promote this product as an inexpensive form of dental, disability and life insurance.

Bus Transportation Information and Updates

Communications with parents regarding bus transportation for students is a priority. In order to stay informed, parents are encouraged to register on the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) portal today by visiting www.torontoschoolbus.org. This portal provides TCDSB parents with online access to their children's transportation information and up to the minute email notifications regarding school bus cancellations or delays. If you have any issues signing up on the portal, please contact support@torontoschoolbus.org and staff will assist you with the registration of your account.

Safe Arrival

Parents are encouraged to sign up for the School Messenger app. This will allow parents and the school to stay in touch to report absences quickly and easily, and also for the school to communicate to parents about important information throughout the year including cancellations, closures and other critical issues. <https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/signupschoolmessenger.aspx>

September's Virtue is Hospitality

All resources for the month of September, and for the monthly virtues throughout the year can be found on our website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Pages/Default.aspx>

Pastoral Plan: This Year we Focus on "Rooted in Christ: we Believe"

In the second year of our pastoral plan, "Rooted in Christ, we Believe" our focus turns to what we believe in as a Catholic education community. Resources for the Year: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/rooted-in-christ/webelieve/Pages/weBelieveResources.aspx>

Consider who inspires you, who nurtures your faith, who acts as a mentor and role model of Catholic living.

Is it your school chaplain? A parent or other family member? Your pastor or other member of your parish? A teacher or other staff at your school? A colleague or friend?

Why not sit down to have a chat with them, and interview them about their experiences of living their faith. Write an article or create a video of your interview. Write a short story, a poem, or create a piece of artwork, music or video that pays tribute to those who guide you on your own journey of faith.

Share your stories on social media (@TCDSB #TCDSBelieves)

Send your submissions to ncc.team@tcdsb.org

Night School Registration

Registration for evening credit courses, Saturday language programs and eClass has begun. Please visit the website for details: <https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2020/pages/nightschool.aspx>

International Languages After Hours Program Registration

Registration for the elementary IL After Hours Program continues through to September 21st. <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/InternationalLanguages/Pages/Saturday-School-Registration.aspx>

Open Houses

Students in grade 8 and their families are reminded that TCDSB secondary schools are hosting open houses this fall—a great way to meet staff and students, check out the school facilities and learn about the programs and services being offered at each location. The complete schedule will be available online: <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/default.aspx>

September Events and Meetings

- September is Ukrainian Heritage Month <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/Ukrainian-Canadian-Heritage-Month/Pages/default.aspx>
- September 1—Day of Prayer for Care of God’s Creation
- September 4—Open House for Parents of Elementary Students Identified as Gifted, 7-9 PM <https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/news/pages/giftedopenhouse.aspx>
- September 5--Student Achievement Committee Meeting, 7 PM
- September 8--International Literacy Day
- September 8--Grandparent’s Day
- September 9—Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day <https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2019/pages/fasd.aspx>
- September 10--Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
- September 12—Corporate Services Committee Meeting
- September 14—Talking Faith—Hindu and Catholic Youth Event <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/News/2019-2020/Pages/HinduCatholic.aspx>
- September 16—Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
- September 18—Special Education Advisory Committee
- September 19—Board

For details about these and other events and meetings, visit www.tcdsb.org

Student Leaders Invited to Help Build Accessible Country

The Government of Canada seeks youth leaders to help build a more accessible Canada. Apply online at https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/enabling-accessibility-fund.html?utm_campaign=EnablingAccessibilityFund&utm_source=SocialMedia\Ddn\Banners&utm_medium=VanityUrl&utm_term=en&utm_content=canada-ca_accessibility-fund by **October 31, 2019**.

Congratulations to Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee for 2019 - 2021

Kathy Nguyen, a student at Madonna Catholic Secondary School took her oath of office and seat in the horseshoe alongside the TCDSB Board of Trustees at their meeting held August 22, 2019. Elected by her peers, Kathy was declared the Student Trustee-elect at the CSLIT general assembly meeting at the Catholic Education Centre on April 30th.

Kathy often utilizes opportunities where she can network with like-minded leaders and make a difference in her community. She is a member of St. Jane Frances Parish in North York and is an active volunteer in her community. During her leisure time, she regularly volunteers at student leadership events.

As a Student Trustee, Kathy will represent the interests of all TCDSB students during deliberations of the Board and will communicate Board decisions to students. She joins Student Trustee Taylor Dallin who will act as her mentor during her second term of office. You can visit Kathy's student trustee page [here](#) and Taylor Dallin's page [here](#).

General Information To Note:

- The School Year Calendar for 2019-2020 is posted on the board’s website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/calendar/pages/schoolyearcalendar.aspx>
- The remaining Board and Committee meetings for the 2019 calendar year are also on the website <https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2019/pages/board-meetings.aspx>
- For information specifically for students including scholarships, contests, job and community service opportunities, visit <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/default.aspx>
- For information specifically targeted for parents, including information about the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education, see <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/default.aspx>

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**TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES
2019 - 2020**



Wards

1. Joseph Martino	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, Chair	416-512-3405	12. Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406	Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
7. Michael Del Grande, Vice-Chair	416-512-3407	Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee	416-512-3417

Rory McGuckin, Director of Education

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