



November 2018

# St. Margaret Catholic School News

## *St. Margaret Catholic School*

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**Principal: M. Leitao**  
**Vice Principal: S. Ranalli**  
**Secretary: V. Picillo**  
**Secretary: M. Barbara**

**Superintendent: M. Caccamo**  
416-222-8282

**Trustee: M. Rizzo**  
416-512-3405

**Parish: St. Margaret of Scotland  
Catholic Church**  
416-485-7781  
**Pastor: Fr. Andy**

**TORONTO CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOLBOARD  
TRUSTEES 2018-2019**

**Ward 1** - Joseph Martino  
**Ward 2** - Markus de Domenico  
**Ward 3** - Ida Li Preti  
**Ward 4** - Teresa Lubinski  
**Ward 5** - Maria Rizzo  
**Ward 6** - Frank D'Amico  
**Ward 7** - Mike Del Grande  
**Ward 8** - Garry Tanuan  
**Ward 9** - Norm Di Pasquale  
**Ward 10** - Daniel Di Giorgio  
**Ward 11** - Angela Kennedy  
**Ward 12** - Nancy Crawford



As November begins, our Catholic tradition celebrates two very important feast days; All Saints' Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>) and All Souls' Day (November 2<sup>nd</sup>). Let us take the time to reflect on the faithfulness of our saints who indeed inspire us today. May the souls of the departed in our families, community, city and nation be granted the peace and light of Christ. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, we are reminded of the peace-keeping efforts of our Armed Forces and recognize the dedication and sacrifice that our veterans and forces have bestowed upon us, allowing us the freedoms that Canada has to offer us

Our Hallowe'en Dance-a-thon, organized by CSPC, was enjoyed by all and was a resounding success. Through generous donations of our community by student fundraising, this event brought in much needed funds to help support the many endeavors that CSPC and the school would like to undertake this year. Thank you to all for your continued support!

M. Leitao  
Principal

S. Ranalli  
Vice Principal

### **CSPC (Catholic School Parent Council) 2018-2019**

**Congratulations to:**  
**Teresita Hegina - Chair**  
**Lizzeth Martinez—Vice Chair**  
**Petra Mitchell - Treasurer**  
**Leila Evangelista - Secretary**  
**Jen Baradi—OAPCE representative**  
**Ana Bela Silva/Petra Mitchell - Church Liaison**  
**Tim Sinclair - Community representative**  
**Teaching Representative - Daniela Teles**  
**Non-Teaching Representative—Gilda Arnone**  
**Past Chair—Jerrylyn Guevarra**

We need volunteers to plan another Annual Christmas Party, on **Saturday, December 8th**. We are forming a planning committee to meet at least once before the event, contact us via email at [susanna.ranalli@tcdsb.org](mailto:susanna.ranalli@tcdsb.org). No experience needed—good party spirits is a must!

### **Progress Report Cards**

The Progress Report Cards will be sent home with the students on **Tuesday, November 13th**. The Provincial Progress Report Card is used to inform parents and to monitor students' progress towards achieving the overall and specific expectations so that timely, specific and descriptive feedback can be provided in response to student needs. Parents are reminded to refer to email/notice to book Parent-Teacher Interviews Online. Interviews will take place **Wed. Nov. 14th and Thurs. Nov. 15th from 5:30-8:00pm** Looking forward to seeing you then! Please visit our Scholastic Book Fair at the Carmichael Library from November 12th-16th .

### **Family Advent Mass December 17th**

In this Year of the School, we are inviting you all to join us on **December 17th** for an **Advent celebration at 6:00pm** followed by our **ADVENT FAMILY MASS at 7:00pm** at St. Margaret Church. Please also join us for refreshments after the mass in the church hall. Looking forward to gathering as a community to celebrate the Advent season!

### **From The Parish**

We have now begun the Preparation Programs for the children who wish to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, in **Grade 2**, as well as Confirmation, in **Grade 7**. We have already had the registration meetings for the First Reconciliation and Confirmation programs. The registration for the First Eucharist Program will take place on **Mon. Feb. 4, 2019**. It has come to my attention that there are some students preparing for Confirmation and others in Grades 3-8, who have yet to be baptized or receive First Reconciliation or First Eucharist. It is the parents' role as "the first teachers of the faith" to have your children prepared properly to receive the Sacraments, as they continue their faith journey. Since all Sacramental Preparation Programs and Celebrations are "Parish Based", I encourage parents to contact the parish office, **not the school office**, as soon as possible, in order to address the needs your child may have to be able to participate fully in our Sacramental Preparation Programs. For further information, please contact our parish office during regular business hours: Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri. 9am-12noon, 1:00-8:30pm. Fr. Andy Macbeth



### **Athletics Update**

The Cross Country Tournament was held on Wednesday, October 11th at Earl Bales Park. All students displayed excellent endurance and sportsmanship. Our school was quite successful as we had another 16 students run again on October 11th at the regional meet and 2 students represented St. Margaret School at the city-wide meet at Earl Bales Park. Great work! Congratulations to all of our runners who displayed positive and infectious SMS pride. Thanks to all the coaches for their support. Three cheers for Mr. Belmonte, Ms. Boulos, Ms. deBacker, Ms. Defina, Ms. Farelli, Mr. Marchetta, Ms Lato, Ms Pereira, Ms Canaria and Mr. Stocker. We couldn't have done it without you!



### **Fire Drills and Lockdown Practice**

As part of our safety procedures, we conduct 6 fire drills and 2 lockdowns per school year. Lockdown is a safety procedure that we have in place to deal with a variety of potentially dangerous situations. A school would go into a "lockdown" when there is a dangerous situation in the community or within the

school. During a lockdown, all movement in the school stops and classrooms are locked. This is an important safety procedure to practice so that St. Margaret remains a safe school.

### **Bus Safety**

Please note that we have been monitoring and assessing the bussing situation since the beginning of the year, and have been making improvements where and when necessary to address student safety. Please continue to reinforce the bus safety expectations with your children:  
 \* students must report to the bus lines immediately after dismissal with any bus buddies  
 \* wait for the bus in line and be ready to board upon arrival  
 \* while on the bus, students are to be respectful with one another and the bus driver, and remain seated in their assigned seats.

### **Food Allergies**

While some allergies are more familiar than others (e.g. the peanut allergy group), anyone who suffers from allergies is at risk and we attempt to minimize the risks for these students. **For this reason, we ask parents to refrain from sending food with known allergens in them to school.** Baked goods and treats are also not permitted at school for any celebrations/parties in order to ensure the safety and welfare of all our students.

### **Medications**

*Please do not send medicine to school with your child* (ie. Allergy medication, Tylenol, Advil ...) If your child requires medication we require written permission on school board forms. A **"Request and Consent"** form from the school **must** be completed and signed by your family doctor. Your cooperation is appreciated. **T**

### **Terry Fox Run**

Thanks to everyone for supporting our annual Terry Fox Walk. Students and staff had a glorious day to honour one of our great Canadian heroes and support cancer research. Terry ran, rain or shine, the equivalent of a marathon a day for 182 straight days. Through your generous support we raised **\$1200.00** for cancer research. Thank you! Many thanks to Ms Boulos for organizing!

### **Punctuality and Late Slips**

Very few of our students arrive late, however, there are some who repeatedly arrive at school after the bell has rung. These lates are recorded on the Trillium Student data base, on attendance registers and on Report Cards. Being late disturbs the whole class and impedes your child's progress. Being punctual is an important life skill that we attempt to teach our students. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **Student Safety**

Parents are reminded that student safety is everyone's responsibility. In our efforts to create a safe and welcoming school we review our school safety policies regularly. Our team will determine how to foster a positive school climate through a whole school approach that increases awareness of bullying behaviour and student inclusion at all grade levels through a variety of events. This year, **Bully Awareness and Prevention Week** begins on November 12th. Our Safe Schools Team will look to promote awareness prevention and education while providing resources and intervention strategies.

## International Languages Elementary (ILE) Program: November Update

### IL Survey to Be Conducted in All TCDSB Elementary Schools

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Trustees of the TCDSB approved a motion to survey parents in all TCDSB Elementary Schools to determine whether parents wish to continue or initiate an International Languages program at their child's school.

Process and Timelines:

- **One survey will be sent to each family with the Progress Report card with the oldest or only child in each family.**
- All surveys must be completed and returned in the sealed envelope provided, **to the school principal** no later than **November 27, 2018**.
- No survey will be accepted after November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Should parents wish to have a translated version to assist with the completion of the English survey, they can request a translated copy from the school principal or download a copy of the target language from: <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/InternationalLanguages/International-Language-Survey/Pages/Default.aspx>. Translations are available in Spanish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Arabic, Filipino, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional) Tamil, and Italian.

All parents are encouraged to participate to ensure that results reflect the individual and collective voice of the school community. Surveys from 67% of all families in the school must be completed and returned in order for the results to be considered viable. In order to determine if the program is to be continued, using the Board approved model or to move the IL program to an alternative model, **the majority of 51%** should be attained for the preferred selection.

In January, a report will be submitted to the Board of Trustees. This report will include a list of results by school, including the response rates for each school. However, only schools with the required 67% response rate will receive a detailed summary of parent responses.

For updated information regarding the International Languages Elementary (ILE) Program please visit: <https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/schoolprogramsk12/internationallanguages/pages/change-to-international-languages-program.aspx>

## Monthly Update from the Board November 2018

### Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks Back

**Weekend of November 3-4, 2018.** Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

### November's Virtue is Peacemaking

Find all the monthly resources associated with our virtues of the month online <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Pages/Default.aspx>

### TCDSB Trustee Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected Trustees for the Toronto Catholic District School Board:

**Ward 1** - Joseph Martino

**Ward 2** - Markus de Domenico

**Ward 3** - Ida Li Preti

**Ward 4** - Teresa Lubinski

**Ward 5** - Maria Rizzo

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The new Board of Trustees will be sworn in at the Inaugural Meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018.

### Province of Ontario Seeks Feedback on Education

The Province is consulting with parents across the province to address concerns and get feedback in several areas of the education system.

Feedback from these consultations will help shape decisions in the following areas:

Improving student performance in [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math \(STEM\)](#)

Preparing students with needed job skills, such as [skilled trades](#) and coding

Improving provincial [standardized testing](#)

Ensuring students graduate with important life skills, including [financial literacy](#)

Managing the use of technology in classrooms, such as cell phones

Building a new age-appropriate [Health and Physical Education curriculum](#) that includes subjects like mental health, sexual health education and the legalization of cannabis

Developing the first-ever [Parents' Bill of Rights](#)

### How to participate

There are three ways to participate:

[Open submission](#)

Share your views on all or some of the 7 key consultation areas that are outlined above:

1. Use the private and confidential online [submission form](#), or
2. Email your written submission to [fortheparents@ontario.ca](mailto:fortheparents@ontario.ca) and:

- include your name or the name of your organization
  - add "provincial consultations" as the subject
- attach your submission as a PDF or Word document

**Deadline is December 15, 2018.**

**Monthly Update from the Board  
November 2017**