



November 2017

St. Margaret Catholic School News

Welcome to November and welcome to the Virtue of Peace.

St. Margaret Catholic School

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

Superintendent: P. Aguiar
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 2017-2018

Wards

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 416-512-3401 |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk | 416-512-3402 |
| 3. Sal Piccininni, | 416-512-3403 |
| 4. Patrizia Bottoni | 416-512-3404 |
| 5. Maria Rizzo | 416-512-3405 |
| 6. Frank D'Amico, | 416-512-3406 |
| Vice Chair | |
| 7. Michael Del Grande | 416-512-3407 |
| 8. Gary Tanuan | 416-512-3408 |
| 9. Jo-Ann Davis | 416-512-3409 |
| 10. Barbara Poplawski | 416-512-3410 |
| 11. Angela Kennedy, | 416-512-3411 |
| Chair | |
| 12. Nancy Crawford, | 416-512-3412 |
| 13. Joel Ndongmi | 416-512-3417 |
| Student Trustee | |
| 14. Rhea Carlisle | 416-512-3413 |
| Student Trustee | |



As November begins, our Catholic tradition celebrates two very important feast days; All Saints' Day (November 1st) and All Souls' Day (November 2nd). 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 11th, 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. Poppies will be distributed to all students this year to commemorate those who died for our freedom.

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) 2017-2018

Congratulations to:
Jerrylyn Guevarra - Chair
Tersita Hegina—Vice Chair
Petra Mitchel - Treasurer
Tim Sinclair—Secretary

AnaBela DaSilva, Lita Sinclair, Leila Evangelista, Judith Cortez

We need volunteers to plan another Annual Christmas Party, on **Saturday, December 9th**. We are forming a planning committee to meet at least once before the event, contact us via email at stmargarets@gmail.com. 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 14th**. 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 complete and return the 'Interview Forms' in preparation for the Parent/Teacher Conferences **Wednesday November 15** and **Thursday November 16th**. **Looking forward to seeing you then! Please visit our Scholastic Book Fair at the Carmichael Library from November 13th-17th.**

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 **\$1194.00** 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.

Family Advent Mass December 18th

In this Year of the School, we are inviting you all to join us on **December 18th** 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. We 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 the church 416-485-7781.



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.

Birthday Book Program

To acknowledge your child's birthday. Parents may donate a new book to the library and there will be a sticker in the front cover to commemorate this in honour of your child's birthday. This initiative is in place of sending treats to celebrate your child's special day. We want to maintain a healthy environment for our students and appreciate your support.



Intramurals

Our grade 4 students will be participating in house leagues and cheering each other on during our recess breaks. The organization of these activities helps promote healthy active living and encourages team spirit and cooperation. Running shoes are required, as are a positive attitude and good sportsmanship. Thanks to Mr. Belmonte, Ms. Fernandez, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Marchetta, and Ms. Picillo, for their leadership in planning and supervising these activities.

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 and practices 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 14th. Our Safe Schools Team will look to: promote awareness prevention and education while providing resources and intervention strategies.

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.

Monthly Update from the Board November 2017

Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks Back

Weekend of November 4-5, 2017. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

School Cash Online

We are now in Phase 2 of implementing the School Cash Online Payment system to all TCDSB schools. This new cashless system option offers parents the convenience of paying online for school activities and purchases from the convenience of their own home. School Cash Online will be an efficient payment alternative for families, however participation in the application is voluntary. Schools will continue to accept traditional methods of payment.

For more information, please visit the School Cash Online website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/schoolcashonline/Pages/default.aspx>

Spotlight on Your School

During the Year of the School, let's celebrate our school communities. Through video or song, shine the light on the best that your school has to offer. Who are the people who make it special? (Parent volunteers, Priests and others from the parish community, dedicated teachers, Talented and enthusiastic students) Consider creating a school song or a 30-second video clip that celebrates your school.

Celebrate Diversity * Celebrate Excellence * Celebrate Faith * Celebrate Your School

Use the hashtag #ShineOnTCDSB! **Deadline for submissions is Friday, February 23, 2018.**

The 2017-2018 TCDSB Awards Season has begun!

Nominations are now open for the following TCDSB Alumni Award, Award of Merit and Friends of Catholic Education Award which will be presented at Awards Night on May 7, 2018.

Deadline: third Friday in January (January 20).

TCDSB Alumni Award: Open to TCDSB alumni who are still active in the Catholic community and who have distinguished themselves in their career or accomplishments.

TCDSB Award of Merit: Open to former staff, parents and trustees who have made outstanding contributions to the TCDSB and to Catholic education (can only be considered for award after a three-year period has passed since departure from the TCDSB)

Friends of Catholic Education Award: Open to members of the general public (individuals or organizations) who have accomplished extraordinary service to Catholic Education but who may not be Catholic.

For nomination forms and information, visit: www.tcdsb.org/awardsnight

Prime Minister's Awards: Recognizing Excellence in Education

Do you know an amazing teacher or early childhood educator? Consider nominating them for a Prime Minister's Award.

Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Teaching Excellence in STEM

The Teaching Excellence in STEM Awards honour outstanding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics teachers that help develop the culture of innovation Canada needs today, and in the future. **Nominate a teacher today!** Nominations accepted until **January 12, 2018.**

Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education honour ECEs for their leadership, exemplary early childhood education practices, and their commitment to help build the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life. **Nominate an educator today!** Nominations accepted until **January 12, 2018.**

Angel Foundation for Learning Evening to Feed the Soul Gala November 10th

For details and ticket information: <https://www.aflgala.org/>
Help feed hungry children, and support a variety of opportunities for students who need assistance.

Other Dates to Note:

November 1—Take Your Kid To Work Day

November 1—All Saints Day

November 2—All Souls Day

November 6-10—Treaties Recognition Week

November 6-10—Holocaust Education Week

November 11—Remembrance Day (Schools to commemorate on Friday, November 10th)

November 19—World Day of Poor

November 25—Christ the King Rally and Youth Conference

November 27—TCDSB Caucus Meeting

December 3—Advent Begins

Visit www.tcdsb.org to get more information about any of these events

And remember to subscribe to ENews to receive regular updates via email <https://www.tcdsb.org/News/eNews/Pages/default.aspx>

And/or follow @TCDSB on Twitter to get all the latest news and information

**Monthly Update from the Board
November 2017**