



**OCTOBER 2016**

**ST. RITA  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL**

178 Edwin Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6P 3Z9

Phone Number: (416) 393-5216  
Fax Number: (416) 393-5803

**Principal:**  
Waldo Aristizabal

**Secretary:**  
Cheryl Migliaccio

**Superintendent:**  
John Wujek  
(416) 222-8282 Ext. 2592

**Trustee:**  
Barbara Poplawski  
(416) 512-3410

**Parish:**  
St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Parish  
Pastor: Rev. Joseph Tap Van Tran  
163 Annette Street  
(416) 769-8163

**School Hours:**  
9:00 a.m. Entry  
10:42 a.m. Recess  
11:45 a.m. Lunch Hour  
12:45 p.m. Entry  
2:10 p.m. Recess  
3:30 p.m. Dismissal

CPIC (Parent Engagement--TCDSB)  
[www.tcdsb.org/cpic](http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic)  
OAPCE Toronto (Provincial Voice for Parents)  
[www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto](http://www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto)

**Adult ESL:**  
Kathy McCabe  
(416) 397-6350



**Principal's Message:**

The month of September has been a very busy month. The teachers and students are well into their routines, working hard and actively participating in school life. I am looking forward to meeting with you and your families on Curriculum Night, Oct. 5.

The month of October goes hand in hand with the theme of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is celebrated in the autumn to give thanks for the harvest and for the many blessings we have received throughout the year: the gifts of food and shelter, family and friends, health and happiness and our faith and commitment to the Lord. In our bounty, we are reminded to pause and reflect on these blessings and remember to share our time, talents, and treasures with those who are less fortunate. This Thanksgiving, let us take the time to pause and celebrate with our loved ones by giving thanks to God. The virtue for October is GRATITUDE. On October 5th, we celebrate *World Teachers' Day*. Join us in thanking all of our teachers and support staff for all that they do for our students.

We had our CSPC AGM and elections on September 20<sup>th</sup> and the new executive was elected. A detailed list is included in this newsletter.

On behalf of the staff and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

*Mr. W. Aristizabal*



**Morning Meal Program**

We started the Morning Meal Program September 12<sup>th</sup>. This initiative contributes to a healthier learning environment for all our children. We are asking for parents to contribute \$20.00 for a nutritious hot meal. The program is for all students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

The program provides students a daily nutritious morning meal of a dairy product, fruit or vegetable and a grain product. It offers students the nutrition needed to be an effective learner in the classroom. This valuable nutritious program can only run with your support! Thank you to our parent volunteer, Ms. Butic, and our EA, Ms. Merta who help prepare the meal every day. Everyone's efforts are very much appreciated!

**NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME:**

**Call 416-393-5216 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.**



## Food Drive

During the month of October, we will demonstrate the virtue of **Gratitude** by giving to others. In the spirit of giving, St. Rita Catholic School is once again having a food drive. Items collected will be donated to the St. Francis Table. Kindly send 2-3 canned food or non-perishable items with your child. The donations will be picked up at the end of OCTOBER. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful contribution.

## Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC)

CSPC elections took place on September 20. Here are the newly elected members of our Catholic School Advisory Council Executive for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Ms. Dos Reis (Chair)
- Ms. Alvarez (Treasurer)
- Ms. Dias (Secretary)
- Ms. Lopes (Secretary)



We would like to acknowledge our Teacher Representative role will be Ms. K. Marzilli.

**The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the staffroom. Please join us!**

## Chocolate Fundraiser

The chocolate fundraiser started with our assembly on September 13. The last day for the fundraiser is October 10. As students sell a full box, they are reminded to submit their money so that the chocolate sales can be counted for. **Thank you for supporting this initiative.** Remember that all the money raised will benefit all of St. Rita's students through:

- Scientists in the School Workshops;
- Buses for Field Trips;
- Arts programming (performances);
- TTC tickets for sporting events;
- Play Day/Ice cream Day;
- Graduation; and
- Sacraments.



## Pizza Lunches

The pizza lunches for October will be held on Thursday, October 6 and October 27.



## Subway Lunch

Subway lunch will be available on Thursday, October 20.

## Pita Pit Lunch

Pita Pit lunch will be available on Tuesday, October 25.



## Lunch Lady

Lunch Lady will be available on Thursday, October 13



## Lunch at School

Lunch at school is a privilege for children who live far away from the school and/or for children who do not have anyone at home to supervise them. Children who stay for lunch are reminded to:

- Stay in their assigned seats;
- Use indoor voices; and
- Seek permission/assistance from the teacher or lunchtime supervisor.

**Please remember not to take your child off premises without informing an adult and then signing him/her out at the office first.**

For safety reasons, students whose parents have made arrangements to go out for lunch must, by 9:30 a.m., provide their teacher a note from home which:

- Is dated.
- Signed by a parent.



Students going out for lunch should always make arrangements to go out in pairs (**restricted to students in grades 7 and 8 only**). The school discourages the practice of students going out for lunch. Students will have to sign out at the office at 11:45 a.m. and then sign back in **no earlier** than 12:05 p.m. and no later than 12:40 p.m. Food is **NOT** to be brought back to school. In the interest of student safety, microwave ovens are not available to students.



## Student Safety

Parents/Caregivers are asked to ensure that we have your current telephone numbers: home, cell, emergency. Please call the school before 8:30 a.m. if your child will be late or absent.

Parents are reminded that all doors to the school are locked. All parents and visitors are required to buzz the doorbell to speak to our secretary and then enter the school. We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to implement this important safety initiative. Parents, caregivers, older siblings are asked to wait for their children or siblings in the schoolyard after school unless a meeting with the teacher has been scheduled. All students should enter and exit the school building by their designated doors. The school's front doors are not to be used as a shortcut to the school yard.

St. Rita is an Allergen Aware School. Some children in our school have a severe life threatening food allergy to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. In order to ensure that our school is a safe environment for all students, **we ask that you only send foods with your children that are free from peanuts and other nut products.** Also, kindly avoid sending food for special occasions (i.e. birthday, Christmas, etc). There is no other way of controlling food which comes from home other than the specific and diligent awareness and action by parents. **Please help in ensuring the safety of our children by helping to keep St. Rita Catholic School a peanut and nut free zone.**





## Personal Belongings

We have an acceptable user policy when it comes to electronics. For obvious safety and educational purposes, we ask that no cell phones, cameras, i-pods, expensive jewellery, hand-held games or any electronic gadgets be brought to school. Teachers may ask students to use their cell phones or other devices for instructional purposes. **Cell phones, if brought to school for emergency purposes, are to be turned off and left in their schoolbag. Please note that the school is not responsible for lost items. If students bring their electronics to school, they are responsible for them.**

Parental support in this area is required and greatly appreciated. Please monitor your child's activities on the internet and the various social media sites. If students bully their classmates on any site, they will face consequences. If activity that occurs outside of school impacts the school climate, consequences will be imposed. Hockey sticks, baseball bats and hard balls are not permitted at school. Students who bike to school are asked to lock them up on the fence adjacent to the laneway.

## Dental Screening

Dental screening will take place at St. Rita Catholic School from October 12 to October 13 for the ELP to Gr. 8 students. A screening Program is offered to students in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Health requirements for mandatory health program. The screening is an assessment by a dental hygienist will assess the need for topical fluoride, scaling, sealant and any other obvious dental needs. As a follow up to the screening, only parents whose children are identified as requiring dental services will be notified. A note to that effect will be sent home with your child/ren for your information and action. You may also receive a phone from T.P.H. dental staff to assist you in accessing care. Please be advised that this screening assessment does not replace the dental examination done by a licensed dentist.



## Secondary School Open Houses

All Toronto Catholic District School Board secondary schools welcome grade 8 students and their families to open houses each fall. This is an opportunity to meet some of the staff, check out school facilities and learn more about the various programs, services and activities as you prepare for Catholic secondary school education. Most open houses begin at 7:00 p.m. For a complete list of dates and locations, visit:

<http://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/default.aspx>.

• Loretto College	Oct. 18 at 6:30-9:00 p.m.
• St. Mary's	Oct. 26 at 7:00 p.m.
• Archbishop Romero	Nov. 3 at 7:00 p.m.
• Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton	Oct. 27 at 7:00 p.m.

## Guidance Corner – Mr. Amato

This year, students from grades one to eight will be encouraged to use myBlueprint as a tool to reflect on their growth throughout elementary school. Creating Pathways to Success asks that students think about: Who Am I? What Are My Opportunities? Who do I Want to Become? And What Are My Plans for Achieving My Goals?

Intermediate students will be required to work on their individual Pathways Plans (IPP) while students from grades one to six will develop their All About Me online Portfolios.

Encourage your children to share their account with you. The site is fully accessible from home.

Transition to Secondary School



October will be a busy month for the grade 8 students as they begin the high school application process. The After 8 transition guides for both students and parents will be delivered to the school soon, so you can expect to learn more about the process when your child brings them home. Here is a list of the important dates:

- **Monday, October 31st, 2016** – The applications will be available for printing at the school. Expect the application to come home on or just after this date.
- **Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – Applications are due back at the School Board. Therefore, they must be returned to the school well before to ensure early arrival. Teachers will provide due dates to your child so please be sure to return the forms on time and completed correctly.

Don't forget to visit prospective Catholic Secondary Schools. Open House dates have been posted in all schools, so you are encouraged to visit **your local secondary schools** to learn about the programs that they offer.

Mr. F. Amato

TCDSB Elementary Teacher-Guidance Counsellor  
Area 5 and Area 3

Holy Family, Pope Francis, St. Luigi, St. Rita, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Cecilia, St. Helen, St. Pius X, St. James, James Culnan St. Michael, St. Mary & St. Michael Choir

## Cross Country

A group of dedicated students are training for the Divisional cross country meet that will take place on October 13 at the Beaches. A special thank you to our coach, Ms. Sanderson & Ms. Cronkhite Marzilli. Join me in thanking him for his time and dedication to the team.

## Our Parish, St. Cecilia

Our pastor, Father Joseph will be celebrating school masses every month at St. Rita C. S. He has informed us of the following important dates:

**Gr. 7 Confirmation – TBA in January 2017**

**Gr. 2 First Reconciliation - Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Gr. 2 First Communion – Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 11 a.m.** All Sacraments will take place at St. Cecilia Catholic Church located at 161 Annette St. The monthly masses will be included in the school calendars that go home each month. The school will work closely with the parish in preparing all students for the sacraments.

## Spirit Day (Black and/or Orange)

Spirit Day is on October 28. Students can wear black & orange on this day. CSPC will be organizing a dance for the school in the afternoon. We will be selling a variety of treats at the dance. A letter will be sent home of the cost of the admission & treats that will be for sale.



## Halloween Day

On October 31, students are invited to come to school in costume. Please note that masks or imitation weapons are **NOT** to be brought to school. All costumes need to be appropriate.



## ME to WE

October 19 will be WE DAY, the official kick-off event through Free the Children for schools to commit to raising awareness and funds for local and global initiatives. Our Grade 7 & 8 students will be attending WE DAY at the Air Canada Centre. It is a one-of-a-kind event featuring inspirational and motivational speeches and performances by leading activists, speakers and entertainers. It is a celebration of the power of young people to change the world.



## Book Fair

Ms. Feikis, our Library Technician, will once again be holding a Book Fair this year from October 24 to October 31. All sales will benefit St. Rita C. S.'s library.

## Dress Down Day

**October's Dress Down Day is October 21st.**

**DRESS DOWN DAY** is to raise funds for SHARE LIFE. Students are asked to bring \$1.00 to participate in these days.

## World Teacher's Day – October 5<sup>th</sup>

We take great pride in celebrating the valuable contribution of all our teachers and support staff at St. Rita Catholic School. Teachers have an awesome responsibility. They influence our young people who represent the future; they foster their career development and influence their occupational choices. They are charged with the task of leading them on their faith journey and helping them to build character. We thank all our educators for their commitment to Catholic education and for the support and leadership that they provide so that we can fulfill our mission as a Catholic education community.



## Celebrating the Year of the Parish 2016-2017

The second year in our three pastoral plan focusing on "Together With One Voice: Harmonizing our Faith Through Family, Parish and School".

It is an opportunity to celebrate the important role that our parishes play in our school communities and in the lives of the students, staff and families that we serve.

**Let's celebrate the Family-Parish-School partnership!**

- <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearoftheParish/Pages/Parish-Project.aspx>
- <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearoftheParish/Pages/default.aspx>

## You Can Work Wonders with ShareLife

During this Year of the Parish, schools are invited to partner with their local parishes to see how they can support the annual campaign, and help ShareLife agencies work wonders.

<http://www.sharelife.org/Public/Home.aspx>

## October 19: Go Purple Day

October is Child Abuse Awareness Month. October 19<sup>th</sup> has been set aside as a day to raise awareness among students about the signs of abuse and neglect, and what to do if they, or someone they know, is being/or suspected of being abused or neglected

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Pages/October-is-Child-Abuse-Prevention-Month.aspx> *#iBreaktheSilence*

## Interested in Parent Engagement?

**Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Elections Coming**

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> for Wards 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/parentinvolvement/cpic-elections/pages/scheduled-cpic-election-for-even-numbered-wards.aspx>

**October 5<sup>th</sup> for vacancies in Wards 1, 7, 11**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/parentinvolvement/cpic-elections/pages/election-to-fill-cpic-vacancies.aspx>

**And October 17<sup>th</sup> for Parents at Large**

Learn more about CPIC here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/ParentInvolvement/Pages/default.aspx>

## October's Virtue is Gratitude

Find all the monthly resources associated with our virtues of the month online

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

THIS IS THE DAY,  
THE LORD HAS MADE.  
LET US REJOICE AND  
BE GLAD.

~ PSALM 118:24 ~

- GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR EVERY DAY HE GIVES US.
- IF WE EXPECT OTHERS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE DO, WE SHOULD SHOW APPRECIATION TO OTHERS.
- EVERYTHING WE HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR COMES FROM GOD.
- REMEMBER THE STORY OF THE LEPERS WHO JESUS HEALED AND THINK OF HOW MANY RETURNED TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE.

GRATITUDE

THANK YOU GOD



**Students in Ontario now need  
three more vaccines to  
attend school.**

All vaccines needed for  
school are free.

Visit [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health)  
for more information.



# TIPS FOR PARENTS

## Homework Basics



*In elementary school, homework is assigned to reinforce skills and concepts and to extend classroom learning.*

### A Parent's Supporting Role

When it comes to homework, be there to offer support and guidance, answer questions, help interpret assignment instructions, and review the completed work. Resist the urge to provide the right answers or complete assignments. It is important for your child to develop the skills and confidence to complete homework and projects independently.

#### 1. Create a Homework-friendly Space

It is important that the workspace is:

- well-lit and comfortable
- stocked with school supplies (pens, pencils, paper, stapler, calculator, ruler, etc.) and references (dictionary, thesaurus)
- quiet and free from distractions, such as TV, video games, social networking, phone calls, or other family members

Computers should be located in a common space, rather than a bedroom, so that parents can monitor use. Parental controls are available through your Internet service provider (ISP), and software that blocks and filters inappropriate material can be purchased.

Younger children may prefer working at the kitchen or dining room table where they can receive encouragement and assistance from you. Older children may prefer to work in their rooms, but parents should check in periodically and review homework when it is completed.

#### 2. Establish Homework Routines

Send the message that schoolwork is a top priority by establishing a regular time each day for homework to be done. Some families do not allow TV, phone calls, video game-playing, social networking, etc., until homework is done and checked.

**TORONTO CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
TRUSTEES 2016-2017**

**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,<br>Vice-Chair        | 416-512-3406 |
| 7. Michael Del Grande                  | 416-512-3407 |
| 8. Garry Tanuan                        | 416-512-3408 |
| 9. Jo-Ann Davis                        | 416-512-3409 |
| 10. Barbara Poplawski                  | 416-512-3410 |
| 11. Angela Kennedy, Chair              | 416-512-3411 |
| 12. Nancy Crawford                     | 416-512-3412 |
| Karina Dubrovskaya,<br>Student Trustee | 416-512-3417 |
| Rhea Carlisle,<br>Student Trustee      | 416-512-3413 |



Angela Gauthier, Director of Education