



OCTOBER 2017

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

OAPCE Toronto (Provincial Voice for Parents)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

Adult ESL:

Kevin Wong
(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, October 2.

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 20th 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 18th. This initiative contributes to a healthier learning environment for all our children. We are asking for parents to contribute \$40.00 for a nutritious hot meal. This money will cover from September 2017 to January 31, 2018. 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. Borres who prepares the meal every day. Everyone's efforts are very much appreciated!

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 2017-2018 school year:

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



The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the staffroom. Please join us!

Chocolate Fundraiser

The chocolate fundraiser started with our assembly on September 8. 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;
- TTC tickets for sporting events;
- Play Day/Ice cream Day;
- Graduation; and
- Sacraments.



Pizza Lunches

Let's welcome Domino's Pizza, as our new pizza vendor located on Dupont. The pizza lunches for October will be held on Thursday, October 19 and October 31.



Subway Lunch

Subway lunch will be available on Thursday, October 12.

Food4Kids

Food4Kids will be available on Thursday, October 5 and October 24.



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.

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:

- A. Is dated.
- B. 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.**



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. 25 at 7:00 p.m.
• Blessed Archbishop Romero	Oct. 26 at 7:00 p.m.
• Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton	Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Cross Country

A group of dedicated students are training for the Divisional cross country meet that will take place on October 12 at the Beaches. A special thank you to our coaches, Ms. Sanderson, Mr. Bird & Mr. St. Pierre. Join us in thanking them for their 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 – TBD

Gr. 2 First Reconciliation - Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Gr. 2 First Communion – Sunday, April 15, 2018 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 31. 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.



Dress Down Day

October's Dress Down Day is October 30.

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 5th

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.



Guidance Corner – October

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. Please note the following important dates:

- Monday, October 23rd, 2017 – The applications will be available for printing at the school. Expect the application to come home on or just after this date.
- Monday, November 6th, 2017 – 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 completed correctly and on time.

Don't forget to visit prospective Catholic Secondary Schools. Open House dates have been posted in your child's class. Students are encouraged to note the dates and visit your local secondary schools to learn about the programs that they offer. Or you can access a list on line at the following link:

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

Creating Pathways to Success

This year, students from grades one to eight will be encouraged to use www.myBlueprint.ca/tcdsb 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?

Throughout the year, 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 accounts with you. The site is fully accessible from home.

Mr. F. Amato:
TCDSB Elementary Teacher-Guidance Counsellor
Area 5 and Area 6
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 Choir,
St. Mary,

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2017-2018

Wards

1.	Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2.	Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
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5.	Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
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11.	Angela Kennedy, Chair	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
	Rhea Carlisle Student Trustees	416-512-3413
	Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee	416-512-3417

Angela Gauthier, Director of Education

80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, ON Website: www.tcdsb.org



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





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.