



SEPTEMBER 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
OAPCE Toronto (Provincial Voice for Parents)
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto
Adult ESL:
Kathy McCabe
(416) 397-6350



St. Rita Catholic School Newsletter

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I hope you had a great summer and that the students and their families are ready to return to the business of learning. Our dedicated staff has been working hard to prepare for another amazing school year, building on the successes and accomplishments of last year. I encourage all parents to become closely involved with school life and to remember that when we work together the students derive the most benefit. We will work toward providing our students with a year filled with interesting and educational experiences that will challenge and stimulate them.

Please welcome the following new staff members to St. Rita Catholic School: Ms. A. Alessandra, the Gr. 3/4 teacher. To make back-to-school a positive experience for all, I ask that you review the school routines, practices, and requirements noted in this newsletter and the student agenda.

As we welcome our students back to school in September, it seems fitting that this month's virtue is HOSPITALITY. Our teachers have been busy preparing their classrooms, gathering together resources, supplies and putting up bulletin boards that will invite the students back into a welcoming environment. Hospitality is about welcoming. Our quote for the month is from Matthew 25:40, "*Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me*". This month at St. Rita we will practise hospitality in our classrooms and in our school yard.

St. Rita Catholic School will continue to support the goals of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan with its focus on Living our Catholic Values, Student Achievement and Well-Being and Inspired and Motivated Employees. This year marks the second year of TCDSB's 3-Year Pastoral Plan: Together With One Voice, Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish and School 2015-2018. All students, staff, families, parishes and members of the community are invited to join us in celebrating: The Year of the Family.

I look forward to the new year ahead with excitement as we work with you on building a safe and nurturing school environment where your child(ren) will continue to learn and grow in God's love. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions throughout the year, do not hesitate to call. May God bless us and watch over us during this coming school year.

Respectfully,

Waldo Aristizabal
Principal



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.

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year: Follow @TCDSB on Twitter



Safe Arrival Programme

Please contact the school by phone or written note or if your child is going to be late or absent. Leave messages with the office, not on the teachers' voice mail boxes. We are required to contact any parents who do not contact us and this saves us time and worry when we cannot get a hold of parents. We will call home if the school has not been notified.



Attendance and Punctuality

Regular school attendance and punctuality are important for student progress. Children should be kept home only when they are ill. Appointments, whenever possible, should be arranged outside of school hours. Being on time for the start of class is important. The bell rings promptly at 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Your child(ren) should be in the school yard by this time so that they can assemble with their peers and be involved in all activities from the beginning of class. Students who arrive late disrupt the class and must come to the office for a late slip.

On extremely cold and rainy days, students are asked to arrive at school *just before the bell*. Those students present at school will be permitted to enter the building at 8:30 a.m. On such days, the recess periods will be held indoors and those students who stay for lunch will be supervised in the building. Unless the weather conditions are particularly bad, cold weather alone does not warrant an early entry to the building or indoor recess. Appropriate dress is a requirement on such days.



Appropriate Dress Code

Our students' well-being will continue to be a priority for both myself and the staff as we continue to follow the TCDSB Dress Code based on the principles of respect, safety, and diversity. A reminder that the Appropriate Dress Code at St. Rita includes the use of a white or navy blue shirt/blouse and a navy blue pant/skirt, **no denim**. A variety of clothing style can be purchased at retailers of your choice. Crested clothing with St. Rita's school emblem will be made available once again this fall.

Permission Forms

Please read, sign and return the green permission forms sent home on the first day of school.



Pizza and Subway Order Forms

Once again you will be able to pre-order pizza, Subway, and Pita Pit lunches. Forms will be sent home.

Student Accident Insurance

You should have received accident insurance forms. This coverage is recommended by our Risk Management Department, particularly the dental coverage for students who play sports. Please mail these forms directly to the insurance company.



Railway Safety

Parents, please remind students to stay off of railway property/lands. When crossing at "railway crossings" wait for barriers to go up. Stay clear of the railway barrier. Do not hang or touch the railway barrier.

We have been informed by the City of Toronto's Administrative Service Department that there will not be a crossing guard at the Osler Street railway crossing until further notice. They will provide the school with an update as soon as they can.



CSPC Meetings and Elections

The Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) fosters a positive relationship between the home and school and encourages a sense of community within the school. Elections for parent representatives of the CSPC will take place on **Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** Each parent seeking election must be self-nominated or nominated in writing, must have a child registered at the school, and must declare if he or she is employed by the school board. Nomination forms are located in the office and must be returned to the Principal by September 16.



Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night will be **Wednesday, October 5.** The evening will begin with a gathering in the gym at 7:00 p.m. Parents will then be invited to visit classrooms. Please plan to attend. Come out to meet your child's teacher. Get acquainted with the curriculum, classroom/school expectations and events planned for the year. Parents are encouraged to attend this evening to show support for both the students and the staff. This evening is not intended to be for discussion of individual student progress.

Student Progress

Parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress at regularly scheduled interviews (November and February). Parents are to contact their child's teacher to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time should the need exist for additional meetings. Teachers will gladly give you an appointment time to meet and discuss any concerns you may have. Communication between home and school is important for your child's success.

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.
- Seek permission/assistance from teacher or lunchtime supervisor.



Please remember not to take your child off premises without informing an adult and then signing them out at the office first. For safety reasons, Intermediate 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.

Intermediate 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.



Anaphylaxis

As we begin another school year, we would like to inform you that 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.**

Medical Conditions and Allergies

Please inform the school of any medical condition your child may have. Principals, teachers and support staff are not permitted to administer any type of prescription medication during the day, unless we have written signed authorization signed by the parent and doctor. The forms to dispense any medication must be updated yearly and are available from the school office. These forms will be kept on file at the school. School staff **will not** administer non-prescription medication. Students **must not** have medication with them in the classroom. All Students are required by law to be immunized.



Personal Belongings

To avoid losses and disputes over ownership of lunch boxes, running shoes, and/or other belongings we ask that you write your child's name on all 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 activity on the internet and the various social media sites. If students bully their classmates on any site, they will face consequences. Activity that occurs outside of school impacts the school climate and 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.



June's Lost and Found

The lost and found items left at the end of the school year were donated to Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children Organization.



Chocolate Fundraiser

We need everyone's participation in our Annual Chocolate Fundraiser! The school assembly will take place on September 13th and chocolates will be sent home or picked up on September 14th. The fundraiser will run from September 14th until Thanksgiving Day weekend (October 10).

The Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club

The Junction Triangle Clubhouse will be offering an after school program at St. Rita Catholic School. The program will be offered to Gr. 1 to 8 students from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Four and five year olds pay \$10 extra a day. This year the program will continue to be offered 4 days a week from Monday to Thursday. If there are enough applicants, the program will begin on Monday, September 14th.

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are always welcome at St. Rita Catholic School. If any parent is interested in becoming a parent volunteer, please contact the office. Approval of all volunteers must be obtained through the Principal. When volunteering at the school, it is expected that a parent will not work in the classroom of his/her own child. Such direct involvement places unnecessary pressure on both the parent and the child. Exceptions to this rule apply only to out of classroom excursions. All parents who serve as volunteers are expected to recognize the importance of confidentiality with respect to events and incidents which occur in the school. Events and incidents should not be discussed by volunteers in the community at large. Any parent who is serving as a volunteer in the school must have a Police Check completed and is also required to sign in at the office. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.



Parent Engagement

TCDSB values the involvement of parents in the education of their children, and welcomes their participation in the lives of our school communities. Find out how you can get involved as a member of the **Toronto OAPCE** (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education), or as a member of **Toronto CPIC** (Catholic Parent Involvement Committee). At the local level, check out the next meeting of your CSPC (Catholic School Parent Council).

Visit the Parent Portal to get all the latest news and information <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/default.aspx>

Conflict Resolution Resources

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is a Catholic educational community committed to the creation of an environment which fosters mutual respect for the dignity and well-being of all stakeholders including but not limited to students, staff, parents and volunteers and focuses on working towards mutually acceptable solutions that are consistent with relevant Board policies. At the TCDSB, staff work diligently to ensure concerns are addressed in a respectful and professional manner that is consistent with the Education Act and all other relevant legislation and Board policies. Members of the TCDSB community are offered a variety of options to ensure their concerns are addressed appropriately. Visit the board website for details:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/Conflict-Resolution-Resources.aspx>

Government of Ontario has granted new powers to the Ontario Ombudsman's Office to investigate complaints against school boards. The Office of the Ontario Ombudsman now has the responsibility to oversee school boards and address matters brought to its attention by members of the general public.

[Ombudsman Ontario Brochure](#)

For more information on the role of the Ontario Ombudsman go to: www.ombudsman.on.ca

Guidance Corner

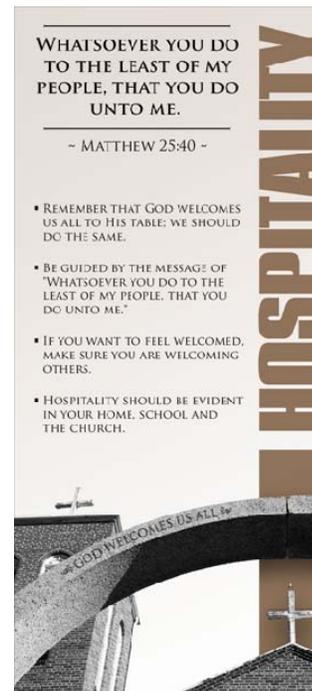
My name is Mr. Amato. I support 13 schools in Areas 5 and 6 including this one. Unfortunately, due to the large number of schools that I service, I am only regularly available to this school once every two weeks for half a day. During my school visits, I work with students, school staff and administrators. Together our goal is to continue to foster a happy and safe environment by strengthening:

- *Learning skills and study habits
- *Healthy relationships
- *Career exploration and educational planning
- *Student safety and well-being

That being said, a large part of my focus will be in assisting with the transition of grade 8 students into grade 9 and working with intermediate teachers to encourage their students to complete their Individual Pathways Plan and helping the younger students work on their All About Me portfolio on www.myBlueprint.ca.

Frank Amato
Elementary Guidance Counsellor
Area 5 & 6

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



TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2016-2017

Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	6
Labour Day	September 5, 2016
First Instructional Day for students	September 6, 2016
Thanksgiving Day	October 10, 2016
Christmas Break	December 26, 2016-January 6, 2017
Start of second semester for secondary schools	February 6, 2017
Family Day	February 20, 2017
Mid-Winter Break	March 13-March 17, 2017
Good Friday	April 14, 2017
Easter Monday	April 17, 2017
Victoria Day	May 22, 2017
Last day of classes for elementary students	June 29, 2017

Six (6) Professional Activity (PA) Days for ELEMENTARY schools:

October 7, 2016	Provincial Education Priorities
November 18, 2016	Parent-Teacher Conferences
December 2, 2016	Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development
January 20, 2017	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
February 17, 2017	Parent-Teacher Conferences
June 9, 2017	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
June 30, 2017	Provincial Education Priorities

ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF LIST 2016-2017

Principal	Waldo Aristizabal
Secretary	Cheryl Migliaccio
ELP (JK & SK)	Kimberley Sanderson
Grade 1/2	Laura Oppedisano
Grade 3/4	Alessandra Nicholas
Grade 5/6	Heather Alleyne
Grade 7/8	Francis Contiga
Special Education Teacher	Cristina Albanese
Special Education Teacher (LI - ISP)	Kelly Cronkhite-Marzilli
French	Aleksander Koka
Guidance	Frank Amato
Vocal Music	Sylvia Zoleta
Physical Education	Joshua Borg
Instrumental Music	Marie McBride
Head Caretaker	Roman Chomiak
Night Caretaker	Valentino Arianna
Library Technician	Anna Feikis
Educational Assistant	Pauline Astudillo
Educational Assistant	Susan Michalik
Itinerant Educational Assistant	Aneta Merta

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, 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, Student Trustee	416-512-3417
	Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee	416-512-3413