



DECEMBER 2018

**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:
Frank D'Amico
(416) 512-3406

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

Adult ESL:
(416) 397-6350



St. Rita Catholic School Newsletter

As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is CHARITY. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on the 25th, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. Our quote for the month is "Where charity and love are, God is there. Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God."

As you celebrate Advent and Christmas, remember to reach out to your parish, and others in your community (long-term care facilities, nursing homes, local charities) and explore ways that you can spread the spirit of Christmas to everyone. Share your acts of kindness, big and small.

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving"
- **Mother Teresa**

Advent stresses attentiveness, vigilance, and a willingness to be alert and on guard. It is a time to examine how we have been preparing the way of the Lord. Let's find the courage to take stock and engage in spiritual house cleaning so that we will discover the true joy of Christmas.

Please join me in welcoming our new staff members at St. Rita C.S.
Ms. A. D'Ornellas is our new Grade 1/2 teacher and Ms. Sabrina Ritacca is our new Spec. Ed teacher. We look forward to working with them in our school community.

**May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace; and the heart of Christmas which
is love.**



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Mr. W. Aristizabal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thank you to all parents/guardians who came and discussed their child(ren)'s progress with the teachers. Research shows that students perform better in school when parents are directly involved in their child(ren)'s education.

Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC)

Thank you to our CSPC for organizing our Cookie Dough Fundraiser. Our profit was \$948.71. Thank you to all the families that participated either in selling or purchasing cookie dough orders.

The next meeting will be on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the staffroom. Please join us!



Safe Arrival Program

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, 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.

Pizza and Subway Order Forms

If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online. (Please see attached information for the registration steps).

Dominos Variety Day

Our next Dominos variety day will be on December 14th.

Crossing Guard

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.

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:

- Is dated.
- 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

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.



Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert will take place on Thursday, December 13, 2018 in the school gym at 6:30 p.m. and student performers are asked to report to their classrooms no later than 6:00 p.m.

Due to fire regulations, we are limiting the number of people per family to two (2) for the evening performance. The number per family is mandatory, and will be on a first come basis. If you are unable to join us in the evening. Parents are invited to attend the dress rehearsal on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The CSPC is holding a BAKE SALE starting at 6:00 p.m. and is asking for baked goods to be donated. If you are able to bring an item for the bake sale, we ask that you send these baked goods in the morning to the school and they will be stored.

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.

Volleyball Team

The Intermediate Girls' Volleyball Team played on November 7th at St. Raymond/St. Bruno. They showed excellent sportsmanship and representative St. Rita's well. The members of the girls' team were: Melanie C, Jezel C, Samantha V, Faith C, Carolina J, Ashley W, Emma E, Lourdes F. A special thank you to Ms. Marzilli Cronkhite for coaching the team.

Cold Weather

As the cold weather and snow approach, we remind parents to send an extra pair of shoes for your child(ren) to wear indoors. Also, please ensure students come to school properly dressed with hats, boots, snow pants, gloves and winter coats. Get all the latest information about cancellations and closures throughout the winter months, and all year long by following @TCDSB on Twitter.

Cold and Flu Season

If your child is not feeling well enough to go out for recess, please keep child at home. Fresh air is healthy and unless it is just too cold, everyone from ELP to Gr. 8 will go outside for recess.

NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call the school number at 416-393-5216 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 5320.

For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, visit www.tcdsb.org

Kindergarten Registration Begins January 16th at 10 a.m.

Visit www.tcdsb.org for details.

Apply online starting January 16th at <https://soar.tcdsb.org>

TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2018-2019

Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	7
Labour Day	September 3, 2018
First Instructional Day for students	September 4, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	October 8, 2018
Christmas Break	December 24, 2018-January 4, 2019
Family Day	February 18, 2019
Mid-Winter Break	March 11-March 15, 2019
Good Friday	April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	April 22, 2019
Victoria Day	May 20, 2019
Last day of classes for elementary students	June 27, 2019

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

October 5, 2018	Provincial Education Priorities
November 16, 2018	Parent-Teacher Conferences
December 7, 2018	Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development
January 18, 2019	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
February 15, 2019	Parent-Teacher Conferences
June 7, 2019	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
June 28, 2019	Provincial Education Priorities

ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF LIST 2018-2019

Principal	Waldo Aristizabal
Secretary	Cheryl Migliaccio
ELP (JK & SK)	Kimberley Sanderson
Grade 1/2	Amy D'Ornellas
Grade 3/4	Eric Bird
Grade 5/6	Heather Alleyne
Grade 7/8	Francis Contiga
SE/1	Kelly Cronkhite-Marzilli
Special Education Teacher	Sabrina Ritacca
French	Alexander Koka
Vocal Music	Sylvia Zoleta
Instrumental Music	TBD
Physical Education	Melanie Sebastiao
Head Caretaker	Roman Chomiak
Night Caretaker	Valentino Arianna
Library Technician	TBD
Educational Assistant	Susan Michalik

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2018-2019

Wards

1.	Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2.	Markus de Domenico	416-512-3402
3.	Ida Li Preti	416-512-3403
4.	Teresa Lubinski	416-512-3404
5.	Maria Rizzo, Chair	416-512-3405
6.	Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7.	Mike Del Grande, Vice-Chair	416-512-3407
8.	Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9.	Norm Di Pasquale	416-512-3409
10.	Daniel Di Giorgio	416-512-3410
11.	Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
	Taylor Dallin Student Trustee	416-512-3413
	Joel Ndongmi Student Trustee	416-512-3417