

**NOVEMBER 2015**

## **ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

178 Edwin Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6P 3Z9

Phone Number: (416) 393-5216

Fax Number: (416) 393-5803

**Principal:**

Elisa Arciero

**Secretary:**

Cheryl Migliaccio

**Superintendent:**

Dr. Jim Saraco  
(416) 222-8282 Ext. 5371

**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:**

Barbara Gajdamowicz  
(416) 397-6350

# **St. Rita Catholic School Newsletter**

## **Principal's Message:**

During the month of November, we will be focusing on the virtue of **PEACE** at St. Rita Catholic School. The scripture passage that guides us this month is "Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you." John 14:27. We connect the virtue of peace to the **Sign of Peace** at mass. Each time we gather for Eucharist, we are invited to extend a sign of peace to those around us: our family, friends, neighbours, and strangers. Catholic social teaching reminds us that we are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, religious, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbour has global dimensions in a shrinking world. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict. We need to ask ourselves what we can do to be a peacemaker in our family, our class, our school, our city and the world. Please join me in saying good-bye to Ms. Carvalho in the Gr. 5/6 class. We are still waiting for the Board to assign a teacher to this class. Ms. S. Vescio will be the occasional until a teacher is assigned. We wish Mr. G. Caravaggio, our Instrumental Music Teacher, good luck as he moves on to Our Lady of Victory as a Gr. 5 teacher. At this time, we are also waiting for an Instrumental Music teacher to be assigned to St. Rita C. S.

The beginning of November also marks the feast of All Saints' Day. At this time of the year, especially, let us be reminded that through compassion for the suffering of one another, we are lead to greater faith and service no matter who we are. Celebrating sainthood is never easy for the rest of us here on earth, but we are challenged to strive for progress and not perfection. The lives of the saints can be an inspiration to all of us.

On All Souls' Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we remember our own loved ones who have passed away. Every family has experienced the loss of a loved one. Families are encouraged to share with their children their stories and memories. Children need to learn about their heritage through the stories of their ancestors. On November 11th, Remembrance Day, we reflect on the armed forces that have died in the line of duty. All staff and students will receive a red poppy to wear and will bring home a small white envelope. Please make a donation of your choice, send it back to school with your child, and we will forward it to support our veterans.

Let us remember the simple words of Blessed Mother Teresa who said, "A smile is the beginning of peace."

Sincerely,

*Ms. E. Arciero*



## **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.**



## THANK YOU!!

Please join me in thanking, once again, **Torino Drywall** for their generous donation of \$5500 to the Angel Foundation for our nutrition program and \$3000 for St. Rita's C. S. equipment.

I will keep the community informed as to what is purchased with this donation.

## Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC)

Thank you to our CSPC for paying the TTC fare for our students and staff to participate in the Divisional and Regional Cross Country meets at the Beaches.

**The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the staffroom. Please join us!**

## Chocolate Fundraiser



The last day for the fundraiser was October 16<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the winners for the Friday draws – **Jorge B, Jessica C, Branden O, and Afonso B.** These students won \$25 gift cards to Toys R Us. On October 22 the top fundraisers were recognized in a school assembly. Congratulations to the **Gr. 5/6 class** for being the top fundraising class. The class earned a free pizza lunch. The top fundraising student in first place went to **Branden O!** Branden sold 10 boxes and won a Nintendo 3DS XL and the game Super Mario 3D Land.

These are the winners by division:

Pre-primary - **Maya D** - Cineplex Movie Pass for 2 and a pillow

Primary – **Tyler D.** – Cineplex Movie Pass for 2 and a pillow

Junior – **Nicholas M.** – \$50 Cineplex card

Intermediate – **Amie E.** - \$50 iTunes card

The following students also won prizes:

**Sophia-Kate S.** – pillow, **Daniel B.** – pillow, **Victoria D.** – pillow, **Victoria L.** – pillow, **Joseff B.** – basketball, **Tiago P.** – 5lbs chocolate bar, **John-Paul L.** - basketball, **Terry M.** – basketball, **Lucas E.** – basketball, and **Emily H.** – 5lbs chocolate bar.

**Thank you for supporting this initiative.** Please return monies or unsold boxes as soon as possible. Remember that all the money raised will benefit all of St. Rita's students.

## Halloween Dance

We celebrated another treasured CSPC event at St. Rita C. S. on Friday, October 30 – our Halloween Dance. Students enjoyed dancing to all of the spooktacular sounds. It was great to see all of the wonderful Halloween costumes and/ or black and/or orange clothing. We hope that you all had a fun and safe Halloween!



## Halloween Cookies

During the week of November 26, the office sold Halloween Sprinkle cookies. Thank you to all those who participated. A profit of \$54 was made. These monies will go toward various St. Rita C. S. school presentations and supporting student needs.



## Student Safety

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 child(ren) 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.**



## Cross Country

Congratulations to: **Roberto S, Bryant L, Johnny O, Samantha A, Ashley W, Victoria L, John S, Tiago P, Faith C, Mario M, Abel G, Dylan C, Bethanya G, and Angel O.** It was a dedicated group of students who competed at this year's Divisional Cross Country meet and represented St. Rita with pride. **Johnny O, Roberto S, Tiago P, and Mario M.** returned to the Regional meet and did their best. Once again, thank you to our coaches, Ms. Sanderson and Ms. Marzilli for their time and dedication to the team. And a special thank you to Ms. Merta who helped with supervision at the Divisional Meet.



## 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. All rollerblades must be removed before entering the school.



### From the Parish....

Father Joseph has informed us of the following important dates. **Reconciliation** for the Gr. 2 students will take place on **Saturday, April 16th at 2 p.m.** The Sacrament of **First Holy Communion** for the Gr. 2 students is **Sunday, April 17th at 11:00 a.m.** **Confirmation** for the Gr. 7 and 8 students will take place on **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** All Sacraments will take place at St. Cecilia Catholic Church. The First Communion and Confirmation classes will continue to be included in the school calendars that go home each month. The parish will work closely with the school and teachers in preparing all students for the sacraments. **Please join us for our November school mass on Wednesday, November 11 at 1 p.m.**



### Progress Reports

The Progress Report will be sent home on November 10. The progress report:

- encourages early and ongoing communication between you and your child's teacher;
- tells you how well your child is developing the learning skills and work habits we know are essential for success;
- continues to report on all academic subjects — such as language, math, social studies, science and technology — but instead of assigning a grade or mark, it will tell you how well your child is progressing: “very well”, “well” or “with difficulty” ;
- highlights strengths and areas to improve before evaluations are completed; and
- also includes comments from your child's teacher .

Parent /Teacher Conferences for the Progress Report will be held **Thursday, November 12 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** and **Friday, November 13 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

### Pizza Lunches

The pizza lunches for November will be held on **Thursday, Nov. 5 and Nov. 19.** Pizza orders were placed in September.



### Subway Lunch, Lunch Lady, and Pita Pit

Subway lunch will take place on **Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>,** Lunch Lady will happen on **Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>,** and Pita Pit will take place on **Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.**



### ME to WE

The last Friday of every month will continue to be a **DRESS DOWN DAY** to raise funds for our ME TO WE initiatives. Students are asked to bring \$1.00 to participate in these days. September's Dress Down Day raised \$. We would like to thank parents, students, and staff for their generous support of our Thanksgiving/October food drive. Congratulations to the ELP class that filled two boxes of food items!!! The food will be picked up by St. Francis' Table.



### 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>.

▪ Archbishop Romero	November 3, 2015
---------------------	------------------

### Guidance Corner – Mr. Amato

#### Planning for Your Future

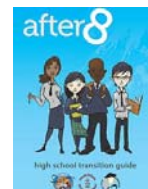
During the month of October, students in most intermediate classes began to develop their Individual Pathways Plan (IPP), as they prepare to enter high school and think about what they would like to do beyond secondary school. Students created accounts on myBlueprint and began to set goals for themselves, with a focus on learning skills; thought about the courses that they will be taking in high school; started to develop a resume; and explored various occupations and post-secondary pathways across Canada.

Parents are encouraged to ask their intermediate child(ren) to show them the work that they may have done on myBlueprint and encourage them to continue to develop their plan for the future. If interested, parents are invited to create their own account where they can follow their child's progress. Simply begin by going to [www.myblueprint.ca/tcdsb](http://www.myblueprint.ca/tcdsb) and follow simple instructions.

Please contact me, [amatof@tcdsb.org](mailto:amatof@tcdsb.org) if you would like detailed instructions on how to create an account and follow your child's progress.

#### High School Applications

Parents of grade 8 students are reminded to be sure to get those high school applications back to the school and accurately completed **no later than November 9th at 9:30 a.m.** so that the school can **submit them to the Board by November 10<sup>th</sup>.** You will also be receiving the After 8 student guide and parent guide to help you through the process of completing the application form. Ask your child about it if you do not see one by early November.



If you would like to see the books before they arrive or if you would like one in an alternate language, follow this link: <http://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

### Picture Re-takes

Picture Re-take Day is on the morning of November 19<sup>th</sup>. Sibling photos will also be taken on this date.



## Kindergarten Craft Items

The ELP class is in need of some craft items. If you have any of the following items at home, that you no longer need/want and would like to donate, we would be happy to take: googly eyes, brown/white lunch bags, play dough, buttons, yarn, stamp pads, feathers, and sequence.

## Students of the Month

The virtue for the month of October was Gratitude. The criterion for the Student of the Month for October is the student who demonstrates appreciation or is thankful. Congratulations to the following students for being the winners for October: **Eric B, Kylie D, Adam E, Joshua E, Jezel C, Tiago G, Paul F, and Vanessa A.**



## New Bike Rack – Thank you!

The City of Toronto donated to the Board, bicycle racks as part of a PanAm Legacy. St Rita was allotted 1 bicycle rack to be installed by the Board. The bicycle rack has arrived and is going to be installed in the North yard close to the railroad yard fence. We are very grateful to the Board for thinking of St. Rita and awarding us this bicycle rack at no cost to the school.

## Update on Negotiations

Please remember to visit the board's website <https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2015/pages/labour-negotiations-update.aspx> to stay up to date on the status of labour negotiations.

## Another Flu Season has begun

Toronto Public Health Tips for Avoiding the Spread of Flu and Other Viruses:

- Get your flu shot
- Wash your hands often
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Do the knuckle bump instead of shaking hands
- Stay home if you are sick



### Helpful tips to avoid the flu:

- Get your flu shot
- Wash your hands often
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Do the knuckle bump instead of shaking hands
- Stay home if you're sick

Visit [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) to find a free flu clinic near you

416.338.7600 [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) | TORONTO Public Health

## Archbishop Romero Reaches Out to St. Rita

The Romero community donated several books for self-selected reading for our Intermediate students. These books were added to our ever expanding book selection in our school library. This gesture was Romero's way of thanking the St. Rita Intermediate students for taking part in their Reach Ahead experiences.



**To keep students healthy, all children going to school must be protected against the following diseases:**

- measles, mumps, rubella
- diphtheria, tetanus, polio
- meningococcal
- pertussis/whooping cough
- varicella/chickenpox – applies only to children born on or after January 2010, entering Junior Kindergarten

**Watch for a letter from Toronto Public Health with details about your child.**

416.338.7600 [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) | TORONTO Public Health

### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2015-2016

#### 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
7. Michael Del Grande, Chair	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	416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford, Vice-Chair	416-512-3412
Karina Dubrovskaya, Student Trustee	416-512-3417
Allison Gacad, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

Angela Gauthier, Director of Education  
80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, ON Website: [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

