



NOVEMBER 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:

Jennifer Smith
(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 neighbor 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.

The beginning of November also marks the feast of All Saint's 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 2nd, 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. 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,

Mr. W. Aristizabal

Chocolate Fundraiser

The last day for the fundraiser was October 10th.  On November 3 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 **Maya Dos Reis Bettencourt** who **sold 17 boxes and won a Nintendo DS game system**. Winners by grade:

ELP- **Logan D, Mikayla F., Faith A.** – **an animal pillow.**

Gr. 1/2- **Daniel B, Victoria D., Sophia-Kate S.** – **\$25 Toys R us gift card.**

Gr. 3- **Alexander Costa** – **\$25 Toys R us gift card.**

Gr. 4/5- **Isaiah F, Joshua E.** - **\$20 EB Games gift card**

Gr. 6/7- **Joseff B, Tyler D., Tiago P, Abel G.** - **\$20 EB Games gift card, Emma E.** - **\$25 Movie Pass**
Traishawn W. - **\$20 EB Games gift card and 5 lb. chocolate bar.** **Faith C.** - **\$50 Movie Pass.**

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 dance at St. Rita C. S. on Tuesday, October 31 – our Halloween Dance. Students enjoyed dancing to all of the spooktacular sounds. We hope that you all had a fun and safe Halloween!



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: **Vobien T, Alexander C, Kylie D, Lucia V, Davin S, Jacob B, Jorge M, Kevin S, Joshua E, Dylan C, Nathan D, Hugo D, Ramon V, Bethanya G, Angel O, Joseff B, Gustavo A, John S, Javier V, Tiago P, Abel G.** It was a dedicated group of students who competed at this year's Divisional Cross Country meet and represented St. Rita with pride. **Jorge M.** returned to the Regional meet and came in 8th and is continuing onto the Cities on October 24. Once again, thank you to our coaches, Mr. Bird and Ms. Sanderson for their time and dedication to the team.

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.



Progress Reports

The Progress Report will be sent home on November 14. 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 **Wednesday November 15 and Thursday, November 16 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Friday, November 17 is a PA Day (no school).**

Pizza Lunches

The pizza lunches for November will be held on **Thursday, Nov. 9 and Nov. 30.**



Subway Lunch

Subway lunch will take place on **Thursday, November 16th.**



Food4Students

Food4Students will be available on November 7 and November 23.

Dress Down Day

We will continue every month to participate in **DRESS DOWN DAY** to raise funds for our ME TO WE initiatives. Students are asked to bring \$1.00 to participate in these days. October's Dress Down Day raised \$44.00. Our November's Dress Down Day is on November 30.

Spirit Day

Spirit Day is Plaid Shirt Day on November 24.

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.

Morning Meal

Thank you to Ms. Estrela & Mr. Correia for volunteering to pick up the Morning Meal Groceries. It is with help from our community that we can continue to provide our students with a nutritious meal every morning.



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>.

Guidance Corner – Mr. Amato

Planning for Your Future

During the month of October, students in several 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 logged into their 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. Follow these easy steps.

1. Please go to www.blueprint.ca/tcdsb
2. Click on “Login with school account.”
3. Ask your child to use their TCDSB username and password to log in.

High School Applications

Parents of grade 8 students are reminded to be sure to get those high school applications back to the school by November 1st.



You may have also already received the After 8 Student and Parent Transition Guides. In them, you will find detailed information about the TCDSB Secondary School Application process. Ask your child about it if you do not see one by early November. They are also available online in English and several other Languages at this address:

<http://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

Picture Re-takes

Picture Re-take Day is on the afternoon of November 9th. Sibling photos will also be taken on this date.



**TORONTO CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEES 2017-2018**

Wards

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Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee	416-512-3417



Angela Gauthier, Director of Education
80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, ON Website: www.tcdsb.org



The Toronto Catholic District School Board is offering access to the following Microsoft products to all of our students:

- **FREE: Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus: includes latest versions of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel, Outlook, OneDrive and OneNote. The license can be used for up to 5 computers and up to 5 mobile devices (any platform);**
- **FREE: Microsoft Windows 10 EDU;**
- **10% discount on computers and devices at the online Microsoft Education Store.**

In order to access this online offer, the student will need to know his/her TCDSB computer login username and password. If your child does not know his/her login information, please contact your school to ask how to obtain this information.

To take advantage of the software offers you must have internet access for the download. To find out more and how you can take advantage of this offer, visit our TCDSB Digital Store now at: www.tcdsb.org/digitalstore

