



SEPTEMBER 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:
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

Adult ESL:
(416) 397-6350



St. Rita Catholic School Newsletter

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I hope you had a great summer and that the students and their families are ready to return to a new school year. Our staff has been working hard to prepare for another 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.

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.

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, 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.

This school year we will be sending monthly newsletters on the following months:

- **September 2018**
- **December 2018**
- **January 2019**
- **April 2019**
- **June 2019**

Monthly calendars will be sent every month to keep parents informed of events that take place each month. This practice will help with cutting costs on paper.

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



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.

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 and Subway. Forms will be sent home by CSPC in September.

Morning Meal

Morning Meals envelopes were sent out with your child on the first of school. Please call the office if you did not receive one. The cost is \$40 from September to January. The Morning Meal starting date is for September 17, 2018. Please return your money by September 14, 2018.

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:

- 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.**

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.

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.



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. This year the program will continue to be offered 5 days a week from Monday to Friday. For more information, contact Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club at 416-530-4233.



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.



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

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School



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	Laura Oppedisano
Grade 3/4	Eric Bird
Grade 5/6	Heather Alleyne
Grade 7/8	Francis Contiga
SE/1	Kelly Cronkhite-Marzilli
Special Education Teacher	Cristina Albanese
French	Alexander Koka
Vocal Music	Sylvia Zoleta
Instrumental Music	TBD
Physical Education	Andrew Sousa/TBD
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.	Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3.	Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4.	Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404
5.	Maria Rizzo, Vice-Chair	416-512-3405
6.	Fraqnk D'Amico	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, Chair	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