



SEPTEMBER 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. 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](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

Welcome to the 2015-2016 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: Mr. F. Contiga, the Gr. 7/8 teacher, Ms. C. Sabti, our Gr. 5/6 teacher in the p.m., and Mr. C. Jung, an occasional Gr. 5/6 teacher in the a.m. We say good-bye and good luck to Ms. J. Maeiron who was reassigned as CYW to Marshall McLuhan Secondary School. St. Rita has been assigned an itinerant educational assistant, Ms. A. Merta. 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, "*Whatever 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 first 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. I hope to see you at our **Curriculum Night on October 1st at 7 p.m.** 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,

*Ms. E. Arciero*  
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](http://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 for Sept. Oct. and Nov. Forms will be sent home on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.



## 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 22, 2015 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 18.



## Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night will be **Thursday, October 1**. 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.



## Book Fair

Ms. Feikis, our Library Technician, will once again be holding a Book Fair this year all day on Monday, Sept. 28 and during the week until Friday, Oct. 2. Please drop into Room 104 when you come for Curriculum Night on Oct. 1st to visit and purchase some books. All sales will benefit St. Rita C. S.'s library.

## 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. Ms. Arciero was told that the items went to a mission in Ghana.



## Chocolate Fundraiser

We need everyone's participation in our Annual Chocolate Fundraiser! The school assembly will take place on September 16th and chocolates will be sent home or picked up on September 17th. The fundraiser will run from September 17th until Thanksgiving Day weekend (October 16). Information and permission letters will be sent home on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.



## “Together with One Voice: Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish and School”

TCDSB has launched a new three year pastoral plan for 2015 through to 2018. The specific emphasis for 2015-2016 is on the **Family**. Stay tuned for more detailed information. The poster developed for the new plan, as well as other resources can be found on the board's website here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/TW1V>

## 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>

## Registration for TCDSB Night School, Saturday Language Programs and eClass Courses starts September 3<sup>rd</sup>

Classes will run from September 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> through to January 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>. Specific schedule of dates, time and locations are on the website. EClass Courses start on October 5<sup>th</sup> and run through until January 20<sup>th</sup>. Saturday International Languages classes will begin September 26<sup>th</sup> and continue through to June 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information about class locations, course options and details about registration, visit:  
[www.tcdsb.org/continuinged](http://www.tcdsb.org/continuinged)

## Elementary International Languages Registration

Enrich your child's education through International Languages Instruction, Cultural Awareness and a Celebration of Traditions. The program is offered for Elementary-aged children and runs from Saturday September 19, 2015 to Saturday June 11, 2015. Register online or in-person on Saturday September 19, 2015 at all locations.  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/IntLang>

## Learn More about Full-time Programs for Gifted Students

Parents of elementary school children who are gifted, are invited to attend an open house to learn more about the full-time program options in Toronto Catholic District School Board schools **Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m.** at the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Ave. East (Second floor Boardroom). Free underground parking is available.

## 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. Visit the board's website at  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/Default.aspx> to confirm the dates and times.

## 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>

In addition, as of September 1, 2015, the

## Guidance Corner

### *Your Friendly Neighbourhood Guidance Teacher/Counsellor*

My name is Mr. Amato. I support 14 schools in Areas 5 and 6 including this one. Unfortunately, due to the large number of schools that I service, I am only available to this school on a bi-weekly basis 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:

Individual Pathway Plan (I.P.P.) and All About Me Portfolio Support

Learning skills and study habits

Healthy relationships and Student safety and well-being

Career exploration and educational planning

Individual and small group counselling is available to your children through a referral process.

I look forward to working in your child's school throughout the year.

### *Getting a Richer Answer When You Ask Your Child, "How Was Your Day?"*

Tired of getting the same old answers whenever you ask your child how their day at school went? Here are two articles that might make answering the age-old question a little more interesting. My Favourite question from these lists...If there was a zombie apocalypse, which one of your teachers would most likely survive?

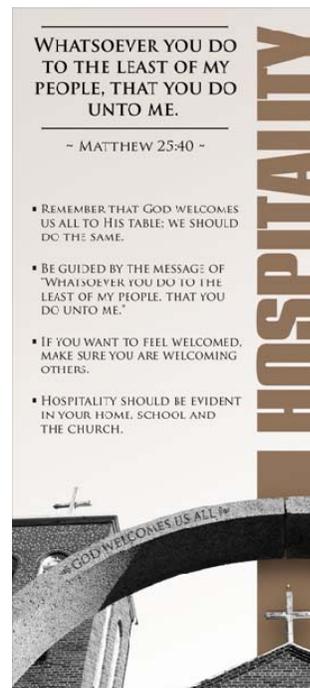
<http://parent.co/30-questions-to-ask-your-kid-instead-of-how-was-your-day/>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/liz-evans/25-ways-to-ask-your-kids-so-how-was-school-today-without-asking-them-so-how-was-school-today\\_b\\_5738338.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/liz-evans/25-ways-to-ask-your-kids-so-how-was-school-today-without-asking-them-so-how-was-school-today_b_5738338.html)

Frank Amato

Elementary Guidance Teacher Counsellor

*Holy Family, St. Cecilia, St. Pius X, St. James, St. Vincent de Paul, James Culnan, Senhor Santo Cristo, St. Luke, St. Helen, St. Rita, St. Luigi, St. Mary, St. Michael Annex, St. Michael's Chior*



In addition, as of September 1, 2015, the

## TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2015-2016

Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	6
Labour Day	September 7, 2015
First Instructional Day for students	September 8, 2015
Thanksgiving Day	October 12, 2015
Christmas Break	December 21, 2015–January 1, 2016
Start of second semester for secondary schools	February 1, 2016
Family Day	February 15, 2016
Mid-Winter Break	March 14–18, 2016
Good Friday	March 25, 2016
Easter Monday	March 28, 2016
Victoria Day	May 23, 2016
Last day of classes for elementary students	June 29, 2016

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

September 3, 2015	Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development
November 13, 2015	Parent-Teacher Conferences
January 22, 2016	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
February 12, 2016	Parent-Teacher Conferences
June 10, 2016	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
June 30, 2016	Provincial Education Priorities

### **ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF LIST 2015-2016**

Principal	Elisa Arciero
Secretary	Cheryl Migliaccio
ELP (JK & SK)	Kimberley Sanderson
Grade 1/2	Laura Oppedisano
Grade 3/4	Cristina Albanese
Grade 5/6	Corey Jung a.m.
	Carla Sabti p.m.
Grade 7/8	Francis Contiga
Special Education Teacher	Janice Buccioni
Special Education Teacher (LI - ISP)	Kelly Cronkhite-Marzilli
French	Aleksander Koka
Guidance	Frank Amato
Vocal Music	Sylvia Zoleta
Physical Education	Joshua Borg
Instrumental Music	Gianluca Caravaggio
Head Caretaker	Roman Chomiak
Night Caretaker	Rudi Nardi
Library Technician	Anna Feikis
Educational Assistant	Pauline Astudillo
Educational Assistant	Susan Michalik
Itinerant Educational Assistant	Aneta Merta

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

#### Wards

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino            | 9. Jo-Ann Davis                |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk             | 10. Barbara Poplawski          |
| 3. Sal Piccininni            | 11. Angela Kennedy             |
| 4. Patrizia Bottoni          | 12. Nancy Crawford, Vice-Chair |
| 5. Maria Rizzo               | Karina Dubrovskaya             |
| 6. Frank D'Amico             | Allison Gacad                  |
| 7. Michael Del Grande, Chair | Student Trustees               |
| 8. Garry Tanuan              |                                |