

# St. Roch Catholic School News

174 Duncanwoods Drive, Weston, Ontario, M9L 2E3 T: 416-393-5320

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## Principal's Message

As December begins, our thoughts turn towards the start of the holidays and the many celebrations. During this Season of Advent however, we have a wonderful opportunity at St. Roch Catholic School to share the message with all of the students that Advent is a time to focus on Jesus who is present among us all, and to prepare our minds and hearts for His coming at Christmas. Sunday, November 26 is the first Sunday of Advent when the 1st CANDLE – (purple) THE CANDLE OF HOPE is lit. Our hope comes from God who will fill us with joy and peace, as we trust in him.

In keeping with the season of Advent, the virtue of the month is Charity. Our quote for the month is "Where charity and love are, God is there." During this season of giving when many of us are running around shopping for family and friends, it is important for us to realize that many people, even in our own community, may be in need of assistance. To this end, we are having a Food Drive, where contributions will be donated to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Also in the spirit of giving our Justice Rochs student leaders will be raising funds for the Angel Foundation by organizing spirit days. These funds provide for students of the Toronto Catholic District School Board throughout the school year, in many different ways.

Not all charity involves giving however and the readings throughout Advent also stress the need for us to show charity or love to all others through our daily actions and our words. Indeed this is the most difficult challenge for all of us, but it is the message that was brought to us by Jesus upon his birth. In showing love, respect, compassion and fairness towards others, we are behaving in the way taught by the one the angels and shepherds adored at Bethlehem.

We wish you much happiness during this holiday season with family and friends.

Sincerely,

M. Jackson, Principal

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**School Secretary**  
Mrs. R Di Gregorio

**Principal**  
Mrs. M. Jackson

**Superintendent**  
Mr. A. Della Mora

**Trustee**  
Mr. Sal Piccininni

**Pastor of St. Roch Parish**  
Fr. Lui Santi  
416-749-0328

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UBI CARITAS ET AMOR,  
DEUS IBI EST  
– WHERE THERE IS  
CHARITY AND LOVE,  
GOD IS THERE.

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~ LATIN HYMN ~

- REMEMBER THROUGHOUT ADVENT THAT CHARITY STARTS FROM THE HOME AND MOVES FORWARD IN ALL YOU DO.
- LET THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CREATE CHARITY IN YOUR ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- IF WE EXPECT OTHER PEOPLE TO DO CHARITABLE ACTS TOWARDS US, WE MUST FIRST REMEMBER TO SHOW GENEROSITY TOWARDS OTHERS.
- WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US, ESPECIALLY IN A SEASON FILLED WITH GIVING.

CHARITY



# Student Safety

## Access to St. Roch School Policy

Educators and parents agree, the safety and well-being of our students/children is our highest priority, therefore, we kindly ask that certain measures be adhered to and we respectfully ask that **all** take note of these guideline:

- All visitors, including **parents of JK to Grade 8 students**, board personnel, volunteers, etc., are to enter the school through the front doors and report immediately to the office.
- All exterior doors will be locked except for the front doors of the school building which will be locked daily at 8:10 am.
- Please make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher. By doing so, the teacher can attend to their students' safety without interruptions.
- Please do not enter the school yard so that the supervising teacher will have a clear and unobstructed view of the playground and students.
- If dropping off lunches/forgotten items, please ensure that these items/lunches are labeled with your child's name. Inform the office staff and they will notify your child's teacher. This will help minimize interruptions to the curriculum being taught to students.

We thank you in advance to upholding these protocols in order to keep our students safe.

## Reporting Student Absences

As part of our Safe Arrival program, we are asking that parents/guardians call the office to inform us if your child will be absent or late. Please leave a message on our answering machine in the evening or early morning. Student absence information assists us in ensuring the safety of your child. If you are personally accompanying your child to school, and he/she is late, please bring your child directly to the office.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding for the safety and well-being of our students.



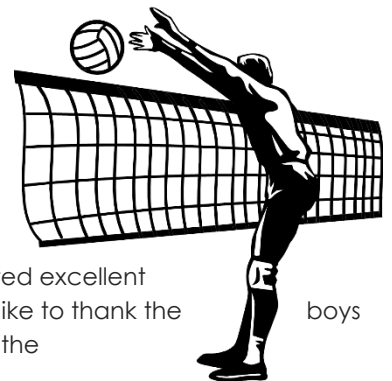
## Cold Weather Policy

The cold weather is quickly approaching. Environment Canada guidelines will determine our decisions about indoor recess. These guidelines have been used successfully in many schools during the past several years. Environment Canada (416-661-0123) gives updated information about wind chill temperatures. Equivalent temperatures from -15C to -22C incur shortened recesses. At -23C and below the students will remain indoors. We will make announcements over the P.A. in the event of shortened or indoor recess. Students are required to wear appropriate winter clothing during the cold winter months

## Intermediate Volleyball

### St Roch Boys' Volleyball

On November 8th the boy's intermediate volleyball team competed in a tournament at St. Benedict. They played a strong offensive game, against other teams. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and skill. The boys never gave up and put in a consistent effort. We would like to thank the boys for their commitment to practices and coming together as team to represent St. Roch at the tournament. Thank you to Mrs. Smyth, Mr. Hartmann and Mr. Siciliano for coaching.



### St Roch Girls' Volleyball

On November 9, the girls travelled to St. Benedict to participate in the Divisional Tournament. There were 5 teams present. St. Roch won both games in our first match against St. Andrew. The St. Roch girls were consistent servers and moved quickly in to position to play the ball. Our second game against St. Benedict was a little tougher and again the girls served well and strived to make 3 touches with several good attacks. We each won one game. Our third match against St. Angela yielded the same results where we split one game each. We won both games against St. Stephens thereby earning us 2nd place in the round robin and a spot in the final match.

The finals were St. Roch vs. St. Benedict. Although we worked hard and played well, we lost the first game. With a change of strategy and constant encouragement from our head cheerleader, Christina, we had St. Benedict on the run and wondering what happened. We won the second game and went to a third game to 15. The third game wasn't even close--we served and played with heart and won 15-7. The St. Roch team won the divisional championship!

The girls continued on to the regional competition the following week. There the competition was extremely difficult. The girls had some brilliant plays and spikes. Their serves were consistent the whole day long. Unfortunately, we did not emerge as the top 2 teams in the competition. Congratulations to: Kelsey (captain), Pamela, Leyani, Selena, Celina, Evidence, Kristie, Rozelle, Jade, Jada, Christina, Jessica and Athra.

Thank you to the parents who helped drive. Thanks to our coaches Mrs. Tatangelo and Mrs. Makuch for their hard work preparing the team.

## **Outdoor Education Field Trips**

Our Grade 7 and 8 students had an amazing time up in Mansfield this past Monday through Wednesday. While there they developed a sense of community amongst each other as well as to build on the skills needed to develop leadership within themselves. The students were eager to take in every moment of the day building their bonds of friendship and cooperation. Many students expressed their appreciation of this opportunity. Special thanks to all of the Intermediate teachers for making this trip possible.

## **Kindergarten Registration for September 2017**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2013 to register for Kindergarten beginning Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10 a.m. EST.

Registration options:

- Online: Parents will be able to complete their application online at: <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>. A follow up with visit to the school to present the required documents will be scheduled following the online application.
- In Person: Parents can register at their local school with the required documents.

Information: 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314, [www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration](http://www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration)

## December Message from Your Trustee



After a wonderful run of fall weather, it looks like winter has finally arrived. As we move closer to Christmas I am always reminded of how grateful we at the Board are to all the families who have chosen a Catholic education for their children. I commend all the parents in our Catholic school communities for laying the groundwork for their children's future success by nurturing and supporting their academic, emotional, physical and spiritual development.

I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to the students, staff and families of our Ward 3 community. I hope your season is blessed with joy as we take the time to reconnect with friends, family and loved ones.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Sal Piccininni

# Monthly Update from the Board

## The Year of the Parish: The Celebration Continues

We look forward to continuing the celebration of the Year of the Parish throughout the school year.

It is a wonderful opportunity for our schools and parishes to connect, or re-connect, and plan activities and ongoing initiatives together that will support the important partnership between Family, Church and School.

Parents, school administrators, parents, teachers, pastors and parish representatives were invited to sit down for some preliminary discussions earlier this year. To see the many ideas that came forward from those Year of the Parish Conversations, visit our website <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearoftheParish/Pages/Ideas-Conversation-Starters.aspx>

More information about our pastoral plan here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearoftheParish/Pages/default.aspx>

## Free English as a Second Language Courses for Adult Immigrants

The TCDSB Adult Education Program offers free language training courses for eligible adult immigrants at various locations across Toronto. After an assessment of language ability, eligible immigrants can enroll in our courses throughout the year. For more information and to locate courses using our online Course Finder, visit <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/AdultEducationESL/Pages/Default.aspx>.

## The 2016-2017 TCDSB Awards Season has begun!

Nominations are now open for the following awards which will be presented at Awards Night on May 1, 2017: **DEADLINE: third Friday in January (January 20)**

1. **TCDSB Alumni Award:** open to TCDSB alumni who are still active in the Catholic community and who have distinguished themselves in their career or accomplishments.
2. **TCDSB Award of Merit:** open to former staff, parents and trustees who have made outstanding contributions to the TCDSB and to Catholic education (can only be considered for award after a three-year period has passed since departure from the TCDSB)
3. **\*\*NEW\*\* Friends of Catholic Education Award:** open to members of the general public (individuals or organizations) who have accomplished extraordinary service to Catholic Education but who may not be Catholic.

For nomination forms and information, click here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/CatholicEducationWeek/Pages/AwardsNight.aspx>

## Prime Minister's Awards

Do you know a terrific teacher or early childhood educator? Consider nominating them for a 2016-17 Prime Minister's Award! This prestigious program honours innovative and outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers and early childhood educators who are helping prepare Canadian youth for the challenges of tomorrow.

Looking for inspiration? Check out some of our previous [teaching](#) and [early childhood education](#) award recipients.

2016-17 nomination packages are now available at [www.pma.gc.ca](http://www.pma.gc.ca).

## 2016 OCSTA Short-Video Contest for Students

OCSTA is now accepting submissions for the fall 2016 short-video contest for grade 4-12 students in Ontario's publicly funded English Catholic schools. The contest theme for 2016 is:

*"The Story Behind the Name of our Catholic School"*

This year's theme is designed to encourage students to delve into the history of the person/saint for whom their school was named, and to be creative in telling that story.

**Deadline November 28, 2016**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/opportunitiesforstudents/pages/2016-ocsta-short-video-contest-for-students.aspx>

## Humanitarian Aid for Haiti

As you are aware, Hurricane Matthew battered Haiti on October 4, 2016 causing widespread damage, flooding, and landslides. The storm destroyed both crops and food reserves, many homes and schools, even entire villages. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have been impacted by this recent natural disaster.

To learn more and find out how you can help, visit:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Humanitarian%20Aid%20for%20Haiti.aspx>

## **Get Your 40 Hours : Student Community Involvement**

Community service for our TCDSB students is more than a diploma requirement. Our TCDSB community members are called to apply Catholic social teachings in all that we do; invited by our board vision to be people who “transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action”. The experience gained through community involvement allows students to grow in knowledge and appreciation of themselves and their God-given gifts, and to find meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good. It is hoped that this experience early in their high school years will continue to motivate our students to stay involved and to answer the call to support Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and sacredness of human life in their community involvement experiences.

**All students who earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma must complete 40 hours of community service.**

**Find resources, information, and volunteer opportunities here:**

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Communityservice40hours/Pages/Default.aspx>

**St. Roch Hoodies, pants and T-shirt:** are back as part of our dress code for purchase. Hoodies are at a cost of **\$20.00** and come in different sizes of Youth and Adult. St. Roch also has added T-shirts and sweatpants to the collection of the dress code. The order form will be send home. For Sizing requires please contact the school.



