

# St. Roch Catholic School News

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## Principal's Message

Happy New Year to all in our St Roch community. We hope everyone had a restful and happy holiday. Welcome back Ms. Orestano from maternity leave and thank you to Mr. Sirianni his excellent work in Special Education. While January sees the beginning of the New Year, many of us also regard it as the true beginning of the long, hard winter. In this sense it is apt that the virtue for January is COURAGE. The quote for this month is Isaiah 41:10, "Do not be afraid; I am with You" "Be not afraid!" is also what the angel tells Mary at the annunciation. (Lk 1:30) and at the resurrection, another angel uses the same words to tell the women at the tomb that Christ has risen. (Mt 28:5) Jesus himself uses these words to strengthen his apostles. (Jn 6:20) It takes a lot of courage to practice and be true to our Catholic faith.

This month at St Roch we will continue to demonstrate our courage to live our faith by working very hard to make our school a safe and happy place where everyone feels like they belong. We will continue to focus on Safe School initiatives such as anti-bullying and playing fair. With the winter weather comes snow and one way to keep our school safe is to refrain from throwing snow balls or playing rough in the snow. Snow ball fights, throwing snow, pushing others into the snow or sliding down the hills are not permitted at St Roch School. Our aim is to keep the students safe and unfortunately engaging in these activities often leads to injuries.

The month of February brings our first term to an end and First Term Report Cards will be going home on February 14, 2017. Our Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday February 16 from 5:00-8:00 and on Friday February 17 from 9:00-11:00. We look forward to meeting with you at that time. During the month of February we focus on the virtue of LOVE. We are guided by the Jesus' Commandment. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Our School Code of Conduct is built on this commandment and we will be reviewing the code of conduct with students regularly.

M. Jackson, Principal

# St. Roch



**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

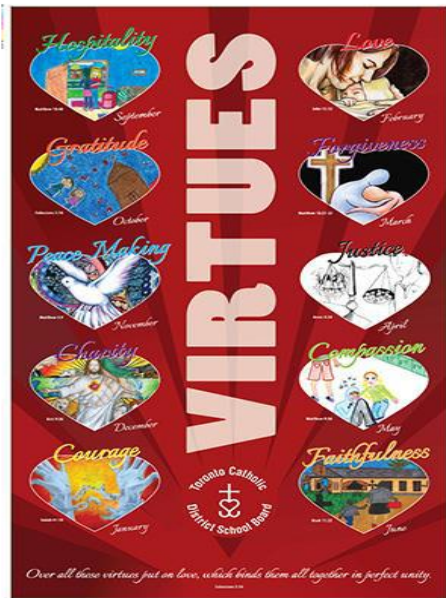
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### A New Year's Prayer

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows.  
We praise You for Your unequalled greatness.  
Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead.  
Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more.  
To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them.  
Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us.  
So that Love could be with us, and we could know You.  
That we could share Love with others.  
Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise,  
In the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children.  
Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs,  
So that we may know You better and better.  
We rejoice in the world you loved into being.  
Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day.  
We pray for peace, for light, and for hope,  
that we might spread them to others.  
Forgive us for falling short this past year.  
We leave the irreparable past in your hands,  
And step out into the unknown New Year  
Knowing You will go with us.  
We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in  
what's ahead, Depending on You to help us do  
exactly what You want.  
We rejoice!  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

## January Virtue — Courage

“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10)



While January sees the beginning of the New Year, many of us also regard it as the true beginning of the long, hard winter. In this sense it is apt that the virtue for January is COURAGE. The quote for this month is Isaiah 41:10, “Do not be afraid, I am with You”. It takes a lot of courage to practice and be true to our Catholic faith. We think of the courage it takes for students to reach beyond their comfort zones to learn in ways they have never done before. We think of the courage students and adults need to do the right thing even though they might risk unpopularity. We think of the courage it takes from teachers, administrators, parents and all workers in education to carry the responsibility of passing on our faith and hope to the students entrusted to our care.

### How we show Courage at St Roch School:

- Let our actions be guided by the idea that God is inside everyone. If God is in everyone, think how you will treat everyone you meet.
- Know that sometimes doing the right thing is very tough but with courage you CAN do the right thing. We often know the right thing to do, we just need the courage to do it. The easy way is not always the right way.
- Stand up respectfully when you see something wrong that is being done. If someone in your class is doing something wrong, try to have the courage to let them know this. When someone is treating someone poorly, try not to just watch what is going on—act.
- Live your life in a way that makes others know you are a follower of Christ. We know what God expects of us. Have the courage to live up to this. We know that followers of Christ remember the Golden Rule and treat others the way they would like to be treated.

## February Virtue — Love

“Do little things with great love”. (Blessed Mother Teresa)



God of friendship and love, help us to always treat others

With love and respect, for we know that Jesus calls us to love others as we love ourselves.

May he walk with us every day and guide us in our relationships.

May we always appreciate the wonderful gift of our friends.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus.\*

Amen.

## **Safe Schools and Progressive Discipline**

At St Roch we strive to create a safe and welcoming environment for all students, staff and visitors. All members of the St Roch community should feel safe at school. To maintain a safe and welcoming environment all members of the St. Roch community follow our St. Roch Local School Code of Conduct. A progressive discipline approach is applied when incidents occur. The school asks for parent and guardian partnership in helping students to follow the code of conduct.

The St. Roch Local School Code of Conduct was developed in collaboration with the community of St. Roch Catholic School which is rooted in the philosophy of progressive discipline. Discipline can be defined as supporting students to make the right decisions. It refers to instruction, correction, self-control and orderly conduct. Consistent and logical consequences, rather than punitive measures are important in order for students to learn that they can control their own behaviour by making appropriate choices.

The interventions and consequences applied to instances of inappropriate behaviour must be made after consideration of a student's history, age, level of remorse and any other mitigating factors that apply. In a progressive discipline approach, consequences are designed to support the prosocial development and future behaviour of the person responsible for the action.

Consequences must have a positive effect on the student's journey through reconciliation, either formally or informally with the school community and those affected by the person's behaviour. Interventions, therefore, should be selected in direct response to individual skill development needs.

The responsibility for a safe school and the education of appropriate social behaviour that is founded on Gospel values is everyone's duty.

The St. Roch Safe School Committee has identified "inappropriate incidents" in the following categories:

- Minor
- Major ( repeated incidents lead to suspension)
- Suspendable

Although these lists are not exhaustive, they provide a sampling of inappropriate and unacceptable behaviours that are sometimes exhibited by students:

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### **Minor:**

*Hands on (e.g. pushing)  
Spreading Rumours  
Teasing  
Being Disruptive in class  
Not completing homework  
Rough Play*

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### **Major:**

*Malicious/intentional hands on (e.g. fighting)  
Swearing/Inappropriate language  
(Verbal/gesture)  
Habitual defiance/non-compliance  
Bullying  
Weapons  
Vandalism  
Any other inappropriate incident(s) deemed to be "Major" by School Administration, the TCDSB and the Ministry of Education.*

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### **Suspendable:**

*Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person  
Possession or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs  
Swearing at a teacher or another person in a position of authority  
Bullying  
Committing an act of vandalism that causes damage to school property  
Any other incident deemed to be suspendable by School Administration, the TCDSB and the Ministry of Education.*



## 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.

### Cold Weather Policy

The cold weather has arrived and will be around for the next few months. 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  $-15\text{C}$  to  $-22\text{C}$  incur shortened recesses. At  $-23\text{C}$  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. This includes a warm jacket, a hat, gloves/mittens and warm winter boots.

### Absenteeism and Lateness

This continues to be a serious problem with many students. Students are arriving 15 to 30 minutes after the school bell. It is imperative that all students arrive on time and attend school when they are not sick. Teachers are prompt in teaching their lessons first thing in the morning as instructional time is very valuable. Arriving late interrupts instructional time and disrupts student learning. Fifteen minutes here and there eventually adds up to an entire Math/Language lesson at the end of the week. Please strive to arrive on time as this benefits all.

### Sickness

This is a reminder to all parent(s) and guardian(s) that students who are under the weather with a sickness or recuperating from a sickness are asked to remain at home until they are 100% better. Students cannot learn and concentrate if they are weak and fighting the last effects of their sickness. In addition, students who are well enough to be at school are well enough to go out for recess. The school does not have extra personnel to supervise students who wish to stay in for recess due to illness. If they are too ill to go out for recess, then they should be home for the day. This will allow for quicker recovery. Please ensure that your child comes back healthy and ready to learn.



### OSLAT (Ottis Lennon School Ability Test 8th Edition)

The Grade 4 Gifted Screening process took place on Monday January 16, 2017. It includes a one-tier universal group screening including all Grade 4 students in our Board. The group screening was conducted by Assessment and Programming Teachers and Teacher Testers of the Gifted Programme as well as the grade 4 teachers.

### Report Cards

First term Report Cards will go home on Tuesday February 14, 2017. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday February 16 in the evening and on the morning of Friday February 17.

## St Roch Sports News

### Wheelchair Basketball Canada



On Thursday January 19th, Shawn Courshene came to visit St. Roch to teach the students how to play wheelchair basketball. Shawn sustained a spinal cord injury 6 years ago in a snowmobile accident. He plays wheelchair basketball for the Cruiser Sports Brampton Club for the past 3 years. 24 students got a chance to try wheelchair basketball and were shocked to find out how much work their arms had to do and how coordinated Shawn must be to wheel and bounce a ball at the same time. Shawn taught us the value of goal-setting, the power of sport and encouraged students of all abilities to embrace healthy, active lifestyles. In March, St. Roch will borrow 12 wheelchairs for the week so that all students can participate in the game of wheelchair basketball. This sport encourages youth with or without a disability to be physically active. The inclusive sport generates awareness for parasport and promotes positive attitudinal change toward disability

### Winter Walk Day

Wednesday February 1st is Winter Walk Day St. Roch is ready to get outside and enjoy the winter. The entire school population will be walking to the park to enjoy active activities. Every student will join hands around the whole park and do the wave in celebration of being active in the winter. Next, there will be a contest! All classes will compete to find and pick up the most items (it's a surprise) in the park. The winning class will make healthy smoothies.

The final contest involves each class presenting their cheer for being healthy and active in the winter. The winning class will pop their own popcorn for each student.

Happy Winter!



### Boys and Girls Junior Soccer Team

The boys and girls in grade 4, 5 and 6 have been playing soccer in house leagues throughout November and December. A team of students has been selected to represent St. Roch in the tournaments on Thursday January 26 (boys) and Friday January 27 (girls). This past week, the students had an exhibition game against St. Demetrius on their lunch hour to help prepare for the big day. All coaches were extremely proud of the athlete's sportsmanship. St. Roch athletes were welcoming to their guest players, demonstrated excellent skills and effort during play and always reacted appropriately when times of bumping and jostling came their way during the game.

We are pleased to announce that the Grade 7 and 8 students will demonstrate their leadership role as referees in the tournament. Jonathan, Evidence, Kelsey, Larry and Selena will be the officiates on this day.

Parents are invited to come out and cheer for the team. Thank you to Ms. Tatangelo, Ms. Smyth, Ms. Serino, Mr. Diamante and Mr. Sirianni for giving your time and expertise to coach the students.

Good luck athletes!

### Intermediate Basketball

The boys and girls basketball teams have been practicing since December for their upcoming tournament.

Mark your calendar for the following events:

- Boys:   Thurs. Feb 2 exhibition game against St. Demetrius 11:00-12:15 p.m.  
          Monday Feb 6 exhibition game against St. John Vianney 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
          Wed February 15--All day tournament
- Girls:   Thurs. Feb 9 exhibition game against St. John Vianney 3:30-4:45 p.m.  
          Wed Feb 8 exhibition game against St. Demetrius 11:00-12:15 p.m.--parent volunteer driver needed  
          Thurs Feb. 16- All day tournament

Thank you to Ms. Tatangelo, Mr. Siciliano, Ms. Bottos, Ms. Smyth, Ms. Serino, Mr. Diamante and Ms. Garcia who contribute their time and expertise in coaching these teams.

## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition

Thursday January 26th at 3:30 p.m.

All boys in grades 4-8 are invited to participate in the free throw competition sponsored by The Knights of Columbus. Each student will be allowed to shoot 15 free throws. The highest scoring shooter in each age group will win a medal.

After the competition, all participants will be divided into teams and will play a basketball game. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for organizing this fun activity.

You must have a signed permission form to join this activity. Parents are responsible for picking up their sons by 5:00 p.m.

## 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)

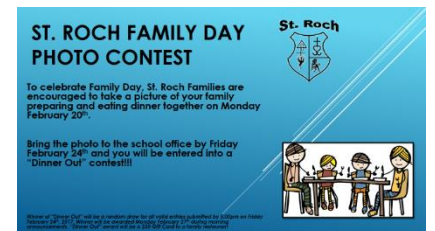


## St. Roch Family Day Photo Contest

To celebrate Family Day, St. Roch Families are encouraged to take a picture of your family preparing and eating dinner together on Monday February 20th.

Bring the photo to the school office by Friday February 24th and you will be entered into a "Dinner Out" contest!!!

Winner of "Dinner Out" will be a random draw for all valid entries submitted by 5:00pm on Friday February 24th, 2017. Winner will be awarded Monday February 27th during morning announcements. "Dinner Out" award will be a \$50 Gift Card to a family restaurant



## St. Roch Valentine Day Celebration

At St. Roch we are going to celebrate Valentine Day on Tuesday February 14t. Details to be announced at school.





## Monthly Update from the Board January 2017

### Long Term Accommodation and Program Plan

TCDSB wants to hear from parents, students, staff and Catholic stakeholders about the proposed LTAP and LTPP. **The survey deadline has been extended to January 13, 2017.** For detailed information and links to the online surveys, see:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/planningandfacilities/consultationsltapltp/pages/default.aspx>

### Important Reminders:

**University Application Deadline** is January 11, 2017

<https://www.ouac.on.ca/deadlines>

**Community College Application Deadline** is February 1, 2017

<http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/apply/important-dates>

### OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program

You can get grants and loans to help you pay for university or college when you qualify for OSAP.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/osap-ontario-student-assistance-program>

**Night School Registration** Begins January 12, 2017 <https://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2017/Documents/NS-Sem2-2017%20FINAL.pdf> for credit courses and EClass. **EClass drop in support** is available daily between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on February 15th, 21st, 22nd, 27th and 28th at the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East. [www.tcdsb.org/eClass](http://www.tcdsb.org/eClass)

### French Immersion and Extended French

The Toronto Catholic District School Board offers French Immersion and Extended French programs at several TCDSB sites. The French Immersion program is offered to students beginning in Junior Kindergarten. The Extended French Program is offered to students beginning in grade 5.

Interested parents are encouraged to attend an information evening to learn more about the program. Please note dates, times and locations for sessions planned for January through to March available on the French Immersion and Extended French sites.

Information: (416) 222-8282 ext. 2540 or

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/EarlyYears/KindergartenRegistration/Pages/French-Immersion.aspxgrade5>

**Friday, January 20th is a PA Day for Elementary Schools** No classes for elementary students on that day.

**Audited Financial Statements** For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2016 <http://www.tcdsb.org/board/financialstatement>

### Cold Alerts and Weather-Related Cancellations/Closures

Throughout the winter months, Twitter and the board website are the best sources of information relating to cold weather alerts, cancellations and closures. Get all the information here: <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/HealthandSafety/Pages/Cold-Weather-Alerts.aspx> and here

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/HealthandSafety/Pages/Weather-Related-Safety-Concerns.aspx>

And remember to check the Toronto Student Transportation Group website for any school bus delays throughout the year.

<http://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>

**Toronto Catholic District School Board** is declaring **Friday, May 5, 2017 as Parish Family Day.**

His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins will be in attendance at the first board meeting in January (Thursday, January 12th) for a special presentation of the Proclamation.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be broadcast live via the board's website at

<https://www.tcdsb.org/LiveAtTCDSB/Pages/Default.aspx>

A special **Parish Family Day Celebration** will be held at the Catholic Education Centre on **Friday, May 5th, 2017** to showcase student work focusing on the many ways that our parishes and our parish priests contribute to our schools and communities.

Students are invited to create a short video, or piece of original artwork, write a short story, poem or letter, or express themselves in any way artistically to highlight the relationship that the students have with the local parish and/or the priest/pastor at their church.

**Completed projects should be submitted via email to [parish.project@tcdsb.org](mailto:parish.project@tcdsb.org).**

**Deadline for submissions Friday, April 7, 2017.**

Please visit the website for criteria and other details.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearoftheParish/Pages/Parish-Family-Day-Celebration.aspx>. You are invited to view and share this short video clip in anticipation of our board-wide Parish Family Day Celebration.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-9COag552o>

**TCDSB AWARDS NIGHT IS MAY 1, 2017 – NOMINATIONS WELCOME** Nominate a member of the TCDSB family for our annual awards:

- **Ashif Jaffer Award for Excellence in Special Education Support**

Recognizes a Toronto Catholic District School Board teacher, education assistant, peer tutor/helper or volunteer who has demonstrated excellence in the support of Special Education. The award is in the form of a commemorative plaque. **Deadline: February 17, 2017.**

- **Sister Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students**

Named after Sister Mary Hamilton, a former TCDSB principal and resource person who had a very special ministry to exceptional students, the award (in the form of a bursary and a framed certificate) is to recognize personal achievement or contribution to the lives of others. **Deadline: February 24, 2017.**

For more information on TCDSB awards, including nomination forms or for a list of past recipients, visit [www.tcdsb.org/awardsnight](http://www.tcdsb.org/awardsnight)

January 2017 Schedule of Board and Committee Meetings	
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	SEAC
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Student Achievement and Well Being
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Governance and Policy
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Board
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	(OAPCE) Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education, Toronto