

St. Roch



**ST ROCH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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**CATHOLIC
SCHOOL
NEWS**

October, 2017

Principal's Message

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. "Psalm 118:24

Dear Parents and Caregivers.

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable start to the school year and warm greetings to the new families that have joined our school community. This year we enter the **Year of the School**. The culmination of our three-year pastoral plan focusing on Family, Parish and School Together with One Voice. Catholic education is built on the partnership among our families, parishes and schools, and the year of the school will celebrate the foundation of our school communities.

Thank you to all the parents who came to our Curriculum Night on September 28. It was great to see so many families gathered. This year we had to re-organize our classes due to low enrolment. We thank all staff, students and parents for their patience while we underwent the re-organization. Students are now in their new classes. The school will work diligently with parents and faculty to foster an atmosphere that promotes a learning community characterized by child centered instruction and decisions, academic excellence, trust, respect, community involvement, excellent communications, and recognition of both student and staff achievement. Working together as a team we will move forward in our mission this new school year to create a nurturing, disciplined, and challenging environment in which all students can learn at optimum levels and become responsible members of society. We have so much to be proud of as a staff, family, and community.

The virtue for the month of October is Gratitude and Thanksgiving Day on Monday October 9, 2017 marks a special time to reflect on our many blessings. One of the ways in which we can show gratitude is to say thank you to all those people who do the small everyday things for us; a parent who makes breakfast, the bus driver who drives us to school, the crossing guard who helps us cross the street, the volunteers who prepare our morning meal, or a teacher for helping a student learn a new skill. Each day brings something to be thankful for. Autumn has arrived and we are already several weeks into the school year. Much activity has taken place in just a short period of time and we have started many of our extra-curricular activities. Our cross country team is preparing for competition on **Tuesday October 10, 2017**. We are looking for parent volunteers to help supervise our athletes at the meet. Please contact the school if you can assist.

With Gratitude

Mrs. M. Jackson

Mrs. Michelle Jackson

PRINCIPAL

Ms. Flora Cifelli : 416-222-8282 x 2593

SUPERINTENDENT

Sal Piccininni 416-222-8282 ext. 3403

TRUSTEE

St Roch Catholic Church

2889 Islington Ave, North York
(416) 749-0328

PARISH

Janet Pollo

CSPC CHAIR

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)

360	8:30-3:30	11:15-12:15
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ENROLLMENT HOURS OF OPERATION LUNCH HOUR



**NEW REGISTRANTS
WELCOME**

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393Your sch number here
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

Stay in touch with the latest news
throughout the school year: Follow
@TCDSB on Twitter or Toronto
Catholic DSB on Instagram

October Message from your Trustee



Now that October is upon us and we've begun to settle in to another school year it is a good time to highlight some changes, additions and programs across the Board. The TCDSB is pleased to introduce School Cash Online, an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents and guardians to pay for their children's school fees including agendas, yearbooks and class trips. For more information visit <https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/schoolcashonline>. September also saw the adoption of the Parent and Student Charters of Principles. The two documents, which underwent extensive consultation with parent and student groups, outline expectations parents and students can have when dealing with the School Board. The TCDSB is the first school board in Ontario to adopt such a document. To view the charters, please visit <https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/charterofprinciples>.

Also of interest for parents is the Spelling Bee of Canada which will hold its 31st Annual Spelling Bee, with regional spelling bees taking place from March 24 to April 8, 2018. The 1st place finishers in each age category will represent their school and community at the Championship Final on May 6, 2018. Visit <http://www.spellingbeeofcanada.ca/> for more information.

Now that school is well underway, it is a good time for a quick reminder about school safety zones. In addition to the 40 km/h many schools have designated pick up and drop off zones as well as bus loading areas. Also important to remember, the shorter days and reduced visibility in autumn increases the risk of accidents around schools. Please be extra vigilant on your way to and from school.

Finally, Canadian Walk to School Day is October 4th. Walking or riding a bike to school helps children meet the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Physical activity also supports healthy brain development, which can lead to improved learning and academic outcomes. Many schools have walking school bus programs which allow groups of students to walk to school under parent supervision. For more information on how to start such a program in your school, and to learn more about the benefits of active transportation, please visit <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca>.

Have a safe and pleasant October, a fantastic Halloween and a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Sal Piccininni
Trustee – Ward 3

CSPC Meeting

On September 28, we held our CSPC elections for this year.

Below is the list of people that comprise our CSPC for the 2017-18 school year. We congratulate them and look forward to working together this year on behalf of our students.

Chair: Janet Pollo
Co-Chair: Michelle Rodriguez
Secretary: Mary MacDonald
Teacher Rep: Judith Spencer

The next CSPC meeting will be taking place on **Wednesday November 29, 2017 at 6:30 pm** in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome. We are hoping to increase our parental and community support this year. Please come to a meeting and get involved. Any parents interested in volunteering time for CSPC or to assist with fundraising activities or help with our nutrition program are asked to contact Janet Pollo at the school.

Nutrition Program begins October 2.

Our nutrition program provides a mid-morning healthy snack every day to students. We are partially subsidized by the Angel Foundation. Parents are asked to pay \$10.00 a month to participate in the nutrition program.

Attendance, Punctuality and Preparation

The Education Act states that students must attend school regularly and punctually. Parents are to notify the school (416) 393-5230 of a child's absence. You may call anytime and leave a message on the answering machine. Students who arrive late for school must check in at the main office to ensure safe arrival and to help in keeping accurate attendance profiles. Attendance referrals will be sent to the Social Worker and persistent tardiness may result in school detentions. Students are expected to arrive prior to the bell. All students are to arrive prepared to work and learn and to be dressed in school dress code. Preparation includes the completion of daily assignments that are done to the best of the individual student's ability. Preparation also implies that the student devotes appropriate time to study in advance of test situations.



Oct. 5: World Teachers' Day
Oct. 6th: PA Day (No School)
Oct. 9th: Thanksgiving Monday (No School)
Oct. 10th: Divisional Cross Country Meet @ Centennial Park
Oct. 11th: Picture Day
Oct. 13th: Thanksgiving Prayer Service in gym with Father Lui.
Oct. 19th: Regional Cross Country Meet @Centennial Park
Oct. 24th: City Cross Country Meet @Earle Bales Park
October 25- Early Childhood Educator and Childcare Worker Appreciation Day

Oct. 31st: Halloween Dance



Parent-Teacher Interviews

Report Cards and Parent –Teacher Interviews

Your child's progress report will be coming home on November 14th, 2017. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held the evening of November 16 and the morning of November 17th. Friday November 17th will be a Professional Activity Day (No school).

Medication



Principals, teachers and support staff of the TCDSB are not permitted to administer any type of prescription medication during the school day, unless we have written, authorization signed by you the parent, and the prescribing physician. The forms to dispense any medication must be updated on a regular basis and are available from the school principal. Please be advised that staff in TCDSB schools will not dispense non-prescription medications to students. Students who need "puffers" should have one at school and at home. All medications will be stored in the main office. Please notify the school if your child suffers from any type of allergy.

Allergen Aware

Please take special note that we have children in our school who have very serious allergies to nut products. According to Sabrina's Law, we must make every effort to maintain a nut free environment in order to help keep these children safe. We ask that you not bring in or send in any food items to be shared with other students in the class. Please note that baked goods and treats are not permitted for birthday celebrations. Please consider other options that do not involve any food. We apologize for the inconvenience; however, we are certain you will agree that these measures are necessary in order to ensure the safety and welfare of our children.





Personal Property

The school does not take any responsibility for the loss or theft of personal items brought onto school premises by students. The school will therefore, not reimburse or replace lost or stolen articles, under any circumstances. This will include all articles of clothing (label items with a marker); personal school supplies such as fancy or expensive pens, markers, binders and pencil cases, etc.; simple or electronic toys; calculators, laptops, iPod's, CD's, etc. Please note that toys or collector cards of any kind should not be brought to school. All cell phones and any other electronic devices are to be powered off and put away if a student brings them to school. If they are used inappropriately (without teacher permission or for non-academic reasons) these items will be immediately confiscated by staff and brought to the Principal's attention. We ask both parents and students for their full co-operation in this matter. (Please note that the Board's insurance policy does not cover property owned by staff or students).

Litter less Lunches

Our school remains committed to the environment and continues to look for innovative ways to promote conservation through energy and waste reduction initiatives. We are asking everyone to fully participate with your child as we continue a "Waste Free Lunch Program" at our school this year. Be part of helping us become leaders in this environmental friendly waste reduction program. It involves the following three steps:

1. Lunches and snacks should be packed in re-usable containers not in disposable bags.
2. In order to avoid spills, we ask you to use containers that are re-sealable.
3. To ensure the safety of students who suffer life threatening, anaphylactic reactions please place all foods in reusable containers in their original package or wrapper. This will allow the food ingredients to be clearly indicated and help all staff and students to be aware of possible allergens introduced in the school environment. Left-over food which can be disposed of in the green bin program available at your home will be brought back home in their containers by your child.



Students are reminded not to bring snacks out to the school yard as it attracts wasps and bees and creates litter in the school yard. Our hope is that this practice at school and at home will teach all children to carry this awareness and behavior with them as they grow into young adults. Thank you for your ongoing support with our school's environmental efforts.

Monthly Update from the Board October 2017

TCDSB Digital Store

As our students continue to learn and adapt to the rapid advances in technology, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to providing to all of our students and their families, equal access to the latest technology. We recognize the importance of promoting the 21st Century Competencies by supporting digital literacy, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and the overall needs and aspirations of all students. To that end, the TCDSB continues to be on the leading edge of providing technical upgrades and assistance by providing you with a very special opportunity: the TCDSB Digital Store. Visit our website for more information:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/DigitalStore/Pages/default.aspx>

TCDSB Adopts Parent Charter of Principles and Student Charter of Principles

In support of its vision of transforming the world through innovation, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is the first school board to formally adopt guiding sets of principles outlining parent and student rights. The TCDSB is taking the lead in establishing principles designed to address the basic rights elements of a sound Catholic education to which parents and students are entitled during a period when individual rights is a major topic of discussion in other sectors such as the airline travel industry.

The Student Charter of Principles starts: *“A student is entitled to reasonably participate in decisions that affect his/her education and school life. The Board will pursue equity and inclusion for all students of the Board. A student is entitled to a spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically safe, and positive, school environment, where he/she is respected and treated in a manner consistent with our Catholic values and teachings.”*

The Parent Charter of Principles begins with: *“The Board will provide a faith-based publicly funded school with education grounded in Catholic doctrine, traditions and teachings for your child. A parent or guardian will have opportunities for involvement in his/her child’s education. A parent or guardian is entitled to a reasonable expectation that his/her child is learning in a safe, healthy, caring and accessible school, free of discrimination, prejudice, bullying and harassment.”*

Both documents can be found on the TCDSB website at

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/CharterofPrinciples/Pages/default.aspx>

TCDSB Continues to Focus on Improving Results

The Toronto Catholic District School Board continues to report improvements over time. Literacy results are high, with improvements evident over the past five years. Mathematics results are less impressive and mirror province-wide results in that area.

Reading and writing results are strong in both Grade 3 and Grade 6, either approaching or exceeding 80% at or above the Provincial Standard. In Primary and Junior, mathematics results remain low both in the Board and Province. At the secondary level, Grade 9 applied mathematics scores have shown improvement but continue to be low. In both Grade 9 academic mathematics and OSSLT, the Board mirrors the Province and maintains strong results with 80% or more meeting high standards. The EQAO results continue to point to mathematics and the applied level as an area of focus.

CSPC Workshop

All Catholic School Parent Council members are invited and encouraged to attend the fall workshop to be held **October 23rd, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Catholic Education Centre. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the roles and responsibilities of CSPCs, network with your colleagues from other schools and share best practices. Dinner will be provided.

OAPCE-Toronto Conference

All parents are welcome to attend the annual Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Conference October 13th and 14th

Mental Wellness: Developing Your God-Given Potential

- Conference \$40, Gala Dinner \$40 (Networking Reception included)
- Keynote speaker: Sara Westbrook
- Conference, AGM, Mass and Commissioning Ceremony (Saturday 8-4) St. Joan of Arc CHS, 1 St. Joan of Arc Rd., Maple, ON L6A 1W9
- Networking Reception (Friday 6-10)
- Gala Awards Dinner (Saturday 7-10)
Hilton Garden Inn, 3201 Highway 7, Vaughan, ON L4K 5Z7

For more information and registration: www.oapce.org

TCDSB Launches Phase 2 School Cash Online

TCDSB will be implementing the School Cash Online Payment option in all schools, in 5 phases throughout the 2017/2018 school year. This new cashless system offers parents the convenience of paying online for school activities and purchases from the convenience of their home. This includes payments for school trips, activities, sports-related fees, and pizza lunches - just to name a few.

Phase 2 has launched and all parents in Phase 2 schools are encouraged to register now. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

The following is a list of the schools included in the Phase 2 launch:

Annunciation
 Canadian Martyrs
 Chaminade College
 Holy Cross
 Holy Rosary
 Our Lady of Lourdes
 Loretto Abbey
 Marshall McLuhan
 Senator O'Connor
 St Brigid
 St Denis
 St Isaac Jogues
 St John XXIII
 St Joseph Morrow Park
 St Michael
 St Paul

Brebeuf
 Cardinal Carter Academy
 Dante Alighieri
 Holy Name
 James Cardinal McGuigan
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 Madonna
 Notre Dame
 St Anselm
 St Catherine
 St Francis Assisi
 St John (Toronto)
 St Joseph
 St Mary
 St Michael Choir

Reminders

TCDSB Celebrates The Year of the School in 2017-2018

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Year%20of%20the%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

[X](#)
 Find resources and information online, including the Spotlight on Your School initiative to celebrate the people who make our school communities welcoming and caring places of learning.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Year%20of%20the%20School/Pages/Spotlight-on-Your-School.aspx>

Improving Access to School Bus Information for Toronto Parents

Toronto Student Transportation Group and Boards Launch Transportation Portal

Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board parents are now able to access their children's transportation information online and receive email notifications if there are any school bus cancellations or delays, thanks to the launch of a new online transportation portal. www.torontoschoolbus.org.

High School Open House Dates

TCDSB Secondary schools welcome grade 8 students and their families to explore programs and services

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

CPIC Elections October 2 and 4

Monday, October 2--Odd Numbered Wards—2 Parent Member Representatives per Ward

Odd Numbered Wards	Voting Locations
1	St. Benedict 2202 Kipling Avenue (Kipling/North of Rexdale Boulevard)

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www.tcdsb.org to receive a weekly update via email: <https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>