



Sts. Cosmas and Damian CATHOLIC SCHOOL

111 DANESBURY AVE., TORONTO, ON M6B 3L3

Telephone: 416-393-5398 Fax: 416-393-5190

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2019-20 school year! I hope that you had restful summer.

We welcome all of our new families joining Sts. Cosmas and Damian Catholic School. You, the parents and guardians, play the most important role in ensuring that your child succeeds. You are their first teachers. We thank you, our partners, for your effort in supporting your child's education.

This school year, our focus will continue to be on Mathematics, environmental stewardship as well as Student and Parent Engagement.

We will also continue with the TCDSB Pastoral Plan: "Rooted in Christ: We Belong, we Believe, we Become"; Inspired by St. Paul's letter to the Colossians: "Live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith...abounding in thanksgiving."

Sts. Cosmas and Damian's hard working and conscientious staff is dedicated to helping our students achieve academic success, helping them to grow into their roles as members of Canadian society, as well as helping them to become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. Together, we look forward to working with your children and all of you in the upcoming year.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church plays an integral role in the faith development of our students as well. The spiritual leadership that the pastoral team provides through monthly masses and sacramental preparation unite us as people of faith.

We welcome the involvement of our parents and guardians through the Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC). Parents are an integral part in the school community. We encourage you to join and attend meetings.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. C. Profiti
Principal

September 2019

Catherine Profiti

PRINCIPAL ↻

Shawna Campbell 416-222-8282
ext. 2267

SUPERINTENDENT ↻

Maria Rizzo 416-222-8282 x3405

TRUSTEE ↻

St. Charles Borromeo RC Church
416-787-0369

811 Lawrence Ave. W, M6A 1C3

PARISH ↻

Tony Dias

CSPC CHAIR ↻

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB) ↻

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS) ↻

8:00 – 4:00 Office Hours

11:15 – 12:15 LUNCH

ENROLLMENT HOUR	HOURS OF OPERATION	LUNCH
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NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online:

soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393-5398 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@TCDSon

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labour Day	3 First day of School 	4	5 Fr. Michael school blessing	6	7
8	9  Nutrition Morning Snack Program begins.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 WE DAY (Scotiabank Arena)	20 PIZZA	21 First day of Autumn-Fall
22	23 Vaccination Clinic Gr 7 AM	24	25 Curriculum Night 6:00-8:00pm	26 Feast of Sts. Cosmas & Damian First School Mass 9:00 am 	27 Terry Fox Day  Wear red/white PIZZA	28
29	30 Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters 					

****Register Now: School Cash Online ****

Parents/guardians are reminded to create their School Cash Online profile, in order to receive updates and information on upcoming school activities, including pizza lunches, civvies days, field trips, and much more. Paying through School Cash Online offers a safe and convenient payment option that eliminates the need to send cash or cheques to school. For more information and to create your account visit

www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/schoolcashionline

Sts. Cosmas and Damian will be making a strong effort to go cashless this year for most school events. Please sign up online.

Safe Arrival

Parents are encouraged to sign up for the **School Messenger app**. This will allow parents and the school to stay in touch to report absences quickly and easily, and also for the school to communicate to parents about important information throughout the year including cancellations, closures and other critical issues.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/signupschoolmessenger.aspx>

Litter less Lunches

This year students are asked to bring Litter Less Lunches; that means please send snacks and lunches in recyclable or reusable containers. Many parents and guardians have already been doing this, but we are going to try to get the whole school on board.

At an assembly on the first day of school, students were told about the problem we had with TOO MUCH GARBAGE last year. The City of Toronto regularly sends inspectors to shift through our garbage and last year we were fined for not sorting our wet waste, recycling and garbage properly. For this reason, we are asking for your support.

School Nutrition Program

We are very fortunate to be able to continue the School Nutrition, Morning Snack Program this year. This snack program is jointly funded through a grant from the TCDSB Angel Foundation. Each morning, students receive a nutritious snack that helps them get off to a healthy start to the day. A donation will be requested to supplement the program for all participating students. Program begins on Monday, September 9th.

School Dress Code

Students are reminded that the school dress code is blue and white; that is to say only navy-blue bottoms and white or navy-blue tops are acceptable. Please ensure that this TCDSB Board Policy is adhered to and refer to it in your school Agenda,

School Agendas

Students in grades 1-8 will receive an Agenda. This is an excellent way to develop organizational skills by recording homework, tests and assignments. Agendas are also an excellent way of communicating with your child's teacher. Please read the code of conduct and review it with your child before signing it and returning it to school. The cost of school agendas has been graciously covered by CSPC. We thank them for their generosity.

Cell Phone Use

Students who bring cell phones to school should keep them in their bags throughout the day. If a call needs to be made home or a message sent, it should always come from the School's Office Phones.

Students are NOT permitted to photograph each other at school and should only ever use their phones for educational purposes at the teacher's discretion. Any student who uses a cell phone to bully another student will be held accountable through TCDSB Progressive Discipline. You are strongly cautioned to monitor your child's cell phone use. Thankyou.

Parking Lot

Parents are reminded that the school parking lot is for staff parking only. Staff are often unable to find spots as they are taken by parents dropping off students. A staff member is on Drop Off duty each morning.

School Yard

There are many parents who linger in the school yard each morning when dropping off their children. Each day at 8:15, there is one staff at each gate as well as 4 additional staff each morning, which creates a safe environment. I am requesting that you kindly drop off your child and exit the school yard to avoid confusion in the morning especially for the younger students who are adjusting to new routines and new teacher faces. This system works throughout the day when there are 4 teachers and 2 educational assistants on duty for all recesses. I appreciate your assistance in this matter. Let's try and adopt this pattern by September 30th.

PLASP

New this year, we have PLASP, which is a before and after school program for students. Call 647-484-4372 or visit plasp.com for more details.

Open Houses

Students in grade 8 and their families are reminded that TCDSB secondary schools are hosting open houses this fall—a great way to meet staff and students, check out the school facilities and learn about the programs and services being offered at each location. The complete schedule will be available online: <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/default.aspx>

Orange Shirt Day: September 30th

The Equity, Diversity, and Indigenous Education Department of the Toronto Catholic District Board are pleased to extend an invitation to the Toronto Catholic School District School Board community to participate in Orange Shirt Day-Every Child Matters on Monday, September 30th, to acknowledge the issue of Residential Schools and to move forward in reconciliation and with hope by creating space for learning about Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Orange Shirt day is a national movement that officially began in 2013 but in reality it began in 1973 when six year old Phyllis Webstad entered the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, outside of Williams Lake, BC. Young Phyllis was wearing a brand new orange shirt for her first day of school – new clothes being a rare and wonderful thing for a First Nation girl growing up in her grandmother's care – but her shirt was taken away from her upon arrival at the school.

The initiative of Orange Shirt day calls on every Canadian to wear an orange shirt on September 30th in a the spirit of healing and reconciliation by recognizing the issue of residential schools, honouring the survivors and victims, and making a collective effort to ensure that every child matters. The date September 30th was chosen because that was the time of the year that Government of Canada's trucks and buses would enter Indigenous communities to collect and deliver children to the residential schools.

Indian residential schools operated across Canada between 1831 and 1996. In its comprehensive report in June 2015 on the residential school policy, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada declares "establishment and operation of residential schools were a central element of this policy, which can best be described as "cultural genocide."

September 2019

Monthly Update From the Board

Update on the School Crossing Guard Program for the 2019-2020 School Year

Please be advised that starting in September 2019, the City of Toronto will be assuming full responsibility of the School Crossing Guard Program. The locations of the school crossing guards have not changed. Each school can expect the same school crossing guard locations to be served. To view the citywide map and list of school crossing guard locations, please visit: www.toronto.ca/schoolcrossingguard.

Important Reminder About Liability Insurance

All parents are reminded to consider checking the adequacy of their liability insurance through their homeowners'/tenants' insurance policy to cover claims arising out of injuries caused by their child at school. Student Accident Insurance application forms are forwarded to schools for distribution, and can also be purchased on-line at www.insuremykids.com. TCDSB's Risk Management continues to strongly promote this product as an inexpensive form of dental, disability and life insurance.

Bus Transportation Information and Updates

Communications with parents regarding bus transportation for students is a priority. In order to stay informed, parents are encouraged to register on the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) portal today by visiting www.torontoschoolbus.org. This portal provides TCDSB parents with online access to their children's transportation information and up to the minute email notifications regarding school bus cancellations or delays. If you have any issues signing up on the portal, please contact support@torontoschoolbus.org and staff will assist you with the registration of your account.

September's Virtue is Hospitality

All resources for the month of September, and for the monthly virtues throughout the year can be found on our website at

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Pages/Default.aspx>

Pastoral Plan: This Year we Focus on "Rooted in Christ: we Believe"

In the second year of our pastoral plan, "Rooted in Christ, we Believe" our focus turns to what we believe in as a Catholic education community. Resources for the Year:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/rooted-in-christ/webelieve/Pages/weBelieveResources.aspx>

Consider who inspires you, who nurtures your faith, who acts as a mentor and role model of Catholic living.

Is it your school chaplain? A parent or other family member? Your pastor or other member of your parish? A teacher or other staff at your school? A colleague or friend?

Why not sit down to have a chat with them, and interview them about their experiences of living their faith. Write an article or create a video of your interview. Write a short story, a poem, or create a piece of artwork, music or video that pays tribute to those who guide you on your own journey of faith.

Share your stories on social media (@TCDSB #TCDSBelieves)

Send your submissions to ncc.team@tcdsb.org

International Languages After Hours Program Registration

Registration for the elementary IL After Hours Program continues through to September 21st. <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/InternationalLanguages/Pages/Saturday-School-Registration.aspx>

September Events and Meetings

- September is Ukrainian Heritage Month
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/Ukrainian-Canadian-Heritage-Month/Pages/default.aspx>
- September 1—Day of Prayer for Care of God’s Creation
- September 4—Open House for Parents of Elementary Students Identified as Gifted, 7-9 PM
<https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/news/pages/giftedopenhouse.aspx>
- September 5--Student Achievement Committee Meeting, 7 PM
- September 8--International Literacy Day
- September 8--Grandparent’s Day
- September 9—Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day
<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2019/pages/fasd.aspx>
- September 10--Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
- September 12—Corporate Services Committee Meeting
- September 14—Talking Faith—Hindu and Catholic Youth Event
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/News/2019-2020/Pages/HinduCatholic.aspx>
- September 16—Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
- September 18—Special Education Advisory Committee
- September 19—Board

For details about these and other events and meetings, visit www.tcdsb.org

Student Leaders Invited to Help Build Accessible Country

The Government of Canada seeks youth leaders to help build a more accessible Canada. Apply online at https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/enabling-accessibility-fund.html?utm_campaign=EnablingAccessibilityFund&utm_source=SocialMedia\Ddn\Banners&utm_medium=VanityUrl&utm_term=en&utm_content=canada-ca_accessibility-fund by **October 31, 2019**.

General Information To Note:

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- The School Year Calendar for 2019-2020 is posted on the board's website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/calendar/pages/schoolyearcalendar.aspx>
 - The remaining Board and Committee meetings for the 2019 calendar year are also on the website <https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2019/pages/board-meetings.aspx>
 - For information specifically for students including scholarships, contests, job and community service opportunities, visit <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/default.aspx>
 - For information specifically targeted for parents, including information about the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education, see <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/default.aspx>

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