

ST. SIMON NEWSLETTER

Happy Children Who Love to Learn



Contacts

Principal:

Mr. M. Boccia

Vice Principal:

Mr. B. Howlett

Superintendent:

Mr. A. Della Mora

Trustee:

Mr. S. Piccininni

Parish Church:

Fr. Efen

St. Jude

Catholic Church

3265 Weston Rd.

416-742-9072

Secretary:

Ms. P. Pisani

CSAC Chair

Mr. E. D'Alfonso

St. Simon is an eco-friendly school:

The newsletter is only available in electronic form.

If you would like a newsletter sent to your email, please send a request to: brett.howlett@tcdsb.org

The newsletter is also accessible via the school website:

<http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stsimon/News/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>

If you wish to receive a paper copy please contact your child's teacher, or the office.

St. Jude's Parish newsletter is also available on the school website.

Virtue of the Month: Love

Chocolates, flowers, valentines, and red hearts, what would the month of February be without the celebration of Valentine's Day. While the rest of the world may choose to celebrate the ideal of romantic love on February 14, TCDSB schools will be focusing on the virtue of LOVE as expressed in the gospels. "For God so loved the world, He gave His only son." John 3:16 As we focus on the virtue of love at St. Simon this month, let us remember that love not only inspires the practice of all other virtues, it is the form and completion of all the other virtues.

Highlights For February

3- Heart and Stroke Kick Off Assembly

4- School Mass 1pm

5- sweater and toque day

6- 100th day of school

9-11 Carnival/Carevale

10-Report Cards Sent Home

Boy's Divisional Basketball

11- Girl's Divisional Basketball

12- Parent-Teacher Conferences (night)

13- Parent-Teacher Conferences (day)

No School

16- Family Day- No school

17- Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

W5H Student Trivia Competition

18- Ash Wednesday Liturgy

20- Gr. 4 Swim to Survive

23- Crime Stoppers Presentation Gr.7 & 8

24- Heart and Stroke Jump Day

25 Marlies Game Gr. 4-8

26- Snow Valley Ski Trip Gr 7 & 8

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday February 17th marks a very special day in the liturgical calendar. Shrove Tuesday (widely known as Pancake Day) is a day preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), which is celebrated in many countries by consuming pancakes.

The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning "confess". Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Roman Catholics, who "make a special point of self-examination, considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with."

Shrove Tuesday is last day before the season of Lent, many people sacrifice indulging in some foods or luxury items during Lent. The term *Mardi Gras* is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday.



St. Simon will be participating in Shrove Tuesday pancakes. If any parents are interested in volunteering to assist with the pancake preparation please email. Mr. Howlett (brett.howlett@tcdsb.org).

Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC):

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

School website:

<http://www.tcdsb.org/SCHOOLS/STSIMON>

School BLOG:

<http://stsimonschoolblog.blogspot.ca>



St. Simon Catholic School

20 Wallasey Ave.

Tel - 416-393-5383

Fax - 416-397-6299

School Hours

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m

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The Year of Charity St. Simon Supports Great Causes

Free The Children Say Thanks

To the community at St. Simon's,

I wanted to extend sincere thanks and deep gratitude for purchasing \$2000 worth of Rafiki fundraising kits, and selling them during your Christmas drive! Your wonderful efforts will be supporting our Agriculture and Food Security Pillar in Ecuador. In Ecuador, this pillar involves building school gardens so that students have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, building dining halls and kitchens in schools, and providing agriculture training to farmers. I invite you to visit the following website, which is updated regularly with stories from our communities in Ecuador:

<http://reports.freethechildren.com/country/ecuador/>

The communities that we work in overseas benefit so much from the generosity and dedication of schools like yours! On behalf of myself and the rest of the staff at Free the Children—THANK YOU to the students, staff and parents of St. Simon's!

Your EPC, Melanie

Why I Love Canada

St. Simon Student Places 2nd in Essay Writing Contest

Prior to the Christmas Break, Mr. Ricci's Grade 6 class completed essays on the topic of "Ways We Can Show Love and Respect To Canada." This coincided with an essay contest offered by the Human Rights and Race Relations Centre in Toronto. Mr. Ricci encouraged students to enter their written pieces in the contest. It was with great enthusiasm that we learned that our own Henry O came in second place for his passionate essay on why he loves Canada. He will be joining other winners at a reception in February! With great applause, we congratulate Henry for his efforts.

Share Your Stories of Charity

TCDSB Wave of Charity will be showcased through monthly videos throughout the school year. Submit your stories and photos to:

Robert.gallo@tcdsb.org.

Visit our website for more information, or to view the video for October.

<http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearOfCharity/Pages/Heart-of-Charity.aspx>

Lift Up Your Hearts and Keep the Wave of Charity Moving Across the Board!

Share your stories via twitter @TCDSB
#waveofcharity

Sports

Girl's Basketball Competes in Madonna Tournament

The Girls Basketball Team traveled to Madonna High School on Thursday, January 22, to participate in an invitational tournament against St. Conrad, St. Fidelis, St. Robert, and Blessed Margherita. Throughout the tournament, the girls demonstrated a positive attitude and displayed a lot of team spirit. After facing some challenging games, the girls rallied for a well-earned victory in one of their matches. The coaches and girls would like to extend a warm thank you to coach Mr. Gagliardi from St. Roberts for organizing the invitational and for Mr. Lio from Madonna High School for hosting us.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the parents for supporting their daughters and kindly providing a pizza lunch for us on that day. We look forward to participating with all of you in future tournaments. The girls' team is comprised of Victoria Cafua, Gabrielle Panzeca, Isabelle De Ciantis-Freire, Alona Fiandaca, Camilla Contento-Parrotta, Nicole Atanda, Olivia Grande, Isabella Naccarato, Heidi Asante, Brenda Enahoro, Nathaly Burgoa, and Liliana Caracci. Congratulations girls!

Sincerely,

Ms. Pedace, Mrs. Ulatowska, and Mr. McIsaac
The Coaches



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From the Office

Student Information Updates

As the year progresses, often some information changes. Please ensure that all emergency contact information is current. If an emergency were to happen, the school must have current contacts. If you have changed your phone number or address please inform the office.



Winter is Here!

As the weather is changing, please ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the cold, ever changing weather. Students should have a pair of indoor shoes to wear in the building and packing an extra pair of socks, gloves and pants is recommended.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2015-2016 school year has begun.

You may register online at <http://soar.tcdsb.org>



International Languages

The TCDSB International Languages Program invites parents to register their children in the Spanish Language Program held at St. Simon every Saturday from 9:30am– 12pm. Everyone is welcome. We receive new students every Saturday.

Thank you ,

Ms. Lopez, Instructor

To report an absence please call 416-393-5383 (4pm-8am)

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014 – 2015

Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	6
Christmas Break	December 22, 2014– January 2, 2015
Family Day	February 16, 2015
Mid-Winter Break	March 16 - 20, 2015
Good Friday	April 3, 2015
Easter Monday	April 6, 2015
Victoria Day	May 18, 2015
Last day of classes	June 25, 2015

Six Professional Development Days

Parent teacher interview	November 14, 2014
Faith Day	December 5, 2014
Ministry	January 23, 2015
Parent teacher interview	February 13, 2015
Ministry	June 5, 2015
Assessment & Evaluation	June 26, 2015

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TRUSTEES 2014-2015






Wards

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

Christopher MacDonald, Student Trustee Hannah McGroarty, Student Trustee



St. Simon Catholic School February 2015

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3 12:45 – Kick off assembly for "Jump for Heart"	4 School Mass 1:00 pm	5 Wear a " Toque and Sweater Day"	6 Gr. 4's Swim To Survive Program	7
8	9  Carnival	10 Report Cards Sent Home Boys' Basketball Tournament	11 Girls' Basketball Tournament	12 Rosary Team Parent-Teacher Interviews 6-9 pm	13 P.A. Day Parent-Teacher Interviews 9-12	14 
Carnaval/Carnevale Activities Feb. 9 - 11						
15	16 Family Day Students do not attend school	17 Shrove Tuesday 	18 1:00 Liturgy - gym  Lent Begins Ash Wednesday	19 Chess at St. Jude School 	20 Gr. 4's Swim To Survive Program	21
22	23	24 Heart & Stroke "Jump for Heart" Activities in gym	25 Marlies Game Gr 4 – 8 students at Ricoh Coliseum	26 Gr. 7 & 8's Ski Trip	27 Gr. 4's Swim To Survive Program	28

MARCH BREAK – MARCH 16 - 20



Monthly Update from the Board

February 2015

Information About School Bus Delays

Traffic congestion and varying road conditions can impact on the flow of traffic in Toronto, and this is particularly true during the winter months when snow and ice can be a major factor.

The Toronto Student Transportation Group is pleased to provide information about school bus delays digitally through their website at <http://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>

Click on the pink bar at the top of the homepage to get a listing of any bus routes that are being impacted.

Director's Annual Report

The Annual Report for the 2013-2014 academic year has been uploaded to the board's website. You can view the interactive presentation, or simply download a pdf of the highlights. <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/BoardAdministration/DirectorofEducation/Pages/Annual-Report-2013-2014.aspx>

Policy Consultation Extended to February 6th

The deadline for consultation regarding the draft CSAC Policy and the draft Policy on Secondary School Admission has been extended to February 6th. <http://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2014/pages/consultation-csac-and-admissions-policies.aspx>

Budget Consultation Starting Soon

Watch for detailed information on the Board's website in February www.tcdsb.org.

Information for Students:

Youth in Policing--Summer Employment. Accepting applications until February 12th. <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/yipi/>

Course Calendar for 2015-2016--Want to check out course options for next year? Check online: <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Documents/TCDSB%20Course%20Calendar%202015-2016.pdf>

History Now—Government of Canada History Awards--The Government of Canada History Awards honour exceptional students for their work marking important moments in Canadian History. Entries now being accepted. Deadline is April 17, 2015. <http://www.canadianhistory.ca/history-awards>

Night school registration (secondary schools) continues through to February 13th. Talk to your guidance counsellor.

February 9th – 13th is “Believe in Angels Week”

TCDSB staff, students and parents are invited to celebrate the work of The Angel Foundation for Learning and the specific ways it supports our students. In this Year of Charity and in honour of “Believe in Angels Week”, schools are encouraged to participate in a [TCDSB Board-Wide Civvies Day](#) on **Thursday, February 12th**.

February is Psychology Month

<http://www.tcdsb.org/pages/february-is-psychology-month.aspx>

February is also African Canadian Heritage Month

www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/AfricanCanadianHeritage/Pages/default.aspx

CSAC Training Session-- February 4, 2015 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Understanding Sub-Committee: why have them? who can be a member? establishing terms of reference--with Keynote Speaker: Jo-Ann Davis, Trustee

Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

Interactive Family Math Night

A fun and informative evening of math activities designed to remove intimidation for parents and encourage family involvement in the application of math in everyday challenges.

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School, 3200 Kennedy Road, Scarborough

Families from across the TCDSB are welcome to attend.

<http://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/News/Pages/Interactive-Family-Math-Night.aspx>

Registration: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mathevent>

Information Meeting for Parents-- Monday, February 23, 2015 7:00 pm

Exploring Elementary Full-Time/Congregated Gifted Programs

Catholic Education Centre (CEC)

80 Sheppard Ave. East, Toronto, Underground parking is available

<http://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/specialeducation/gifted/pages/default.aspx>

CPIC Speaker Series with Cardinal Thomas Collins

February 24, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Mass and keynote presentation on home, school parish connection

Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, 36 Greenfield Avenue, North York

<http://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/parentinvolvement/news%20and%20events/pages/cpic-speaker-series--cardinal-collins.aspx>

Chesterton Debate Series-- Friday, February 27, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

God's Politics: A Debate on Religion Role in Political Life

Location: Isabel Bader Theater - University of Toronto, 93 Charles Street West, Toronto

Details: [Chesterton-Debate-Series Flyer](#)

Sponsors: Archdiocese of Toronto, Office of Catholic Youth

Registration: www.chestertondebate.com