

St. Simon Catholic School

June Newsletter



CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

June 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

After considerable thought and with mixed emotions I would like to share my intention to retire effective June 28th 2019. After thirty five years as an educator it is time to embark on the next phase of my life. It is bittersweet in many ways but I look forward to more time with family, friends, opportunities to engage in other leisure or work activities and to give back.

Schools are constantly changing and moving forward with new ideas and initiatives, so whenever one leaves, it is always an opportunity for continued growth. I am proud of what we have accomplished and it is a privilege and honour to have been a teacher for seven years and return as principal of St. Simon Catholic School. The St. Simon community has been for me a second home and having served for 13 years it is a truly difficult departure.

Many changes have taken place over my time at St. Simon, one of the greatest changes was moving our of community to the new school site. The change brought much anxiety to students, parents and staff alike, but in true St. Simon fashion it was handled with grace and poise.

I truly believe that we have gathered a group of talented and passionate teachers and staff that together make up St. Simon. It has been their tireless efforts that have made St. Simon a community of faith, charity and acceptance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the St. Simon Catholic School Parent Committee. Over the years these individuals have given up family time in order to serve the larger St. Simon family and for that we are grateful.

Lastly, I wish for you and your families continued success and may God continue to smile upon you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Boccia

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CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto
OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)
480
8:30-3:30
11:15am-12:15pm
ENROLLMENT
HOURS OF OPERATION
LUNCH HOUR



NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393-5366 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 2383.

For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, please visit the website at www.tcdsb.org

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year: Follow @TCDSB on Twitter.



Report cards

Report cards will be going home on Tuesday, June 25th. Please review them with your children.

Faithfulness

Our Virtue of the month is Faithfulness for the month of June.

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

Me to We

The students on the Me to We committee, under the direction of Mdm Arena, Ms. Marra and Ms. Pastore held a wonderful Walk for Water Day. They showcased for St. Simon the lengths and distances that people in various parts of the world must travel for this essential resource. It was an informative and wonderful experience for the students at St. Simon. Thankyou also for your tremendous generosity. Students raised \$975.00 for this valuable cause. Thankyou for your leadership ME to WE.

Track & Field

Congratulations to our Track & Field team who did very well this year. We are extremely proud of their performance. More importantly, we are proud of how well they represented our school. We had several comments from staff from other schools telling us how respectful and polite our athletes were. Thanks to all of our athletes for striving to do your best always. Many thanks to the coaches for giving our students the opportunity to be the best they can be. A special congratulations to Franco Brandolino who placed 1st in the 400 m race at the city championships!

Italian Heritage Day

St. Simon hosted Italian heritage day on June 3rd, 2019. We enjoyed presentations on Italian culture, contributions to Canadian society and history. Students and teachers from various schools from across our board presented dances, poems and songs. We were pleased to welcome personnel from the board to celebrate with us on this wonderful day with us.

EQAO/Cat Testing

Grade 3 and 6 students completed their EQAO testing the last two weeks of May and beginning of June. Results will be made available in the fall. Grades 2, 5 and 7 students also completed their CAT testing. Results of these tests assist our school community in providing a picture of areas of need and strength within our school community. The results inform us on how professional development can be allocated to meet the learning needs of our students.

Congratulations

A warm congratulations to our grade 2 and 7 students who celebrated their First Holy Communion and Confirmation respectfully. We are honored to be a part of each student's faith development in all that we do.

Panoramic Photo Day

Students and staff came together in front of the school on Wednesday, June 5th, to take a panoramic picture. This is an annual tradition that brings all members of our school together to capture and celebrate the joy we have shared in the past year.

PA Day

There will be a PA day on Friday, June 7th. There will be no classes on this day as teachers will be partaking in Evaluation and Reporting activities on this day.

Play Day

Students will be celebrating Play day on Friday, June 14th. Activities will be taking place out doors. Please dress accordingly to the weather conditions of the day. (Hats, sunscreen, etc.)

School Wide Pilgrimage

Student will be partaking in our annual walking pilgrimage to St. Jude's Parish on Monday, June 17th, 2019. We will be walking north on Weston Rd, as a school community. Once we have arrived we will celebrate our end of year mass with Father Josue. If you are available to join us on this day, please attend.

Dental Screening

Students will have dental screening from June 18th to June 24th. You will receive a recommendation from Toronto Public Health in regards to your child's oral health.

Last Day

Thursday, June 27th will be the last day of classes. Dismissal will be at 3:00PM. On behalf of the St. Simon community we wish you all a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer in the presence of your friends and family.

September 2019- first day of school

Our first day of school is September 3rd 2019 at 8:30am sharp. **Please keep in mind that our dismissal time continues to be 3:00pm.** On the first day of school, weather permitting, all students from grade 1-8 will make their way into the main yard. At the bell on the first morning of school, students will congregate at the appropriate sign (gr. 1, 2, etc.). Teachers will arrive to call out the names of students in the class. Classes will begin immediately following this. **Parents will not be permitted into the building.** Any inquiries should be directed to the office. A more detailed communication will be sent home towards the end of the month.

Prescription medications

If your child is taking a prescription medication, **please do not send it to school!** Please make every effort to schedule medication times around school hours. If it is absolutely necessary to administer medication during school hours, please contact the school to obtain the proper documentation to be filled out by your doctor. **Under no circumstances can the school administer over the counter nonprescription medication, regardless of doctor's directions.**

We are fully into allergy season, allergy medication should not be sent to school. School staff cannot administer this medication nor can children take this medication on their own. Only a parent can administer this medication.

2019/2020 School Year Calendar

A hard copy of the school year calendar was sent home a couple of weeks ago. Calendar information is also posted on the board's website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/SchoolYearCalendar/Pages/Default.aspx>

Allergen sensitive school

St. Simon is an allergen sensitive school. Several of our community members have severe sensitivities to a variety of foods as well as scents. As such, to ensure everyone's safety, **we ask that when packing lunches, you avoid including any nut products and peanut products.** We also ask that students avoid sharing snacks at school to avoid any issues. **As well, we ask parents to avoid purchasing products that are strongly scented as several students and staff are sensitive to overly used scents.**

Morning drop off and start

In the morning, students should arrive at school after 8:15am and no later than 8:28am, in time for the warning bell. Students should make their way into the school yard to join their respective class lines. School begin promptly at 8:30am. Students arriving after that time are considered late and need to sign in at the office. Students will not be permitted to enter the main entrance of the building before school starts. We appreciate



that occasionally students arrive at school late but we ask that you try to ensure punctuality as consistently as possible to reduce distractions to the classroom.

*****Parents are not permitted in the yard in the morning. If you do come into the yard, you will be asked to leave by staff.*****

Birthdays and celebrations

Birthdays and other special occasions are announced over the PA system on a regular basis. **Under no circumstances should food be brought to the school to distribute to a class (cake, candy, pizza, etc...)**. As we are an allergen sensitive school, we cannot verify the contents of food that parents may send to school for distribution. If food is sent to the school, parents will be called and asked to come pick up the food as it **will not be distributed**. Although we appreciate that the thought is well intentioned, we must work together to ensure the safety of each student. Instead of food, feel free to send grab bag items such as pencils, erasers, stickers, etc...

Monthly Update from the Board

June 2019

Important Information

Summer School Registration Continues

Check here for registration information, as well as important dates to note course options, locations and more.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/continuingeducation/pages/default.aspx>

Want instant alerts about your child's absence? Sign Up for School Messenger

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure we introduced a new student absence reporting system called SafeArrival making it easier for you and staff to verify student attendance. With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1 (833) 251-3286 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time up to a maximum of 10 consecutive days. It is important to note that when setting up your account, you must register using the email address and phone number associated with your child's Trillium account. In addition, schools will use the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance.

Get Updates on School Bus Service

Register for the Toronto Student Transportation Group Parent Portal to receive real time notifications about school bus cancellations or delays. The parent portal will be updated and re-open in mid-August for sign up.

<https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/transportation-portal/Account/Register/>

International Languages Elementary (ILE) Program - After Hours Registration

- [International Languages Elementary \(ILE\) After Hours Calendar 2019-2020.pdf](#)
- [ILE After Hour Centres - 2019-2020.pdf](#)

Online registration:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/InternationalLanguages/Pages/Saturday-School-Registration.aspx>

Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become (Pastoral Plan)

Throughout the year, we have seen our Pastoral Plan come to life in our school communities in many different ways, as we witnessed how our students and staff continue to be welcoming places of learning, where all are included and all are accepted, all are valued and all belong.

Visit our website to see all the submissions from across the Board:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/rooted-in-christ/Pages/we-Belong-submissions.aspx>

Some of the photos from the year-end event have been posted to our website

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/news/2018-2019/pages/webelong.aspx> and we hope to add a short video of the highlights from the day to that page soon as well.

REMINDER: In September 2019 we shift our focus to “we Believe”.

Contests and Other Opportunities for Students**MLB Remix™ powered by SoundCloud**

Create your own version of, "**Take Me Out to the Ball Game**" to compete to win a trip to the 2019 MLB® All-Star Game® presented by Mastercard! Fans will have the opportunity to showcase their musical talent and bring in MLB All-Star Week™ with their own personal flair. The song entries will be judged by the renowned Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Deadline June 13, 2019. <https://www.mlb.com/forms/mlb-remix-contest>

Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month Poster Competition

September is Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month--an occasion to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Ukrainian Canadians to Canada. Toronto Catholic District School Board invites students to design a poster acknowledging the contributions of Ukrainian people to the Canadian mosaic. The winning entry will be used in connection with the celebrations in September 2019. **Deadline 5pm on June 17th, 2019.** Details:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/UkrainianCanadianHeritagePosterCompetition.aspx>

Toronto Public Library Offers Tutoring and Support for Students

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDMEVT25984&R=EVT25984>

Youth Homework Help & Mentorship 4-7 pm for Grades 8+. Drop in. No registration required.

Mon Jun 03, Mon Jun 10, Mon Jun 17, Mon Jun 24 at **High Park Library** Community Room

Receive one-on-one support in important aspects of your academic life and career including homework and course tutoring, high school course selection, college, university and scholarship applications, employment assistance such as résumé building and mock interviewing.

https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDMEVB0193&R=EDB0193&utm_source=Teen+News&utm_campaign=Teen+News+-+May+9%2C+2019&utm_medium=email

Free Museum Admission for Children

Royal Ontario Museum: Every 3rd Monday of the month, the Museum will be open to the public for free General Admission from 5:30pm – 8:30pm.

Art Gallery of Ontario: Free General Admission every Wednesday from 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

AGO Free After Three: For youth ages 14 to 25. All Ontario High School students can visit the Gallery for free after 3 pm Tuesday to Friday during the school year. Simply present a valid student ID at the ticket desk.

Gardiner Museum: Children and youth aged 18 and under are always free.

Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Textile Museum: Children aged 5 and under are free.

Aga Khan Museum: Admission to the Museum and all exhibitions is free each Wednesday from 4pm to 8pm.

The Power Plant: Admission all year round is free!

Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto: Children and youth 18 and under are always free. Free admission for everyone on the last Sunday of each month from 10am to 2pm.

Events and Observances

Mental Health

#HearNowON is a youth engagement project designed to hear student voices from across the province. TCDSB High School students are invited to share their thoughts on mental health education and enhancing wellness at school at the Toronto Student Forum:

Toronto #HearNowON Student Forum

Saturday, June 8, 2019 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Novotel Toronto (45 The Esplanade, Toronto)

Students can register online (parent permission required) at <https://www.wisdom2action.org/hearnowon/>

Sponsored by School Mental Health Ontario in partnership with Wisdom2Action and supported by the Ontario Student Trustees' Association.

TCDSB Celebrates Canada Day

Elementary Schools are encouraged to celebrate Canada Day on the last day of classes, June 27, 2019 by dressing in red and white and joining together at 10 a.m. to sing the national anthem.

We look forward to your participation as we share our pride in what it means to be Canadian!

June is...

- **June 3-7 Indigenous Education Week**
<https://www.tcdsb.org/forcommunity/heritagecelebration/nationalindigenousmonth/pages/indigenouseducationweek.aspx>
- **Italian Canadian Heritage Month**
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/ItalianCanadianHeritage/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Portuguese Canadian Heritage Month**
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/PortugueseCanadianHeritage/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Filipino Heritage Month**
<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/FilipinoHeritageMonth/Pages/default.aspx>
- **June 12th—Filipino Heritage Day**
- **Deafblind Awareness Month** <http://www.cdbanational.com/deafblind-awareness-month/>

Other Important Dates:

- June 7th—PA Day for Elementary Schools
- June 9th—Pentecost <https://www.tcdsb.org/board/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/pages/pentecost.aspx>
- June 12th—Filipino Heritage Day
<https://www.tcdsb.org/forcommunity/heritagecelebration/filipinoheritagemonth/events/pages/filipinoheritageday.aspx>
- June 19th—Sickle Cell Awareness Day
- World Refugee Day—June 20 <http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/>
- June 28th is a PA day for all elementary schools. **Last day of classes is June 27th.**
- June 26th to 28th are PA days for most secondary schools. (When in doubt, check with your local school for details.)
- July 1st—Canada Day—Happy 150th Canada!
- July 2nd—Summer School Begins
- July 3rd—Angel Foundation for Learning Golf Tournament https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/?page_id=6197
- July 12-14th—Steubenville Toronto <http://steubenvilletoronto.com/>

Visit www.tcdsb.org for more information about any of these events.

June Meetings

- June 3: OAPCE
- June 4: Governance and Policy Committee
- June 6: Corporate Services Committee
- June 11: Catholic Education and Living our Catholic Values Sub-Committee
- June 12: SEAC
- June 13: Regular Board
- June 17: CPIC

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- Visit the Board's website www.tcdsb.org
- Subscribe to ENews to receive updates via email every week
<https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>
- Or Follow @TCDSB on twitter to get updates throughout the day
- Athletics News:
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/schoolprogramsk12/healthoutdoorphised/tdcaa/pages/tcdsb-athletics.aspx>