



**St John Catholic School**  
780 Kingston Road  
Toronto Ontario  
M4E 1R7  
Telephone 416-393-5220  
Fax 416-393-5211

**Principal**  
D. Comacchio

**Secretary**  
K. James

**Office Admin Support**  
A. Mangano (Mon & Thur)

**Head Caretaker**  
N. Pourgoutzidis

**Superintendent**  
John Shanahan  
416-222-8282

**Trustee**  
Angela Kennedy  
416-512-3411



**Parish**  
St John's Catholic Church  
Father John Newton  
794 Kingston Road  
Toronto Ontario  
M4E 1R7  
Telephone 416-698-1105



**OUR SCHOOL**  
**Hours of Operation**  
8:30 am—3:00 pm

**Morning Recess**  
10:12 am—10:27 am

**Lunch Hour**  
11:15 am—12:15 pm

**Afternoon Recess**  
1:40 pm—1:55 pm

# St John Catholic School News

## DECEMBER 2018



### VIRTUE OF MONTH: CHARITY



Dear Families:

As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is **CHARITY**. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on the 25th, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. Our quote for the month is, "Where charity and love are, God is there". As St. Thomas Aquinas described it, "Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God." (2a2ae, 25,4).

\*

This

Christmas

End a quarrel.

Seek out a forgotten

Friend. Dismiss suspicion,

And replace it with trust...

Write a love letter. Share some

Treasure. Give a soft answer. En-

courage youth. Manifest your loyalty

In word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the

Time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.

Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.

Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone

Else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh

A little more. Deserve confidence. Take issue against malice.

Express your gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden

The heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.

Speak your love.

Speak it again.

Speak it still

Once again.

Peace and love begin

With simple kindness,

And joy to the world happens

One heart at a time.

On behalf of the entire staff at St. John Catholic School, we wish our students and their families a Holy and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with hope and peace. May the spirit of Christmas bring peace to the hearts of everyone!

Serving You In Catholic Education,

D. Comacchio (Principal)



UBI CARITAS ET AMOR,  
DEUS IBI EST  
- WHERE THERE IS  
CHARITY AND LOVE,  
GOD IS THERE.

~ LATIN HYMN ~

- REMEMBER THROUGHOUT ADVENT THAT CHARITY STARTS FROM THE HOME AND MOVES FORWARD IN ALL YOU DO.
- LET THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CREATE CHARITY IN YOUR ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- IF WE EXPECT OTHER PEOPLE TO DO CHARITABLE ACTS TOWARDS US, WE MUST FIRST REMEMBER TO SHOW GENEROSITY TOWARDS OTHERS.
- WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US, ESPECIALLY IN A SEASON FILLED WITH GIVING.

# CHARITY



2018 - 2019 · ROOTED IN CHRIST: WE BELONG, WE BELIEVE, WE BECOME



# KINDERGARTEN

Registration for the 2019- 2020 school year begins



January 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. E.S.T

## About Kindergarten Registration

### **REGISTRATION IS COMING!**

Your local Catholic school provides opportunities for spiritual and academic growth through a diverse range of programs and services designed to meet the needs of each learner.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites parents to register their children for Junior Kindergarten beginning on **January 16th, 2019 at 10:00 am** Eastern Standard Time. For parents who are not available during the regular school day, most schools are hosting extended hours for registration one evening during the month of January. **St John's registration night will be held on January 30th, 2019 (more details to follow)**

### For September 2019 all children born in 2015 are eligible to attend Kindergarten.

The following documents are required for registration:

1. Child's Birth Certificate
2. Passport/immigration documents (only if child was not born in Canada)
3. Child's Catholic Baptismal Certificate (or proof of parent's Catholicity or RCIA/RCIC letter)
4. Child's Immunization Record
5. Proof of residency in Toronto



It is best to call your local Catholic school for an appointment. For a complete listing of TCDSB schools, please consult the Board website at <http://www.tcdsb.org/school/Alphabeticalschooldirectory/Pages/default.aspx>

Important Note:

The current link to the Student Online Application for Registration (S.O.A.R.) on the TCDSB website is for the 2018/2019 School Year. Applications entered for September 2019 enrolment on the current 2018/2019 application, **will not** be accepted.

In order for your September 2019 registration request to be processed, the application must be entered **on or after January 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM EST**

### **French Immersion and Extended French Information Evenings**

Elementary Schools with French Immersion and Extended French programs invite their communities to attend Information Nights as we approach Kindergarten Registration, which begins Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. EST

**December 5, 2018—February 20, 2019**

### **Extended French (Elementary) - GRADE 5-8**

Extended French, often called the 50/50 bilingual program in the past, was launched in 1977 at nine TCDSB centres. There are more than 2,000 students are enrolled in centres across Toronto. Students from Grades 5 to 8 are taught in French for half the day and in English for the other half. As well as French-language arts, the following subjects are also taught in French: social studies/history/geography, physical education/health and visual arts.

**The Extended French Program is offered to students beginning in grade 5 . An information session is offered @ St John on January 30, 2019 @ 7:00 pm.**



## International Languages Elementary (ILE) Program: December Update

### ILE Survey Conducted in All TCDSB Elementary Schools

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Trustees of the TCDSB approved a motion to survey parents, in all TCDSB Elementary Schools, from November 13<sup>th</sup> to November 27<sup>th</sup>, to determine whether parents wish to continue or initiate an International Languages program at their child's school.

We would like to thank everyone that was involved with the delivery, distribution and collection of the completed ILE survey. We would like to especially thank all families for providing your voice to the process by completing and returning the survey.

Results of the survey will be compiled and reported to the Board of Trustees in January 2019. This report will include a list of results by school, including the response rates for each school. However, only schools with the required threshold of 67% response rate will receive a detailed summary of parent responses.

For updated information regarding the International Languages Elementary (ILE) Program please visit: <https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/schoolprogramsk12/internationallanguages/pages/change-to-international-languages-program.aspx>



Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Parent Community, this is just a reminder to pick up any items in the "Lost and Found" in the coming weeks. All items that are left as of December 21st will be donated.**

**The items will be on tables on the evening of the Christmas Concert (Dec 18, 2018).**



Our first shipment of spent markers has been sent to Crayola to be recycled. St. John School has diverted over 600 markers from the landfill. That's over 15 lbs! Markers cannot be recycled by Toronto Waste as they contain both recyclable and non-recyclable materials. Crayola sends the markers to a conversion facility where they are repurposed and kept out of landfills. We will continue to collect markers here at St. John's School to do our part to care for our planet.



**Effective JANUARY 14, 2019 SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM @ ST JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL.**

Details regarding the new system will be shared in the new year.



Please be aware that dogs are not allowed on school property.

We know the yard is used by the community. If you see any animal waste please notify any school staff.





**MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 2018**

**KINDER CONCERT — 2:00—3:00 PM**

Classes included (not performance order):

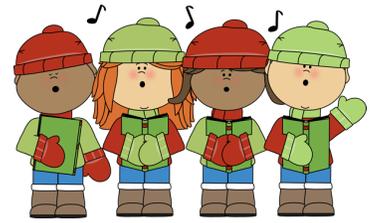
Ms. Silva (Ms. Sunanda )

Ms. Valentini (Ms. Hifawi)

Ms Reguly / Ms Ramsay (Mr Stasolla)

Students are in class from the beginning of the day as normal.

Parents are to go directly to the school gym.



**TUESDAY , DECEMBER 18, 2018**

**GRADE 1—4 CONCERT STARTS @ 6:30 P.M.**

Classes included (not performance order):

Grade 1 – Ms. Reford

Grade 1-2 – Ms. Lima

Grade 2 s– Ms. Christie

Ms Burke-Wood

Grade 3 – Ms. Fitzgerald

Grade 3-4 Ms O’Sullivan

Grade 4 – Ms. Carroll

Primary Choir – Ms. McBride

**Note:**

Students should be dropped off at their classrooms no earlier then 6:10 pm. (unless otherwise informed by classroom teacher)

Students should be picked up from their classroom at the end of the Primary concert, approximately 7:15 pm.

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(ESTIMATE)  
  
7:15 -  
  
8:00 P.M.**

**GRADE 4/5 —8 CONCERT STARTS @ 8:00 P.M.**

Classes included (not performance order):

Grade 4-5– Ms. Bain

Grade 5 – Mrs. Aleksic

Grade 6s – Mme. Dhefto

Ms Van Wyck

Grade 7s – Mr. Medeiros

Ms. Nassuna

Grade 8s – Ms Horbay

Ms DeAgazio

Ms Chorazy

Grade 8 Band – Mr. Menezes

Junior / Intermediate Choir: Ms . McBride

**Note:**

Students should be dropped off at their classrooms **no earlier than 7:40 pm.** (unless otherwise formed by classroom teacher)

Students should be picked up from their classroom at the end of the concert, approximately 9:00 pm.



*Sounds of the Season*

**Please note: The Centre Aisle of the gym, the aisle leading to the exit and the hallway leading to the gym MUST remain clear at all times. Children attending the concert where they are NOT performing, MUST stay with their parents. Thank you.**



# St. John's Catholic School Fundraiser Parents Night Out - Beach Party!



**Sat. Jan. 19, 2019 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.**  
**Balmy Beach Club - 360 LakeFront (foot of Beech Ave)**  
Limited parking available, so please consider alternate arrangements.

Limited tickets available - \$20 (in advance) \$25 (at the door)

Beach-themed activities · Hors D'oeuvres · Door prizes · Cash bar · Music by DJ  
 Hawaiian shirts and Beach Wear encouraged - Prize for Best Beacher! Live auction

Event by CPSC Fundraising Committee

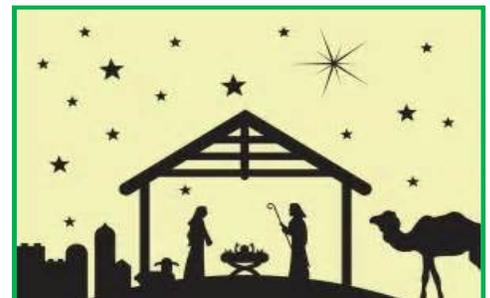
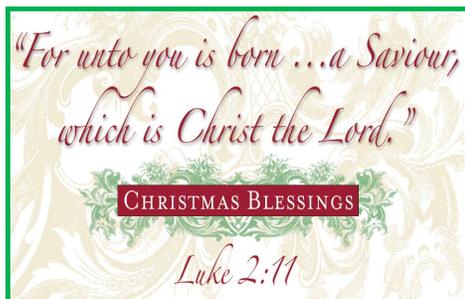
## St. John Catholic School Fundraiser – Parents Nights Out Ticket Request

Number of tickets (\$20/ ticket)

\_\_\_\_\_ Name  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email

\*Please send cash or cheque payable to CSPC to the office of St. Johns no later than Jan. 11, 2019.

\*An email will then be sent to you confirming receipt of your payment for tickets.



## Mental Health Resources for Parents

Children and youth can experience mental health problems that range from mild to serious. As a parent or guardian, you are well-positioned to observe changes in your child's behaviour. It is often difficult to understand what the changes mean.

Parents may wonder if it is a stage that their child or teen is going through. When a problem lasts more than a few weeks, and interferes with his or her daily life it has become a concern that requires further help.

Getting help can be overwhelming for many families. It may be helpful to start with people who know your child or teen:

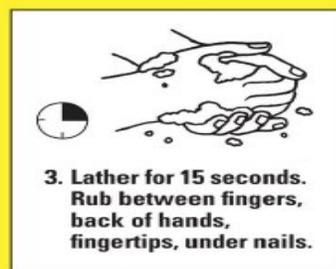
- Educators are well-positioned to partner with you and to share what they notice during the time that your child or teen is at school. All schools have assigned to them psycho-educational consultants, social workers and speech and language pathologists who you may access through your school's principal or vice-principal.
- Guidance counsellors, chaplains, teachers and administrators are also there to help support students who may be experiencing difficulty or who are struggling.
- Your family doctor or pediatrician can ensure that there is not a medical cause for the behaviour you are observing. They may also be able to refer you on to resources in the community for additional support.

Your local Catholic parish may also be a tremendous support.

If you have questions about your child's well-being, please do not hesitate to contact the school principal to discuss possible supports.



# Hand Washing



## Stop the Spread of Germs

### Always Wash Your Hands

#### After you:

- Sneeze, cough or blow your nose
- Use the washroom or change diapers
- Handle garbage
- Play outdoors

#### Before and after you:

- Prepare or eat food
- Touch a cut or open sore

PH16/03/11

416.338.7600 | [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) | TORONTO Public Health

**KEEP KIDS HEALTHY  
THIS FLU SEASON**

★ **Get the flu vaccine early**  
★ **Wash hands often**  
★ **Cover coughs and sneezes**

Talk to your doctor about the flu vaccine choices for kids or visit [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health)

416.338.7600 | [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) | TORONTO Public Health

### Kids and Flu

The flu germs spread when people cough, sneeze or talk. The flu germs can also live on surfaces like toys, countertops, and door handles for up to eight hours.

Students can pass the flu germs to each other, to school staff and to family members before they show symptoms. Children under five, seniors and people in poor health are at greater risk of complications from flu.

Vaccination is the best protection against flu. It takes 2 weeks for the vaccine to be fully effective so get it early.

Tips on staying healthy this flu Season:

- 1) Get your flu shot early
- 2) [Wash your hands](#) often
- 3) Avoid touching face and eyes
- 4) [Cover your cough](#) or sneeze
- 5) Do not share drinking cups and utensils
- 6) Disinfect common surfaces like door handles, hand railings, keyboards, cell phones and tablets.

For more information, visit [toronto.ca/health/flu](http://toronto.ca/health/flu)

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



With the approach of winter weather, Twitter and the board website are the best sources of the latest information relating to cold weather alerts, cancellations and closures.

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

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

### Staying active and safe

- Wear waterproof and windproof outer layers, a hat and warm mittens
- Choose wool, silk or polypropylene inner layers of clothing; these materials hold more body heat than cotton
- Change into dry clothing as soon as possible if you get wet from precipitation, sweat or submersion in water
- Wear several layers of warm lightweight clothing when shoveling snow and follow medical advice if you have a history of back or heart problems
- Reschedule outdoor activities and limit time outdoors if severe weather is forecast
- Notify friends or family where you will be when going on outdoor activities, such as hiking and skiing

Flu season begins each year as early as October and continues through to May, with the peak times being between November and January. Influenza, as well as a number of other viruses that cause coughs and colds continue to circulate in Toronto. In addition, norovirus, a common cause of vomiting and diarrhea, is also being seen in Toronto.



**Parking in Notre Dame Parking Lot:**



This is a very important reminder that St. John Parents are not to access the Notre Dame / St. John Parish parking lot during school days for pick up and drop off. We are working together with Notre Dame so please respect this request as those spots are to be used by their staff. St. John parents are asked to please use the designated St. John parking lot when picking and dropping students off.

**Parent Supervision After School:**



Parents, are reminded that the school yard is not supervised by school staff at 3:00 pm dismissal. If you are choosing to remain in the yard for your child to enjoy the playground, it is your responsibility to ensure your child is playing appropriately and safely so that all students can enjoy the play structures. We are asking for everyone's full cooperation with this.



**Kindergarten & Primary Student Drop Off**

For safety reasons and to build routine, when dropping students off in the kindergarten / primary yards, we ask that all parents move away from the play areas so that they do not block our students and staff supervisors. Teachers are working to build morning routines for our students and they require your cooperation in giving them the space they need as they move from the yard to the school. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



**St. John Crests on sale**

1 for \$3.00

4 for \$10.00

If you are interested in purchasing a crest, please come to the main office.

**DROPPING OFF & PICKING UP STUDENTS**

For the safety of all students, we ask that in the mornings you drop off your children in the appropriate sections of the school yard and leave them with our staff. **Please make sure that your child is dropped off no earlier than 8:00 a.m. Supervision in our school yard begins at 8:00 a.m.** This will help the students develop routines and it will also help our staff ensure a safe school yard.



If you are picking up your child(ren) early from school, please come to the office and sign out your child. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



**VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**



A reminder that **all parents and visitors must enter the school building through the front doors and report to the front office.** We ask that in the interest of safety for all students and to ensure that classes are uninterrupted, please do not walk your child to the class. **We need everyone's total co-operation and understanding on this matter.**

Adults are reminded that for safety reasons, while students are in the yard, only staff should be in the yard.

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, kindly call and make an appointment. Your child's teacher will be happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time.





**Personal Devices:**

Personal Electronic Devices (laptops, cellphones, etc.) can be a great aid in student learning.

Students will be allowed to use personal electronic devices when given permission by and directly supervised by a teacher. If your child has a cell phone for safety reasons, it needs to be turned off and stored safely during the school day when not being used for learning-related tasks. Please do not attempt to contact your child or encourage your child to contact you via a cellphone. Should you need to contact your child during the school day due to an emergency situation, please contact the school office. Similarly, students are to visit the office if they need to contact their parents. Any pictures or videos published electronically and taken on school property or at a school event must have the permission of the individuals, their parents and the principal.

For supervision and safety reasons, students are NOT to use the front entrance of the school to **ENTER & EXIT**. Front doors are only to be used by students boarding buses at the end of the day. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



**SAFE SCHOOL ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

Please leave a message by calling the school at **416-393-5220** when your child will be absent or late. **Please make sure that all students who arrive late check in at the front office.**



**LUNCH ROUTINES**



Students are to remain at school for lunch (11:15-12:15). They may LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS during the lunch hour **only** with a parent or adult present to sign them out. Students are to be signed back in by 12:15pm

Just a friendly reminder...

Once again, we encourage all parents of students who use student transportation, to sign up for the transportation portal to ensure that they have access to the latest transportation information and to receive email notifications when bus companies report late buses. Any possible delays will also be posted to <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>.



In addition, you can get information about transportation services for your child by calling our transportation office at 416-394-4BUS (416-394-4287), emailing [transportation@torontoschoolbus.org](mailto:transportation@torontoschoolbus.org) or by contacting your local school. Should you have any concerns about the service you are receiving, please email [complaint@torontoschoolbus.org](mailto:complaint@torontoschoolbus.org) so that we can follow up with the bus operator to address your concerns.



**Administration of Medication at school:**

Occasionally students may need to take prescription medication at school. In order for this to take place, parents/guardians and physicians will need to complete and sign the appropriate Special Services Medical Forms' which can be requested through the school office. The purpose of these forms is to ensure that any medication that is being administered at school is carried out as prescribed by the attending physician by school staff. Non-prescription medication cannot be administered to students. Additionally, students are not allowed to self-medicate.

**ANAPHYLAXIS ALERT**

We would like to inform you that we are an **allergy aware school**. There are students in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods such as **peanuts, nut products, bananas, sesame seeds, eggs, seafood and shell fish**. **Anaphylaxis is a severe and life threatening allergic reaction.**

We are asking that you be mindful of this when sending lunches or snacks that may contain peanuts, nuts, bananas, eggs, seafood, shell fish and sesame seeds. As well, please check prepared foods for traces of peanut oil or nut products. These items could potentially harm a child. **We would also ask that you please do not send food for birthdays or special occasions.** There are many other alternatives such as stickers and pencils. Please remind your children not to share food in the classroom.



We thank all of you for being diligent in following this request. We must maintain as safe an environment as we possibly can for our students. Since all our students share the school building space in their daily activities, we need to take precautions to minimize any cross contamination issues.



Parents / Guardians,  
 St. John Catholic School is currently looking for new lunchtime supervisors! The position (s) would be available to start September 2018. The position would require you to work for 1 hour (11:15am—12:15 pm) daily Monday to Friday.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in applying for this opportunity please stop by the main office of the school to pick up an application form.

Additional documents required, once application is complete, are as follows:

- 1) TB test (tuberculosis test within 1 year)
- 2) Priest Reference Form (must be Roman Catholic) \*\*
- 3) Voided cheque or direct deposit form
- 4) New hire banking form \*\*
- 5) Copy of the Social Insurance number card
- 6) Proof of birth date with photo id (copy of Driver's license or passport)
- 7) Offence declaration \*\*

**For Toronto Residents Only:**

- ⇒ Please provide Police criminal reference check form (DO NOT GO TO THE POLICE STATION) \*\*
- ⇒ Certified cheque or money order of \$65.00 payable to the Toronto Police Services

\*\* Forms can be picked up at the school



**Catholic School**  
**Parent Council (CSPC)**  
**2018 –2019 Council Members**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly formed CSPC.

**CSAC Executive:**

- Chair: Nadia Niccoli**
- Co-Chair: Jennie Gaffney**
- Treasurer: Claire O'Shea**
- Secretary: Marianne Internicola**

**School Representatives:**

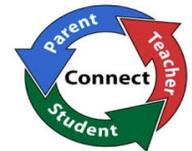
**De Agazio, E. Horbay, D. Comacchio**

We look forward to working together for our students. A reminder that all parents are welcome to attend our CSPC meetings.

Stjohnparentsto@gmail.com

**CSPC Message Board / Website**

<https://sites.google.com/site/stjohnparentstoronto/>



**Upcoming CSPC Meetings**

January 22, 2019

**TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES  
 2018-2019**

*Wards*

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401	8. Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
2. Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402	9. Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
3. Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403	10. Barbara Poplawski, Chair	416-512-3410
4. Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404	11. Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
5. Maria Rizzo, Vice-Chair	416-512-3405	12. Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406	Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
7. Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407	Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee	416-512-3417

