



St John Catholic School
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Toronto Ontario
M4E 1R7
Telephone 416-393-5220
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Principal
D. Comacchio

Secretary
K. James

Office Admin Support
A. Mangano (Mon & Thur)

Head Caretaker
N. Pourgoutzidis

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John Shanahan
416-222-8282

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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

SEPTEMBER 2018

VIRTUE OF MONTH: HOSPITALITY



Dear families,

On behalf of the St. John Catholic School community, welcome back everyone for another exciting school year. We also want to extend a special welcome to the new students, parents and staff who have joined us this year. We hope we have made you feel welcomed these first few weeks.

We look forward to the many things we are planning for this year and we welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with staff, students and the parent community. As we begin this new year, we will once again focus our attention on improving student learning and achievement across all subjects areas but in particular in literacy and numeracy. As a school community, we will continue to focus on supporting students as they develop the various learning skills that are so important to overall student success. When school and home work together, our students have a greater chance at success. We welcome working in partnership to meet the needs of all our students.

During our opening assemblies in the first few days of school, we encouraged all our students to have a growth mindset, to be open to the challenges that come from new learning and to persevere when faced with difficulties. We want our students to be the best they can be at home and at school.

Welcome
new and returning
students!

It is fitting that we celebrate the *Virtue of Hospitality* this month. Our staff was quite busy prior to the start of school preparing their classrooms and organizing learning materials to invite the students back to a welcoming learning environment. As we celebrate the *Virtue of Hospitality*, students are encouraged to look for ways in which they can ensure that all members of our school community feel welcome, included and valued.

This year we start our 2018-2021 TCDSB Pastoral Plan, *Rooted in Christ: We Belong, We Believe, We Become*. The 2018-2019 school year will be a time to celebrate the solid foundation on which our Catholic schools were built—the shared commitment of parents, Catholic churches and the staff in our schools, who work together to inspire our students to grow in faith and knowledge.

We are excited about the school year ahead and we look forward to working together – school, home and church for all our students

Serving you in Catholic Education,

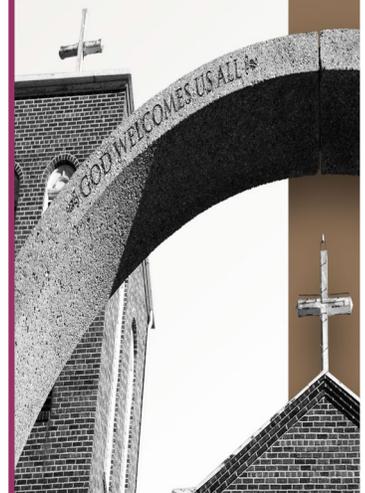
David Comacchio
Principal

WHATSOEVER YOU DO
TO THE LEAST OF MY
PEOPLE, THAT YOU DO
UNTO ME.

~ MATTHEW 25:40 ~

- REMEMBER THAT GOD WELCOMES US ALL TO HIS TABLE; WE SHOULD DO THE SAME.
- BE GUIDED BY THE MESSAGE OF "WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY PEOPLE, THAT YOU DO UNTO ME."
- IF YOU WANT TO FEEL WELCOMED, MAKE SURE YOU ARE WELCOMING OTHERS.
- HOSPITALITY SHOULD BE EVIDENT IN YOUR HOME, SCHOOL AND THE CHURCH.

HOSPITALITY



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

STANDARDIZED SCHOOL HOURS

2018–2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Start of School Day: 8:30 a.m. – classes begin

morning announcements have been moved to 11:00am

Morning Recess: 10:12 a.m. to 10:27 a.m.

Lunch Hour: 11:15 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.

*11:15 – 11:55 – students out for recess (40 minutes)

*11:55 – 12:15 – students in class having lunch (20 minutes)

ELP (Kindergarten classes) Lunch Hour:

*11:15 – 11:45 – students outdoors (30 minutes)

*11:45 – 12:15 – students having lunch (30 minutes)

Afternoon Recess: 1:40 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:00 p.m.

WASTE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The Board approved the introduction of a **“Waste Free Lunch Program”** at all elementary schools in 2010. This program is an integral part of the TCDSB’s commitment to promote and teach our students the importance of being stewards of the earth.

We are asking you to fully participate with your child as we continue to introduce and/or expand the **“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:



Pack lunches and snacks in re-usable containers, not in disposable bags.

Use containers that are re-sealable in order to avoid spills.

Ensure the safety of students who suffer life threatening anaphylactic reactions by placing 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.

Any leftover food can be disposed of in the TCDSB Organics Program (Green Bin) at every school, or will be returned home with your child.

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.



STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Despite teacher vigilance, accidents will occur. Parents are strongly advised to mail in their completed application forms directly to the insurance company. **DO NOT RETURN THE FORM TO THE SCHOOL.**





Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) Elections and Meeting:

All parents in the school community are invited to become members of the Catholic School Parent Council. Your active participation will enhance all the wonderful things happening at our school. The first meeting of the Council will take place on October 1st, 2018 at 7:00 pm **in the school library**. Elections for council members for the 2018—2019 school year will take place at this meeting. Parents wishing to nominate themselves or another parent to the council must complete the Nomination Form (sent home with school forms).



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.

STUDENT AGENDAS



We will continue to use student agendas. The cost for each Agenda is \$10.00. Please take some time to review the content in the opening pages. They include policies, procedures and St. John’s Code of Conduct information, as well as the school’s Progressive Discipline Plan. All students have received an agenda. We encourage parents to purchase the agendas using KEV. An email has been sent providing registration / instructions.

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



Cutlery for Student lunches



Thank you parents for providing your children with healthy snacks and lunches.

Please be advised that the school is not able to provide cutlery for student lunches or heat food for the children, Thank you for your cooperation.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Please complete and sign the forms that were sent home and return them to the school by Sept. 21st (as soon as possible) We need ensure that all information regarding your child is up-to-date) ie: correct home telephone numbers, work numbers, home address and emergency contact. If these numbers change please let the school know promptly, **IN WRITING**.

Local Excursions

From time to time classes take local walking trips in the immediate neighbourhood. Formal consent forms will be used for excursions beyond the local community area. Please complete and return the appropriate form that was sent electronically for visits to parks, public library and walks in the community.





Bus Information

Information, including safety tips and up to the minute reports on cancellations or delays can be found online here: <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org>

Your responsibility as a Parent

- Parents are responsible for their children's safety before they board their school bus, and after they are dropped off in the afternoon.
- While on the bus, students are responsible to the school principal for their conduct. Transportation privileges may be revoked if a student's behaviour creates problems, the length of the suspension varying with the severity of the incident. If transportation privileges are revoked, it becomes the parent's responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.
- Parents are also responsible for transporting their children to and from school in cases of inclement weather or mechanical difficulty.

On the Bus

- The driver is in charge of the bus and must be obeyed at all times.
- Sit where you have been assigned and remain seated for the duration of your trip.
- Be quiet and behave sensibly. Horseplay, fighting, eating, drinking and foul language are forbidden.
- Keep your belongings on your lap or under the seat; aisle must be left clear.
- Don't open a window without the driver's consent, and never lean out the windows.
- Never throw anything inside the bus or out the windows.
- Respect the bus equipment. Students will be held responsible for any damages to the vehicle.
- Avoid conversation with and distraction of the bus driver while the vehicle is in operation.



Waiting for the Bus

Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes prior to scheduled time

****Purple Equals Parent Initiative (PEP program)****

TCDSB, along with our transportation companies will continue implementing the PEP Program.

It is designed to minimize the possibility of a student who requires supervision being released from a school bus without a responsible adult or sibling available to receive the student. Pamphlets describing the program will be sent home with our FDK students.

Parents are now able to access bus route information, i.e. pick-up and drop-off times, on our School Board Website <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org>

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.**



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.



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.



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.

Parents are asked NOT TO USE THE NOTRE DAME PARKING LOT OR PARK ON KINGSTON ROAD when picking up or dropping of your child(ren). Please utilize parking lot at West side of school.

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.

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.

Safety Smarts:

Please take time to review street safety rules with your child. Parents are asked to review stranger danger rules with their children. Reminders not to talk to, follow or go home with anyone unless the parents have had a discussion with them. Having a pre-determined plan for safe arrival and departure with your child. This will help them make good decisions.



APPROPRIATE DRESS CODE POLICY



All students are expected to come to school daily appropriately dressed and in a manner that reflects the aims and atmosphere of a Catholic school. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as the revised dress code gradually comes into effect. Please refer to the St. John dress code policy as outlined in your child's agenda but we understand it may take some time to transition fully. In addition to collared shirts, children can wear any of the purchased St John's sports items (even on non-gym days)

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.



Hospitality





CLASS PLACEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2018-2019

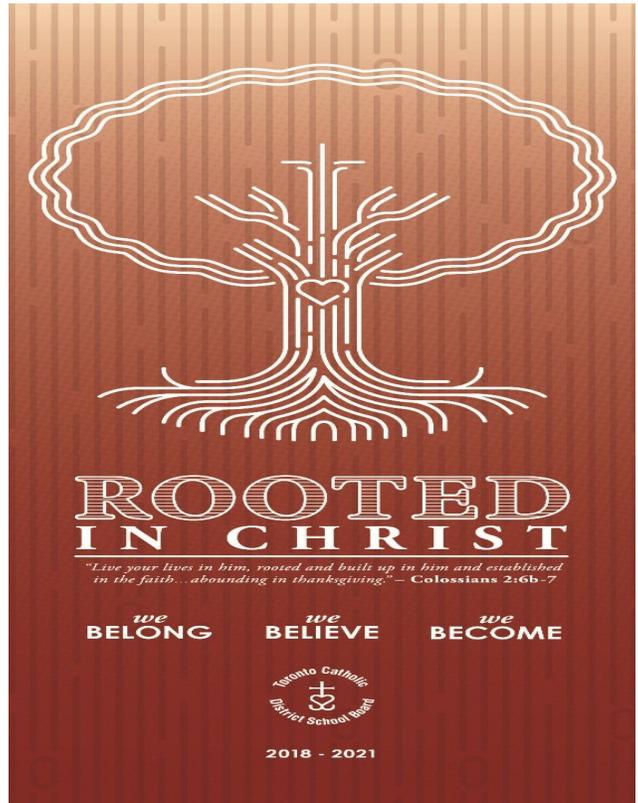
Please be aware that classes and teacher assignments are determined based on the projected enrolment for the following school year. Actual enrolment is often different in September and this may require changes in class structure and may necessitate moving students from one classroom to another. For this reason, **CLASS PLACEMENT ARE TENTATIVE UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER.** Current enrolment numbers indicate we may need to restructure several classes. I would like to thank all of the families who may be affected for their understanding and co-operation.

Our goal is to establish balanced classes to provide effective working groups which will benefit all children in each class. The right combination of students and teacher(s) opens the door of learning. Teachers from both the receiving and sending grades carefully consider the following criteria:

- Learning styles
- Social grouping/peer group dynamics
- Student work habits
- English as a Second Language consideration
- Balance of males/females
- Distribution of special needs/program students
- Behavioural considerations and needs
- Siblings in the same class
- Previous placement (combined vs. single grade)

The above-mentioned factors, along with the general information that the sending teacher brings, is utilized to create classes that we hope will permit each student to work well during the next academic year. I am sure that you can appreciate that creating the best and most functional class groupings possible is a task which requires much thought and careful planning.

We appreciate your understanding and co-operation



Rooted in Christ:

We Belong, We Believe, We Become

TCDSB Pastoral Plan 2018-2021

We thank the many students, staff, parishes, employee federations, trustees and other Catholic leaders who participated in last week's launch of the Board's new pastoral plan. It was truly wonderful to celebrate this launch during Catholic Education Week as we focused on renewing the promise of Catholic education. We were honoured to have His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins as our keynote speaker to offer some insights into the theme for our new 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"), our new pastoral plan strengthens our sense of belonging to God and one another, expresses our belief in God through our vision and mission, and works to achieve our goals as people on a common mission.





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

TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2018-2019	
Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	7
Labour Day	September 3, 2018
First Instructional Day	September 4, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	October 8, 2018
Christmas Break	December 24, 2018–January 4, 2019
Start of second semester for secondary schools	February 4, 2019
Family Day	February 18, 2019
Mid-Winter Break	March 11–15, 2019
Good Friday	April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	April 22, 2019
Victoria Day	May 20, 2019
Last day of classes for elementary students	June 27, 2019

Seven (7) Professional Activity (PA) Days for ELEMENTARY schools:

October 5, 2018	Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development
November 16, 2018	Parent-Teacher Conferences
December 7, 2018	Provincial Education Priorities
January 18, 2019	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
February 15, 2019	Parent-Teacher Conferences
June 7, 2019	Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
June 28, 2019	Provincial Education Priorities

- Three PA days devoted to Provincial Education Priorities and supporting Article 19 of the Collective Agreement.
- One PA day devoted to Faith Development.
- One PA day devoted to numeracy across the curriculum.
- The remaining two PA days will be devoted to system priorities, annual learning plans and local goals articulated in the School Learning Improvement Plans.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2018-2019			
<i>Wards</i>			
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



Is your child ready for learning this school year? Help prepare your child for success by booking an eye exam with an optometrist. It's covered by OHIP for all children and youth age 19 and under.

Did you know?

- 1 in 4 school-age children may have a vision problem that if undetected could affect their ability to learn
- Some vision problems are much more easily treated when detected at a young age



- ⇒ Squinting or holding objects close up
- ⇒ Turns or tilts the head when viewing objects or covers one eye
- ⇒ Excessive blinking, rubbing or itching eyes
- ⇒ Complains of blurry or double vision

Was an eye exam on your child's back to school checklist?

- Eye exam done
- Immunization up-to-date
- School supplies purchased



Young children may not know that they have a vision problem and assume everyone sees the way they do

Some vision problems are more successfully treated when detected at a young age

Annual eye exams for children and youth up to age 19 are covered by OHIP



NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org

Call 416-393-5220 Your school 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



Catholic Parent Involvement Committee



**Ward Representative Elections
October 2018**
Be a Voice for Catholic Parents!

October 2 nd , 2018: Even Number Ward Elections- Parent Members: Ward Representatives				
Even Number Wards	No. of Parent Representatives	Trustee	Superintendent	Election Location/Time
2	2	Ann Andrachuk	Patrick Keyes	St. Gregory/7:00 p.m.
4	2	Patrizia Bottoni	Michael Caccamo	James Cardinal McGuigan/7:00 p.m.
6	2	Frank D'Amico	John Wujek Patrick Keyes	Stella Maris/7:00 p.m.
8	2	Garry Tanuan	Kevin Malcolm Shawna Campbell	St. Barnabas/7:00 p.m.
10	2	Barbara Poplawski	John Wujek	Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton/7:00p.m.
12	2	Nancy Crawford	Shawna Campbell	St. Maria Goretti/7:00 p.m.
October 3 rd , 2018: Odd Number Ward Elections (Vacancies) - Parent Members: Ward Representatives				
Odd Number Wards	Trustee	No. of Parent Representatives	Superintendent	Election Location/Time
3	Sal Picciminni	2	Flora Cifelli Michael Caccamo	St. Fidelis/7:00 p.m.
5	Maria Rizzo	1	Peter Aguiar Michael Caccamo	St. Edward/7:00p.m.
9	Jo-Ann Davis	2	John Wujek John Shanahan	Holy Rosary/7:00 p.m.
October 15, 2018: Parent Members: At-Large Elections: 4 Parent Representatives				
Ward	Total No. of Parent Representatives	Location		Time
Any Ward	4	Catholic Education Center		7:00 p.m.

What is the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC)?

CPIC is a provincially mandated and funded committee that supports student academic achievement through increased parent involvement. CPIC is a parent-led committee of volunteers who work locally and centrally to engage parents more fully in Catholic education.

CPIC members provide information and advice on parent engagement to the school board, create initiatives that promote and facilitate parent engagement, and educate parents to support them in their children's learning at home and/or at school.

Consider running, or nominating someone you think would be a strong voice for parents. Nomination forms are available at all TCDSB school offices. Please forward completed nominations forms to the CEC: Manuela Sequeira, by September 22, 2018.

CPIC's Committee Composition

- 24 Voting Parent Members: Ward Representatives - elected by parents (two-year term)
- 4 Voting Parent Members: At-Large- elected by 24 Parent Members (one-year term)
- 3 Community Voting Representatives - appointed by the committee
- Non-voting members: Trustee representative, Director of Education or Designate, Liaison Officer to the TCDSB



**Toronto Catholic District School Board
Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC)
Elections for 2018-2019**

CPIC is a provincially mandated and funded committee that supports student academic achievement through increased parent involvement. CPIC is a parent-led committee of volunteers who work locally and centrally to engage parents more fully in Catholic education.

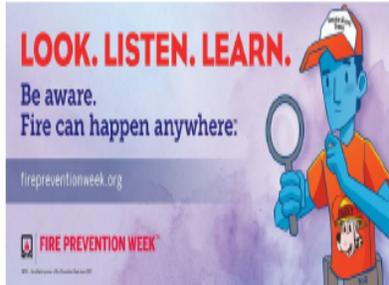
In order to be qualified to stand for election as a Parent Representative or as a Parent Member: At-Large, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 612/00 Subsection 34(2), the candidate must be a parent of a student enrolled in any TCDSB school as of the date of the election. CPIC meets once per month at the Catholic Education Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Consider running, or nominating someone you think would be a strong voice for parents. Nomination forms are available at all TCDSB school offices. Please forward completed nominations forms to the CEC: Manuela Sequeira by September 22, 2018.

Elections for Parent Members: Ward Representatives			
Ward	Number of Parent Representatives	Location	Time
9	2	Holy Rosary	7:00 p.m.
Elections for Parent Members: At-Large (4)			
Ward	Total Number of Representatives on CPIC	Location	Time
Any Ward	4	Monday, October 15 th , 2018	7:00 p.m.



Toronto Fire Services Fire Prevention Week Open House



Toronto Fire and Paramedic Services Training Centre
895 Eastern Ave
Saturday October 13, 2018
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Come join Toronto Fire Services at our Annual Fire Prevention Week Open House featuring: Sparky the fire dog, arts & crafts, face painting, information displays, junior firefighter challenge, giveaways, fire truck display, Heavy Urban Search and Rescue display, TSSA Virtual Reality Display and complimentary BBQ and refreshments!!

Schedule of Events

Event	Time	Location
No Dragons for Tea Reading	10:30 am 1:30 pm	Recruit classroom
Puppet Show	11:00 am 1:15 pm	Recruit classroom
10 min Fire Safety Talk	11:15 am 1:45 pm	Recruit classroom
Live Cooking Demo	11:30 am	Main auditorium
Fire Demonstration	12:00 pm	South fire ground
Auto Extrication	12:30 pm	South fire ground
Live Raffle	1:00 pm	Main auditorium



Made possible by



SAVE THE DATE

We're excited to invite you and your family to join us in a special evening celebration of the power in each and every one of us to change the world.

WE Day Family | Toronto is a stadium-sized event bringing together world-renowned speakers, award-winning performers and moving stories of real families who've committed to making a difference in the causes that matter to them.

To register for WE Day Family | Toronto, click [here!](#)

Craig & Marc Kielburger
Co-founders, WE Movement

WE makes doing good, doable.

Student Transportation Update – Thursday, August 30, 2018



Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach the start of the new school year, we wanted to provide you with a final update on student transportation prior to the first day of school.

We are happy to report that, based on the latest information that we have received from our bus operators, all school bus routes will have sufficient drivers assigned and an adequate pool of spare drivers to ensure proper coverage. No significant delays are expected, however circumstances beyond our control such as local road construction and inclement weather may impact service.

Thanks to all families who have signed up on the transportation portal as it will allow us to communicate and keep you updated on service related issues. If you haven't signed up yet, please visit <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

The portal will continue to be your one stop shop for valuable information.

In addition, you can get information about transportation services for your child by calling our transportation office at 416-394-4BUS (416-394-4287). TSTG has received an overwhelming number of applications and requests for information this week. We are dealing with the requests as they come in to our Call Centre. However, we want to reassure you routes are already set for the first day of school and operators have instructed drivers to ensure all students are picked up from bus stops (on the large capacity school buses) in the morning so that no student is left stranded at the bus stop. As we work through the applications all eligible students will be assigned to their respective bus stops.

Please note, as always there is a short adjustment period at the beginning of every school year as new drivers and new students familiarize themselves with bus stops and routes.

If you have any issues signing up on the portal, please contact us at support@torontoschoolbus.org and staff will assist you with the registration of your account.

A number of important steps in recent months to ensure that student transportation runs smoothly again this year and we are confident that we will have a successful start next week to the 2018-2019 year.

Toronto Student Transportation Group



We are so excited to officially share that apples have arrived. Whether it's a forgotten lunch or an extra hungry tummy, any student or teacher of St. John's can now enjoy a healthy and organic snack at any time. Located outside of the office, The Big Carrot has generously supported this initiative and we want to encourage the community to support and embrace this new local grocer.

A big thank you to our St. John CSPC for coordinating this partnership and making it possible for the school community to enjoy a healthy snack if needed.





Toronto Catholic District School Board

Monthly Update

September 2018

Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Elections

Be a voice for Catholic parents.

Support parent engagement in TCDSB Schools.

Election of two parent representatives in each of Wards 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 is scheduled for October 3, 2018.

Election of parent representatives for vacant seats in Wards 6 and 10 will be held October 2nd.

Election of Members at Large takes place Monday, October 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

For detailed information including election locations, see <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/ParentInvolvement/CPICElections/Pages/default.aspx>

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Nomination forms are available at all TCDSB school offices. Please forward completed nominations forms to the CEC: Manuela Sequeira, by September 22, 2018. Nomination forms are available at all TCDSB school offices.

Municipal Elections - NOTE BEFORE YOU VOTE

All are reminded before the next Municipal Election, including the election of Catholic school trustees, to check your school support on your latest property tax bill to ensure that you are registered as a Catholic school support. TCDSB's assessment department can assist with any questions:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx>

For more information about the election, see:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/trusteesoftheboard/pages/municipal-elections.aspx>

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.

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

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

This is a perfect way to kick start our year focusing on “we Belong” as we open our classrooms, schools, offices and ourselves to making everyone feel welcome.

The virtue calendar for the month is attached for your reference, but please note that 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>

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year as we launch our new 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.”

Learn more about our new pastoral plan:

[Watch the Launch of the Pastoral Plan May 9, 2018](#)

[Pastoral Plan Prayer](#)

[We Belong to God—Pastoral Plan Song](#)

[An Overview of the Plan](#)

[Discussion Topics focusing on the first year of our plan--“we Belong”](#)

[View the artwork for our new pastoral plan](#)

[See photo highlights from the launch of our new Pastoral Plan](#)

During the first year of the plan, we focus in depth on the concept of belonging. Students and staff are invited to explore how “we Belong” to our school community (or place of work), to our family, to our parish and to our world. We are also invited to consider what we can do to ensure that everyone around us feels a sense of belonging—our students, our parent communities, our staff, our pastors and other members of our local parishes.

Throughout the year, share your stories on Instagram and twitter using the hashtag #TCDSBweBelong

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. Complete schedule is online: <https://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/default.aspx>

Integrated International Language Program Surveys

In July 2018 the Board unanimously approved the preservation of the existing International Language Programs in 44 TCDSB schools. In accordance with the Board approved motion, all elementary schools will be surveyed to determine their interest in providing a new International Language program at their school in future years. Surveys will be conducted in all schools starting November 18 and completed by January 2019. More information to come.

Important Dates to Note for September:

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 8--International Literacy Day

• September 9--Grandparent’s Day

September 20--WE Day Family September 20th <https://www.tcdsb.org/board/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/news/2017-2018/pages/we-day-family.aspx>

• **Coming Soon:** Rosary Day and World Teachers Day to be celebrated on Thursday, October 4th.
National Custodial Workers Day scheduled for October 2nd

More information to come in the October issue

Never miss out on important news and information.

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Or sign up for ENews <https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx> and receive updates to your email on a regular basis.