

ST. GREGORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Visit us: <http://stgregorytoronto.com> and follow us on Twitter @StGregoryCS

St. Gregory Catholic Church
Fr. Sean Lee Lung
(416) 239-4831

Superintendent: Mr. Yack 416-222-8282
School Trustee: Mrs. Andrachuk 416-512-3402
CSPC Chairs: Stephen Thomas

Principal: J. Pannozzo
Vice Principal: B. Muron
Secretary: C. Pulcini,
Clerk Typist: S. Shanahan, L. Grise

DECEMBER 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

St. Gregory school thanks our parents for supporting school activities including parent-teacher conferences, the Resilient Families presentation and the Dance-a-thon. We are grateful for being part of such a supportive and active community.

As we celebrate the virtue of charity in December, we are reminded that giving includes sharing our time and talents to help others. The students at St. Gregory have dedicated themselves to spreading joy and goodwill through performances featuring the sights and sounds of the Christmas season.

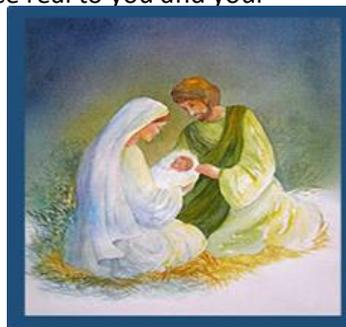
In order to accommodate family and friends, the school has scheduled two concerts. The Kindergarten Christmas Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. The Primary Division Christmas Concert featuring the students in grades 1, 2 and 3 will take place on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

The school would also like our families to be aware of a special learning event in the new year. Family Math Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2018 in the evening. We look forward to learning together!

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel." Isaiah 7:14

As we celebrate Christmas, we are mindful of the greatest gift that God has given us - His presence, in the form of His Son, Immanuel, which means God is with us. The gift of God's divine presence means that, no matter what challenges we face, every resource of heaven is at hand in our time of need. May God make His presence real to you and your family this Christmas and in the coming year.

J. Pannozzo
Principal



SCHOOL HOURS/TIMES

8:30 a.m.	MORNING ENTRY
10:12-10:27 a.m.	A.M. RECESS
11:15-12:15 p.m.	LUNCH HOUR
12:15 p.m.	AFTERNOON ENTRY
1:40-1:55 p.m.	P.M. RECESS
3:00 p.m.	DISMISSAL

All visitors to the school including parents and guardians are expected to report to the office immediately upon arriving at the school.

A sign-in procedure is in place for every individual who enters the school.

Parents/Guardians must call the school at **416-393-5262** and leave a message on the answering machine (*Auto Attendant, Press #1*). Please state your child's name, teacher's name, grade and a reason for absence. **When a student arrives late for school, he/she must report to the office before going to class.**

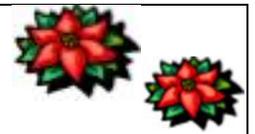
Early Dismissal

Children who **must** leave before dismissal, **must** be signed out by their **parent/guardian** at the office. Please contact your child through the office, not by texting your child.

Please note that a calendar will be available for January. The next newsletter will be for the month of February and will be sent at the end of January along with the February calendar.



DECEMBER ACTIVITIES



ACTS OF CHARITY

GOOD NIGHT KIT

The Catholic Children’s Aid Society Of Toronto is asking for help in making bedtime cozier for children in need. Students from kindergarten to grade 2 are invited to create a Good Night Kit consisting of the following items: a story book, stuffed toy, toothbrush and toothpaste. Dreams will be brighter for many young children due to the kindness and generosity of our youngest students.



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

St. Gregory school continues the yearly tradition of preparing for the birth of Our Lord with the St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was formed in 1833 in Paris, France when a university student and his friends were challenged to prove their faith in Christ through actions and not just words. They responded by helping the poorest members of society. From these humble beginnings the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has grown into an international Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel by serving Christ through those in need with love, respect, justice and joy. St. Gregory students from grades 3 to grade 8 carry on this mission by sharing non-perishable food and gifts to provide a special Christmas for seventeen families in our community.



ST. GREGORY SEWING CLUB

The St. Gregory Sewing Club will be displaying and selling their sewing creations at the Primary Christmas Concert on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, 2017. Please come check out the hand-sewn Christmas ornaments and support the Sewing Club.



THE WE TEAM

The WE team is currently working to help meet global initiatives including access to fresh water for families in Africa. Members of the team will be selling candy-grams to give students the opportunity to send a sweet surprise to friends and classmates. The candy-grams are 50 cents each or 3 for 1.00. Candy-grams will be given out on Dec.8th and Dec. 15th.

SPIRIT WEEK: DECEMBER 18TH-22ND

Please bring \$2.00 for the week to support WE CREATE CHANGE- Pillar of Water, and make a difference for a family in Kenya. All the money collected will help a family get access to clean water and sanitation.

- Monday: Merry Green and Red Day
- Tuesday: Christmas Flannel/Plaid Day
- Wednesday: Winter Pajama Day
- Thursday: Toque Day / Christmas Hat Day
- Friday: Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

WELL-BEING

Christmas is often a very busy time of year with much planning and activities. While it’s enjoyable, we may find ourselves rushing from one event to another without taking the time to enjoy each moment. We encourage you to consider the following tips to enjoy a “well-paced” Christmas.

1. Decide which Christmas activities and traditions are most significant to you and participate only in those activities.

2. Christmas time tends to be a time when people spend more money than they can afford. Make a Christmas budget and stay with it.

3. Take care of yourself. Eat right, get enough sleep and exercise. Limit indulgence in high fat or sugary foods.

4. Recognize signs of stress and use relaxation techniques such as going for a walk or taking a break.

5. Have realistic expectations of family and friends. Just because it’s Christmas, doesn’t mean the attitudes or behaviours of relatives and friends will change. Accept this and plan how you will respond to help keep the Christmas spirit.

6. Make time for yourself. This time does not need to cost anything and can include going for a walk or reading a book.

7. Delegate Christmas tasks and ask for help. Communicate openly and remember it’s ok to say “no”. Don’t carry the entire burden.

Source: TCDSB December Newsletter Mental Health & Well-Being

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL

With the approach of winter and the associated ice and snow, there is always a possibility of school bus cancellations or delays, as well as school closures due to inclement weather. Your best source of information is via Twitter @TCDSB. For those who are not on Twitter, please tune in to local television and radio networks for updates.

Other good sources of information are:

- TCDSB’s website www.tcdsb.org
- Toronto Student Transportation Group website <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org>
- TCDSB 24-hour Telephone Information Line: 416-222-8282 ext. 2873
- Or if you wish to receive updates right to your email, subscribe to enews: <https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Please note that Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will begin on **Wednesday, January 17th at 10 a.m.**



Parents may apply for registration at soar.tcdsb.org.

For September 2018 all children born in 2014 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
6. Direction of School Support

PARENTS URGED TO CHECK THEIR LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

At the October 19, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board resolved that all parents of the Board should be advised to consider contacting their home insurance providers to determine the adequacy of their home insurance coverage to cover claims arising out of injuries caused by their child at school.

The reason for the Board of Trustee direction is that there have been a few instances recently where legal action has been initiated for personal injury or other harm to a student allegedly caused by another child. A brief consultation by parents with their insurance provider is advised so parents can assess the adequacy of their insurance coverage if they are sued for personal injury or other harm allegedly caused by their child at school.

SARA WESTBROOK –ANTI-BULLYING

St. Gregory staff and students welcomed Sara Westbrook as part of our school Safe School Anti-Bullying initiative to share strategies on resilience. Sara is a motivational speaker who strives to empower others with her message on the importance of developing confidence, and relying on character driven choices instead of emotions to succeed when facing challenges. Sara shared her own experiences of growing up and being left out of the “popular crowd” to help children realize that they are not alone and that there are many healthy ways to deal with difficult emotions including writing in a journal, helping others or becoming involved in extracurricular activities.



Sara used her songwriting talents to entertain and reach the audience as her beautiful singing voice told her life stories and life lessons to an enthusiastic group of listeners. Sara’s life lessons apply to us all - as she says, “We can’t always control the circumstances in our lives but we always have the ability to choose the choices we make – this is where our power lies.”

BUILDING RESILIENCE -MAKE CONNECTIONS

Teach your child how to make friends, by demonstrating compassion for others.

Build a strong family circle to support your child through life’s challenges.

Teach your child to find solace in prayer.

Show your child the joy of helping others.



TERRY FOX

Even the rainy conditions could not stop this year’s Terry Fox Run at St. Greg’s. We were almost rained out several times, but we still managed to make things work out.

Together, in the true spirit of “Terry Fox Generosity” we raised a grand total of \$2663.45 This amount was raised from on line donations, Toonies for Terry, and the Terry Fox T-shirt raffle. The Terry Fox Foundation was thrilled with the amount of money we raised.

It was less than last year’s donation but we will try again next year!! A huge thank you to our students and parents. Well done and congratulations to us all. We look forward to doing it all again next September.

A big thank you to Mrs. Hall, Ms. Hetmanczuk, Mrs. Pires, Mrs. Ceddia, Ms. Micallef, Ms. Lunn, Ms. Martino and Ms. Rosa for organizing this year’s Terry Fox Run.

MATH NIGHT

St. Gregory School is planning a night focusing on the joys of engaging in mathematics activities as a family group with the goal of exploration and learning.

The St. Gregory Family Math Nite is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, January 18, 2018 which is followed by a Professional Activity Day.

We hope you will join us!!!



STUDENT MONTHLY RECOGNITION

Student monthly recognition for the 2017-2018 school year will be based on the Catholic Graduate expectations which guide teaching and learning from Kindergarten through to Secondary School. Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind, and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.

The students recognized for **November** were identified for demonstrating of the gift of effective communication - **Effective Communicator** who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.

GRADE	TEACHER/S	
ELP	Ms. Rosa/Ms. Cabral	Lauren D., Mary M., Aiden N.
ELP	Ms. Bellissimo/Ms. DiNardo	Julia J., Massimo P., Brynn D., Katrina D.
ELP	Ms. Andreatchi/Ms. DaSilva	Ryder M., Victor T., E.J. O.
ELP	Ms. Martino/Ms. Selby	Daniel P., Remy L.
SK/1	Ms. Botelho	Gideon O., Frank C.
Gr.1	Ms. Barone	Ava J., Joseph F.
Gr.1	Ms. Ceddia	Mia D., Sophia G.
Gr. 1	Ms. Ricci (LTO)	Sofia D., Michael K., Alexa M.
Gr. 2	Ms. Trinetti (LTO)	Sophia C., Mason R.
Gr. 2	Ms. Gentile	Stella P., Julia G.
Gr. 2	Ms. Dalmau	MacKenzie K., Kejsi P., Benjamin B.
Gr. 2	Ms. Yetman	Michael B., Kiara N.
Gr. 2/3	Ms. Caruana	Chiara, Hunter
Gr.3	Ms. Hetmanczuk (LTO)	Philip B., Marcus B., Connor M.
Gr.3	Ms. Steponaitis	Giorgia D., Cara S., Eloise A.
Gr.3	Ms. Sestanj-Lunn (LTO)	Michael D., Vienna F.
Gr. 4	Ms. Micallef	Ashton T., Andrea S., Lucas M.
Gr. 4	Mr. Zinko	Sofia G., Owen P., Sophia A.
Gr.4/5	Ms. DeVincenzo	Vanessa R., Mara R., Daniel M.
Gr. 5	Ms. Hall	Maria V., Manuela A., Naysa M.
Gr. 5/6	Mr. Fallico (LTO)	Giselle S., Jack M., Mya C., Jimmy R.
Gr. 5 (EF)	Ms. Abboud	Charlotte, Nicolas
Gr. 6 (EF)	Mr. Pruchnicky	Van H., Nicholas G., Summer M.
Gr. 6	Ms. Quartarone	Amaya S., Julian D., Sarah S.
Gr.7	Mr. Holowko (LTO)	Kovas K., Leslie C.
Gr. 7/8	Mr. Vennare	Charlize, Diana
Gr.8	Mr. De Medeiros	Laura B., Amelia L.
Gr.7 (EF)	Ms. Bahsous	Natalie S., Zoey P., Julian B.
Gr. 8 (EF)	Mr. Sansano	Christopher W., Cameron P., Sofia B.

CSPC NEWS

CSPC DANCE-A-THON

CSPC we would like to thank everyone for supporting the Dance-a-thon fundraiser! The St. Gregory Dance-a-thon was held on Thursday, November 16th in the school gym hosted by the Much Music Video Dance Party Company. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 had the opportunity to listen to music and dance with friends and classmates. It was a huge success! Thank you to all the students and families who did an amazing job collecting pledges. The monies which were raised will help towards supporting school initiatives and activities.

Parents are encouraged to attend the next CSPC meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the school staff room.**

Volunteers for various committees and activities are always welcome.

SWIM MEET 2018

St. Gregory Catholic School is pleased to be hosting the 2018 TCDSB SWIM INVITATIONAL, on April 28 and 29, 2018, at the Etobicoke Olympium. We are looking forward to welcoming over 1,200 swimmers from over 35 schools across the Board. The TCDSB swim meet is possible due to the goodwill, time and expertise of volunteers from the host school. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the commitment and enthusiasm of our school community as well as to raise funds for a variety of school resources and activities. All money raised will go to CSPC to support educational experiences for all students.

St. Gregory school is requesting assistance from all members of the school community to ensure that this event is a success and are currently seeking volunteers to assist with Meet Management, Finance, Social Media, Programs, Food Services, Facilities Co-ordination, Signage, and Advertising.

If you are interested in being a part of our SWIM MEET Committee, or volunteering on the Meet weekend, please contact Meet Managers: Jennifer Pyz or Maria Skinner: tcdsbswim2018@gmail.com.

TRUSTEE ANDRACHUK MONTHLY MESSAGE



After an abbreviated summer, it looks like winter has finally arrived. However, as we near Christmas, I would be remiss if I didn't extend a warm welcome to the students and staff who

have joined the community or who have taken on new roles this year. I wish them continued success in their new school communities. I am continually amazed by the wealth of programs and initiatives ongoing in our local schools. These programs, and the school communities that support them, are a testament to the students, parents and educators who have invested so much of their time and effort. While some schools in the system have been struggling with declining enrollment we have seen growing demand for Catholic education in south and central Etobicoke. It truly is a success story. The beginning of December also marks one of the most important times of the year; the beginning of Advent. Advent allows us time to reflect on the year that has passed and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. As we run from place to place during this busy time, please take a moment to reflect on those less fortunate than us and the efforts we can make to lift their spirits. For many, the Christmas season also brings with it the stress of trying to find that perfect gift the loved ones in your life. This year, please consider giving a donation in the name of that special someone to the Angel Foundation for Learning- a charitable organization that supports TCDSB students through nutritional, educational and recreational programs. For more information, or to donate, please visit <http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org>. In closing, I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to the students, staff and families of our community. I hope your season is blessed with joy as we take the time to reconnect with friends, family and loved ones. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TRUSTEES 2017 – 2018

Wards

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

