

# ST. GREGORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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St. Gregory Catholic Church  
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Superintendent: Mr. Yack 416-222-8282  
School Trustee: Mrs. Andrachuk 416-512-3402  
CSAC Chairs: Stephen Thomas

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

## OCTOBER 2017

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Thank you parents/guardians for supporting student learning and well-being through your words and actions as demonstrated by your attendance at Curriculum Night and ongoing communication with the school. We are grateful for the preparation and work of St. Gregory Staff and the excellent response of the school community.

The virtue of the Month for October is gratitude and we are encouraged to take the time to reflect on and express our gratitude for the blessings in our lives. At the school level, we acknowledge the work of our caretaking staff on National Custodial Day on Monday, October 2, 2017. We celebrate World Teacher's Day on Thursday, October 5th, 2017 in recognition of the important role of teachers in student's lives as they support student's academic, physical, social, spiritual and emotional growth. Early Childhood Educators and Child Care workers round out the team of dedicated individuals who nurture young children's hearts and minds and we thank them for their dedication on Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

We extend our appreciation to St. Gregory staff for their caring and dedication to helping our students grow in the Catholic faith, expand their knowledge and develop important life skills. The St. Gregory staff would like to express gratitude for a wonderful school community and wish our students and families a Happy Thanksgiving.

### ***A Prayer of Thanks***

Dear God,  
We thank you for our lives  
We thank you for making each one of us  
a unique person  
We thank you for each other  
We thank you for the many gifts  
You have given us  
Help us to see the gifts of other people  
Help us to share our gifts with each other  
Help us to care for each other the way you care for us.



### 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.

## SCHOOL REORGANIZATION

Since classroom organization plans for the current school year were originally developed, our school has had some changes in enrolment take place. In order to ensure that class sizes are in keeping with the class size average requirements set out by the Ministry of Education, as well as the collective agreements with our teachers, the school has had to reorganize some classrooms. These changes took place during the last week of September and students affected by the changes have been adjusting to their new class placements. Please note that the teachers and administration team are committed to working together to ensure that students are encouraged and support throughout this transition with the utmost care and that there is no interruption to the delivery of the curriculum to our students. We thank the students, families and staff for their patience and understanding.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION/SOCIAL MEDIA

Parent/Guardians will be able to review the monthly newsletters and calendar online on the school's website [www.school.stgregorytoronto.com](http://www.school.stgregorytoronto.com) as St. Gregory continues to do our best to conserve paper and support the environment.

## CHANGES TO CONTACT INFORMATION

In order to ensure that the school is able to contact parents/guardians in case of emergency please inform the school of any changes as soon as they occur.

- change of address/telephone number
- change of employer/telephone number
- change of "emergency" contact person/phone
- change in medical information

## ALLERGEN AWARE SCHOOL

St. Gregory C. S. is an allergen aware school which aims to ensure the safety and well-being of students including those diagnosed with allergies to specific foods. If you wish to celebrate special events such as birthdays please send non-food treats such as stickers, pencils, bookmarks, markers or erasers. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teacher.

## MEDICAL INFORMATION

St. Gregory would like to share a gentle reminder to inform the school immediately if your child develops severe allergies or is diagnosed with a serious medical condition in order for us to work with you to ensure your child's well-being by following appropriate procedures in regards to medication or health emergencies.

If a child requires medication during the school day or in an emergency situation (ANAPHYLACTIC REACTION), the TCDSB Permission to Administer Medication Form must be completed by both the child's doctor as well as the parents prior to administration of any medication.

Students with EPI-Pens are expected to carry an EPI-Pen with them at all times and to have a second EPI-Pen in the office as a back-up.

## SCHOOL ENTRANCE AFTER HOURS

To ensure student safety, students are not permitted entry back into their classrooms after the school day. Students are responsible for collecting all their homework before the end of the learning day.

Please discuss the importance of using the agenda to record and review homework and materials in order to complete assigned work. We encourage all students to develop time and material management skills and strategies which serve them well throughout their school and work lives.

## FIELD TRIPS AND SPORTS COMPETITIONS

Extracurricular events and class field trips are important to the academic and social success of all students.

St. Gregory students are reminded to represent their school proudly by demonstrating respect and courtesy towards others in all settings and by wearing their school uniforms and/or sports team jerseys with pride. Most importantly, student safety is enhanced when students are identifiable as belonging to a school group.

## LUNCH PROGRAMS

The school MILK program will begin on Monday, October 2. As well, Subway Lunches and Pizza Lunches will be available every other Thursday starting with the Pizza lunch on Thursday, October 5 followed by the Subway lunch on Thursday, October 12. Please note that both the pizza slices and subway sandwiches are available as gluten-free options.

## HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

All Toronto Catholic District School Board secondary schools welcome grade 7 and 8 students along with their families to open houses this fall for an opportunity to meet some of the staff, check out school facilities and learn more about the various programs, services and activities available as you prepare for a Catholic secondary school education.

The following open houses are scheduled for Etobicoke area secondary schools.

**Wed., October 25, 2017 6:30 p.m.**

**Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre**  
28 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Way,  
Etobicoke

**Thurs. October 26, 7:00 p.m.**

**Michael Power/St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School**  
105 Eringate Drive, Etobicoke

**Wed. November 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**Bishop Allen Academy**  
721 Royal York Road, Etobicoke

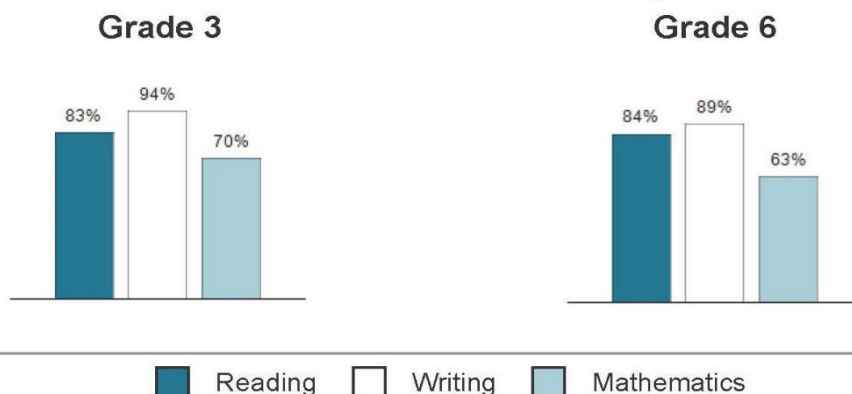


## EQAO RESULTS

The results of the 2016–2017 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics for the Primary Division (Grades 1–3) and Junior Division (Grades 4–6) students at St. Gregory Catholic School are pictured below.

### Achievement Data

#### Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)



### ***TCDSB Continues to Focus on Improving Results***

The Toronto Catholic District School Board continues to report improvements. Reading and writing results are strong in both Gr. 3 and Gr. 6, either approaching or exceeding 80% at or above the Provincial Standard while math results remain low both in the Board and Province. The EQAO results continue to point to mathematics as an area of focus. St. Gregory is continuing to work on supporting our students with the development of knowledge, skills and strategies in mathematics through professional development opportunities, materials and resources, and strategies embedded in the School Learning Plan.

#### **HOME CONNECTIONS**

As well, parents and guardians may choose to explore the following digital resources including online games and activities at: <http://mathies.ca/index.html>



Home connections are printable Grade 1 to 6 mathematics activities to connect the classroom learning to experiences at home



Working in Number Sense (WINS) activities are designed for to engage children using the mathies learning tools and games to deepen understanding and build fluency of mathematical concepts.



Homework Help offers free tutoring to students in Grades 7 to 10. Tutors are available from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday. Students must use their Ontario Education Number, as listed on report card to register at

<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>

## TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

St. Gregory participated in the Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> to honour the legacy of a Canadian hero by demonstrating support for Cancer Research. Students prepared for the event through making posters



and announcements to publicize the event, bringing in donations and sharing the story of Terry Fox. Despite the rainy weather, St. Gregory Catholic school, enthusiastically decked out in red and white walked and/or ran in the schoolyard to make a visible show of support. As well, students participated in a draw to win an exclusive Terry Fox T-shirt!! The 3 winners were randomly selected and were presented with their commemorative t-shirt. Over \$500 was raised in the raffle for the Terry Fox Foundation. Way to go Gregs!

## WE DAY 2017



On Thursday, September 28th, 2017, the St. Gregory Me to We team had the privilege of going to the We Day concert. There, we were all inspired. Sophia Carsson gave a woman empowering speech. Andre De Grasse, a great Canadian athlete, gave an interview. And we even saw Prince Harry!! Mia Farrow, Kelly Clarkson and many other inspiring people shared their stories. Everyone had so much fun, while learning.

*(written by Mairead, Serena and Veronica from Me-to-We at St. Greg's)*

## SWIM TEAM

Please be on the lookout for swim team forms to come out and a parent meeting to take place in October.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**The TCDSB swim meet will be held on April 28 and April 29 2018.**



## HALLOWEEN DANCE-A-THON

The St. Gregory CSPC is excited to announce that this year's dance-a-thon fundraiser will be held at St. Gregory on Halloween day - **October 31st, 2017**. This year's dance-a-thon will be hosted again by The Much Music Video Dance Party company! Students will enjoy a video dance party and have opportunities to win amazing prizes, all while supporting their school community! All proceeds raised by the dance-a-thon will go toward supporting various educational experiences for all students at St. Gregory.

We look forward to another successful event and appreciate any support you may be able to contribute.

Please note that more details will follow in the near future.

We look forward to having a

**spooktacular** time together at the St. Gregory Halloween Video Dance Party!!!!



## TCDSB Parent Charter of Principles and Student Charter of Principles

In support of its vision of transforming the world through innovation, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is the first school board to formally adopt guiding sets of principles outlining parent and student rights. The TCDSB is taking the lead in establishing principles designed to address the basic rights elements of a sound Catholic education to which parents and students are entitled during a period when individual rights is a major topic of discussion in other sectors such as the airline travel industry.

The Student Charter of Principles starts: "A student is entitled to reasonably participate in decisions that affect his/her education and school life. The Board will pursue equity and inclusion for all students of the Board. A student is entitled to a spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically safe, and positive, school environment, where he/she is respected and treated in a manner consistent with our Catholic values and teachings."

The Parent Charter of Principles begins with: "The Board will provide a faith-based publicly funded school with education grounded in Catholic doctrine, traditions and teachings for your child. A parent or guardian will have opportunities for involvement in his/her child's education. A parent or guardian is entitled to a reasonable expectation that his/her child is learning in a safe, healthy, caring and accessible school, free of discrimination, prejudice, bullying and harassment."

Both documents can be found on the TCDSB website at <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/CharterofPrinciples/Pages/default.aspx>

### JOB AT ST. GREGORY

St. Greg's is in need of lunch supervisors. This position would require you to work from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every day of the week for the school year. If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please contact the vice principal, Ms. Muron at 416-393-5262.



## TCDSB DIGITAL STORE

As our students continue to learn and adapt to the rapid advances in technology, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to providing to all of our students and their families, equal access to the latest technology. We recognize the importance of promoting the 21st Century Competencies by supporting digital literacy, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and the overall needs and aspirations of all students. To that end, the TCDSB continues to be on the leading edge of providing technical upgrades and assistance by providing you with a very special opportunity: the TCDSB Digital Store. Visit our website for more information:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/DigitalStore/Pages/default.aspx>

### SUPPORTING WELL-BEING

#### *Making Thanksgiving a "Lifestyle"*

The most psychologically informed holiday is Thanksgiving. Although most of us associate this holiday with overeating, the meaning of Thanksgiving is much more profound. Most of us recognize that our thoughts often are negative in tone. Consider, for example, the thoughts to which you personally most often return. If you're like most people, many of these thoughts probably concern what you lack, what is in the way of your progress in daily strivings, and what could go wrong in your future. These kinds of thoughts contribute to stress, depression, anger, anxiety, and relationship problems. A transformation often occurs when people learn to shift their thoughts from negative to thanksgiving. Although we only celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving one day per year, we all would benefit from making mindfulness of the good in our lives a consistent lifestyle habit. This holiday week would be the perfect opportunity to try out some new practices that might move us in the direction of gratitude.

- Express your thanks to someone who made a difference in your life
- Keep a gratitude journal- make a record of things/people/experiences for you are grateful. Studies show consistent psychological, physical, and interpersonal benefits from this practice.
- Savor the moment. One idea for promoting mindfulness before a meal is to begin with grace - a meaningful expression of heartfelt thanks.

*(excerpt from TCDSB October edition of the Student Mental Health and Well-Being Newsletter)*

## CSPC MEMBERSHIP

Catholic School Parent Council elections were held at the first CSPC meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The members of the CSPC Council for the 2017-2018 School Year are:

Stephen Thomas (Chair)  
Marj Bridger (Vice-Chair)  
Christina Sachanowicz (Secretary)  
Vanessa Thomas (Treasurer)  
Monika Boszormenyiova  
Julie D'Aprile  
Phil Vokins  
Andria Dametto  
Lisa Tarasca  
Diana Morrone  
Natasha Abramowitz  
Jennifer Pyz  
Lori Tenuta  
Maria Skinner  
Marcia Boule  
Susan Rowison  
Nataliya Arcidiacono  
Lydia Wiafe  
Shantell Carr  
Edward Filippozzi

Parents are encouraged to attend the next CSPC meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the school staff room.

## CSPC NEWS

### CSPC WORKSHOP

All Catholic School Parent Council members are invited and encouraged to attend the fall workshop to be held October 23rd, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the roles and responsibilities of CSPCs, network with your colleagues from other schools and share best practices. Dinner will be provided.

### OAPCE-TORONTO CONFERENCE

All parents are welcome to attend the annual Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Conference October 13th and 14<sup>th</sup>

### MENTAL WELLNESS:

Developing Your God-Given Potential

Conference \$40, Gala Dinner \$40 (Networking Reception included)

Keynote speaker: Sara Westbrook  
Conference, AGM, Mass and Commissioning Ceremony (Saturday 8-4) St. Joan of Arc CHS, 1 St. Joan of Arc Rd., Maple, ON L6A 1W9  
Networking Reception (Friday 6-10)  
Gala Awards Dinner (Saturday 7-10)  
Hilton Garden Inn, 3201 Highway 7, Vaughan, ON L4K 5Z7

For more information and registration: [www.oapce.org](http://www.oapce.org)

## TRUSTEE ANDRACHUK OCTOBER MESSAGE



Now that October is upon us and we've begun to settle into the school year it is a good time to highlight some changes, and programs across the Board. September saw the adoption of

the Parent and Student Charters of Principles resulting from extensive consultation with parent and student groups. They outline expectations for parents and students when dealing with the School Board. The TCDSB is the first school board in Ontario to adopt a charter. To view the charters, please visit

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forparents/charterofprinciples>

Also of interest for parents is the Spelling Bee of Canada which will hold its 31st Annual Spelling Bee, from March 24 to April 8, 2018. The 1st place finishers in each age category will go on to the Championship Final on May 6, 2018. Visit

<http://www.spellingbeeofcanada.ca/>

Now that school is underway, it is a good time for a quick reminder about school safety zones. In addition to the 40 km/h many schools have designated pick up and drop off zones and bus loading areas. The shorter autumn days and reduced visibility increase the risk of accidents. Please be vigilant on your way to and from school. Finally, Canadian Walk to School Day is Oct. 4th. Walking to school helps children meet the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day which supports healthy brain development which can lead to improved learning and academic outcomes. Many schools have walking school bus programs which allow groups of students to walk to school under parent supervision. For more information on how to start such a program in your school, and to learn more about the program visit

<http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca>.

Have a safe and pleasant October, a fantastic Halloween and a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## 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<br>Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee<br>Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee |

