



St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

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St. Gregory Parish
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(416) 239-4831

Superintendent: D. Yack (416) 222-8282 ext 2732
Trustee : A. Andrachuk (416) 512-3402
CSAC Chair: A. Severino csac.stgregory@tcdsb.org

Principal: G. Benedek
Vice Principal: K. Van Dinter
Secretary: E. Power
Clerk Typist: C. Ventura Vieira
S. Shanahan

Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC): www.tcdsb.org/cpic

END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2014

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Unbelievably, another year has come and gone! I would like to take this opportunity to extend particular thanks to my staff for their outstanding contributions. They demonstrate a genuine care and compassion for our boys and girls and always encourage them to strive for their personal best. I thank them also for their friendship and I congratulate them on a job well done.

I wish to thank the parents of our community for the ongoing support of our school community both financially and spiritually, as well as the friendship so many of you have extended. Your enthusiasm and commitment to the entire community is truly remarkable. Thank you for welcoming me to this community!

Students, thank you so much for always aiming to achieve your very best. You have made all of us at St. Gregory School very proud of you. Have a safe and restful summer!

Many heartfelt thanks as well to the St. Gregory Parent Council, (Mrs. Severino and her executive) on an outstanding job. I will miss all of you!

Sincerely,
G. Benedek



SUMMER BLESSING

May our loving God
watch over you
and keep alive in your heart
all that you have learned this year.

Keep your mind on God.
Remember to pray often
and to celebrate your faith,
at home with your family,
and at Mass with your faith family.

Keep your faith in God.
Let all the joys of summer
remind you of God's goodness.
Never forget that God
is always with you, no matter what.

May the God of all creation,
who comes to us in Jesus,
and lives among us in the Holy Spirit,
keep you safe, happy, and holy
this summer and always.

Amen.

REMINDER

Our last day of school is on Friday, June 27th. Regular dismissal is at 3:00 p.m.



See you back on: Tuesday, September 2, 2014

For our return to school on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, we would ask that all Grade 1 to 8 students gather in the yard at the grade and teacher specific signs at the 8:30 a.m. bell. (Parents are asked to remain outside of the yard area). Our teachers will gather all the students and enter the school with them. Class lists will be posted prior to the start of the school day.

Our Senior Kindergarten students are asked to gather in the Kindergarten yard and will be collected by the Kindergarten teachers at bell. Junior Kindergarten students will be taking part in a staggered entry over the course of the first week and will be contacted by the school as to the date that they will be starting.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

On Thursday, June 19/14 our Grade Eight graduating classes started off the day by being acknowledged by the St. Gregory students and staff in our traditional "clap out".



Our students then celebrated year's end with a boat cruise in Toronto harbor including a catered lunch and

afternoon dance. At 7:00 p.m. the students reconvened at the church for Mass, followed by their ceremony where the distribution of diplomas, presentation of awards and speeches took place. Students, family and friends then gathered in the school gym for refreshments and farewells. A most memorable day was had by all.

Congratulations to everyone!



SENIOR KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

On Friday, June 20, 2014, Mrs. De Franco, Ms. Aceto and their Senior Kindergarten students celebrated their Graduation with a ceremony in the school gym. All the graduates donned their mortarboards and presented fabulous speeches. A fine job was done by all! Congratulations!

A sincere thank you to the teachers for making the pre-primary years so memorable for the children.



"Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; For, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

What do you think?

If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?

And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost."

PARENT CORNER

During the summer months, children spend more of their time in public places like parks, libraries and recreation centers. It is always a good time to review the basic rules of safety.

Safety Tips for Your Children

Children should:

- Always tell you where they are.
- Know how to use the pay telephone and should always have emergency telephone money with them. They should memorize the telephone numbers (including area code) of home and a neighbor.
- Know their name, age, address, city and province.
- Recognize Block Parent signs.
- Go places with friends.
- Never approach or enter a stranger's car.
- Never open the door to a stranger or let strangers in the house.
- Never say they are alone if they answer the phone or door.
- Never accept gifts from strangers.
- Never enter anyone's home or car without permission from parents.
- Know it's okay to say "no" to adults, especially if the adult wants them to do something which makes them uncomfortable or they know is wrong.
- Know that it is unwise to believe stories such as a person wanting them to help find a lost pet, etc.
- Know that no one has the right to touch any part of his or her body that a bathing suit would cover.

- Recognize suspicious behavior and report it immediately.
- Know to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you.
- Know what to do in case of unwelcome attention e.g., walk faster, go to a neighbourhood store, head for a busy street, walk toward a group of people and wave as if they see someone they know.
- Scream and keep screaming if something is wrong.
- Kick and bite hard if someone grabs them.
- Know that uniformed police officers are there to protect.
- Parents are encouraged to give their children a “password” known only to them. This can be used when a stranger, a friend or family member approaches them and asks them to come with them.



FAREWELLS

We will be bidding “adieu” to a number of our staff members as of the end of this school year. Moving on to new locations and/or other opportunities are:

Mrs. Power,
Mrs. De Franco,
Ms. Ceddia (leave)
Mr. Bottoni,
Ms. Italiano,
Mr. Natalino, Mr. Demski.



We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and thank them for their hard work and caring while here at St. Gregory School.

We look forward to welcoming:
Mr. Pannoza, Mrs. Maxwell,
Ms. Mazzuca, Ms. Oppong,
Ms. Cicirelli, Mr. De Medeiros,
Mr. Vlasschaert, Ms. Kessler,
Ms. Selby, Ms. Kotliarenko, Ms. Bahsous.

CLASS ORGANIZATION & COMBINED GRADES

When the children come to school on Tuesday, September 2nd a class and grade organization will be already in place. The decision as to which class a child has been placed in is completed with discussion between the teachers and the principal. The various abilities, needs and strengths of the students are considered in their class placement. It is important to understand that due to a possible increase or decrease in enrolment, changes may need to be made in grade organization, teacher assignments and the placement of children, during the month of September or early October.

WHAT IS A COMBINED CLASSROOM?

Combined classes group children from two consecutive grades in one classroom. Schools combine classes for a variety of reasons. This includes organizing classes to meet student learning needs and combining grades to balance class size. All classrooms include students with a range of skills and abilities. Combined classes are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. They are simply one of the many ways schools meet students’ academic and social development needs.

HOW ARE STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR COMBINED CLASSES?

Principals and staff consider a variety of factors when grouping children into classes:

- Learning styles
- Social skills
- Academic needs

At St. Gregory we strive to create a classroom environment that will support the needs of all students. Due to a ministry initiative that decreases the number of students

from Grade 1 to grade 3 to no more than (ideally) 20 students in each classroom, we will have combined classes next year. Teachers use



many different strategies to teach students in combined grades identifying the range of needs in the classroom and planning and programming to meet the needs of all students.

WASTE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM



The Toronto Catholic District School Board remains committed to the environment and continues to look for innovative ways to promote conservation through energy and waste reduction initiatives.

The Board approved the introduction of a “Waste Free Lunch Program” at all elementary schools in 2010. It was piloted at several elementary schools in Ontario and has been very successful, resulting in a significant reduction in waste going to landfills. 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, too, are looking to do our part and are asking you to fully participate with your child as we expand a “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:

1. Lunches and snacks should be packed in re-usable containers, not in disposable bags.
2. In order to avoid spills, we ask you to use containers that are re-sealable.
3. To ensure the safety of students who suffer life threatening, anaphylactic reactions, please place 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.

Left-over food which can be disposed of in the green bin program available at your home will be brought back home in their containers by your child.

Our hope is that this practice at school and home will teach all children to carry this awareness and behavior with them as they grow into young adults. Thank you for your on-going support with our school's environmental efforts. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school



SUMMER LITERACY ACTIVITIES

During the summer, it is important that your child continue to engage regularly in literacy activities. Below are some fun ways you can help your child maintain the gains made during the school year.

At Home

- Invite your child to keep a daily journal or diary in which she/he can write about day-to-day activities, books read, or special events. Older children might keep a blog on a free online site <http://www.edublog.org>.

- Create a special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep writing materials, paper, scissors, books, etc., in this special are.
- Explore some interactive educational websites with your child.
- Encourage your child to write stories or create an online comic strip.
- Engage in discussion when watching T.V. with your child. Elicit his/her opinion. This will help your child formulate and express his/her thoughts orally, think critically and build vocabulary.
- Provide your child with sidewalk chalk to write messages on the pavement.
- If planning a summertime barbecue, invite your child to write the menu. Together you can write out the shopping list, read the recipes and help to cook the meal.
- Collect brochures, read them with your child and discuss places you plan to visit.
- Plan a real or virtual trip by exploring websites of places you want to visit.
- Have your child select favourite pieces of work from school notebooks and portfolios to create a scrapbook as a memory of their most recent school year.
- Create a scrapbook of summer memories or a vacation by having your child write and draw about special moments. Include memorabilia (ticket stubs, airline tickets, etc.), photographs and brochures or download pictures from the internet.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ON EXCURSIONS

- Take your child to the public library to join the TD Summer Reading Club. Your young teens can join Word Out: Teen Summer Reading and go online with other book loving teens to talk about favourite books. Check out the Toronto Public Library site for more details <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca>.
- Download stories to iPods. This is a great idea for long car rides or a relaxing hot summer afternoon. See Downloads and eBooks at <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca>.
- Have your child keep a word book to print words they see in the environment and on his/her travels (e.g., names of places, names of things, names of people, etc.).
- Before you leave on a trip, make a Bingo card of things you might see. When your child gets bingo, reward him/her with a comic, joke book or other fun reading materials.
- When you travel, bring games, books, word searches, crossword puzzles and writing materials that will entertain your child.
- Help your child learn a new and interesting word each day/week. Challenge your child to use it as often as possible.
- Pick something in nature to observe over the summer, talk and write about its changes (e.g., a tree, a flower, an insect, an animal, etc.).
- Engage in oral word games to extend your child's vocabulary (e.g., categories, I Spy, I Pack My Suitcase, etc).

TALENT SHOW

On Friday, June 13th, the students of St. Greg's put on an amazing talent show for the entire school. The students worked very hard for three months, giving up countless lunch hours, in order to be well-prepared for the show. Their dedication is a testament to the spirit of our school. We also had a terrific and enthusiastic backstage crew that helped make the show seamless and run so smoothly. And of course, four fantastic M.C.'s that took us through each act of the show with great character and personality. From dance numbers to singing, to electric guitars, drums, cello, fiddle, and even a little comedy in between acts, we entertained students, teachers, and parents alike. We are so proud of all the students that participated and worked so hard to put on a fantastic show! For this, we wish to say a huge THANK YOU to all who made this year's Talent Show one for the books!

Mrs. Roy and Mlle. Iaboni

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR

St. Gregory School is looking to hire a second lunchtime supervisor, specifically for our kindergarten classes.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for this (paid) position, please contact the school at (416)393-5262.

Requirements include:

- TB test results (within 1 year)
- Pastoral reference (within 1 year – must be practicing Catholic)
- Proof of birth date
- Copy of SIN
- Photo ID
- Police criminal reference check
- Offence declaration.

CSAC

Dear Parents,

As the year comes to an end, our Catholic Student Advisory Council (CSAC) would like to extend a thank you to all parents for their support of various CSAC initiatives throughout the year. Your contributions helped make the difference in making St. Gregory a "**Great Place to Be**".

I personally would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the Council executive: Vita Peri, Domenic Ruso, Lori Tenuta, , and council members: Sandra Antoniadis, Vince Arone, Daniela Balsamo, Ana Cimolai, Gina D'Alessandro, Luana Fanelli, Nancy Donnaperma, Edward Filipozzi, Adam Grnak, Stephen Holyday, Anne Mishko, Alessia Ribeiro, Vito Vaccarelli, Phil Vokins, Erica Zizek and our community rep Melanie Alvares-Fernandez. This council has contributed numerous hours in organizing many fundraising and community events such as Pizza Lunch, QSP, MuchVideo Dance-A-Thon, BINGO Night, Fun Food Fridays, Health and Wellness Day, Skate Night, BBQ Family Fun Night, Graduation and Sacramental celebrations and many other functions. They have contributed many hours in supporting school programs such as Milk program and needs such as IT renewal, to name a few. Without their initiative and dedication, all this would not be possible. I also wish to extend a thank you to all parent and student volunteers who helped support the many CSAC initiatives throughout the year. They could not have been accomplished without you. Finally, a BIG thank you to the staff at St. Gregory for their tireless support. Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Angie Severino,
CSAC Chair

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2013-2014

Wards

1.	Peter Jakovic	416-512-3401
2.	Ann Andrachuk, Chair	416-512-3402
3.	Sal Piccininni, Vice-Chair	416-512-3403
4.	Patrizia Boltoni	416-512-3404
5.	Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6.	Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7.	John Del Grande	416-512-3407
8.	Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9.	Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
10.	Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11.	Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
	William Lawrence, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
	Enrique Olivo, Student Trustee	416-512-3417

**Student Student Awards
Virtue of the Month**

JUNE - FAITHFULNESS

TEACHER	GRADE	STUDENTS			
T. Aceto /	JK/SK	Luke W.	Dani P.	Brandan F.	Emmett S.
P. Santelli	JK	Sofia C.	Matteo B.		
L. DeFranco	SK	Dante D.B.	Matthew C.		
L. Pitoscia	1	Noah B.	Manuela A.	Samuel A.	
C. Mulvihill	1	Nicholas L.	Luca O.	Alex G.S.	
T. Roy	1	Mason E.	Joaquin B.		
M. Alberton	2	Andrian L.	Elyssa O'B.		
O. Gentile	2	Melinda M.	Nicholas G.		
N. Yetman / Ms. Tanchak	2	Andrew P.	Abrielle Z.G.		
M. Ceddia	2/3	Joseph A.			
K. Steponaitis	3	Alythea A.	Thomas S.S.		
E. Brajuka	3	Amanda D.	Noah S.		
A. Loughlin	3	Victoria r.	Matteo G.		
J. Henderson	4	Julian L.	Christian D.F.	Sophia C.	Vanessa C.R.
P. Zinko	4	Antonio C.	Vanessa P.		
M. Micallef	4	Patrick W.	Sydney N.		
N. Hall	5	Christina W.	Sophia B.	Christian S.	Patrick T.
V. Andreacchi	5FI	Elijah C.	Kevin K.	Michal T.	
M. Quartarone	5/6	Alexander I.			
R. Bottoni	6	Angelo D.C.	Dylan L.		
D. Abboud	6FI	Megan R.	Alexandra S.		
T. Botelho	6FI	Madeline L.	Joe V.		
D. Italiano/P. Carniel	7FI	Brooke K.	Gabrielle F.		
D. Italiano/P. Carniel	8FI	Jacklyn M.	Joaquin O.R.		
A. Natalino	7	Marcus A.	Julien D.		
C. Dalmau	7/8	Mara A.	Anthony A.		
A. Silvestre	8	Erica V.	Robert J.	Sophia P.	Annika C.



If God came to visit us, we would ask him:

- **How can I stay on earth?**
- **When I am in heaven will my eyes be open or closed?**
- **Do you know what I am thinking right now?**
- **Can you make me brave?**
- **Why did some people try to hurt Jesus?**
- **Can you die in heaven?**
- **May we have a tour of heaven?**
- **Why did you make people on earth?**
- **Is heaven big?**
- **Why do bees sting me?**
- **Are you the son of the Lord?**
- **Can you help me to stop bullying?**
- **Can you fly?**
- **Can you please help my second grandma see well?**

(Ms. Mulvihill's grade one class)
