



St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

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Principal: G. Benedek
Vice Principal: A. Martin
Secretary: C. Ventura-Vieira
Clerk Typist: S. Shanahan

December 2012

TCDSB

From the Office

The Advent Season is upon us and with it, we begin to prepare for the festivities of Christmas. Advent is a season in which, among other things, we slow down, listen and live. It is a time of introspection, prayer and preparation; a time of joyful waiting and watching. We reflect on the wonderful ways in which God has touched our lives and we marvel at the miracle of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Let us encourage our children to prepare for Christmas and celebrate the blessing of the season in a thoughtful and prayerful way, that we might focus on and recognize the fulfillment of God's promise to His People.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Benedek
Principal



A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson

*Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
And good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
Which Christ brings,
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning
Make us happy to be thy children,
And Christmas evening bring us to our beds
With grateful thoughts,
Forgiving and forgiven,
For Jesus' sake.*

Amen.

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

~ LATIN HYMN ~

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

CHARITY



Ms. Micallef's grade 4 class would like to thank all those students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 who helped support the Pumpkins with a Purpose Campaign. By purchasing a foam pumpkin, students were given an opportunity to decorate it with a variety of supplies over the course of lunch recess. The pumpkins were so well done! Thank you to those students who demonstrated school spirit and helped raise over \$218.00. The monies raised will be forwarded to the International Federation for Animal Welfare - an organization that helps preserve wildlife habitats around the world.

Virtue of the Month CHARITY



As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is CHARITY. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on the 25th, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. Our quote for the month is "Where charity and love are, God is there". As St. Thomas Aquinas described it, "Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God". How can we practice charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things? Let's make this the challenge that we all strive to achieve for the month of December!

Cyberbullying

St. Gregory School welcomed Paul Davis on Tuesday, November 27 to present to our junior and intermediate students, and our parents on online safety. The sessions were very powerful. The challenges that our young people face are vastly different from those of our childhood. One of the most painful for the victim, as well as one of the most problematic to address, is that of cyberbullying.

By definition, cyberbullying is when one child targets another child using interactive technologies. It can be a hateful message to your child, anonymous or signed. It can be bashing website where other kids can vote for the ugliest, fattest, most unpopular kid. They can hack into your computer. They can steal or guess your child's password. They can torment your child on website games. They can pretend to be someone your child knows.

Our students have yet to develop the maturity to manage interactive technologies independently. (Face Book was never intended for this age group!) Monitor your child's computer use; have access to your child's e-mail account; screen text messages; view social networking site postings. Protect your child.

Sweet Read

Once again this year St. Gregory's Catholic School is holding "Sweet Read". This is another way our students help out at Christmas. Our JK-Grade 3 classes are asked to bring in a book along with a chocolate, and this will be donated to the Catholic Children's Aid Society. Please use clear wrapping so we can see the book. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

P.A. Day

December 7, 2012 is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no classes for students.

CSAC

Our next CSAC Meeting is Wednesday, December 12th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Music room. All parents are welcome. Child minding (4 years of age and up is provided at no cost.

An Important Winter Safety Concern

In anticipation of the arrival of our first significant snowfall, we ask that you reinforce with your child that 'snow stays on the ground'. Students are reminded that there is to be no snowball throwing, kicking of snow, taking hats, etc. Please take this opportunity to discuss these behaviours with your child(ren) in the interest of student safety.

Winter Dress

It is that time of year when students need to be reminded of the necessity of dressing properly for the weather (mittens, hats, scarves, boots, etc.). Labelling items would be helpful, as many boots and mittens look very similar. Many items make their way to the Lost and Found and are often not claimed. We ask that each child have indoor footwear (eg. running shoes) to wear in the school and boots to wear outside when the weather becomes rainy or snowy. Please help us (and your children) by listening to the weather reports before deciding what they should wear to school each day.

Except under unusual conditions, students go outside during recess and lunch hour. Research indicates that time outdoors in the fresh air allows students to refocus on their studies.

We will monitor the weather conditions daily and make decisions based upon our local conditions.

Please bear in mind that children who are too ill to go outside should be resting at home and should not be at school.

Transportation in Inclement Weather

Cancellation of school bus transportation or school closures due to inclement weather will be reported through the following vehicles:

- News releases to all media outlets in Toronto (note: although the news release is provided to the media outlets, there is no guarantee that all television and radio stations will broadcast the information in a timely fashion).
- Communications will endeavour to send an email to everyone on exchange to advise them of any cancellations or closures.
- Communications will also endeavour to send out the information electronically to E-News subscribers (Note: If you do not already subscribe to E-News, but wish to do so, please visit our website at www.tcdsb.org and click on the E-News icon on the top right hand side of the homepage)
- Updates will also be posted on the Board's 24-hour information line, 416-222-8282, ext. 2873.
- The information will also be posted on the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org or www.tcdsb.org/weather.htm
- The Transportation Department will post this information on its website at http://www.scholbus.to/c_home.asap

Terry Fox

We are very proud of all the students who participated in this year's Terry Fox walk. Together we raised \$1384.84. The students looked amazing in their red and

white in honour of our Canadian hero. Please make sure you see the Terry Fox banner that proudly hangs in our school foyer. We look forward to doing this again next year. A big thanks to all the staff for helping to ensure the day was a success.

Last Day of Classes

The last day of classes before the Christmas holidays is Friday, December 21, 2012. Dismissal will be at the regular time of 3:00 p.m.

Hockey Team

Tryouts will be taking place for the St. Gregory Co-Ed Hockey team on December 5th, 12th and 19th at Centennial Arena. All interested students have already been invited to collect the necessary paperwork with regard to permission and details. This will be the school's seventh season in TCDSB Co Ed Hockey League.

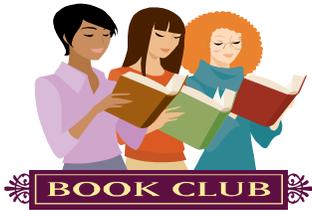
Angel Foundation for Learning

St. Gregory Catholic School is pleased to announce that **The Angel Foundation for Learning**, the charitable organization devoted to assisting needy students within TCDSB schools, has approved our school's funding request in support of our Quebec City Trip.

Serving TCDSB students and making a positive difference, we congratulate The Angel Foundation for Learning for helping over 300,000 students since its inception in 1987. Currently they continue to serve over 40,000 students annually.

Donations to the Foundation are welcome and can be sent to: The Angel Foundation for Learning, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON M2N 6E8. Tax receipts for donations of \$10.00 or more will be issued. For more information about the Foundation visit www.angelfoundationforlearning.org

St. Gregory Book Clubs 2013



St. Gregory School, through the generous support of its C.S.A.C., is once again having Junior and Intermediate Book Clubs.

Junior and Intermediate students are able to join our *before-school* reading clubs. The Junior Book Club is for Gr. 4-6 children and the Intermediate Club is for Gr. 7 & 8 students. Members set personal reading goals and read independently during book club and personal time. Students share their opinions and feelings about selected literature during weekly, casual "book talks" with their peers.

Both book clubs run WEDNESDAY mornings, from late January to mid-April, from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Both clubs will begin meeting on WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23rd, starting promptly at 8:00a.m. Students are asked to arrive for 7:55 a.m., and meet outside of the library.

An invitation to attend an information meeting and pick up a permission form will be extended to all Gr. 4-8 students in December. Listen for upcoming announcements! A reminder that space is limited and that spots may be filled on a first come basis. Forms are to be returned before/by Wed. Jan.9th. This reading initiative has been extremely successful in promoting increased interest in



and enjoyment of literature. Congratulations to the St. Greg's community for their continued enthusiasm and commitment toward fostering literacy!

Christmas Baskets

For many years now, in the spirit of giving, the St. Gregory School community has participated in collecting food items, and Christmas gifts in support of the Saint Vincent de Paul community Christmas Hamper Project.

We are pleased to begin this worthwhile endeavour once again this year. Junior and Intermediate teachers and students will be involved, starting this December 3. We will be providing for some 14 needy families in our community. It is an excellent opportunity for our students to give witness to our Catholic social teaching, and to "Turn concern into Action". Thank you in advance for your continued support

St Gregory Swim Team

Calling all St. Greg's swimmers! The St. Gregory Swim Team wants **YOU!** Our team will again participate in the TCDSB annual swim meet held at the Etobicoke Olympium in 2013 on the weekend of May 4th and 5th. We welcome all swimmers in grade two to grade eight who can competently swim 25 meters (testing for new team members takes place at our first practice).

This is a great chance to join a school team and have a really good time enjoying a great sport. Practices will be held at

Memorial Pool for eight Saturdays from 5:30-6:30 pm beginning in February. Registration forms and more information will be available in January.

2013 TCDSI Web site:
www.swim2013.com

Me to We News

The Me to We team continues to collect money every Dress Down Day to support education in Haiti. Our goal is to reach \$5,000.00 to help build schools and libraries, support teachers, provide chairs, notebooks and pencils so that children can have the opportunities they deserve. We have collected over \$800.00 so far and hope to reach our goal by June. We thank you for your support in this very worthwhile project.



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2012-2013

Wards

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Peter Jakovcic | 416-512-3401 |
| 2. | Ann Andrachuk,
Chair | 416-512-3402 |
| 3. | Sal Piccininni,
Vice-Chair | 416-512-3403 |
| 4. | Patrizia Bottoni | 416-512-3404 |
| 5. | Maria Rizzo | 416-512-3405 |
| 6. | Frank D'Amico | 416-512-3406 |
| 7. | John Del Grande | 416-512-3407 |
| 8. | Tobias Enverga | 416-512-3408 |
| 9. | Jo-Ann Davis | 416-512-3409 |
| 10. | Barbara Poplowski | 416-512-3410 |
| 11. | Angela Kennedy | 416-512-3411 |
| 12. | Nancy Crawford
Andrew Walker,
Student Trustee | 416-512-3412
416-512-3413 |

Student Awards
Virtue of the Month
NOVEMBER - PEACE

Peace I leave you. My peace I give to you.
John 14:27

TEACHER	GRADE	STUDENTS			
T. Aceto / C. Tassone	JK	Anthony F.	Juliana H.		
P. Santelli	JK	Samantha C.	Joshua M.		
N. Rafferty	JK/SK	Ernesto R.A.	Luke P.		
K. Vieira	SK	Matteo P.	Elizabeth S.	Mariel G.	Christopher S.
L. Pitoscia	SK/01	Abigail B.	Seamus C.	Sophia D'A.	
C. Mulvihill	1	Ante M.	Milena B.		
T. Roy	1	Stephen J.	Julianne K.		
M. Alberton	1/2	Domenic B.	Daniel G.		
M. Ceddia	2	Natalie S.	Joseph D'A.	Steven M.	
O. Gentile	2	Madison V.H.	Christian R.		
N. Yetman	2/3	Zoey P.	Daisy C.		
A. Grella	3	Clara B.	Brenna R.		
E. Brajuka	3	Christine S.	Christopher W.		
A. Iwasykiw	3	Emilio M.	Erica S.	Stephanie P.	
J. Henderson	3/4	Steven P.	Sarah S.		
K. Steponaitis	4	Patrick T.	Julia B.		
M. Micallef	4	Thomas S.	Anne G.	Dominic F.	
P. Zinko	5	Samantha D.	Matthew C.		
N. Hall	5/6	Reiley B.R.	Julien D'A.	Dylan L.	
J. Pires	6/7	Mara A.	Alea A.	Oliver C.W.	
S. Peters	7	Lauren D.	Sam M.		
S. Suraj	8	Mariangela P.	Kayla F.		
A. Silvestre	8	Jerry C.	Sophia K.	Sean J.	
V. Andreacchi	5 FI	Matthew B.			
D. Abboud	5/6 FI	Sarah Cho			
T. Botelho	5/6FI	Frances Skulj			
M. Quartarone	7 /8FI	Toni P.	Andriy S.	Rebecca P.	
P. Carniel	7/8 FI	Emily G.	Sonya McG.	Matthew L.	