



St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

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St. Gregory Parish
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(416) 239-4831

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Trustee : A. Andrachuk (416) 512-3402
CSAC Chair: A. Severino csac.stgregory@tcdsb.org

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

December 2013

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



**This
Xmas, try
to end a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion,
and replace it with trust...
Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Give a soft answer. En-
courage youth. Manifest your loyalty in
word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the
time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think
first of someone else; Appreciate. Be kind; be
gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve
confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry
complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to Church.
Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child or
a senior.
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the
earth. Speak your
Love, yes please do speak
Your love. Speak
It again. Speak
It still once
Again.**



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

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!

Sweet Read

Once again this Christmas season, the St. Gregory kindergarten and primary students are being asked to participate in our annual "Sweet Read" Christmas fund raiser. The Catholic Children's Aid Society eagerly awaits our wonderful gifts and every year they are impressed with the generosity of our young students. Our students help to brighten another child's day with their donations of new books and chocolate treats. It is a true display of "Christmas Spirit". From December 2nd to the 16th students can drop off their wrapped donations, (in clear cellophane), on the table near our Christmas tree.



P.A. DAY

December 20, 2013 is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no classes for students.

CSAC

Our next CSAC Meeting is Wednesday, December 11th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Staffroom. All parents are welcome. Child minding (4 years of age and up) is provided.

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.). Labeling 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.aspx



Hockey Team

Tryouts will be taking place for the St. Gregory Co-Ed Hockey team on December 4th, 11th and 18th 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.



BOOK CLUB



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. Please look for details regarding the specific start date in the near future. (Students will be 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 will be filled on a first come basis. Forms are to be returned before/by Wed. Jan. 8th. 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 2. 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our Grade 5 to 8 students will once again be invited to take part in a "ski/snowboard" day at Mt. St. Louis/Moonstone on **Thursday, January 23rd, 2014**. Forms will be directed home to you the first week of December with the details.



Scientists in School

Scientists in School workshops are a wonderful extension to the grade specific curriculum for our students and teachers. We have once again this year, booked two workshops per class.

The St. Gregory CSAC will generously be covering the cost of one workshop and our students (parents) will be asked to cover the second (\$8.00/child).

CONFESSIONS

Confessions for the season of Advent will be taking place on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at St. Gregory Catholic Church from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. Our grade 3 to 8 students will be participating.

BAKE SALE

The Grade 8 students of St. Gregory School held a bake sale at the Parish Hall after each mass on November 16th and 17th. The Bake Sale was a great success as a total of \$776.00 was raised.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our student community, our CSAC and the St. Gregory Parish to work together for a special cause.

Thank you to Father John, Lucy Pereira, president of the CWL and all parishioners. A special thanks to all the ladies of the CWL who baked for us. We certainly could not have raised all that money without the giving of their time and their delicious home baked goods. A thank you is also extended to Mrs. Giaquinto for finding and delivering corporate donations. Thank you to Java Joes and Cobbs Bakery for their

generosity. And who could forget to thank our Grade 8 students who assisted in their fundraiser: Matthew Lesiuk, Erika MacKenzie, Sarah Kokthi, Erica Vescio, Christine Cowe, Michael MacDonald, Talia Roque, Rachel Piccone, Lauren Dickson, Rebecca Gritti, Nathan Coelho, Sean McNamara, Oki Adeoba, and Samantha Sagredo.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration (for Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten) for St. Gregory School will begin on Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

We have been allotted three classes which will be blended kindergarten classes (both JK and SK age students) with a capacity for 26 students in each class.

Details regarding registration will be directed out to the community in the very near future.

Documents Required are as follows:

1. Child's Baptismal Certificate in the Catholic Faith
2. Child's Immunization Record
3. Child's Health Card
4. Child's passport or immigration documents
(if born outside Canada)
5. Proof of Residency (i.e., lease or ownership,
Driver's license, utility bills (at least 3 notig residence)
6. Students must reside within the school boundaries

Original documents are required!

Boundaries are: Islington to The East Mall & Eglinton to Burnhamthorpe

Our extended registration date will be Wednesday, January 15, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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 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. 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 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 / | JK/SK | Alessia D'A. | Natalya M. | | |
| P. Santelli | JK | Marios M. | Sofia C. | | |
| L. DeFranco | SK | Ava G. | Samuel G. | | |
| L. Pitoscia | 1 | Chloe T. | Joshua S. | | |
| C. Mulvihill | 1 | Jacob C. | Rosanna S. | | |
| T. Roy | 1 | Liana V. | Aidan C. | | |
| M. Alberton | 2 | Jack M. | Abigail B. | | |
| O. Gentile | 2 | Kelly F. | Ante M. | | |
| N. Yetman | 2 | Michael D'O. | Jazmin T. | | |
| M. Ceddia | 2/3 | Stephen J. | Alyssa J. | | |
| K. Steponaitis | 3 | Rachel H. | Joshua M. | | |
| E. Brajuka | 3 | Jack W. | Joey C. | | |
| A. Loughlin | 3 | Amanda B. | Natalie S. | | |
| J. Henderson | 4 | Melissa M. | Daniel P. | | |
| P. Zinko | 4 | Christine S. | Aiden C. | | |
| M. Micallef | 4 | Sofia B. | Jaidan T. | | |
| N. Hall | 5 | Cristina W. | Lauren O.S. | Graham H. | |
| V. Andreacchi | 5FI | Thomas S. | Leora A. | | |
| M. Quartarone | 5/6 | Lucas A. | Andrew G. | Amanda M. | |
| R. Bottoni | 6 | Sean C. | Alexander D. | | |
| D. Abboud | 6FI | Bridget M. | Julia P. | | |
| T. Botelho | 6FI | Matthew B. | Ulana M. | | |
| D. Italiano/P. Carniel | 7FI | Daniel D. | Frances S. | | |
| D. Italiano/P. Carniel | 8FI | Christian V. | Kimberly M. | | |
| A. Natalino | 7 | Misha S. | Arthur K. | | |
| C. Dalmau | 7/8 | Katie B. | Rory G. | | |
| A. Silvestre | 8 | Luka S. | Jason M. | | |