



St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

126 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 2K6
Telephone: (416) 393-5262 Fax: (416) 393-5189
Visit us: <http://stgregorytoronto.com>
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St. Gregory Parish
Fr. John Bertao
(416) 239-4831

Superintendent: D. Yack 416-222-8282 Ext. 2732
Trustee: A. Andrachuk 416-512-3402
CSAC Chair: A. Grnak csac.stgregoy@tcdsb.org

Principal: J. Pannozzo
Vice Principal: K. Van Dinter
Secretary: C. Ventura Vieira
Clerk Typist: S. Shanahan

DECEMBER 2014

TCDSB

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The Season of Advent began **Sunday, November 30th, 2014.** Advent is a time of waiting for the birth of Jesus Christ. During Advent, we prepare our homes and ourselves to welcome the newborn King. It is a time to reflect on Christ's presence in our everyday life. At St. Gregory Catholic School, the month of December will be devoted to creating an atmosphere of preparation. We want our students to understand, experience and celebrate this special time.

A reminder that our Primary Christmas Concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.**, in the school gym. Our kindergarten students will also be having a Christmas Concert on **Wednesday, December 17th at 9:30 a.m.** in the school gym. Thank you to all our teachers for preparing our students for these performances. Please note that there will be no January newsletter – only the January calendar will be posted on line.

On behalf of the entire staff, we want to extend our best wishes during this season of Christmas.

J. Pannozzo
Principal



A CHRISTMAS CREED

I BELIEVE IN Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.
I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town;
and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world,
in towns both large and small.
I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room,
and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude
Christ from my life today.
I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never
understand,
whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of
hungry hearts.
I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.
I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms,
whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth,
who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them,
who by love brought sinners back to purity,
and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God:
The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed,
the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.
I believe in God who give us the best for himself.
I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night,
for me and for the world.

**VIRTUE OF THE MONTH
DECEMBER**

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

*Student Awards
Virtue of the Month*

NOVEMBER - PEACE

TEACHER	GRADE	STUDENT		
Ms. Aceto	ELP	Lilly R.	Olivia C.	Mason R.
Ms. Andreacchi	ELP	Brandan F.	Braeden B.	John G.
Ms. Salmond	ELP	Christian D.	Valencia J.V.	Michael B.
Ms. Maxwell/ Ms. Santelli	ELP	Brenden W.	Vienna F.	
Ms. Pappano	SK/1	Lara Nicole S.	Ella C.	
Ms. Pitoscia	1	Kaine H.	Ava K.	
Ms. Mulvihill	1	Stefano M.	Gabriel F.	
Mrs. Roy	1	Ryan D.	Ava G.	
Ms. Alberton	2	Jacob C.	Harry Z.	
Mrs. Gentile	2	Lara Y.	Travis J.	
Mrs. Yetman	2	Christopher S.	Ethan B.	Rosanna S.
Ms. Donatelli	3	Renee P.	Noah L.	
Ms. Brajuka	3	Ante M.	Stephen J.	
Ms. Loughlin	3	Andre P.	Abrielle Z.G.	
Mr. Zinko	4	Madison V.H.	Matteo G.	
Ms. Henderson	4	Elisa G.	Kiara I.	Victoria R.
Ms. Micallef	4/5	Avree V.	Katherine S.	Sofia G.
Mrs. Hall	5	Laura B.	Cooper S.	Bryan S.
Mrs. Quartarone	6	Andrew G.	Samantha B.	Matthew M.
Ms. Cicirelli	6/7	John Cole	Christian	Amanda
Mr. Vennare	7	Sean C.	Cameron L.	Julia F.
Mr. De Medeiros	7/8	Arianne D.	Dylan B.	Matthew C.
Ms. Dalmau	8	Adam P.	Mara A.	William T.
Mme Abboud	5 Ext.Fr.	Sofia B.	Matteo R.	
Mrs. Botelho	6 Ext.Fr.	Sarah M.	Joelle S.	Francesco V.
Mlle Carniel	7 Ext.Fr.	Alexandra S.	Daniel P.	
Ms. Silvestre	7 Ext.Fr.	Andrea L.G.	Nathan N.	
Mme Bahsous	8 Ext.Fr.	Eric D.S.	Victoria G.	

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 fundraiser. 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 1st to the 12th students can drop off their wrapped donations, (in clear cellophane), on the table near our Christmas tree.



P.A. DAY

December 5, 2014 is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no classes for students.

CSAC

Our next CSAC Meeting is **Tuesday, December 9th** 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

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.
Both clubs will begin
meeting on **WEDNESDAY**
JANUARY 21st



BOOK CLUB

, starting promptly at 8:00a.m.
Students are asked to arrive for 7:55
a.m., entering through the main
doors, and meeting 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.7th.

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 1 to December 12. 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 **Friday, February 27th, 2015.**

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 two workshops.

Intermediate Boys' Volleyball Team

The Intermediate Boys Volleyball wrapped up their 2014 season in November. The 2014 season proved to be the most successful in the history of St. Gregory Boys Volleyball. The boys travelled to Archbishop Romero on November 6th for an invitational tournament. The boys won this tournament in convincing fashion. They then travelled to All Saints for their divisional tournament which they also placed first in. Next up was the West Regional tournament where the boys played some great volleyball beating Our Lady of Sorrows in the finals to become the best in the west. This gave the team a spot in the City Wide Volleyball Championships. The team faced some stiff competition but were up to the task. Once again they beat Our Lady of Sorrows in the semi-finals to earn a spot in the championships against St. Barnabas. The boys played hard but fell short in the finals and finished the season as city wide finalists for the first time in school history. Throughout the season the boys demonstrated a high level of skill, sportsmanship and a team first attitude. Congratulations goes out to Evan Elliott, Christopher Williams, Rory Graham, Arthur Kowara, Mathew Cygan, Viktor Juncaj, Nathan Niedbala, Daniel Andriychuk, Vincent Severino, Mark Anthony Lustri, Daniel Piccone, Curtis Price, Matthew Bell, David Drozdowski, and Tommy Semczyszyn. Go Gregs Go!

**Intermediate Girls'
Volleyball Team**

The St. Gregory girls volleyball team set out in late September a goal to play at the highest level and achieve great success through dedication to the sport and themselves. Over the ten week span the girls were extremely successful in winning the Arch Bishop Romero Invitational tournament, the Divisional tournament, the West Regional tournament and placing 5th at the City Wide Championship Tournament. The girls were able to achieve this great success through being determined to improve, resilient in their play and dedicated to great teamwork. The coaches Mr. De Medeiros and Mrs. Cicirelli were often awed by the perseverance shown by the team. As a result of the hard work, this specific girls volleyball team has placed itself in St. Gregory's history as only the 3rd girls team to make it to the city championship in the schools 58 year existence. Great season girls!

Gabrielle Ferri
Lauren Pastor
Frances Skulj
Victoria Gentile
Meagan Philbrick
Erica Cardona
Tamara Giaquinto
Alexandra Aloï
Alea Antognetti
Olivia Sinclair
Vanessa Mijackovic
Erin Hamzaraj
Sophia Giannone

**KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION**

Kindergarten registration (for Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten) for St. Gregory School will begin on

Thursday, January 8, 2014,
at 10:00 a.m.

Documents Required are as follows:

- Child's Baptismal Certificate in the Catholic Faith
- Child's Immunization Record
- Child's Health Card
- Child's passport or immigration documents (if born outside Canada)
- Proof of Residency (i.e., lease or ownership, utility bills (at least 3 proofs)

Students must reside within the school boundaries

Boundaries are: Islington to The Eastmall & Eglinton to Burnhamthorpe

(see flyer attached)

**Family Math Night - MARK
YOUR CALENDAR**

A fun night of math for parents and students - Kindergarten to Grade 8! An opportunity to learn about the math curriculum, have a chance to work through key math concepts with your children and how to make math "fun" at home. Also, learn about available math resources to help support your child's learning at home. When: **Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 7:00 pm.** Details to follow.

**TORONTO CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEES 2014-2015**

Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4. Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7. Michael Del Grande, Chair	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, Vice-Chair	416-512-3412
Christopher MacDonald, Student Trustee	416-512-3417
Hannah McGroarty, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

**St. Gregory Catholic School
126 Rathburn Rd.
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9B 2K6**

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
will begin for all Elementary Schools on**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015 at
10:00 a.m. EST.**

Parents/guardians with children born in 2011 or earlier and who will be enrolling in Kindergarten, have the opportunity to apply on-line using the “Student On-line Admission and Registration” platform known as S.O.A.R. and found at the following link: <http://soar.tcdsb.org>

Parents will be able to complete an application for registration from the convenience of their own home, the office, a public library, or anywhere there is internet access, 24 hours a day. The on-line application also offers access to translations in different languages with built-in help functions and features.

Alternately, families may choose to register in person at our school. We will begin to accept registrations at 10:00 am on January 8th.

As part of the registration process, school staff will meet with parents. These meetings may be scheduled on the electronic application or in person at the school. During the meeting, school staff will verify the original documentation required for registration. This consists of a

**Baptismal Certificate
Birth Certificate and/or Passport
Immunization record
Proof of Residence (3 documents) and
Application for Direction of School support.**

Applications to register children in grades other than Kindergarten can also be done on the online S.O.A.R. application. Please share this information with any parents/guardians with school aged children in the community.

As in previous years, an extensive promotional campaign will be launched throughout the City of Toronto, with paid advertisements in the local media, posters in public centers, through the board website and on vinyl banners for display on school property.

For further information, please contact our school office at (insert school phone number). For general inquires or further information you may contact 416-222-8282 extension 5314 or visit our website at www.tcdsb.org



Monthly Update from the Board December 2014

Reporting of cancellations or closures due to inclement weather

Winter weather arrived early this year. Please note that any cancellations or closures due to inclement weather will be reported before 7 a.m. Best place to get the info quickly is through **Twitter @TCDSB** (please follow us), the board's website www.tcdsb.org and the 24-hour telephone information line 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

Policy Consultation

The Board invites parents, students and staff to participate in a review of draft policies. Your input is encouraged into the following policies:

- Draft Policy for Catholic School Advisory Councils (CSACs)
- Draft Policy on Secondary School Admission and Placement

Details are posted on the board's website: <http://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2014/pages/consultation-csac-and-admissions-policies.aspx>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kindergarten Registration Starts January 2015

Please visit the board's website at www.tcdsb.org to fill out the application forms online, and find out more about the registration process.

Registration (online and in person) begins at 10 a.m. on January 8th.

High School Students Reminded About Application Deadlines

University Application Deadline is **January 14th** <http://www.ouac.on.ca/deadlines/>

College Application Deadline is **February 1st** <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/apply/important-dates>

Nominations Open for TCDSB Alumni and Merit Awards:

Deadline January 16, 2015

Do you know a member of our community who is a witness to the gospel values of our Catholic faith and who is transforming the world through faith, innovation and action? Nominate them for an

award: <http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/CatholicEducationWeek/Pages/AwardsNight.aspx>

Catholic School Advisory Councils Invited to Training Session

Goal Setting, Multi-Year Plans, Making Meetings Matter

December 3, 2014, 7-9 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East

Details here:  [CSAC - December training flyer.pdf](#)

Other Dates to Note

December 3rd—International Day of Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2014/Pages/International-Day-of-Persons-with-Disabilities.aspx>

December 5th—Board-wide Professional Activity Day (no classes for students)

December 10th—International Human Rights Day <http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2014/Pages/Human-Rights-Day.aspx>

December 22nd to January 2nd—Christmas Break

January 1st—International Day of Peace-“Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters”

<http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2015/Pages/International-Day-of-Peace.aspx>