



St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

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MAY 2014

TCDSB

Dear Parents:

May has traditionally been the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Therefore, we encourage all to set time aside every day to pray the Rosary with your children. As Christians, our Church asks us to meditate on the saving acts of our Lord's life and his Paschal mystery. One way in which we can do this is by recognizing the importance of the Rosary as a means of helping us to reflect on these events continually and not just at Easter. Therefore, during this month, try to pray a little more to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There are so many intentions for which to pray to Mary, our Mother, who will listen to us and present all our needs to her son Jesus.

"Let the Rosary be habitually recited by all and in every home." (Pius IX) The Rosary is constantly promoted by the Popes and saints. The Rosary should be recited when we are discouraged, while fighting temptations or before making serious decisions. The Rosary is the common prayer of saints.

Sincerely,
G. Benedek
Principal



A Mother's Love

*There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappointments and calm all of our fears.*

*There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.*

*There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.*

*For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.*

Author Unknown

JESUS SAW HER
WEEPING...HIS HEART
WAS TOUCHED, AND
HE WAS DEEPLY
MOVED.

~ JOHN 11:33 ~

- SHOW COMPASSION BY THINKING ABOUT HOW YOUR WORDS MAKE PEOPLE FEEL.
- SHOW COMPASSION BY THINKING ABOUT HOW YOUR ACTIONS MAKE PEOPLE FEEL.
- SHOW COMPASSION BY UNDERSTANDING WHY SOMEONE IS ACTING THE WAY THEY DO.
- SHOW COMPASSION BY BEING CONSIDERATE TO OTHER PEOPLE.

COMPASSION



The Staff of St. Gregory Catholic School would like to extend our very best wishes to all mothers as they celebrate this special day. We thank you for your guidance, patience and love. Blessed are you, mother of my Lord, for you have believed the word of God.

UPCOMING SPECIAL DATES

Dental Screening

– May 5 to 9

EQAO Testing

-May 26 to May 30 (grade 3)

- June 2 to June 5 (grade 6)

CAT/4 Testing (Gr. 2, 5 and 7)

May 5 to 9

Confirmation

Saturday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at St. Gregory Church

First Communion

Saturday, June 21st at 10:00 a.m. at St. Gregory Church.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT/ NEIGHBOURS YARDS

In the course of play over our recess periods, balls and other items of sports equipment often find their way into the backyards of the houses neighbouring the school. Please know that our students will not be given permission to leave the school yard during the course of the school day to retrieve items. We will be asking the homes neighbouring the school to toss back items that make their way into



their yards, and do invite you to accompany your child, either before or after school, to collect misplaced items. Your understanding in ensuring the ongoing safety of our students is much appreciated!

SAFETY – VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

In order to ensure a safe learning environment for all of our students, we would remind all



parents (and other visitors to the school) to enter by the main front doors and make their way to the office so that staff might be of assistance.

Please also be reminded that teachers are involved in preparing materials, making final plans for the day, participating in meetings, and/or working with students, and may not be available to meet with you unexpectedly. Unless you have a scheduled appointment with your child's teacher, we would ask that you not make your way directly to the classroom immediately before and after school.

Parents collecting their children are reminded that our students are dismissed to their recess doors and are asked to wait for them outside. Your co-operation and support are much appreciated.

SCHOOL POLICY REMINDER

With the advent of warmer weather, please keep the following school policy in mind.



PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Expected Behaviour

Students are expected to dress in a clean, neat and appropriate manner. Clothing with any slogans or pictures is not permitted. Hats, sports headbands and scarves are not to be worn in the school during the day. Our colour (navy/white) dress code is in effect unless otherwise ton

For elementary students, **make-up and lipstick** are not appropriate. Aerosol containers (such as hairspray, body scents) are not permitted because of the school's commitment to the environment and scent sensitivities.

The **Guidelines** are:

No halter tops, spaghetti strap tops or tube tops, no low necklines, front or back, no half T-shirts or tops with cutouts, no cycling shorts, gym shorts or short-shorts ("arms" length for shorts and skirts). No dropped waistlines (swagging). This is for all our students from JK to Grade 8.

REASONS FOR EXPECTED BEHAVIOUR

School is a student's place of business where s/he is preoccupied with the work of learning. Students are expected to focus their energies and attention on learning. Students are expected to dress for a working environment and not a recreational setting.

As part of the school family, each student represents and is an ambassador for St. Gregory Catholic School at all times.

COLDS/FLU

Although winter has come and gone for another year, along with flu season, we are reminding parents not to send their child(ren) to school sick. If they have a bad cough or cold, please keep them at

home, as it is not fair to the other children. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

BINGO NIGHT

Our Bingo Night on April 10th was extremely well attended and enjoyed by all. A special thank you to all our Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) members who worked hard to make this event a success.

GRADE 8 CALLIGRAPHY CLUB

The grade 8 Calligraphy Club has been learning the fundamentals of 'creative writing' each Wednesday at lunch hour with Ms. Micallef. Group members have had the opportunity to put their creative endeavors to practical use. They designed and wrote their very own place cards in actual calligraphy writing. They were then used as a welcome addition to their family's Easter festivities over the long weekend! Stay tuned to hear more about how the team is sharing their artistic talents with the school community. The team members are: Daniella M., Catherine W., Sophia R., Emily G., Kristen C., Sonya M., Erika M., Monica Z., Silvia G., Kimberley M. Sarah K., and Jacklyn M.

GRADUATION DATES

Grade 8 Graduation will take place on June 19th and Senior Kindergarten Graduation the next day, June 20th. More information to follow.



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day for classes is Friday, June 27th. Dismissal will be at the regular time of 3:00 p.m.

CLASS LISTS

We will be commencing class lists for next September beginning toward the middle of May. We take many factors into account when making these lists. These factors including: student learning style, distribution of males and females; equal weighing of classes regarding strengths, weaknesses, IEP's; exceptional circumstances, behavioural concerns, etc. Please do not call to request a specific teacher; we take a multitude of factors into account to produce the best possible learning environment for all our students.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Once again, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will be holding their bi annual "Bundle Up" weekend in the parking lot of St. Gregory's Church on the weekend of May 17-18, 2014. They are collecting clothes, linens, toys, shoes and accessories for the needy in our local community. Any help will be appreciated.

SWIM TEAM

Congratulations to all the students on the St. Gregory Swim Team! You did a phenomenal job representing our school at the 2014 West Division Toronto Catholic District School Board Swim Invitational, held at Alderwood Pool on Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23, 2014.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Bielecki and Mrs. Gentile for their time, dedication, and selfless work as members of the Swim Meet Committee. Thank you as well to Ms. Larmour and Ms. Niedbala for their ongoing guidance and support as original coaches of the St. Gregory Swim Team. Thanks to all members of the Swim Team

committee and coaches - Ms. Henneberry, Ms. Semczyszyn, Mr. Clasper, Ms. Giannone, Ms. Golen, Ms. Milavec, Ms. Price, Ms. DiNardo, Ms. Gravina, Ms. Donato, Ms. Belton, Ms. Warrian, Mrs. Gentile, Mr. Bielecki, Ms. Perri, Ms. Pyz, Rebecca Niedbala, Oskana Kachmarchuk, and Connor Niedbala, for their time, dedication and work. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to the many parents that devoted their time and energy in fulfilling the many on deck and off deck volunteer positions required to run a successful swim meet. Your support and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated!

Can't wait till next year!
Go Greg's!!!

CHESS TEAM NEWS

After three months of practices and over fifty students trying



out for the chess team, eighteen students participated in the TCDSB West Region Team Chess Tournament hosted at Monsignor Corrigan Catholic School on Tuesday, April 15th. The primary, junior, and intermediate teams represented our school very well as they used their chess strategies and problem solving skills to play throughout five rounds. Many thanks go to Ms. Loughlin for facilitating the chess club practices over the lunch hour.

Primary Team: Sofia Tsokopoulous, Anthony Garcia, Julian Barillari, Domenico Sgambelluri, Jack Boule, and Joey Costanzo

Junior Team: Daniel Fatigati, Curtis Price, Kleidi Bujari, Joe Volkins, Steven Pastor, and Tommy Semczyszyn

Intermediate Team: Robert Maggiano, Vincent Severino, Joseph Smith, Matthew Cygan, Nicholas Agueci, and Nathan Coelho

WELLNESS DAY

On Thursday April 3rd, our grade 7 and grade 8 students participated in our 3rd biannual Wellness Day organized by our HAT team teachers - Ms. Ceddia, Ms. Alberton and Ms. Botelho. The students had the opportunity to learn strategies that will help them manage and relieve stress, set personal goals and learn about mental health. They also took part in martial arts, nutrition, drama and a Pilates workshop. We would like to express our thanks to the following parent volunteers who led these sessions; Vesna Vokins, Melanie Alvares, Lara Attardo, Kristine Grey and Angie Severino. We would also like to thank Dan Davidson and Joe Comella, from our school community, who presented the Mental Health part of the day. Many thanks to Paulo Cardoso from Etobicoke DOJO and Eva-Marie Moffat from GEM Life Coaching. The day would not be a success without the help from our parent community: Sandra Antoniadis, Ana Cimolai, Debbie O'Sullivan and Antonella Wild. This program was well received by both students and staff. We hope that the lessons learned will enrich our students and leave them with information they will be able to take with them into adulthood.

Fun Food Fridays were enjoyed by our grade 1-6 students. This year's focus was on Calcium. Students learned how to obtain calcium by a variety of food sources and how Vitamin D plays an important role in the absorption of Calcium. Students ended the session by making a healthy and calcium filled strawberry banana smoothie. (Recipe on the website) We would like to thank our parent volunteers: Maria Skinner, Liliana Cioban, Tina

Ferrone-Hall, Elsa Berardi, Suzanne Tiefenbeck, Dorothy Price, Antonella Ferrone- Wild, Ana Cimolai, Vita Peri and Melanie Alvares.

Banana Strawberry Smoothie

1 banana, sliced
1 cup sliced strawberries (frozen or fresh)
½ cup plain yoghurt
½ cup orange juice (Calcium fortified)
Place all items in a blender and mix until smooth. Serve immediately.
Makes 2 servings
Approximately 262 mg of calcium per serving.



ENJOY!

JUNIOR BOOTCAMP

In support of our health and wellness initiative, St. Gregory



School hosted our first junior bootcamp! This bootcamp took place on Monday, April 7th and was organized by one of our St. Gregory parents, Janice Gritti. What a tremendous success! Our Grade 7 and Grade 8 students ran the stations at this event alongside Janice's motivating team of women. Everyone enjoyed the energetic music and the strength-building exercises! Thanks again to Janice Gritti, Odarka Koshyk, Tina Ruso, Voula Pappas, Sabrina Crucini, Joy Neilson, Ola Sturik and Jennifer Ricci for volunteering their time for this event!

LENTEN BOXES

As part of
our call to
serve our
world
community
during this
season of



Lent, our school participated in a school-wide initiative, Lenten Boxes. This Lenten Box project is run by Dr. Simone's Canadian Feed the Children organization. Through the generous donations of the St. Gregory community, we were able to collect over 461 Lenten boxes for many children less fortunate than us and raised \$685.00 from our civvies day monies for the month of April. Hat's off to all the students, staff and parents at St. Gregory who participated in this event!

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2013-2014

Wards

1.	Peter Jakovcic	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 Awards
Virtue of the Month**

APRIL - JUSTICE

TEACHER	GRADE	STUDENTS			
T. Aceto /	JK/SK	Olivia B.B.	Sophia A.	Victoria I.	Nicole S.
P. Santelli	JK	Sofia A.	Sasha D		
L. DeFranco	SK	Manuele B.	Jacob N.		
L. Pitoscia	1	Sienna F.	Alyssa D.	Connor C.	
C. Mulvihill	1	Rory N.	Nicolas L.		
T. Roy	1	Lindsay K	Lucas L.		
M. Alberton	2	Nicole B.	Lucy T.		
O. Gentile	2	Daniel G.	Adam W.		
N. Yetman	2	Andrew P.	Nate R.		
M. Ceddia	2/3	Lucas H.	Roisin McN.		
K. Steponaitis	3	Lesley C.	Austin P.	Domenico S.	
E. Brajuka	3	Oliver B.	Juliana M.		
A. Loughlin	3	Matteo G.	Patrick V.		
J. Henderson	4	Anton G.	Isabella S.		
P. Zinko	4	Aiden C	Natalia C.		
M. Micallef	4	Diana L.	Matthew Z.		
N. Hall	5	Tyler D.	Jack M.	Angelynn M.	
V. Andreacchi	5FI	Kyle S.	Adam F.	Jonathan C.	Stephen B.
M. Quartarone	5/6	Dante D.	Ryan R.	Christian C.	
R. Bottoni	6	Matthew Sousa	Stephen Mishko		
D. Abboud	6FI	Nate N.	Alexandra S.		
T. Botelho	6FI	Adam MacF.	Kadia B.		
D. Italiano/P. Carniel	7FI	Ben R.	Kaliyah W.		
D. Italiano/P. Carniel	8FI	Erika M.	Justin R.		
A. Natalino	7	Dylan S.	Paul H.		
C. Dalmau	7/8	Katherine C.R.	Deshawn C.		
A. Silvestre	8	Silvia G.	Samuel M		



Monthly Update from the Board May 2014

Invitation to Consultation in the Round Review of TCDSB Admissions and Placement Policy

The Board, on February 27th, approved a new draft Admissions and Placement Policy for both elementary and secondary schools for the purpose of public consultation. All Catholic stakeholders are invited to provide input into that draft policy before the Board finalizes a new policy. The Board is committed to working directly with the community members throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and needs are understood and considered in decision-making processes. To ensure that the consultation is comprehensive, we are implementing a new practice called "Consultation in the Round". This is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre**, 80 Sheppard Avenue East (Yonge and Sheppard).

<http://www.tcdsb.org/pages/consultation-on-admission-and-placement-policy.aspx>

Parent/Student Charter or Bill of Rights Committee—Seeking Applicants

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to invite parents to consider serving on the Parent/Student Charter or Bill of Rights Committee. The Committee includes representatives from among Trustees, staff, parents and students, with the mandate to develop a parent/student charter or bill of rights. This charter or bill of rights will provide parents with being able to expect their children's educational needs to be met by the schools and the right to access school and district administration and information. The expectation is that the charter will align with the goals as outlined in the Multi Year Strategic Plan. **Deadline for applications is May 16th**. For more details and application form, see: <http://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/Parent-Student-Charter-of-Rights-Committee.aspx>

2014 Municipal Election Student Connect Program

Election Services is excited to once again offer students across the City of Toronto the opportunity to take part in the upcoming 2014 Municipal Election.

The Student Connect program provides students the opportunity to participate in the democratic process by working in one of the over 1600 voting places. This is an excellent opportunity for students to enhance their learning experience and participate as an active member of their school and community.

<http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2014/Pages/2014-Municipal-Election-Student-Connect-Program-.aspx>

Volunteers Needed for PanAm Games 2015 in Toronto

Are you looking for an exciting, fulfilling, once-in-a-lifetime volunteer opportunity? Then don't miss out on the opportunity to be involved in the next big home Games when the Toronto 2014 PanAm and Parapan Am games takes place next summer across the Greater Toronto Area. Student and adult volunteers are being sought. Get more information here: <http://www.tcdsb.org/Pages/Volunteer-Opportunities-for-the-Games.aspx>

CPIC Hosts An Evening with Stuart Shanker

Fostering Resiliency through Self-Regulation

May 14, 7-9 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

<http://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/News/Documents/Fostering%20Resiliency%20through%20Self-Regulation.pdf>

Special Events to Note in May

- **May** is Asian Heritage Month
- **May 4-9** Catholic Education Week
- **May 5-10** Woodbine Centre Festival of the Arts
- **May 5-11** Mental Health Awareness Week
- **May 9-27** Elementary Track and Field Meets
- **May 11-17** Respect for Life Week
- **May 14** **CPIC hosts an evening with STUART SHANKER**, Author of calm, Alert, and Learning. Topic: **Fostering Resiliency through Self- Regulation**, 7-9 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre
- **May 23-24** Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Conference
- **May 27** TCDSB Mini Special Olympics
- **May 28** CSAC Appreciation Liturgy

For all these events, and more, visit the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org

Special Websites for Parents and Students

- Parents are encouraged to check out <http://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/default.aspx>. Find about CSAC, TAPCE and CPIC, as well as local or regional events planned specifically for parents.
- Students are invited to take advantage of the resources posted on our website at <http://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/Pages/default.aspx>. Find out about scholarships, employment, volunteer opportunities and more.

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