



St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

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October 2012

TCDSB

From the Office

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As hard as it is to believe, our first month back at school is already behind us. September has flown, and both teachers and students are well into their routines, working hard and actively participating in school life. With everyone's cooperation, enthusiasm and commitment, we have already accomplished much.

As you know, October is dedicated to our Blessed Mother. God, in His great love for us, gave us a most extraordinary favour by sending His Mother to us at Fatima to promise us peace. The story of Fatima encourages us to pray the rosary to achieve true peace and harmony.



"O, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, reign over us. And teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us as it has reigned and triumphed in Thee."

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Benedek
Principal

A Prayer for Autumn Days and Restless Hearts



God of the season, there is a time for everything;
there is a time for dying and a time for rising.
We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green leaves,
letting go of what has been.
We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity
and risk.
Help us let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in coloured patterns on the ground, our
lives have their own patterns.
As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the
dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives.
We always need to recognize your power-filled presence.
May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of
growth lie within the season of surrender.
We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.
Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables
us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be
carried to the future.
We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white
designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the
empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the
freedom to choose life.
For all this, we are grateful.
Amen

GRATITUDE

THIS IS THE DAY,
THE LORD HAS MADE.
LET US REJOICE AND
BE GLAD.

~ PSALM 118:24 ~

- GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR EVERY DAY HE GIVES US.
- IF WE EXPECT OTHERS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE DO, WE SHOULD SHOW APPRECIATION TO OTHERS.
- EVERYTHING WE HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR COMES FROM GOD.
- REMEMBER THE STORY OF THE LEPERS WHO JESUS HEALED AND THINK OF HOW MANY RETURNED TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE.

GRATITUDE



October's virtue is GRATITUDE, how appropriate that we will be celebrating Thanksgiving in just a few short days. Our quote for this month is "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad" Psalm 118:24. "Thanks" is a simple word, but it is a precious fountain of faith in God, and it fills our hearts with a readiness to cherish everything we have. Although the world is currently experiencing economic challenges, and we may have difficulty saying thank you for some of our hardships, sometimes this can release us from that sense of entitlement that can prevent us from really seeing God's grace in our daily lives. The choice to be grateful is not always without effort.

St. Gregory's Parish

A note from Fr. John, Pastor

Greetings to all staff, parents and students at St. Gregory Catholic School.

We started our school year -as a parish community - with the celebration of Mass On September 12th.

Two things I would like to address: the first is that at Gregory's Church our doors are always open and everyone is most welcome to attend our celebrations of liturgy. We extend a special welcome to new families who have recently joined our parish community My second point is that this year the Catholic Church, and

the Archdiocese of Toronto celebrate the Year of Faith. Our school board is celebrating the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, and in unison with the Universal Church, starting with FAITH. What a wonderful opportunity to bring together home, school and parish in a very special way. At St. Gregory's parish we are honored this year -as part of the year of faith - to receive the pilgrim statute of Sanctuaire Notre-Dame-du-Cap, de-la-Madeleine.

On October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. we will celebrate Mass followed by a procession and crowning.

I see this as a great opportunity for us to experience something very special that is both sacred and holy in our parish. Why not plan to attend?

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2012-2013		
Wards		
1.	Peter Jakovcic	416-512-3401
2.	Ann Adrachuk, 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	416-512-3412
	Andrew Walker, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

REPORTING

The "Elementary Progress Report Card" will be directed home to you in mid-November (**November 13**) providing checklist and anecdotal information detailing your child's progress to that time. Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on:

Thursday, November 15
5:00 - 8:00 pm
Friday, November 16
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Two "Provincial Report Cards" will complete the year. The first will be sent home **Tuesday, February 12, 2013** with Parent/Teacher interviews on the evening of February 14th and the morning of February 15.

LOCKDOWN

As we do yearly, we will, once again, be practicing our lockdown procedures with all of our students. Our first drill will be held on **Friday, October 26**. As with our fire drills, this practice allows all students and staff to become familiar with the expectations that have been set out for us.



If you have specific questions regarding our procedures, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

PICTURE DAY

Tuesday, October 2, 2012 -
JK and SK (AM and PM) grades
1, 2, 7 and 8

Wednesday, October 3, 2012
Grades 3 to 6



PEANUT/NUT-FREE SNACKS

A number of our students have been diagnosed as having a serious, life threatening allergy to peanuts and/or nuts, among other allergies.



We **strongly** recommend that treats brought into the classroom setting be **non-food items** (stickers, pencils, etc.).

We would remind all our students that peanuts, nuts and/or products containing peanuts or nuts are **not** to be brought to school.

For snacks, please note that **reading food labels remains a must** as companies may change their policies without notice.

Nutrition Facts	
Per 1 bar (35 g)	
Amount	% DV ¹
Calories 130	
Fat 2.5 g	4%
Saturated 1 g + Trans 0 g	5%
Cholesterol 0 mg	0%
Sodium 115 mg	5%
Potassium 135 mg	4%
Carbohydrate 26 g	9%
Fibre 6 g	24%
Sugars 7 g	
Starch 13 g	
Protein 2 g	

INGREDIENTS: WHOLE WHEAT, ROLLED OATS, MILLED CORN, RICE, ROLLED BARLEY, SUGAR, FANCY MOLASSES, VEGETABLE OIL, SALT, BARLEY MALT SYRUP, HONEY, VITAMINS (THIAMIN HYDROCHLORIDE, NIACINAMIDE, d-CALCIUM PANTOTHENATE, PYRIDOXINE HYDROCHLORIDE, FOLIC ACID), MINERALS (IRON, ZINC OXIDE), SOY LECITHIN, BHT. CONTAINS WHEAT AND SOY INGREDIENTS.

EQAO / CAT4 TESTS

The results of the CAT/4 testing for our grade 2, 5 and 7 students (in 2011-2012) have been forwarded to the school, as well as to the individual students and their families.

In addition, our school's EQAO results for 2011-2012 (grade 3 and grade 6) have also been published.

Congratulations go out to all of the students who wrote these assessments for their excellent results and effort. They have done themselves and this school community proud. As always, a huge "Thank You" must be extended to our staff and parents for the instruction, guidance and support that they provide.

PAPERLESS NEWSLETTERS, CALENDARS, ETC. BEGINS OCTOBER 2012.

Parents/guardians will receive weekly updates of upcoming events and important notices by email as a blind carbon copy (Bcc). The monthly newsletter and calendar will also be sent electronically to reduce the amount of photocopied paper used at the school. Most pertinent and urgent messages or reminders will also be sent to you by email. Paper copies of newsletters and calendars will only be provided by request after October. Weekly updates, as required, will commence in October.

APPROPRIATE DRESS CODE

We continue to manage well with our dress-code policy at St. Gregory School. Almost all students are in compliance. Just a reminder to parents that the dress code consists of navy bottoms, and either navy or white tops.

Please be reminded that the "Navy Blue and White Dress Code" for St. Gregory will have the following requirements and restrictions:

- ✓ At all times clothing must be neat, modest, and suitable for a Catholic school environment.
- ✓ Tops that do not have the St. Gregory Catholic School Crest must be plain and with no graphics, messages or slogans.
- ✓ Sweaters worn in the classroom must be navy blue or white with no logos.
- ✓ Shirts must have two sleeves.
- ✓ Pants must be navy blue with no logos (no jeans).
- ✓ **Not permitted-** clothing that is revealing, including, but not limited to, halter tops, tube tops, tank tops, low cut tops, and midriff baring or suggestive attire.
- ✓ Hats, caps, bandanas, sweatbands and other head attire may **not** be worn in school or in the classrooms and must be removed upon entry into the school.

- ✓ During the winter months, your child will need shoes for indoor use only. The wearing of socks or boots is neither safe nor healthy. In the event of an evacuation there will not be time to put on shoes nor is it safe to travel through the building or on the stairs in socks.
- ✓ Gym attire will also be navy blue and white and each classroom teacher will outline his/her requirements.
- ✓ Proper footwear (gym shoes) is the minimum requirement in the gymnasium.



BUS LOOP SAFETY

Parents please refrain from standing in the bus loop area as it is impeding the safe arrival of our Kindergarten students. We ask that you stand **by the fence near the church**. Our younger students use the wall adjacent to the east door to line up.



WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH



Did you know that OCTOBER is International Walk to School Month?

Children and youth between the ages of 5-17 need at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous-intensity physical activity every day. Walking to and from school can help children reach these levels. Unfortunately, only 31% of children walk to school on a regular basis in Toronto. You can start this trend by celebrating International Walk to School Day on **October 10, 2012**. Walking to and from school will not only help students meet the recommended daily amount of physical activity, but also improve community safety, promote social interaction, reduce traffic congestion, and protect the environment.

DRESS DOWN DAYS

St. Gregory students will be invited to participate in "dress down" (civvies) days on the last Friday (with one or two exceptions) of each month. We are requesting that each student donate \$2.00 as he/she participates. All monies raised will support the school's "Me to We" initiatives.