



# St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

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September 2012

TCDSB

## From the Office

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s).

A warm welcome to both parents and students as we begin another exciting new school year at St. Gregory, as well as a special welcome to all new students and their families joining us this year. We hope your summer was a happy and enjoyable experience!

We at St. Gregory look forward to working with all of you and your children. We strive to provide our students with a year filled with interesting educational experiences and activities to challenge and stimulate them on their journey. However, we need your help in inspiring your children to continually aim to do their very best. Together we can make a positive difference in your child's life, one that they will cherish forever.

To make back-to-school a positive experience for all, we would ask that you review the school routines, practices, and requirements noted in this newsletter. This is somewhat of a hefty package but much information is included. Please do take the time to familiarize yourself with what is new and what has remained the same. Please also keep this information for your future reference and please return all signed documents to your child's teacher at your earliest convenience.

Wishing all a great start to this year.

Sincerely,  
G. Benedek  
Principal



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## Prayer For A New School Year

*Loving God,  
Extend Your blessing over our families  
This new school year.  
May our school be filled with love, joy  
and hope.*

*Let trespasses be forgiven,  
Let wounds be healed,  
Let conflict melt into harmony.*

*May our children grow in knowledge,  
Understanding and wisdom;  
May they be strong in mind, body and  
Spirit;  
May they have the courage to follow  
Your ways.*

*Finally dear God,  
May home, parish and school work  
together  
To create a world where our children  
Can help build a civilization of love.*

*Amen.*

## Entrance and Dismissal

8:30 a.m. Morning entry  
9:40 a.m. Morning recess  
11:05 a.m. Morning Kindergarten  
Dismissal  
11:35 a.m. Lunch Hour  
12:35 p.m. Afternoon entry  
1:40 p.m. Afternoon recess  
3:00 p.m. Dismissal

## Student Absence/Lateness

Parents/Guardians must call and leave a message on the answering machine (Auto Attendant, Press #1). Include your child's name, teacher's name, grade and a reason for absence. **When a student arrives late for school, he or she must report to the office before going to class.**

## Early Dismissal

Children who **must** leave before dismissal, must be signed out by parent/guardian at the office.

## Inclement Weather

On days when the weather is inclement, students are asked to arrive to school for **just before bell**. Those students present at school will be permitted to enter the building at 8:15 in the morning. On such days, the recess periods will be held indoors and those students who stay for lunch will be supervised in the building. Unless the weather conditions are particularly bad, cold weather alone does not warrant an early entry to the building or indoor recess. Appropriate dress is a requirement on such days.

## STUDENT AGENDAS

Student Agendas were distributed today. The teachers will be using this organizer to help students learn to plan their work and study time. The agendas have been designed with pages reflecting our Catholic values and traditions. The agenda is a valuable tool to assist with student achievement. It allows the students to record daily homework, assists in time management skills and is a good way to communicate between home and school.

## BBQ CURRICULUM NIGHT

Tuesday, September 18

We welcome parents to our BBQ/Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 18th. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's teacher, to see the classroom learning environment and to receive an overview of the curriculum for the year. More information will be provided soon.

## Before and After School Program

The number for our Before and After School Program is 416-236-8795 if you are interested.

## QSP Reader's Digest Magazine Subscription

Again this year, one of our major fundraisers will be the QSP Reader's Digest magazine subscription sale. Your child will receive more information and a catalogue with the magazine choices in the near future. Please consider a magazine subscription or two for yourself or as a gift for a friend or family member. The school receives

a portion of the total sales and you get a year of reading!

## TCDSB Appropriate Dress Code

### Guidelines:

#### **Top-Solid Navy Blue or White**

Including: dress shirts, blouses, t-shirts (with or without collar, long or short sleeve), turtle necks, sweaters, vests, etc. All shirts must have sleeves

#### **Bottom-Solid Navy Blue**

Including: Dress pant, chinos, skirts, skorts, shorts (Bermuda length), active wear (wind pants, yoga pants, track pants), capris, tights, leggings, etc. No Denim  
**Dresses/Jumpers-Solid Navy Blue**

\*All attire is free of any logo or graphics (i.e. Gap, Roots, Polo, etc), but may include St. Gregory school crest

\*Appropriate Dress Code includes Phys. Ed. Attire/ school team training

\*Navy and white school spirit wear (ie 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, swim team) permissible

\*All attire worn inside the classroom (ie sweaters, hoodies) must adhere to Appropriate Dress Code guidelines

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CSAC)

### ELECTIONS AND COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 28th

Music Room  
7 P.M.

We invite all parents to consider becoming a member of the Catholic School Advisory Council. Your active participation can only serve to enhance all the wonderful things that happen in our school. You will find a nomination form attached to this newsletter, for either yourself or for someone else. Consider joining CSAC and as always, **all parents/guardians** are invited to attend. Please return the

nomination form by Wednesday, September 28, 2012.

## Anaphylaxis

As we begin a new school year, we would like to inform you that St. Gregory Elementary School is an **allergen aware** school. There are children in attendance who suffer from **severe and life threatening** allergies to certain foods, such as peanut and nut products. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe life threatening reactions. The most common allergen triggers are food, insect stings, medications, exercise and latex. An anaphylactic reaction involves symptoms from two or more body systems.

We at St. Gregory would appreciate the co-operation of the entire school community in NOT sending any lunches or snack that contain peanuts or nuts, which could potentially harm a child. Other restrictions may apply on a class by class basis. Please make sure that all of your children's caregivers are aware of the food restrictions. **Please do not send food for birthdays or special occasions.**

There are many alternatives such as stickers and pencils.

If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teacher or the school staff.

We look forward to your co-operation in making this a safe year for all our students



## SEPTEMBER

WHATSOEVER YOU DO  
TO THE LEAST OF MY  
PEOPLE, THAT YOU DO  
UNTO ME.

~ MATTHEW 25:40 ~

- REMEMBER THAT GOD WELCOMES US ALL TO HIS TABLE; WE SHOULD DO THE SAME.
- BE GUIDED BY THE MESSAGE OF "WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY PEOPLE, THAT YOU DO UNTO ME."
- IF YOU WANT TO FEEL WELCOMED, MAKE SURE YOU ARE WELCOMING OTHERS.
- HOSPITALITY SHOULD BE EVIDENT IN YOUR HOME, SCHOOL AND THE CHURCH.

# HOSPITALITY

## Hospitality

As we welcome our students back to school in September it seems fitting that this month's virtue is HOSPITALITY. Our teachers have been busy preparing their classrooms, gathering together resources, supplies and putting up bulletin boards that will invite the students back into a welcoming environment. But hospitality is more than just a welcoming back. Our quote for the month is from Matthew 25:40, "*Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me*". According to Henri Nouwen, "*the German word for hospitality is Gastfreundschaft which means friendship for the guest.... It means the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy.*" In our school community and in our homes we can discuss the concept of the least of our people or the stranger who needs our hospitality, be it the newly arrived to Canada or the new student at our school. Today hospitality is more important than ever and it is only through a deep moral obligation to hospitality that we can transform our communities.

## Disclaimer

From time to time, the school will send home information from non-profit and for-profit organizations. We remind parents and guardians to exercise caution any time they participate in or enrol their child in an outside organization's event after school hours. The school and the TCDSB are not liable for the quality of service these organizations provide or for the safety of the participants. We forward this information to keep our parent community informed of the wide variety of opportunities available within our local community.

## Electronic Devices and Cell Phones

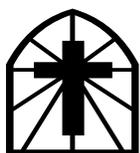
We encourage students to leave iPods, MP3 players, digital games or toys, cameras, other electronic devices and other personal belongings of value at home. If your child brings a cell phone to and from school, it **MUST** be turned off while on school property and remain out of sight everywhere on school property including classrooms, the washroom, the parking lot and school yard. Matters of urgency should be dealt with through the office. If your child needs to contact you, they are to seek permission to use the school phone. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen phones. In addition, students who have their phones on in school will be given on warning followed by a discipline report for any further infractions.

## Visitors to School

All visitors must report to the office upon entering the school. A sign-in procedure is in place for anyone visiting the school at any time.

## School Mass

Our first School Mass with Father John will be Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. As always, parents are more than welcome to attend.



## Bus Safety



Note that inconsistent travel on the buses will make it difficult to maintain service for your child. If you request transportation and your child does not use the bus on a regular basis, the space will be taken away. Students must be ready to board as soon as the buses arrive at the STOP or school. Buses will not wait since they must keep to schedule, have various runs, and serve other schools. Students must behave appropriately in order to maintain bussing service. Please ensure that you and your child know the bus number of your route. If buses are late, please call the bus company directly for up-to-the-minute information on what is occurring. The school does not have any control over the whereabouts of the buses. Please find out from your child during the first week of school his/her bus lines colour and make note of the route number and phone number of use during the school year.

## Student Safety and Expectations on the Bus and in Bus Lines

- Observe the instructions of the bus driver at all times
- Remain seated and facing the front at all times until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Respect others' property and do not cause damage to the bus in any way
- Do not talk loudly, yell, throw objects or fight on the bus lines
- Keep your hands and head inside the bus, do not lean out the window, spit or throw objects out the window

- You are not allowed to board another bus for any reason e.g. friend's birthday party
- Unless a note is provided or a telephone call is made to the school with pickup instruction, you will always go home on the assigned bus
- Do not eat or drink on the bus
- Show respect to the bus driver, student monitors and fellow passengers at all times

## BUS COMPANY

**FIRST STUDENT - 905-629-8200**

### A.M. ROUTES (before school)

Route PFE0819	Red
Route PFE0802	Orange
Route CFE0477	Blue/Brown
Route CFE0479	Green
Route CFE0478	Yellow
Route CFE0455	Pink/Purple

### NOON ROUTES

#### AM Kindergarten pick up from school

Route CFE3408	(Bus 1) Denise
Route CFE3401	(Bus 2) Lynn

#### PM Kindergarten drop off at school

Route CFE3408	(Bus 1) Denise
Route CFE3401	(Bus 2) Lynn

### P.M. ROUTES (after school)

Route CFE0478	Yellow
Route CFE0424	Red
Route CFE0479	Green
Route CFE0423	Blue
Route PFE0802	Orange
Route PFE0819	Purple
Route CFE0426	Brown
Route CFE0451	Pink



## Parking Lot



In our horseshoe parking lot on the south side of the school, just a reminder that our buses take precedence over cars. Please move when the bus is behind you. Also, the drop off and pick up area is a Kiss and Ride. Please do not try to park in this area.

## Paperless Newsletters, Calendars, etc.

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, or urgent messages or reminders will also be sent to you by email.



## Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation is done through the Parish. Specifics regarding sacramental preparation will be provided when they have been made available to us through the parish.

## Dress Down Days

Dress down days will be held on the last Friday of every month. We ask for a contribution of \$2.00 per student for the 'Me to We Charity'.

## Security, Safety and Accidents

Please take a few minutes to review street proofing and basic safety and security rules with your child. This will reinforce the lessons taught a school during the school year. Despite the constant reminders and attention given to issues regarding safety, occasional accidents do happen. In case of minor accidents, cuts, scrapes, etc., first aid will be administered by staff. If the child continues to be uncomfortable or is in distress, the school will notify the parent. In the case of a serious accident, parents will be notified. If attempts to contact you are unsuccessful, school staff will take the appropriate action as directed by TCDSB policy. In case of an emergency, it is absolutely imperative that we have, at all times, up-to-date information.

## Student Insurance Forms

All students were given an insurance form to bring home. If you choose to purchase insurance please contact the company directly.

## Registrations

All Registrations require the following documents:

- A. Birth Certificate
- B. Baptismal Certificate
- C. Health Card
- D. Immunization Record
- E. Proof of Permanent Address
- F. Telephone numbers for home, work and emergency contact

## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR FOR 2012-2013

Labour Day	September 3, 2012
School Starts	September 4, 2012
Thanksgiving Day	October 8, 2012
Christmas Break (inclusive)	December 24, 2012 to January 4, 2013
Family Day	February 18, 2013
Mid-Winter Break (inclusive)	March 11 - 15, 2013
Good Friday	March 29, 2013
Easter Monday	April 1, 2013
Victoria Day	May 20, 2013
Last day of classes for elementary students	June 27, 2013

### Six Professional Development Days:

Parent-Teacher Conferences	November 16, 2012
Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Day	December 7, 2012
Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting	January 25, 2013
Parent Teacher conferences	February 15, 2013
Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting	June 7, 2013
Provincial Education Priorities	June 28, 2013

## Class Placement

Please be mindful that current student class placements are tentative until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Student enrolment does fluctuate during the month of September and all class sizes must meet Ministry and TCDSB requirements by the end of the month. It may yet become necessary to restructure our classes. We thank all families who may be impacted in advance for their understanding and co-operation.

## Waste Free Lunches



The Toronto Catholic District School Board remains committed to the environment and continues to look for innovative ways to promote conservation through energy and waste reduction initiatives.

We are asking parents to fully participate with your child in a "Waste Free Lunch Program" at our school. Be part of helping us become leaders in this environmental friendly waste reduction program. It involves the following three steps:

1. Lunches and snacks should be packed in a re-usable container not in disposable bags.
2. In order to avoid spills, we ask you to use containers that are re-sealable.
3. Leftover food which can be disposed of in the green bin program available at your home will be brought back home in their containers by your child.

Our hope is that this practice at school and at home will teach all children to carry this awareness and behaviour with them as they grow into young adults.

Thank you for your ongoing support with our school's environmental efforts.

## Pediculosis

If you discover that your child has been infected with head lice, please advise the office in order that classes can be checked to avoid further spreading. Outbreaks of pediculosis are common among school children and are not considered a health problem, but more of a nuisance. Any person, however, clean may become infested by exposure to other infected persons or their belongings, particularly hats, coats, blankets, combs, brushes, etc. Schools usually notice an increase of instances after holidays where students have gone to camps, etc. Parents are advised to check for lice on a regular basis. The eggs (nits) are attached near the base of the individual hairs, usually along the hairline at the back and sides of the head.



## Medication

Principals, teachers and support staff of the TCDSB are not permitted to administer any type of prescription medication during the school day, unless they have written authorization signed by you, the parent, and the prescribing physician. The forms to dispense any medication must be updated yearly and on a regular basis; these are available from the school office. Also, please be advised that staff in TCDSB schools will not dispense non-prescription medications to students.

At times, students need to take medication during regular school hours. Please note that any medication brought to school must be stored in the office. Students cannot keep medication in their

desks or school bags. Although school staff cannot administer medication, we can supervise your children while they are taking it. It is extremely important that medication which is brought to school be:

1. Measured and put in single dose containers
2. Labelled clearly with your child's full name, time and amount to be taken, and whether refrigeration is required.

**When your children are ill, please keep them at home.** Sick children do not learn well; they can spread germs to others and cannot be supervised indoors during outdoor activities. If children are well enough to come to school, they should be outside getting their exercise and fresh air during recesses and other outdoor activities

## TCDSB New 3-year Pastoral Plan

This year the TCDSB will launch its new three-year pastoral plan of Faith, Hope and Charity, which builds on the Word, Worship and Witness focus of the previous pastoral plan. The goal is to strengthen the faith life of our schools and to raise the public profile of Catholic education in Toronto. The first year of this new three year pastoral plan also fits nicely with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI's announcement that October 2012 to November 2013 will be a universal Year of Faith for the Church to help the Church focus its attention on "Jesus Christ and the beauty of having faith in Him." We ask for God's blessing on each and everyone of us as we embark on a new school year.