

# 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> and follow us on Twitter @StGregoryCS

St. Gregory Catholic Church  
Fr. Sean Lee Lung  
(416) 239-4831

Superintendent: Ms. Cifelli 416-222-8282  
School Trustee: Mr. M. de Domenico  
CSPC Chairs: K. Fenech & V. Thomas

Principal: J. Pannozzo  
Vice Principal: M. Ginocchi  
Secretary: C. Pulcini  
Clerk Typist: S. Shanahan

## DECEMBER 2021

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The season of Advent began on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity for all of us to renew, forgive and prepare for new beginnings. At St. Gregory, the month of December will be devoted to creating an atmosphere of preparation. We want our students to understand, experience and celebrate this very special time.

Our Virtue of the month for December is Charity. Thank you to all parents for supporting the St. Vincent de Paul and the families in our community. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please send donations by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that the Christmas Holidays will begin on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and end on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We look forward to welcoming our students and staff back to school on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. The St. Gregory staff wishes all our students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support.

With appreciation,  
J. Pannozzo

*All powerful and loving God increase our strength of will to do good so that we can each be instruments of your love here on earth. May we prepare for Christmas and the coming of Jesus with an open mind and heart and thus allow this Christmas to have special meaning for each of us. May your love for each of us bring us ever closer to you.*

*Amen*



### SCHOOL HOURS/TIMES

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	MORNING ENTRY
<b>10:12-10:27 a.m.</b>	A.M. RECESS
<b>11:15-12:15 p.m.</b>	LUNCH HOUR
<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	AFTERNOON ENTRY
<b>1:40-1:55 p.m.</b>	P.M. RECESS
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	DISMISSAL

Staggered dismissal begins at 2:45 pm and ends at 3:00 pm. We are asking all parents to adhere to health and safety guidelines while on school property. Remember to:

1. Wear your mask.
2. Watch your distance.

Thank you for your cooperation!

### STUDENT ABSENCE REPORTING

School Messenger has been implemented as the platform for reporting student late arrivals and absences. Parents/Guardians can reach School Messenger using the following options:

#### PHONE

1-833-251-3286

#### ONLINE

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home>  
or SchoolMessenger Mobile App

#### Early Dismissal

Children who **must** leave before dismissal, **must** be signed out by their **parent/guardian** at the office. Please contact your child through the office, not by texting your child.

#### Student Illness

Children who are exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or any other illness should stay home. COVID-19 passports must be signed daily for your child to enter the school.

**Please note that a calendar will be available for January. The next newsletter will be for the month of February and will be sent at the end of January along with the February calendar.**

## DECEMBER NEWS



### VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: CHARITY

#### DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF CHARITY

The virtue of Charity means being generous with our presence, time, and money. Charity allows us to give freely without expecting anything in return. The virtue of charity encompasses a range of small acts and habits that affects our own immediate surroundings as well as the larger global community. It can be as simple as giving someone a smile or it can be expressed on a larger scale through raising funds for world organizations.

### CHRISTMAS PROJECT CAMPAIGN

Dear St. Gregory Community,

During the holiday season, we are asking for your support to give back to the less fortunate and support the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This year we will be assisting twenty families in our community, and we are asking for your donations. In turn, the administration and the CSPC will purchase the electronic gift cards through Flip Give.

We will be accepting donations from Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> until Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Parents and Guardians are able to donate through Cash on Line for a monetary donation in the amount of your choosing.

Thank you so much for your continuing support, and for assisting the families in our community.

With appreciation,

M. Ginocchi & J. Pannozzo

### CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, December 13 – Dress Down Day  
Tuesday, December 14 – Christmas Wild Hair Day  
Wednesday, December 15 – Red & Green Day  
Thursday, December 16 – Pajama Day  
Friday, December 17 – Ugly Christmas Sweater/Shirt Day



### LITURGICAL CALANDER -- ADVENT

Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It was historically known as "little Lent," because, like Lent, it is a time of repentance, with prayer, fasting, and Confession. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, and therefore varies in length between 22 days and 28 days. The "liturgical year" includes the first Sunday of Advent and the last week in Ordinary Time. The liturgical year consists of two times: one can call the first time "strong times" and the other is known as Ordinary Time. The strong times are, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, during which a particular mystery of salvation is celebrated. Ordinary Time, in turn, does not hold any particular mystery, but rather the same mystery of Christ in His fullness, especially on Sundays. Ordinary Time is divided into two parts throughout the liturgical year and in total lasts 33 or 34 weeks.

### FOOD DRIVE

Dear Families,

In honour of our Virtue of Charity and the Graduate Expectation of A Caring Family Member, St. Gregory's school community will be holding a Christmas Food drive that will take place from **Monday December 6th to Friday December 10th**. The road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will be difficult for those experiencing food insecurity. We need your help to ensure everyone's right to food is realized.

#### DID YOU KNOW...

**This year's *Who's Hungry 2021* report reveals that there were close to 1.45 million food bank visits in Toronto, the highest number of visits ever recorded in the city's history. For the first time, new clients accessing Toronto food banks outnumbered existing clients.**

**The Daily Bread Food Bank has requested the following items:** baby food and formula, canned fish and meat, rice and grains, lentils and beans, dried pasta, pasta sauce, canned soups, and tetra-packed milk. Please have your child bring in the donated items to their own classroom.

Together we can make a difference!

## CSPC NEWS

A huge thank you to the St Gregory School Community!!! During the month of November, we raised \$13,640 towards the School Enhancement Fee Fundraiser!!! We reached our 1st 2 milestones and celebrated with Jersey Day and Crazy Hair Day!! Our early bird contest draw was held and prizes have been delivered! There is still time to donate and reach our \$20K goal, as our fundraising deadline has been extended until December 17th. Please refer to the pictures to see the amazing initiatives that your donations are helping fund for our students and the school.

This year there is a huge demand for food banks. The CSPC will be running a food drive between December 6 - 10th. We are asking families to contribute by bringing in a dry/canned food. A communication will be shared indicating which foods are in highest demand. Thank you to everyone for helping those in need, during this Christmas Season.

As restrictions are beginning to ease in the Province, St Gregory's has established a Transition Committee that is set to meet over the coming weeks and commence discussing how we can safely start bringing events back into the school (ie hot lunches, pizza lunches). Communications will be shared accordingly with the school community.

Parents are encouraged to attend the next CSPC meeting scheduled for **Thursday, December 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.**

## St. Gregory Parish News

**Catholic Women's League** at St.Gregory's Parish is hosting a fundraiser for the church on the weekend of **December 4th-5th.**

It is an opportunity for families from the community to come and recycle their e-waste (i.e., old computers, chargers, phones, cables, TV's, e-toys, etc). All proceeds from the electronics drive will go directly to benefit the many wonderful things at our parish. There will also be a raffle draw for some great prizes!

### **Confirmation Preparation Classes:**

Last call for Confirmation Classes registration will be on **Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** – please contact St. Gregory Parish for more details.



## OUTDOOR WINTER WEATHER ATTIRE

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to monitor their children's clothing selections to make sure they are prepared for colder temperatures and are appropriately dressed for outdoor recesses. Students are expected to wear a winter coat, winter boots, snow pants, as well as a hat and gloves.

**We strongly encourage students to bring an extra pair of socks**

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL

*Latest Updates on Weather Related Cancellations or Closures*

To get the latest information about school bus transportation, please go to <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>

Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the transportation portal to get real time information about any transportation issues: <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

## Toronto Public Health

**If your child becomes ill during the school day, they will be sent home. All parents will be asked to complete the Return to School form and share this with their child's teacher and school administration when their child returns to school after being off ill. Please see the attachments below.**

### Attestation Form

 [Attestation-for-Return-to-Child-Care-Day-Camp-School-Parents October 1 2021.pdf](#)

### December COVID-19 Passport

 [DecemberPassport2021.pdf](#)

**Travel Policies** – Families are reminded to review the established [federal international travel policies](#) – including the [guidelines for unvaccinated, school-aged children](#) – in advance of the December break so you are fully aware of post-travel requirements.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

“Peace begins with human hearts...” We were reminded that we are called upon by Christ to be not only peacemakers but peacekeepers. The St. Gregory Community participated in a virtual Remembrance Day Liturgy hosted by the TCDSB Nurturing our Catholic Community Team. Together, we remembered the brave Canadian men and women for their service and sacrifice and recognized their enduring fight to preserve our freedom. We acknowledge their courage and the peace they fought so hard to achieve.



## Jersey Day Fun @St. Gregory

Our CSPC hosted some Jersey Day Fun @ St. Gregory!! We continue to reach our fundraising milestones. All donations will be used to enrich our students' learning experiences at school. Please continue to support this wonderful initiative.



# FlipGive

TEAM FUNDING MADE EASY

## FLIPGIVE FUNDRAISING

Help us to continue fundraising whenever you shop online this holiday season at all your favourite retailers and brands in **two ways**:

For **Indigo gift cards**: Simply follow this link

[https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/teams/287351-st-gregory-cspc-indigo-fundraiser?fundraiser\\_id=1584195](https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/teams/287351-st-gregory-cspc-indigo-fundraiser?fundraiser_id=1584195)

For **all other purchases**: All you have to do is download the FlipGive App or visit [flipgive.com](https://flipgive.com) to sign up and then join our St. Gregory's CSPC team at

[https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?fundraiser\\_name=CSPC&joincode=QTKHJR](https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?fundraiser_name=CSPC&joincode=QTKHJR)

Or enter this code: QTKHJR

With much gratitude,  
St. Gregory CSPC

## Guidance Corner for December



### TCDSB Secondary School Specialty Program Offers

Students who applied to specialty programs will be receiving offers via email early in December, if they were successful. Please check your emails regularly and be sure to respond to the offers as directed. **Wave 1 Offers** will be sent out on **Friday, December 3, 2021** and a response must be sent by **Tuesday, December 7, 2021**. **Wave 2 Offers** will be sent out on **Friday, December 10, 2021** and a response must be sent by **Tuesday, December 14, 2021**. If your child wishes to accept the offer, you **MUST** do so by email. If the board does not receive your acceptance, the spot will be offered to someone else.

All students applying to **Regular Programs** will receive confirmation of acceptance or a redirection notice on **Thursday, January 13, 2022**.

### Updated "After 8" Transition Guides

Earlier this month, the AFTER 8 Transition Guide and Parent Transition Guide were both updated on the TCDSB website. You can access the guides by clicking on the images.



Parent Guides are also available in different languages, however are still in the process of being updated. You can access the older versions by clicking [here](#).

### myBlueprint Family Accounts

Most Intermediate students have started to work on their Individual Pathways Plans on [www.myblueprint.ca/tcdsb](http://www.myblueprint.ca/tcdsb). Some Junior students have also started their All About Me Portfolios. I will continue to work with these groups to build their portfolios and explore who they are as a student. Learn how you can support your child with Career and Life Planning using the Family Account. Click on the links to access videos.

[AAM Portfolio Grades K-6](#)

[IPP Grades 7-8](#)

### [School Mental Health Ontario](#)

[This is a reminder that everyone is susceptible to mental health issues. School Mental Health Ontario is a fantastic resource that can provide you with valuable resources to support your child. Please click on the links for more information.](#)

[General Resources](#)

[Covid Specific Resources](#)

### [Merry Christmas & Happy New Year](#)

Myself, the TCDSB Elementary Guidance Counsellors, and the Student Success team would like to wish the school community a Blessed Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

David Ferrari

Elementary Guidance Counsellor Areas 1 & 2