

ST. GREGORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

126 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 2K6

Telephone: (416) 393-5262 Fax: (416) 393-5189

Visit us: <https://stgregorycspc.ca> 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 Chair: K. Fenech & V. Thomas

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

FEBRUARY 2022

Principal's Message

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that we already find ourselves at the mid-point of the school year. We have many activities planned for the month of February and over the next few months. Please review the February Calendar for updates.

As we celebrate the virtue of Love in February, we are reminded that love is a spiritual practice and not something that just happens. Love is demonstrated when we treat all members of the community in a compassionate and respectful manner. St. Gregory will look at the virtue of love through the actions of accepting others and helping to ensure that all students are shown kindness and acceptance.

The First Term Provincial Report Cards will be sent home on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022. This report card will reflect the student's achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed from September to January/February, as well as student progress in learning skills and work habits during this period. Please note that Friday, February 18th, 2022 is a PA Day and there is no school for students. As well, Monday, February 21st, 2022 is Family Day and school will resume on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022. Enjoy this time with your families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff, and parents once again for all your efforts and patience during the first term and we look forward to the rest of the school year. Hoping for better weather – Spring begins on March 20th, 2022!

With appreciation,
J. Pannozzo



SCHOOL HOURS/TIMES

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

St. Gregory News

Snow Much Fun!!

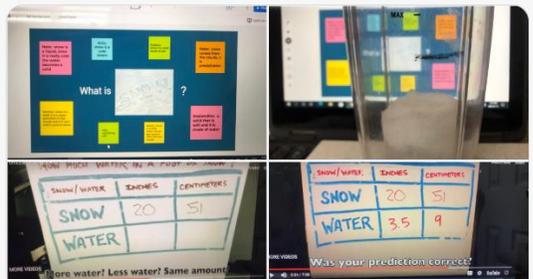
It's snowing!! Winter is a time to celebrate the wonder of earth times as a trace of God. Students had **SNOW MUCH FUN** experiencing the beauty and uniqueness of this wonderful season. Through all of the fun, students are engaged in the learning process. They are busy at work building stable structures, problem solving, observing, asking questions and most of all, collaborating with their peers.



Ms. De Vincenzo- Gr. 4/5
Science and Fresh air break- Grade fives working together to build a stable structure. #teamworkmakesthedreamwork @StGregoryCS



Olivia Gentile
What better way to investigate the properties of solids and liquids than going outside and collecting snow on a snow day? ❄️🌨️ #science #airandwaterintheenvironment #matter #propertiesofmatter #water #watercycle



Bell Let's Talk Week

During the week of Jan. 24th - Jan. 28th, staff and students explored many themes to help promote positive mental health and well-being. On Thursday January 26th, we honoured Bell Let's Talk Day to raise awareness and combat stigma surrounding mental illness in Canada. Students were engaged and empowered to take action & join the conversation to help create positive change!

Ms. Beltrano's Grade 8 Class highlighted activities and strategies that can help to promote mental health and well-being. Thank you for your leadership!!

#BellLetsTalk #SelfCare #TCDSBWalkinWellness



Celebration of Learning!!

We want to continue to thank our students and staff for their resilience and courage as we continue to navigate some of the most challenging times in education.

This month we are featuring some of the amazing learning happening in Ms. Hetmanczuk's Grade 6 class.

After researching the other planets in our Solar System, students created an alien that lives there. In addition to written biographies, students created an original representation of their aliens. Some created 3D models using modeling clay, Styrofoam or Lego, others drew or painted their aliens. Many actually chose to use an online program to create their aliens. (Minecraft, Fortnite & Google Drawings). Attached is a photo of them on display at school.



St. Gregory Alumni and 4th year undergrad U of T student, Daniella Morrone, who is specializing in Astronomy & Physics joined us via Google Meet. She provided an interactive presentation about the role Canadians are playing in advancing current Space Technology.

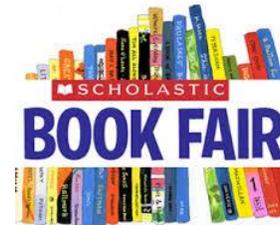


Virtual Book Fair 2022

SAVE THE DATE!

Our school's Book Fair is going online, so save the date! From February 8th - 22nd 2022, discover the newest books hot off the press, from the comfort of your home.

Bonus: Every purchase supports our school and keeps kids' reading.



CSPC News

In lieu of traditional fundraising during the 2021/2022 school year, the CSPC launched the School Enhancement Fee Fundraiser with a goal of raising \$20,000. During our fundraising campaign, we raised \$16,205!! The CSPC would like to send a huge THANK YOU to the entire school community for your generous donations.

Between December 6-10th, the CSPC held a food drive. Our original goal was to fill 4 Daily Bread Food bins but with the overwhelming support, we were able to fill and donate 10 bins of food!! Huge thank you for everyone's contributions.

***** Please refer to the last page of this Newsletter for more information about the FlipGive Fundraising Opportunities that are still ongoing***

Parents are encouraged to attend our next
CSPC meeting

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom



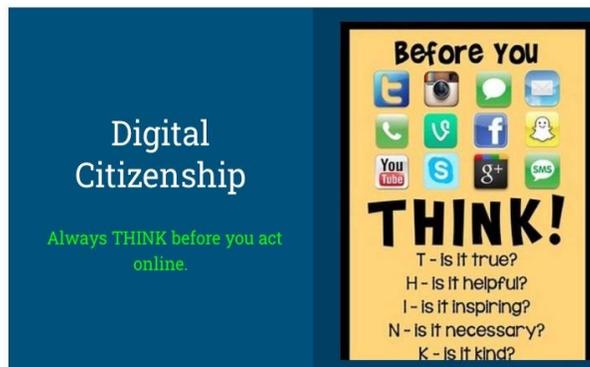
Remote Learning and Your Child's Mental Health

Attending school remotely can be a challenging experience for all of us. Here are some tips on working through the tech challenges and nurturing that all-important connection between your child and their teacher.

1. Protect your family's downtime. You don't want your children to feel like they're living at school. They need time off to relax, unwind, and generally enjoy being kids.
2. Tuck your child's learning materials out of sight when it's time to switch into family mode. This could be as simple as putting learning materials in a drawer—a powerful visual cue that will encourage your child to shift gears at the end of the school day.
3. Encourage your child to speak openly about any challenges or frustrations they are experiencing. In addition to validating their feelings ("It makes sense that you're feeling frustrated. It's so annoying when your computer keeps crashing!"), you can help your child to brainstorm some possible solutions—like reaching out to the teacher to see if other students are experiencing this same problem.
4. Continue to prioritize your child's mental health. Learning can only happen when children feel safe and secure, so meeting your child's mental health needs is a powerful way of supporting their learning while also enhancing their overall quality of life.

Digital Citizenship

As students spend more time online, we are empowering our students to become responsible Digital Citizens. Each classroom was given this Digital Citizenship poster as a daily reminder to **THINK** before they act online. Take some time at home to reinforce the same rules and expectations.



Virtue of the Month: Love

Christian Virtue: Love

Love can be seen through ones caring for someone, wanting to be near them and wanting to share with them. Love is treating someone the way that you want them to treat you – with care and respect. The joy of love can be felt in both giving and receiving. Love is a spiritual practice and not simply something, that “just happens”.

Catholic Graduate Expectation: A Caring Family Member

A caring family member relates to family members in a loving, compassionate, and respectful manner. Values and honours the important role of the family in society. Values and nurtures opportunities for family prayer. Ministers to the family, school, parish, and wider community through service.

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: The Common Good

In a global culture driven by excessive individualism, our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Our Church teaches that the role of government and other institutions is to protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good.



St. Gregory Parish News

First Communion Update:

First Communion follow-up for all registered candidates and parents/guardians at St. Gregory's Church



will be **Wednesday, February 9th at 6:30 pm via Zoom.**



Confirmation Update:

Attention Confirmation Preparation Candidates for 2022: Please check your email during the first week of February for an invite for parent and candidates. You will be invited to schedule a meeting with parish Catechist, Adam Kozak.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the Church office at 416 239-4831

A Reflection on the use of Livestreaming in our Parish Life



As we enter into a new calendar year and feel the cold of winter set in one could be mistaken in thinking that 2022 is cold winter and nothing more. However we know of the seasons and even though we can't see it now, Spring is surely coming. To be followed by Summer and so on.

For us all there has been a season of pandemic for nearly two years. It has touched everyone's lives in one way or another. For our community of St. Gregory's Parish it has disrupted our ways of gathering with restrictions and changes in the way we have been accustomed to doing things.

One way of navigating this season where it has been a challenge to connect as a community is by responsibly using technology like Livestreaming and Video Calls. This is not a substitute for the presence of being in front of another but it is something that can be used for good.

At St. Gregory's Parish, we've tried from the early stages of this pandemic to be creative and innovative with connecting ongoing community and ministry work. I offer you some examples that can be found in our parish: our Confirmation Preparation, First Reconciliation/First Communion Preparation, RCIA, CWL meetings, Livestreaming of Masses and Liturgy (especially when in person worship was not possible), our About Being Catholic (ABC) gatherings such as "Close in Distant Times", "Rise" and "Alpha", calls of outreach to parishioners and seekers, Liturgy Livestream to St. Gregory School and Livestream class visits. Let's pray to continue to sincerely connect through old and new ways.

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

This season has been one of change and perhaps hardship during the pandemic, however we can be joyful in knowing what never changes is the choice of Love we can make to answer His call to live with right purpose and Holy worship.

Peace and Joy in Christ. Adam Kozak Catechist St. Gregory's Parish



Guidance Corner

Secondary School Registration

By now, most students have been placed in their TCDSB Secondary School and high school staff are preparing to send out Registration Packages. It is very important that students go through the registration package carefully with their parents. In it, you will find information about how to register for courses, about the Summer Transition Course, uniforms, etc. and it will contain forms that must be submitted directly to the secondary school. Please take note of any deadlines and encourage your child to meet them to ease the transition to grade 9.

Each Secondary School has their own method of distributing packages. Some may be mailing them. Others may send them via email and yet others may forward them to the Elementary Schools. If you would like details about when to expect the packages, it would be best to contact the secondary school directly for the best response.

To learn more about the course selection process, you can access the video recording or slide show with live links, by clicking on the following links: [Video](#) and [Slide Show](#).

Also, please be aware that the Ministry of Education has decided to de-stream all compulsory grade 9 courses. Ontario Secondary Schools will no longer offer Academic or Applied courses in grade 9 for Math (since Sept. 2021), Science, English, Geography and French (beginning Sept. 2022). Specialty Program courses will still be offered (AP, IB, STEAM, etc.) as well as Locally Developed for all subjects.

Changed Your Mind?

If you no longer want your child to attend the school in which you currently have a spot, you may request a change of school. Simply inform the elementary school principal of your intentions via email or written note and include:

- The name of the school you were accepted in.
- The name of the school that you would like to apply to.
- One of the 3 choices below.

Priority 1 Waitlist

1. Address Change - must have proof and changes must be made through the school secretary. Students will be placed on the Priority 1 Waitlist.
2. If you want to change schools for any other reason, then you can give up your spot at the current school and go on Priority 1 Waitlist for a different school.

Priority 3 Waitlist

3. Keep your current placement but to be placed on the Priority 3 Waitlist for a different school until May.

Please keep in mind that these are only requests. Having a Change Form submitted on your behalf does not guarantee students a spot in the new school. Any requests can only be accepted based on the availability of space and this may take up to September 2022.

Continued Mental Health Support

As the pandemic drags on, we would like to provide you with resources to help support you and your child's mental health. Please click on the links below to access them.

[TCDSB Tips for Supporting Your Child/Youth During the Covid 19 Outbreak](#)

[School Mental Health Ontario - Noticing Mental Health Concerns for Your Child](#)

[School Mental Health Ontario - Covid 19 Resources for Parents and Families](#)

David Ferrari

Elementary Guidance Counsellor Areas 1 & 2



Indigo FlipGive E-Gift Card and Regular FlipGive Fundraising

Just a quick reminder of the two FlipGive Fundraising Opportunities that are still ongoing:

1) IndigoFlipGive will provide the school with **15%** of all purchases of **Indigo e-gift cards** (which can then be used in the store or online) or 3% of any direct purchases on [indigo.ca](https://www.indigo.ca) when you follow the link immediately below.

Please consider purchasing an **Indigo e-gift card** and using this to pay for your Indigo purchases; or purchase one for someone else! Whether you are shopping for a new book, a birthday present, a teacher present, or just something for yourself, please shop using our fundraising link.

Simply follow this link https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/teams/287351-st-gregory-cspc-indigo-fundraiser?fundraiser_id=1584195 when shopping online at [indigo.ca](https://www.indigo.ca)

And please feel free to share this link with your family and friends!

2) Regular FlipGive program: Please continue to use the team link below for **other than Indigo e-gift card** purchases noted above, when you shop online at your favourite brands and retailers. Simply join our school team on FlipGive and start shopping through the app or our school team page and we'll earn money every time you shop with **popular brands you already love like Loblaws, Walmart, Amazon, Old Navy, Apple, Starbucks, Sportchek, Esso, and many more.** And please feel free to also share this link with your friends and family!

<https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=QTKHJR>

Please let us know if you have any questions. Happy Shopping!

With gratitude,

St. Gregory Catholic School Parent Council