

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. de Domenico
CSPC Co-Chairs: V. Thomas and K. Fenech

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We would like to welcome all members of the St. Gregory school community to the 2022-2023 academic year and extend a special welcome to students and families who are new to our school. We thank God for the gift of learning and ask His blessing for a successful year. We are grateful for the work of our office staff and custodial team in preparing for the school opening. Our staff members have made the classrooms ready for students and are waiting to welcome their classes.

J. Pannozzo

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

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

All visitors to the school including parents and guardians are expected to report to the office immediately upon arriving at the school.

A sign-in procedure is in place for every individual who enters the school.

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.

SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Parents and guardians play a vital role ensuring that our students are engaged and successful at school.

The following resources give families information on how to prepare students for a successful year, how to be more engaged in student learning and school activities and how to communicate questions and concerns effectively.

- [Dress Code](#)
- [Interpreting and Translation Services](#)
- [Conflict Resolution](#)
- [Volunteering With Us](#)

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

All resources for the month of September, and for the monthly virtues throughout the year can be found here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/o/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/page/virtue-of-the-month>

Pastoral Plan: *Walking with Christ: with EYES of Faith and Hope, with HEARTS of Kindness and Love, with MINDS of Justice and Peace.* Our new plan invites us to follow in Christ's footsteps, unified in our purpose and goal of providing excellence in Catholic education, inspired by Micah 6:8 – "*Act justly, walk tenderly, walk humbly with our God.*"

Click <https://www.tcdsb.org/o/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/page/walking-with-christ> for resources for the year.

September Events and Meetings

- TCDSB recognizes September as Ukrainian Heritage Month.
- City of Toronto declares September as [Bike Month](#).
- September 5: Labour Day
- September 5: International Day of Charity
- September 6: PA DAY
- September 7: First Instructional Day of School
- September 8: International Literacy Day
- September 13: Grandparent's Day
- September 21: CSPC Meeting @7:00 pm
- September 25: Rowan's Law Day
- September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day

STAY INFORMED WITH TCDSB NEWS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Follow us on Twitter [@TCDSB](#),
- Facebook [@Toronto.CatholicDSB](#), Instagram [@Torontocatholicdsb](#)
- Visit our new website online: www.tcdsb.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR

Night School Registration

Registration for evening credit courses, or continuing education begins soon. Visit: <https://www.tcdsb.org/o/continuingeducation>

International Languages After Hours Program Registration

Registration for the 2022-2023 elementary IL After Hours Program continues this fall. Follow the link below for more details.

[Register for the 2022-23 International Languages Elementary Program](#)

Student Voice on the Board of Trustees

Student Trustees are:

- Stephanie De Castro (elected 2021-2023)
- David Beshai (elected 2022-2024)

City of Toronto Parks and Recreation is Hiring

A variety of [part-time positions](#) are available for students.

Programs and Services

From specialized programming to religious education, school safety, after-school programs and adult education, the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) provides a wide range of programs and services to students, families and the community. [Programs and Services | Toronto Catholic District School Board \(tcdsb.org\)](#)

SAFE ARRIVAL

Parents are encouraged to sign up for the School Messenger app. This will allow parents and the school to stay in touch to report absences quickly and easily, and also for the school and the school board to communicate to parents about important information throughout the year including cancellations, closures and other critical issues. Easily report your child's absences and receive school communications throughout the year including cancellations, closures and other critical issues. Visit: [SchoolMessenger/Safe Arrival](#)

STUDENT DRESS CODE

TOPS

SOLID WHITE OR NAVY BLUE

Short or long sleeves
without logos, patterns or designs
Polo Shirt, T-Shirt, Turtleneck,
Button Down Shirt, Blouse,
Sweater

BOTTOMS

SOLID NAVY BLUE

without logos, patterns or designs



Dress pants
Chino Pants

Walking Shorts (knee length)

Capri Pants

Skirts (knee length)

Track Pants

Tunic Dress (knee length)

NOT ALLOWED: Denim and Leggings

If students are inappropriately dressed and/or do not adhere to these guidelines, then parents will be contacted.

WASTE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

awareness through the act of aiming to be good stewards of God's creation. Along with reducing paper consumption and photocopying for communication purposes, we will continue with the "Waste Free Lunch Program".

Students are asked to do the following: pack snacks and lunch in a re-usable container and then place any leftover food in their containers to be brought home or placed in the green bin. We hope that this practice will reinforce environmental awareness amongst our students.

Thank you for your support.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Student agendas will be made available to students from grades 1-8 starting the first week of school. Using agendas helps to keep track of homework assignments and serves as a communication device for parents. We ask parents to check them on a regular basis and to make appropriate comments when necessary. The agendas are a necessary component of the curriculum and should be kept in a safe place at home. The cost of the agendas is \$7.00 and payment is to be made through School Cash Online. A separate communication will be sent out with further details.

Register Now: [School Cash Online](#)

For more information and to create your account see the attachment at the end of this newsletter.

SCHOOL POLICY - ELECTRONICS

We continue to encourage students to leave iPods, MP3 players, digital games or toys, cameras, cell phones, 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, parking lot and school yard. **Electronic devices such as tablets and laptop computers will be permitted for educational use.**

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. Grades 4-8 students and their parents are required to acknowledge this policy by signing the attached form.



School
Mental Health
Ontario

Ways to support your child as they head back to school.

Talk to your child about the return to school. Take some time to think through what the return to school might look like for your child and talk to your child about what to expect. Children may feel nervous about returning to school for any number of reasons. It is important to allow space for them to express their concerns, and also to help them to remember the parts of school that they enjoy and are looking forward to the most. Perhaps make a list together about what they are excited about. Remind your child that when school starts, they will be supported and safe.

Start to introduce familiar routines. This may mean going to bed a bit earlier, getting up earlier or eating at more regular times. For younger children, practicing school could be helpful. For example, do the walk to school together, or arrange visits with a small number of friends to get used to being with others. For older children, you can encourage them to identify what their routines could look like, and make a plan to get back to regular routines.

There are many ways we can help young people who are experiencing stress.

For example, we can:

- help them to find ways to cope with feelings of anxiety (e.g., try some grounding or breathing techniques)
- help them to find ways to help reduce the stress itself

Access more resources including [tips for families](#), videos, websites and agency information for students and families about child and youth mental health and available supports.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Communications with parents regarding bus transportation for students is a priority. In order to stay informed, parents are encouraged to register on the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) portal today by visiting www.torontoschoolbus.org. This portal provides TCDSB parents with online access to their children's transportation information and up to the minute email notifications regarding school bus cancellations or delays. If you have any issues signing up on the portal, please contact support@torontoschoolbus.org and staff will assist you with the registration of your account.

For updates on public transportation visit the Toronto Transit Commission website at <http://www.ttc.ca/>

Students must be ready to board as soon as the buses arrive at the STOP or school as buses must stay on schedule. Students must behave appropriately in order to maintain safety at all times. Please note that inconsistent travel on the buses will make it difficult to maintain service for your child and may result in the bus space being assigned to another student.

BUS SAFETY & 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 property and do not cause damage to the bus in any way
- Do not talk loudly, yell, throw objects or fight on the bus
- 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 (i.e. friend's birthday party, working on projects together)
- Do not eat or drink on the bus
- Always be respectful to the bus driver, student monitors and other passengers



PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please note that our school buses take precedence over cars in our horseshoe parking lot on the south side of the school facing Rathburn Road. Please move when the bus is behind you. Be mindful of children walking through the parking lot. The drop off and pick-up area is a "Kiss and Ride". Please **DO NOT PARK** in this area.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ROUTINE

On days when the weather is inclement, students are asked to arrive at school just before the bell. Students present at the 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 indoors.

Unless the weather conditions are particularly bad, cold weather alone does not warrant an early entry to the building or indoor recess. Students should always dress appropriately for the weather.

ACCIDENTS/EMERGENCIES

Please take some time to review street proofing and basic safety rules with your child to reinforce lessons taught at school. Despite 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 a child continues to be uncomfortable or is in distress, the school will notify the parent. In case of a serious accident, parents will be notified immediately. If attempts to contact you are unsuccessful, school staff will take the appropriate action as directed by TCDSB policy. It is absolutely imperative that the school has up-to-date contact and medical information.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event that the school must be closed or go into lockdown before regular dismissal due to an emergency situation, children will be evacuated to St. Gregory Church. Under such circumstances parents may call the Church rectory at 416-239-4831 to obtain information. If Church Hall is not available, our alternate location is Rosethorn Public School (416-394-6360).

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL DAY CARE

Before and After School Program for kindergarten and school age children at St Gregory Catholic School.

For more information regarding available space and fees, please contact the center manager: Pamela Taskinen at 416-236-8794 or go online to:

stgregory@littleprintsdaycare.com

CSPC NEWS

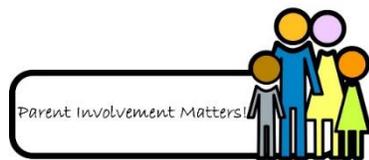
CSPC MEMBERSHIP

St. Gregory's CSPC will be holding an election in September to fill the twenty parent/guardian positions for the 2022-2023 term. An election committee, consisting of parents/guardians that are NOT planning to run for a position on council, is being formed to facilitate the election process. If you are interested in joining the election committee, please send an email to cspc.stgregory@tcdsb.org.

The purpose of Catholic School Parent Councils (CSPC) is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents (O. Reg. 612/2.1).

Parents are invited to consider becoming a member of the St. Gregory CSPC. Your participation is encouraged, as parent council members work with the school to provide opportunities for students to engage in exciting activities in the school, and it allows you to connect with other parents and the school administration. The first CSPC meeting for this school year will take place on **Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** Parents and guardians are invited to attend. The AGM and Parent Council Elections will take place at this time.

For more information on CSPC, please visit:
<https://www.tcdsb.org/page/catholic-school-parent-councils>



PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY

The CSPC is excited to launch our new Parent Resource Lending Library. The library and its resources were made possible thanks to a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant.

The Parent Resource Lending Library is kicking off with titles related to Racism and Social Inclusion, Parenting and Internet Safety and Cyberbullying. The collection of Parent Resources is housed in our school library and books are available to be borrowed exclusively by the parents or caregivers of our students.

We are excited to offer these wonderful books to our families and we thank you for your interest in our Parent Resource Lending Library. If you have any questions or would like more information, please send an email to cspc.stgregory@tcdsb.org.

A separate email will be sent out to the parent community in mid-September with more details.

MABELS LABELS

Mabels Labels is offering St. Gregory families 10% off for the month of September. To support the school and receive the discount go to www.mabelslabels.ca go to support a fundraiser and type in St. Gregory (CSPC) Etobicoke once you add items to your cart use the discount code: BTSEVENT10 (valid until Sept 30th - exclusions include stamp, reflectives and sale items)

**** Please refer to the flyer attached for more details****

TCDSB 2022-2023 Trustees

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 5. Maria Rizzo | 9. Norm Di Pasquale |
| 2. Markus de Domenico | 6. Frank D'Amico | 10. Daniel Di Giorgio |
| 3. Ida Li Preti | 7. Michael Del Grande | 11. Angela Kennedy |
| 4. Teresa Lubinski | 8. Garry Tanuan | 12. Nancy Crawford |

mabel's labels

FUNDRAISING

SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER!

St. Gregory CSPC (Etobicoke)

Buy Mabel's Labels waterproof, durable labels to help reduce classroom mix-ups and keep your items coming home!



Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for

St. Gregory CSPC (Etobicoke)

SchoolCashOnline



Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is now offering *School Cash Online* as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, everything from field trips to yearbooks.

School Cash Online allows parents to pay school related fees safely, quickly and easily. By using *School Cash Online*, you help increase efficiency and security at schools. Teachers and secretaries are then able to focus their time on helping students, and not counting cash.

School Cash Online shows all of the school fees available to your student online for purchase. You can then view and choose to purchase these fees online through credit cards, Interac debit cards, and eCheque. You can also stay informed of upcoming events and keep track of which school fees require your attention.

Register today – a simple task that takes less than two minutes – by visiting tcdsb.schoolcashonline.com or visiting the [TCDSB website](#) and navigating your way to the *School Cash Online* page. You will need your child's full name and date of birth to register. Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at **1(866) 961-1803** or by visiting schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support.

Sincerely,

Principal,
M. Ginocchi & J. Pannozzo

Guidance Corner



Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you and your family had a safe and relaxing summer. My name is Mr. Ferrari and I am the Elementary Guidance Teacher-Counsellor for Areas 1 and 2. During my school visits, I work with students, school staff, administrators and parents to continue to foster a happy and safe environment by strengthening social emotional learning, healthy relationships, career exploration and educational planning, learning skills and work habits, and student safety and well-being.

Supporting Your Child at Home

Please visit the [School Mental Health Ontario website](#) for resources to help you support positive mental health in your children.

Below, you can access two documents for suggestions on how you can support development of learning skills and work habits in your child, as well as encouraging good homework habits.

[Supporting Learning Skills and Work Habits at Home](#) and [Homework Basics](#)

TCDSB Secondary School Application Process

Grade 8 students will have the opportunity to apply to TCDSB Secondary Schools this fall. As more information becomes available, I will be forwarding it to your child's teachers and presenting the information to the students. Currently, the TCDSB Secondary School Application will go live on the Secondary Student Online Application and Registration (SecSOAR) System on Monday, September 26 with the initial application deadline being Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

I will be sharing TCDSB Secondary School Open House information as soon as it becomes available.

If you are considering a public secondary school, a private school or a school in another board altogether, please visit that school's website or phone their guidance department directly for information on how to apply. The form referenced above can only be used to apply to TCDSB Secondary Schools.

I look forward to working in your child's school throughout the year.

Mr. Ferrari

TCDSB Elementary Guidance Teacher Counsellor

Areas 1 & 2
