



Blessed Sacrament Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As a Catholic school board, our monthly focus revolves around liturgical themes based on virtues. At Blessed Sacrament, we recognize students with the Catholic Community Award, aligning with the monthly virtue. Over the last three months, we delved into the virtues of hospitality, gratitude, and peacemaking.

The Advent season is here, marking a period of anticipation for the birth of our Lord. We eagerly anticipate quality time with family and friends, reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

Throughout December, our school emphasizes various forms of charity, encouraging students to contribute their time and effort to help others. Each day, students are inspired to ponder how they can radiate positivity to their peers.

As we approach the New Year, let's view it as an opportunity for self-renewal, making commitments and devising a plan for success. January's virtue is courage, acknowledging the bravery required to embrace necessary changes and become more reflective, considerate, and empathetic in our choices and actions towards others.

On behalf of our staff, we extend warm wishes to you and your families for a joyful and sacred Christmas season!

Yours in Catholic education,

R. Agostino and R. Balik

BSCS School Administration Team



A LOOK AHEAD ...

- Dec 3 Advent Begins
- Dec 4-15 Christmas Winter Warmth Collection
- Dec 6 National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women
- Dec 8 PA Day
- Dec 13 Last Day for Gift Card Drive
- Dec 14 Christmas Concert
- Dec 18-22 Christmas Spirit Week
- Dec 20 Advent Day of Confession at Church
- Dec 22 Last Day of Classes
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Dec 26 Boxing Day
- Jan 1 New Years Day
- Jan 8 Back to School
- Jan 9 Grade 7 & 8 Ski Trip
- Jan 11 Grade 5 & 6 Ski Trip

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Merry Christmas



Peace Making

November Virtue Award Recipients



The virtue award recipients will be acknowledged at the next monthly school mass.

<u>ELP</u> Anais B. Franco F. Thomas C. Elise I. Charlotte S.	<u>Grade 1</u> William C. Emily I. Iker G. Ella O.	<u>Grade 1/2</u> Edmee L. Michael L.
<u>Grade 2</u> Sophie L. Gabriel O.	<u>Grade 3</u> Aulden A. Luke I. Leo B. Penelope C.	<u>Grade 3/4</u> Kiera D. Maxwell L. Oliver M.
<u>Grade 4</u> Xaiden B. Matthew B. Matthew D.	<u>Grade 4/5</u> Nathan E. Brayden M. Maitland H.	<u>Grade 5</u> Ava J. Lincoln L. Nyla H.
<u>Grade 6</u> Qhyle B. Gianna R. Jake R. Sky T. Karys T. Stella B. Alexandra G. Amalia S.		
<u>Grade 7</u> Joshua J. Jack H. Isla C. Kaitlyn D. Myfanwy C.		
<u>Grade 8</u> Lily F. Angelica P. Deimante G.		



DECEMBER VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: CHARITY

Criteria for the Virtue of Charity Award

- students who demonstrate generosity with their time and energy
- students who participate in school wide initiatives related to charity
- students who lend a helping hand
- students who give to others without expecting anything in return



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT ON 2022-2023 EQAO RESULTS

Grade 3



LEARNING

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths." (Psalm 25:4)

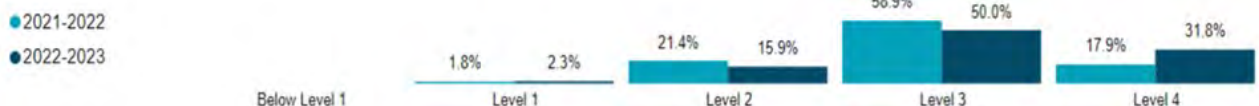
GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE



Percentage of Fully Participating Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)



Grade 3 Math EQAO Schools Over Time



Grade 6



LEARNING

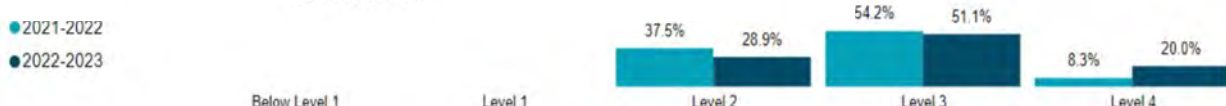
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GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE

Percentage of Fully Participating Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)



Grade 6 Math EQAO Schools Over Time



EQAO RESULTS

EQAO results help in our understanding of how we meet curriculum expectations through our programming. Our teachers will be provided with planning opportunities to carefully review relevant data and pinpoint learning gaps.

To enhance our approach, a focus group of students achieving a 2+ in numeracy has been selected, and we aim to move them to level 3 by implementing targeted strategies and closely tracking their progress throughout the school year.

Some of the proposed strategies include integrating EQAO questions into regular math assessments, providing timely descriptive feedback, and familiarizing students with the new online EQAO format, having a school-wide 'problem of the week', and engaging students in math competitions. Also, we will remind students to use paper and pencil before answering each question, considering the various question types in the new format. Your support in reinforcing these strategies at home will greatly contribute to our collective success. Thank you for your continued support.



CHRISTMAS WISH 2023 GIFT CARD *Drive*

NOVEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 13

**This year the need is greater than ever!
Help us reach our goal of \$6,000**

Please purchase a gift card to help families in need this holiday!

Go to cash online to donate



Pizza lunch Update

Pizza lunch continues every Monday
(except for holidays when it moves to Tuesday)!

Volunteer Call out! Volunteer Call out!

A BIG thank you to all volunteers who have already helped out and signed up to help.

Pizza Lunch Volunteers are needed EVERY WEEK!

As a reminder, volunteers are needed for ALL classes JK through to Grade 8.



More volunteer slots are available.
It only takes 20 minutes.
To help, please see Sign Up Genius,
[Pizza Lunch](#).

For queries etc., contact
bscpizzalunch@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD!

SKI TRIP!

Grades 7 & 8	January 9th
Grades 5 & 6	January 11th.





BEAVER COMPUTING CHALLENGE

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS...

A couple weeks ago the grade 5 and grade 6 students participated in the University of Waterloo's Beaver Computing Challenge. The test made students think big picture instead of individual math concepts. It was difficult, but it made the students really think outside the box. Many enjoyed this learning experience. Several students scored very well on the test, demonstrating an exceptional understanding of problem solving and critical thinking. Congratulations to all that participated!

– Written by Sam T.



I absolutely adored the astonishing Beaver Computing Competition. It is the most delightful, fun-filled math test in history, and I was charmed by all of the little joyful questions! At first, when I heard about a computing math competition, my face turned cherry red, my palms felt clammy, and I could feel the tension in the classroom. However, before I knew it, the whole class was having the time of their lives working on this competition! The playful, lively illustrations that each question featured were immensely helpful and endearing! The detailed, simple, but tricky questions were explained perfectly; never was one word or concept misunderstood. As I was completing the test, a humongous grin appeared on my face due to some questions that were about little beavers! (Get it? The Beaver computing challenge!) Three days later, when we got our scores back, the whole class was ecstatic about receiving their scores! Everyone was racing to the sheet of paper, squealing with joy with their incredible scores! Precious moments in the classroom, like doing the Beaver Computing Challenge, are why I love school so much. We are tremendously grateful and privileged to participate in the Beaver Computing Competition!

– Written by LM

Hi! My name is Ian, and I think the Beaver Computing Challenge was a marvellous competition to improve our understanding of concepts in math and technology. Our teacher prepared us by engaging in the pre-activities so we were able to practise and understand the test questions beforehand. It was a short test with multiple choice questions that was fun and engaging. It may improve our careers and chances of us getting into our favoured colleges or high schools. For my class, this challenge was fun and stressful - we wanted to get the answers right! It had questions that supported what we learned this year. Maybe my classmates also learned which subjects they are strong at and which subjects they are weaker at. For me, this challenge was a stepping stone to my long rigged path to becoming a NASA scientist. I hope that everyone that participated in this challenge found this challenge useful and fun, just like me! At the end, we received our results and participation certificate for competing in the challenge. My class and I are grateful for completing the Beaver Computing Challenge sponsored by Waterloo.

– Written by Ian



Thank you to Ms. Andrecchi, Ms. Cardoso, and Mr. Kowalik for preparing the grade 5 and 6 students for this wonderful opportunity!



GRADE 7 AND 8 GIRLS' AND BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Last month, the intermediate boys' and girls' volleyball teams competed in their divisional tournaments. For weeks leading up to the tournaments, our athletes demonstrated tremendous dedication. With their coaches, Mme. Iannelli, Ms. Guarino, and Mr. Abraham, the teams practiced their skills to bring their best game to compete.

The tournaments were challenging, but the teams did not lose their resolve and left everything on the court. They demonstrated tremendous sportsmanship, supporting one another in victory and defeat. While the tournament results were not what the teams hoped for, the teams left feeling that they tried their best and were proud of everything they accomplished. We congratulate both the Intermediate Boys and Intermediate Girls for a job well done, true Blessed Sacrament Champions!





CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL

Students may bring their cell phones to school, but they **must be powered off and put away**. These and other Smart devices may only be used under the classroom teacher's direct supervision for learning. All portable listening devices may not be used on school grounds at any time.



COLD WEATHER & DRESSING APPROPRIATELY

Students should be ready to engage in all activities, including outdoor recess. It's important to make sure that your child is appropriately dressed for the upcoming colder weather, including wearing hats, boots, and mittens/gloves.



DRESS CODE

Students must comply with the TCDSB navy blue and white dress code. This includes any combination of solid navy blue and/or solid white garments (i.e., white top and navy blue bottom, or navy blue top and bottom, etc.; no stripes, plaid, etc. permitted) without logos (except BSCS logoed attire). Denim and jeggings are not permitted. Dress code is expected for excursions and during gym classes.



PEDICULOSIS

Pediculosis, commonly known as **lice**, is common and sometimes problematic in schools. Children are reminded not to share caps, hats, combs, brushes, or other hair accessories. Parents are encouraged to check scalps regularly and to use preventative measures to ensure their child does not contact lice.



Yoga for Kids

HOLIDAY SPECIAL !

4 CLASSES - Winter and Christmas Themed Fun

TUESDAYS at LUNCH

NOV 28

DEC 5

DEC 12

DEC 19

GRADES JK- GRADE 6

\$50 for ALL FOUR CLASSES





WINTER WARMTH TREE *Collection*

DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 15

Please donate **NEW** mittens, gloves, socks, hats and scarves in support of communities in need this year.

Donations can be brought to the school foyer to be placed under the tree.

Thank you

Marconi Family and Foss Family for your generous donation of the BSCS Christmas tree!



FOOD ALLERGIES BIRTHDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

Food products containing nuts, peanuts, peanut by-products and/or peanut oil may not be brought into the school. Furthermore, please do not send in any food treats throughout the year on birthdays and for other celebrations. Alternatives to food items could be a small toy item, pencil, stickers, crayons, a small loot bag (1 or 2 items) or party hats.



IT'S FLU SEASON!!

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH TIPS FOR AVOIDING THE SPREAD OF FLU AND OTHER VIRUSES:

- Get your flu shot
- Wash your hands often
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Do the knuckle bump instead of shaking hands
- Stay home if you are sick





INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL



If Environment Canada forecasts poor weather conditions (including ice, significant snowfall, poor visibility, or extreme cold temperatures), the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG), the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) teams will assess and monitor the situation overnight and into the early morning to determine any necessary bus cancellations.

This decision will be made by 6:00 AM.

If Buses are Cancelled and Schools are Open

Schools will remain open. Families must make alternative arrangements to transport their children to school. Students who receive bus transportation receive updates regarding their transportation via TSTG. Parents and guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school, and they can keep children home from school if they choose.

If Buses are Cancelled and Schools are Closed

The decision to close schools (including childcare centers and Extended Day Programs) will be determined by the TCDSB and TDSB by 6:00 AM, so families can make alternative arrangements. Updates will be posted on the [TCDSB](#) website and Twitter.

To ensure the continuity of learning for students, teachers will prepare and post learning materials in their virtual classroom (Brightspace or Google Classroom). By logging into their online classroom, students will have the opportunity to remain engaged in their learning asynchronously at home.

Stay Informed: [TCDSB Homepage](#) • [TCDSB Twitter](#) • [Toronto Student Transportation Group \(TSTG\)](#)

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE AND FAMILY ORNAMENT

Starting Monday, December 4th, you can find our school Christmas tree near the main entrance. Previous family ornaments will adorn the tree, and we're excited to include new family Christmas ornaments this year. Students are encouraged to bring their ornaments and personally place them on the tree. Kindly make sure that your family name is prominently displayed.





PARENT VOLUNTEERS TO SUPERVISE AT LUNCHTIME

We are seeking parent volunteers to assist in overseeing students during the lunch period from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. If you wish to volunteer for one or more days per week, kindly reach out to Principal Riccardo.Agostino@tcdsb.org. Please note that regular daily or weekly volunteering in TCDSB schools involves the completion of the following when volunteering begins:

- [TCDSB Confidential Information and Communications](#)
- Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) [Police Check Application](#): See instruction sheet below.



VULNERABLE SECTOR SCREENING (VSS) POLICE CHECK APPLICANT INFORMATION VOLUNTEERS / CO-OP STUDENTS

The Toronto Catholic District School Board require a VSS Police Check from external applicants entering our schools and/or working with students.

Toronto Residents

If you reside in Toronto, please apply for the VSS through Toronto Police Service at www.tps.to/police-checks and select Vulnerable Sector Checks for more information.

When applying for the VSS, you must provide the TCDSB agency-program code, to be able to submit your application. The agency code is **202309TPSOND2B58**

The cost of the VSS for volunteers is **\$26.72**

Accepted forms of payment (online) are Visa, Visa Debit, MasterCard or American Express.

Applicants will receive their VSS electronically. Once you receive your VSS please present it to the school Principal.

Your online police check results will remain in your account for only 30 days. Please be sure to download a copy of your VSS for your record as you will not be able to access it after it is removed.

Estimated processing timeline for online applications is 7 to 10 business days. This can take longer depending on the volume of applications.

Please note there are no expedited services offered.

Residents outside Toronto

Those who reside outside Toronto must apply for the VSS through their local Police Service.

Please present your VSS to the school Principal.



Blessed Sacrament

Christmas



MONDAY



PAJAMA DAY!



WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY PAJAMAS!

TUESDAY



DRESS LIKE AN ELF DAY!



DRESS LIKE AN ELF FROM THE NORTH POLE!

WEDNESDAY



FUN CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY!



WEAR A FUN CHRISTMAS SWEATER!

THURSDAY



CHANNEL YOUR FLANNEL!



WEAR YOUR COMFY AND COZY FLANNEL SHIRT!

FRIDAY



CHRISTMAS FESTIVE!



WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS ATTIRE!



December 2023

VOLUNTEER



Volunteers Needed for the Following

Communications Support:

Do you have a way with words, websites or databases? We need effective communicators to help augment capacity of our communication team. Sign-up at [Communication Support](#).

Kiss 'N Ride:

The morning drop-off program that keeps our kids safe.

Volunteers are need from 8:10 – 8:30 AM. Sign-up for a shift or two at [Kiss N Ride](#).

Pizza Lunch:

Volunteers distribute pizza to their child's class on Mondays (JK/SK to grade 4). Approx. 20 minutes during the lunch hour. Sign-up on [SignUpGenius](#).

Project Library Returns: *volunteer slots forthcoming shortly!*

Are you passionate about books and organization? Looking for dedicated volunteers to help us put away and organize the library. Your assistance will play a vital role in ensuring that the library remains a welcoming and organized space for students, where a love of reading is born.

Time Commitment: Flexible & tailored to availability. Library is open: Wednesday (PM) & all-day Thursday & Friday.

Volunteer Roles:

Book Cataloguer: Responsibilities will include:

- Cataloguing: cataloging new books, media, and other library materials using the library's cataloging system
- Data Entry: enter book information, including titles, authors, publication dates, etc. into the library's database.
- Labeling: apply library labels, barcodes, and spine labels to books to ensure proper identification and tracking
- Repair & Maintenance: identify books in need of repair or maintenance and report them to for further action.

Book Shelver and Organizer: Responsibilities will include:

- Shelving Books: sort & shelve books in their designated sections according to the library's cataloging system
- Ensuring Order: Maintain the order and cleanliness of the library by ensuring books are displayed neatly
- Reshelving Returns: assist in reshelving returned books promptly and accurately

Training will be provided. If you are interested in participating in **Project Library** – Sign-up at [Project Library](#).

For questions or to signal your willingness to participate email:

Nadina Jamison Vanden Hoven, BSCS Volunteer Coordinator (nadina.jamison@utoronto.ca).

thank you

in advance for your participation!



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARIS NEWS

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Advent Day of Confession: Wednesday, December 20th
9:00am- 12:00pm
5:00pm-8:00pm

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24th
Children's Mass: 4:00pm
Masses: 6:00pm, 9:00pm & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25th
Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am & 11:30am

Boxing Day: Tuesday, December 26th
Mass: 10:00am

Solemnity of Mary- Mother of God- New Years Eve: Sunday December 31st
Vigil Mass at 4:30pm

New Years Day: Monday January 1st
Mass at 10:00am & 11:30am



PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, December 18th- Thursday December 21st
OPEN 8:00am- 4:00pm
Monday December 25th
CLOSED
Tuesday December 26th
CLOSED
Wednesday December 27th
OPEN 8:00am- 4:00pm
Thursday December 28th
OPEN 8:00am- 4:00pm
Monday January 1st, 2024
CLOSED



Christmas Break

**SCHOOL CLOSED FROM
DECEMBER 25TH TO JANUARY 5TH**

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2023 - 2024



Ward

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Joseph Martino, Chair | 416-512-3401 |
| 2. | Markus de Domenico | 416-512-3402 |
| 3. | Ida Li Preti | 416-512-3403 |
| 4. | Teresa Lubinski | 416-512-3404 |
| 5. | Maria Rizzo | 416-512-3405 |
| 6. | Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair | 416-512-3406 |
| 7. | Michael Del Grande | 416-512-3407 |
| 8. | Garry Tanuan | 416-512-3408 |
| 9. | Kevin Morrison | 416-512-3409 |
| 10. | Daniel Di Giorgio | 416-512-3410 |
| 11. | Angela Kennedy, Chair | 416-512-3411 |
| 12. | Nancy Crawford | 416-512-3412 |

Student Trustees :

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Stephanie De Castro | 416-512-3417 |
| David Beshai, | 416-512-3413 |

CONTACT & INFORMATION

Blessed Sacrament School:

Office phone: 416-393-5225
 Principal: Mr. Riccardo Agostino
 Vice Principal: Mr. Rafal Balik
 Superintendent: Shawna Campbell
 Trustee: Maria Rizzo (Ward 5)



Website: www.blessedsacramentcs.com
 Twitter: @BSCSchool

Blessed Sacrament Parish:

Office phone: 416-481-2256
 Father Larry Marcille
 Address: 24 Cheritan Avenue

Website: www.blessedsacramenttoronto.ca

Please send submissions for the **January 2024** Newsletter to Celia Figel: celia.figel@gmail.com by **December 28th 2023**