



# Blessed Sacrament Newsletter

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3.15*

As we enter this new month, we embark on a journey centred around the virtue of gratitude at Blessed Sacrament. Throughout October, our students will be actively encouraged to embrace and express gratitude by simply saying "thank you" and demonstrating appreciation for those around them. Our collective endeavour is to instill in them the importance of resisting behaviours and attitudes associated with entitlement. We wholeheartedly encourage our students to find joy in the blessings they have received. Indeed, there is much for all of us to be thankful for here at Blessed Sacrament!

As we move into the third year of our board pastoral plan, we anticipate Walking with Christ, with minds of justice and peace. Walking with Christ with minds of justice and peace means recognizing every individual's inherent dignity and worth. It requires treating others fairly, equally, and respectfully regardless of their background, race, gender, or social status.

Jesus consistently challenged societal norms and prejudices, breaking down barriers and embracing everyone. Walking with Christ with a mind of justice compels us to advocate for the rights of the oppressed, to speak out against discrimination, and to work towards a more equitable society.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education and spiritual growth. As partners in this journey, we can create an environment where kindness, gratitude, and love flourish.

Yours in faith and community,

R. Agostino  
Principal

R. Balik  
Vice-Principal



### A LOOK AHEAD ...

- Oct. 2: National Custodial Workers Day
- Oct. 3: CSPC AGM
- Oct. 4: Curriculum Nigh
- Oct. 5: Walk to School Day  
World Teachers Day
- Oct. 6: PA Day - No school for students
- Oct. 7: Rosary Day
- Oct. 9: Thanksgiving - No school
- Oct. 10: World Mental Health Day
- Oct. 11: International Day of the Girl
- Oct. 16-20: Waste Reduction Week  
School Bus Safety Week
- Oct. 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day
- Oct. 19: Walk-a-Thon  
School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- Oct. 22-28: Down Syndrome Awareness Week
- Oct. 31: Halloween

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## Hospitality

### September Virtue Award Recipients

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ELP</b><br>Matthew C. Mara L.<br>Alexandra J. Leonardo C. | <b>Grade 1</b><br>Matilda M. Charles M.<br>George K. Alden D.<br>Patrick D. |
| <b>Grade 1/2</b><br>Helena K.<br>Genevieve R.                | <b>Grade 2</b><br>Christian T.<br>Violet D.                                 |
| <b>Grade 3</b><br>Floria R. Hanna A.<br>Anthony T. Chloe M.  | <b>Grade 3/4</b><br>Nicholas C.<br>J.P. S.                                  |
| <b>Grade 4</b><br>Grayson T.<br>Delilah C.                   | <b>Grade 4/5</b><br>Grant F.<br>Kieran C.                                   |
| <b>Grade 5</b><br>Violette S. Nickolas K.<br>Emily Kidd      | <b>Grade 6</b><br>Abby S. Ian Jo T.<br>Georgia G. Stella P.<br>Lily G.      |
| <b>Grade 7</b><br>John Gabriel B.<br>Liliana V.<br>Aidan M.  | <b>Grade 8</b><br>Adrian T.<br>Jonathan B.<br>Mataya M.                     |

The Catholic Community Award Criteria for the Virtue of Hospitality

- ◆ students who welcome others
- ◆ students who focus on the positive, and believe the universe is a friendly place
- ◆ students who accept and celebrate diversity and pluralism
- ◆ students who are inclusive and accepting of everyone with an open heart



## OCTOBER VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

### Criteria for the Virtue of Gratitude Award

- students who demonstrate gratitude by saying "thank you."
- students who express gratefulness and show appreciation to others
- students who resist behaviours and attitudes of entitlement
- students who rejoice in what they have been given rather than wanting more



## SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE

To ensure student safety, **all volunteers, parents and visitors** must report to the office upon entering the school. Please sign in / out at the office if you are picking up or dropping off items for your child. **Please avoid visiting the school or picking up your child during recesses.**

## CELL PHONE POLICY

Students are allowed to bring their cell phones to school; however, it is imperative that these devices are powered off and stowed away immediately upon entering school property, including the schoolyard and the school building. The utilization of cell phones and other smart devices is restricted to instances when students are under the direct supervision of their classroom teacher for educational purposes.



## STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL PROPERTY DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

For safety, students may only leave school property during the school day (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) with their parent/guardian. Students will not be released to other parents/guardians to go out for lunch or appointments. In extenuating circumstances, please notify the school's main office when another person will pick up your child for dismissal (and is not returning to the school). Grade 8 students need to return permission forms to go out for lunch on Fridays only.

If you are picking up your child early from school, please avoid arriving during recesses (10:12-10:27; 11:35-12:15, 1:40-1:55) when students are in the schoolyard. Always visit the school office first. Please arrive no later than 2:30 p.m. to pick up your child for early dismissal.



## SCHOOL DRESS CODE

The school dress code is solid white and navy blue. We encourage students to wear collared shirts during special events (school masses, assemblies, etc.). Please review the school dress code on the school website for more information: [www.blessedsacramentcs.com/dress-code](http://www.blessedsacramentcs.com/dress-code)

The TCDSB-appropriate dress code is always in effect and includes (but is not limited to) no spaghetti straps, race-back tops, midriff revealing tops, short-shorts, and biking shorts. Logos/comments/pictures that address or display sexual content, substance abuse, violence, profanity, inappropriate references to nationality, race or gender, or articles of clothing in serious disrepair are not permitted.

## STUDENT WASHROOMS

We strive to keep our physical and learning environment safe and welcoming for all students, staff, parents and community partners. To keep Blessed Sacrament a respectful environment, students must report incidences of vandalism to the office. Incidences will be dealt with when brought to our attention on an individual needs basis.



## BUS TRANSPORTATION



Busing is a service provided by the School Board. As with any service, specific expectations are conditional to use. We remind parents of the following:

- Students registered for the bus are expected to use the service every day they are scheduled to take it. It is not a student's decision to walk some days and take the bus on other days.
- Students registered for a school bus and failing to use the service regularly will lose their school bus privileges.
- Students can only use the registered bus route and stop.
- If your child does not take the bus on a specific day, please provide the school office and the child's teacher with a written note advising of the transportation change. **Unfortunately, we cannot accept telephone calls related to bus changes to the office.**

Local conditions may impact the timely running of school buses. You are encouraged to sign up for the transportation portal to ensure you have access to the latest transportation information. The transportation portal will provide more reliability and functionality, including bus delays, cancellations, and GPS data to confirm bus locations. Parents can sign up online to access the portal via the new BusPlanner portal: <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/> to set up an account and get access. You will need your child's transportation information and the 9-digit OEN (found on their report card) to access this information.

For those families who are not in our school's bus catchment area who have applied under the empty seat or exceptional circumstance criteria for this academic year, please keep in mind that approval of busing under these criteria does not mean that transportation will be provided as it is dependent on seat availability and sufficient time for the vehicle to perform its route. **All empty seat/extenuating circumstance requests must be submitted each year the bus service is requested under these criteria.**

Your cooperation with these guidelines is appreciated. Feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

### SCHOOL PHOTOS BY CLEAR IMAGES



**Fall Photo Day: Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

**Retake and Sibling Photo Day: Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

**Santa Photos: Tuesday, November 28, 2023**





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL (CSPC)

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first CSPC meeting of the year and AGM on October 3rd, where your new Parent Council was voted in.

Here is your CSPC for the 2023-2024 school year:



From left to right: Teresa Trudel, Rebecca Gladdy (Secretary), Tiffani Steer, Danielle Riposati (Chair), Wendy Abbott-Serroul, Sara Santos-Tran (Treasurer), Nadina Jamison Vanden Hoven

At the end of last year, two of our CSPC members stepped down. Emily O'Halloran had to step away because she accepted a job at the TCDSB, and Evelyne DiDonato stepped down due to work commitments. Emily will be running our amazing T-Ball/Softball program this year, and Evelyne is hard at work co-chairing the Walkathon committee, so they are continuing to contribute in important ways. Thank you, Emily and Evelyne, for all your efforts on Council last year.

### What's Coming Up this Year

We're looking forward to an action-packed year! It kicks off with the parent social on October 4th immediately following Curriculum Night. All parents are welcome! We'll be gathering at Uptown Pub, which is right across from the school on Yonge Street. CSPC will be providing food and a drink for everyone. It's a great opportunity to meet and reconnect with other parents, and have a fun night out without the kids.

Our annual Walkathon is coming up on October 19th, which is a fun way to build school spirit and raise funds for the school.

Another fundraiser we do every two years is the spring gala. I'm excited to say that this year is a gala year! Mark your calendars for April 12, 2024 for a fantastic evening of food, music, auctions and fun for parents.

On February 26, we'll be welcoming internet and social media safety expert Paul Davis to the school. We last invited him here in 2021 and we're delighted to have him back again this year. He'll be delivering presentations for students and parents. Thank you to the parents who suggested this. We reached out to Paul earlier in the year when the suggestion was initially made, but he's in such demand that February 2024 is his first availability.

There are so many other things to look forward to that CSPC is happy to support. The student Halloween Dance, Carnival activities in February, all the extracurricular sports and clubs, and a number of charitable



## CSPC MESSAGE CONTINUED

initiatives to give back to those in need. And of course, can't forget about our annual Fun Fair in May. It's shaping up to be a great year!

### **Investment Priorities**

One of CSPC's key priorities is investing in a broad range of resources and programs for the benefit of all students at Blessed Sacrament. Planning for our annual budget starts long before the new school year begins. The Principal works closely with teachers to determine what their classroom needs are, and he identifies broader school needs in alignment with the Board priorities of learning, equity and well-being. We also survey parents every few years to gauge feedback on budget priorities and areas for future investments.

Based on the Principal's wish list and the April 2022 parent survey results, CSPC's investment priorities are:

- Technology in the classroom
- Curriculum resources to support math and literacy in the classroom
- STEM initiatives
- Mental health and well-being initiatives

Every year, we also offer a bursary for Blessed Sacrament families who may need assistance with school-related expenses. Requests can be made in full confidentiality directly to Mr. Agostino.

On a final finance note, we are looking for a parent to support our amazing Treasurer Sara. Ideally, we're looking for an accountant or someone with an accounting background who is fluent in Excel and QuickBooks to support Sara with CSPC finances. It's not a significant time commitment – just 1-2 hours per week. Please reach out to us or Mr. Agostino if you're interested.

### **Playground Fundraising**

We are excited to announce that, in January 2024, we will be kicking off a fundraising campaign to replace the upper playground structure and softscape!

The current structure shows the wear and tear of many years of fun play by students and neighbourhood children alike. Unfortunately, TCDSB does not fund the replacement of aging school playgrounds. Once a play structure is deemed unsafe, the Board will cordon it off, leaving it unusable by any children. We are experienced in working with our wonderful parent community to ensure that does not occur! We will be sharing more information about our fundraising goals and plans in the months to come. If you would like to be part of the fundraising committee or have ideas on fun ways to get all involved in this new initiative, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

### **Stay In Touch**

There are a variety of ways you can engage with the Blessed Sacrament CSPC. You can reach us anytime with questions, comments or concerns at [blessedsacramentcspc@gmail.com](mailto:blessedsacramentcspc@gmail.com). We send out weekly emails called "The Buzz" that keep you up to date on all the latest school news. We manage the school website ([blessedsacramentcs.com](http://blessedsacramentcs.com)), which has a wealth of information on all things Blessed Sacrament. We put together the monthly newsletters, which highlight important dates and events. And we encourage everyone to attend monthly CSPC meetings to get important school updates, voice your opinions and be involved in discussions that impact the school.



## KISS 'N RIDE PROGRAM



Our school is blessed to have a morning drop-off program that allows for the safe and convenient arrival of all students who are driven to school. It is run and staffed entirely by parent volunteers. There is ONE drop-off location for all students. It is located between the kindergarten yard and the school bus zone on the north side of Bedford Park Avenue.

Volunteers will be easily identifiable as they will be wearing yellow safety vests.

Kids should NOT be dropped off in the school bus zone, at the crosswalk or by the turf. Please do not park on the south side of Bedford Park Avenue.

For their safety and your peace of mind, students in JK and SK will be walked to the Kindergarten playground and delivered to a teacher. (They will be escorted directly to the JK/SK door in inclement weather). Children in Grade 1 will be accompanied to the main steps and directed to the west playground. All other students will enter the school area on their own.

Parents and caregivers are always asked to use your signal to indicate that you are queuing for the program. A volunteer will assist your child(ren) out of the vehicle on the street's curbside and escort them directly into the school as outlined above. Please DO NOT exit your vehicle. We ask that all backpacks and other belongings are already with your child, not in the trunk.

Drop-off begins at 8:15 am and ends at 8:30 am. Please do not arrive before 8:15 as there is no supervision. Students will need to enter the front door after 8:30 and report to the school office for an admit slip.

To keep this important service running, we need 3 volunteers each morning. Please sign up through SignUp Genius on the Blessed Sacrament school website: [www.blessedsacramentcs.com](http://www.blessedsacramentcs.com) and click "Volunteer to Help." If you have questions about the program, please get in touch with Deb Hutton, the parent volunteer coordinator for this program, at [debhutton22@gmail.com](mailto:debhutton22@gmail.com) or 416-662-4758.

### *Pizza lunch returns Monday October 16th*

We are happy to let you know that Pizza Lunch will be available for Blessed Sacrament students, commencing October 16, 2023. Once again, we will use Pizza Nova, with either cheese or pepperoni slices offered. The program runs for 34 weeks, with Start Date: October 16th End Date: June 24th. If parents would like their children to participate, they will be asked to pay a one-time fee for pizza lunch for the entire year.



Ordering was available through cash online until October 4th.

If you missed the deadline please contact Estelle Gorby [bscspizzalunch@gmail.com](mailto:bscspizzalunch@gmail.com).

**We need your help!** Volunteer spots for weekly class distribution for JK/SK to Grade 8 are available through Sign Up Genius soon. To help please see Sign Up Genius, [Pizza Lunch](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email [bscspizzalunch@gmail.com](mailto:bscspizzalunch@gmail.com).

October 2023



BSCS Annual  
**WALKATHON**  
Fundraiser



# BSCS

## 24th Annual

# Walkathon

Generous donations do wonders! They fill the gaps left by the school board.

Every dollar counts!

Your donation money goes towards:

- MathUp
- Scientist in the School
- Laptops in the classroom
- RAZ Kids
- Athletic equipment
- Mental Health Support
- Music equipment
- Class excursions
- STEAM Programs
- And more...

**\$10,000**  
already raised!



Every student has a chance to win amazing prizes like laptops, gift cards, free music lessons, art sessions, and even a chance to dine with the principal!

- 1 ballot for every child
- 2 ballots for every donation
- 3 ballots for donations over \$95

**TO DONATE** Click here and simply follow the on-screen steps. Don't forget to add your child's name, grade, and "Walkathon" in the message window! A tax receipt will be sent to your inbox immediately.





## VOLUNTEER



Ready to contribute your time and talent? We need you!

### How do I Volunteer?

Check out the **Volunteer link on the BSCS home page for opportunities and information**

For questions or to signal your willingness to participate email:  
Nadina Jamison Vanden Hoven, BSCS Volunteer Coordinator ([nadina.jamison@utoronto.ca](mailto:nadina.jamison@utoronto.ca)).

### Current Opportunities: available immediately

#### **Class Parents:**

Serve as the liaison between the teacher and the parents. For roles & responsibilities, see: [www.blessedsacramentcs.com/class-parents](http://www.blessedsacramentcs.com/class-parents). A call out for volunteers will be sent to each class. For questions or to signal you willingness to participate email the program coordinator.

#### **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](#).

#### **Financial Support:**

Calling all accountants / financial wizard\$! We need treasury support, ideally someone well versed in Quick-Books (or equivalent.) Active - 1-2 hours/week throughout the school year. Sign-up at [financial 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](#).

#### **Walkathon:**

This year's event occurs on **Thursday October 19, 2023**. Volunteers are needed now for the organizing committee including: prize committee, communication support as well as event day volunteer coordination. Volunteers will also be needed the morning of **Thursday October 19, 2023** to help run the program. Contact co-chairs Teresa Trudel & Evelyne Di Donato at [bscswalkathon@gmail.com](mailto:bscswalkathon@gmail.com).

#### **Pizza Lunch:**

Volunteers distribute pizza to their child's class on Mondays (JK/SK to grade 4). Approx. 20 minutes during the lunch hour. Program starts in **October 16, 2023**. Sign-up on [SignUpGenius](#).  
Coordinator: Estelle Gorby

*thank you*

in advance for your participation!



### National Custodial Workers Day

On **October 2, 2023**, we recognize and thank our caretakers for all they do to ensure our students and staff's health and safety. Thank you to Mr. Gape, Ms. Montablan, and the occasional caretakers for tirelessly maintaining our school building and property. We add an extra thanks to them for their work throughout the summer months to ensure our schools are ready to welcome students and staff on the first day of the year.



### World Teachers Day

On **October 5, 2023**, we thank our teachers at Blessed Sacrament for their guidance, mentorship, and inspiration to the students we are honoured to educate. Our educators inspire our students to conquer obstacles and discover their complete capabilities. We commend our teachers, express our thanks for their profound influence on their students, and pray that they continue to draw inspiration and strength from their colleagues' support and the teachings of the Gospel.

### Childcare Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

On **October 18, 2023**, we are thankful for the essential contributions made by our Childcare Workers and Early Childhood Educators across our school system. They play a pivotal role in fostering a love for learning in our young students and are instrumental in cultivating a compassionate Catholic school community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our DECEs, Ms. Andonov and Ms. Gameiro, and offer our warmest congratulations on this special day dedicated to honouring your commitment and dedication!



### Halloween- Tuesday, October 31, 2023



Costume-wearing is permitted at school without covering the face. Offensive costumes are prohibited at school and are not referenced, turned into a joke, or used as inspiration for Halloween costumes. These include culturally inappropriate costumes or costumes that serve to perpetuate offensive stereotypes. Halloween costumes that include weapons or dangerous accessories are not permitted at school. Due to food allergies, please do not send treats with your child to share with other students and instead consider non-edible items like stickers, erasers, etc.



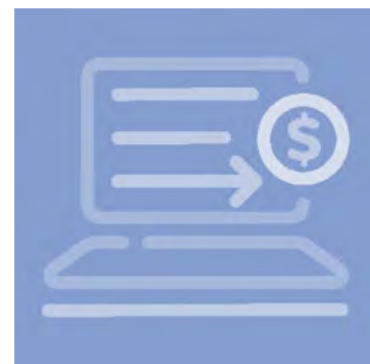
## SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

SchoolCash Online is a convenient and safe way for parents and guardians to pay for school materials and activities, including class trips, pizza lunches, agendas, year-books, and more.

Any parent and guardian with a child currently enrolled in a Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) school can create an account on SchoolCash Online and pay for school materials and activities offered by the school.

To register, go to <https://tcdsb.schoolcashionline.com> and follow the instructions.

Once you have registered, you can then add your child to your account and receive emails and updates on available materials and activities.



SchoolCashOnline

### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2022 - 2023



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](http://www.blessedsacramentcs.com)  
Twitter: @BSCSchool

**Blessed Sacrament Parish:**

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

Website: [www.blessedsacramenttoronto.ca](http://www.blessedsacramenttoronto.ca)

Please send submissions for the **November 2023** Newsletter to Celia Figel: [celia.figel@gmail.com](mailto:celia.figel@gmail.com) by **October 25, 2023**