



Blessed Sacrament Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear BSCS Families,

Happy New Year to all our families. The month of December was a very spirited month in many ways. We would like to thank all our families for their support with the community outreach projects that remind us of our commitment to service. We finished the year with our Christmas Gift Card and Outerwear Accessories Drive, Advent Mass, Christmas Concert, and Cozy Christmas Friday that started with Santa greeting the children at morning drop off.

We are excited to welcome everyone back to school, ready to continue in the journey of learning. The month of January brings the promise of a new year, the excitement of renewed hope in what our lives can truly be. As people created in God's image, we are called through Catholic social teaching to love one another by actively promoting justice, equity, inclusion, and human dignity for all. We are proud that the students, parents, and staff of BSCS put those words into action.

We have a busy couple of months ahead of us with rich curricular and various other activities – chess, cheer, coding, robotics, art club, hockey, junior soccer, intermediate basketball and much more for students to be engaged outside their classrooms.

In closing, thank you for your generosity and may 2026 be a year filled with good health for you and your loved ones.

Yours in Catholic Education,

K. Banfield
Principal



A LOOK AHEAD ...

Jan 1	New Years Day
Jan 5	Back to School
Jan 6	Epiphany of our Lord
Jan 11	Sir John A. MacDonald Day
Jan 16	PA Day—No School
Jan 21	2026/2027 Kindergarten Registration Opens
Jan 24	World Day for African and Afro-descendant Day
Jan 27	Family Literacy Day

January Calendar of Events with school specific activity dates posted on the [BSCS website](#).

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DECEMBER: CHARITY VIRTUE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ms. Murphy/ Ms. Andonov Maya F.	Ms. Adam/ Ms. Gameiro Millie B.	Ms. Grober Presley L.	Ms. Anreacchi Konstantinos K.	Ms. Coulter Aidan A.
Ms. Sinclair Caroline B.	Mr. Cuneen Jacob B.	Ms. Walker Iker G.	Ms. Cassata Dominik C.	Ms. Bustamante Jack F.
Ms. Mazzei Anthony D.	Mr. Marchione Wyatt H.	Ms. Moro Karys T.	Mme. Kudlik Ella P.	Mme. Albanese Jessica L.
Mme. Iannelli Giulia S.	Ms. Parvu Alexandre D.	Mrs. Simonton Rosalie C.		



SEPTEMBER: HOSPITALITY

OCTOBER: GRATITUDE

NOVEMBER: PEACE

DECEMBER: CHARITY

JANUARY: COURAGE

FEBRUARY: LOVE

MARCH: FORGIVENESS

APRIL: JUSTICE

MAY: COMPASSION

JUNE: FAITHFULNESS



January Virtue of the Month—Courage

Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point. C.S. Lewis

How we encourage children to live our virtue through the following actions:

- Stand up for others who need help
- Take risks and contribute to discussions
- Self advocate and ask questions when they need clarification
- Put themselves out there and try out for a team or join a new club





REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS: 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Registration for new students opens on **Wednesday, January 21st, at 10:00 a.m.** for those interested in kindergarten to Grade 8 placements. The registration process begins with an online application via the TCDSB registration portal, [SOAR](#).

Students who are currently attending the school are automatically registered for the upcoming year. If you are not planning to return to BSCS in September, please contact the school as this information helps in planning a smooth transition in the new year.

The completion of the application form does not guarantee placement. **Registration documents required:**

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Child's Catholic baptismal certificate (or proof of Catholicity of parent)
- Two pieces identification for proof of residency (utility bill, tax bill, lease/ mortgage document, or government correspondence with address)
- Immunization records posted with Toronto Public Health

For more information please visit:

[Elementary School Registration | Toronto Catholic District School Board](#)



OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW REGISTRATIONS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

Guided Tours led by student ambassadors are scheduled for
12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

EXTENDED FRENCH PROGRAM

Blessed Sacrament offers the Extended French Program for students in Grades 5 to 8.



In this program, students study French as a subject and use French as the language of instruction for social studies, history, geography, physical education, health, and visual arts. Approximately 50% of total instructional time is delivered in French through to Grade 8 graduation. An **in-person information session** will be held for parents/guardians and students currently in Grade 4 who are interested in learning more about the program. **More information will be shared soon!**



BSCS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A JOYFUL THANK YOU FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On December 16th, our kindergarten to grade 8 students lit up the Blessed Sacrament Church with a joyful Christmas Concert - sparkling with talent, enthusiasm, and faith. They worked incredibly hard in rehearsals, performed with confidence, and were so proud of what they achieved!

Huge thanks to our organizers Ms. Albanese, Mme. Fortino, Ms. Walker, and Ms. Murphy, and to all staff for the practices and collaboration to make it a successful night. The musical leadership of Ms. Keem, Ms. Parvu, Mr. Artymowicz, and Mrs. Raposo was outstanding. We are forever grateful to our parent council for the generous funds and to all our amazing parents for your support and positive feedback. You helped make the night memorable for all of our families!





CHRISTMAS WISH—IN GIVING WE RECEIVE

A big thank you to our CSPC, class parent reps and all our families for this year's Christmas Wish Drive. It was a great year for donations that supported the St. Paschal Baylon (\$2,310) and St. Francis de Sales (\$1,000) communities. Each of the respected schools purchases gift cards and food to bring a little joy to families, who also received outerwear accessories. This is an important piece of our calling. We certainly answered the call of our monthly virtue of charity in December!

THANK YOU!

OLSAT8 – GRADE 4 ASSESSMENT

The OLSAT8 (Otis-Lennon School Ability Test) will be administered to all Grade 4 students on the morning of **Monday, January 26, 2026**. The data is used in many ways at the school level, including as a screening tool for the gifted withdrawal program. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please contact your child's teacher by January 21st.

For more information, please visit the [TCDSB Gifted Program webpage](#).



SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION: USE IT OR LOSE IT

It is important that students registered for the school bus use it on a consistent basis. If your child has not been using the school bus consistently, they may be deleted from the transportation list. Bus attendance is continually monitored, and a letter will be sent to all parents indicating a loss of services. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate periodic users.

All families who use the bus are encouraged to register for [BUS PLANNER](#) to get up-to-date notifications for changes to service on any given day.





January 2026

HOLIDAY *Activities*





BSCS SKI TRIP!

We are excited to go to SNOW VALLEY for the annual ski trip.

Students in grades 5 to 8 will have the option to participate: Grades 7 and 8 (Tuesday, February 24) and Grades 5 to 6 (Thursday, February 26).

Details will be sent to families over the coming weeks.

IT'S FLU SEASON!

Below are tips from Toronto Public Health on ways to help avoid the spread of the flu and other viruses:

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



Taking care of children:

See the Ontario College of Family Physicians [tips on caring for children with respiratory symptoms](#) including how to help support your sick child at home and when to call a health care provider.

CITY OF TORONTO – PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

Child health and development workshops, screening clinics and other supports are offered through community partners such as neighbourhood EarlyON centres, public libraries and other local agencies. Programs include:

- [EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#) – offer a friendly environment for children to play, learn and make new friends while providing opportunities for parents and caregivers to meet and develop social networks.
- Library programs: [Programs for kids and families](#); [Programs for kids 5 and under](#); [TPL Kids](#)
- [Toronto Recreation](#)





COLD WEATHER & APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

As the temperatures begin to drop, it's important that students come prepared to enjoy all school activities—especially outdoor recess. To ensure comfort and safety, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for colder weather. This includes wearing a warm coat, hat, boots, and mittens or gloves.



Thank you for helping us keep our students active and comfortable throughout the season!



INDOOR SHOES

To help maintain a clean learning environment, we kindly ask that each student bring a pair of indoor shoes to school. For safety reasons, indoor footwear must be closed-toe and provide proper support—socks, sandals, and crocs without ankle support are not suitable, as they increase the risk of injury both indoors and outdoors.



As we approach the snowy season, we also recommend packing extra socks and pants in your child's backpack to ensure they stay warm and dry throughout the day.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

KISS N RIDE

Volunteers urgently needed to help with student drop-off from 8:10–8:30 a.m. (program starts at 8:15 a.m.). Show up, grab a yellow safety vest outside the main door and meet in front of the JK/SK yard. We need two (2) volunteers each morning. No experience necessary.



[Click here](#) to sign-up to volunteer.

Questions? Please contact Deb Hutton, Program Coordinator at debhutton22@gmail.com.

LUNCH SUPERVISORS

Please consider volunteering during the lunch hour to help supervise the lunch and play time for our students. If you can give your time for any given day of the week, please contact the school office.



UNPLUGGED CANADA PLEDGE

Join Unplugged Canada by [signing the pledge](#) and committing to a smartphone-free childhood for your student.



Sign the Pledge Today!



Spring Social 2026!

Calling All Volunteers for the BSCS Spring Social!

The Spring Social is BSCS's biggest and most exciting adult-focused fundraiser – an evening filled with laughter, dancing, and great company!

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help bring this unforgettable night to life. There are plenty of ways to get involved, so sign up today! Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet new people, make an impact, and be part of one of the best events of the year.

Intrigued?
Email us at bscsgala@gmail.com.

Let's make this Spring Social one to remember!

More information about this exciting event will be shared soon.



CANADA'S FOOD GUIDE—TIPS TO BUILDING HEALTHY EATING HABITS

Source: Government of Canada (Canada.ca)

Why healthy eating matters

Childhood and adolescence is a time of growth, development and learning. As a parent, you play an important role in:

- developing your family's food skills
- creating a healthy food environment
- supporting your child's interest in healthy food
- shaping your child's eating habits and behaviours

How you choose and prepare your food will shape your family's attitude, skills and eating behaviours.

As children grow, their peers may become more of an influence. Children, however, still look to their parents and other adults around them for guidance.

Healthy eating habits for your family

You can help your children develop healthy eating habits by using these ideas.

- Eat together—Follow the healthy eating recommendation to help you [eat together](#).
- Make healthy foods the routine—Offer your kids healthy meals and snacks at regular times throughout the day. Have a conversation about all of the components that go into a healthy meal.
- Make healthy drink choices—Offer water. Other options include: white milk (unsweetened lower fat milk), and unsweetened fortified plant-based beverages.
- Make a healthy choice—Think about the kind of food you buy and have in your home.
- Lead by example— Prepare and eat healthy foods with your kids to set a good example.
- Get them involved and share the tasks— Teach your kids about making healthy food choices.

Canada's food guide is a suite of online resources made to meet different needs. It includes the food guide snapshot, [available online in many languages](#) and [food guide recipes](#).



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada





VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in volunteering in the new year? Volunteers are needed to assist with **Kiss n Ride**, **Pizza Lunch** and **Spring Social**.



Kiss n Ride Volunteers [Click to Sign Up!](#)

Volunteers assist with drop-off each morning from 8:10 – 8:30a.m. (program starts at 8:15). Show up, grab a yellow safety vest from outside the main doors, and meet in front of the JK/SK yard. We need two volunteers each morning – no experience necessary! Thank you! Your help keeps mornings safe, smooth, and running on time!



Pizza Lunch Volunteers [Click to Sign Up!](#)

Volunteers hand out pizza to students in the classroom. (JK/SK to Grade 6) on Mondays (or Tuesdays, when Monday is a holiday) from 11:10 to 11:30a.m. Sign in at the main office and proceed to the corridor by the gym.



Spring Social [Email bscsgala@gmail.com]

Planning is underway for the spring event of the year, but we still have opportunities to be involved.

Coming soon! Carnaval Hot Chocolate (February) – Help serve hot chocolate to our students during Carnaval. A fun-filled day for all! Stay tuned for more details and sign-up.

Questions? Please contact Heather the BSCS Volunteer Coordinator at heatherlannigan@hotmail.com.

Thank You

We are so grateful to all our volunteers for their support and dedication to our school community. This month we wish to thank and show our appreciation for volunteers who helped with December initiatives.

Class Parents: A huge thank-you to our Class Parents for their work and dedication throughout the year: keeping their classes up to date, organizing volunteers for classroom activities, and most recently coordinating Christmas gifts. We are so grateful for all that you do. Thank you to: Kristen McRae, Alex Snell, Kate Schultz, Cui Zukowski, Joanne Hung, Nicole Vigneux, Melita Cyril, Sara Sharifpoor, Frances Salvaggio, Kaitlyn Leeb, Shannon Doyle Raffoul, Emily O'Halloran, Deb Hutton, Nicole Visca, Joanna Develiadiis, Susan Baker, Silvana Raviele and Tia Butler.

Christmas Wish, Winter Warmth and Gingerbread Houses: Thank you to Wendy Abbott-Serroul for her leadership of the Christmas Wish and Winter Warmth initiatives. Through these programs our school was able to provide support to others in need this holiday season. In addition, thank you to Alex Snell and Bianca Pamela Sanchez for organizing the supplies for the much-loved Gingerbread House activity.



January 2026



LEGACY 2026—100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of Blessed Sacrament Parish! Exciting plans are underway, so be sure to save the date. Join us for the Blessed Sacrament 100th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

For BSCS school masses, parents join to participate virtually via the Blessed Sacrament's Church [YouTube channel](#).



FLOCKNOTE— A NEW WAY TO GET PARISH UPDATES

BlessedTO Flocknote is the newest way to have Blessed Sacrament Parish updates sent directly to your email inbox. Sign-up today, by registering [here](#).



E-BULLETIN

Keep in touch with the Parish via text by registering for their e-bulletin. Text 'Digital' to 514-900-0130

WEBSITE

blessedsacrament.archtoronto.org



BLESSSED SACRAMENT PARISH

24 Cheritan Ave., Toronto ON M4R 1S4 (Yonge and Lawrence)
Tel: (416) 481-2256; Email: blessedsacrament@archtoronto.org



New Parishioners Welcomed!

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 8:30 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.

(Children's Liturgy Oct–May 10:00 a.m. Mass)

Weekday Masses

Monday–Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Public Holiday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

First Friday of the month—Adoration and Benediction following 8:30 a.m. Mass



TCDSB 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The following chart lists school holidays, Professional Activity (PA) days, and other key dates for the 2025-2026 school calendar year of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).

Number of Total School Days	194
PA Day: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting	January 16, 2026
PA Day: Parent-Teacher Conferences	February 13, 2026
Family Day	February 16, 2026
Mid-Winter Break	March 16-20, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	May 18, 2026
PA Day: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting	June 5, 2026
Last Day of Classes	June 25, 2026
PA Day: Provincial Education Priorities	June 26, 2026





TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 2026-2027

Source: TCDSB

On Friday, June 27, 2025, the Minister of Education placed the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) [under supervision](#). While under supervision, all decisions that would normally be made by trustees, with the exception of denominational matters, will now be made by the appointed Supervisor, Mr. Frank Benedetto.

Parents and guardians are asked to begin by addressing school-related matters at the school level, in recognition that those closest to the classroom are often best equipped to support timely and effective solutions. For more information on how to address school-related concerns, please visit the TCDSB [Student / School Related Concerns](#) page.

NEW!

The Ministry of Education is introducing a new Student and Family Support Office for the TCDSB to make the system more responsive and accessible for families. Further details on this office and its services will be available on the [TCDSB website](#) by January 19, 2026.

CSPC—CONNECT WITH US!

There are many ways to connect with the Blessed Sacrament Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC):

- Reach out anytime with questions, comments, or concerns at: blessedsacramentcspc@gmail.com.
- Stay in the loop with our **weekly email updates, The Buzz**, featuring the latest school news.
- Visit our [website: blessed sacrament cs.com](http://www.blessedsacramentcs.com) for a wealth of information on school programs, events, and resources.
- Check out our **monthly newsletters** for key dates, highlights, and upcoming activities.
- Join our **private Facebook Group** for real-time updates and community discussions.
- Attend our **monthly CSPC meetings** to hear important school updates, share your voice, and participate in decisions that shape our school.

We welcome and value your involvement—thank you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Blessed Sacrament School:

Office phone: 416-393-5225

Principal: Kathy Banfield

Vice Principal: Karl Leitmann

Website: www.blessedsacramentcs.com



Blessed Sacrament Parish:

Office phone: 416-481-2256

Father Larry Marcille

Address: 24 Cheritan Avenue

Website: www.blessedsacramenttoronto.ca

BSCS Newsletter Team:

Daniela Saldias-Rocha & Jennie Lopes

Please send submissions for the **February 2026** Newsletter to bscs.newsletter@gmail.com by **January 23, 2026**.

If you require an accessible version of this newsletter, please email bscs.newsletter@gmail.com.