

# **Blessed Sacrament Newsletter**

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear BSCS Families,

Here we are at the start of a new school year brimming with renewed hope and opportunity. I want you to know how truly grateful I am to be able to serve this amazing community. Alongside my administrative partner, Vice Principal Leitmann and the entire BSCS staff, know that we are committed to ensuring a memorable and successful year for all the children and our families.

We hope you and your family were able to build some time over these months for relaxation and, like us, are eagerly anticipating another memorable and fulfilling school year. Special greetings to the new staff and families joining our school community. As we welcome students back to school tomorrow, we anticipate there will be a lot of excitement, and perhaps a little nervous energy, that naturally comes with change. Together we will work to support your child's growth academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

Our initial focus will be establishing meaningful routines and strong work habits. Punctuality, attending with everything needed for the day, respect for others and compliance with dress code will go a long way to a great start. These small commitments will help us continue to build a positive school culture and confidence for all. The perfect recipe for positive engagement and a safe learning environment for all!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all our families who generously contributed to the revitalization of the school yard. This project was community commitment and a great example of collaboration and dedication. Not only will this enhance the schoolyard experience for our children it will be greatly appreciated by the community at large.

Thank you once again for trusting us with your children, commitment to Catholic Education and your generosity to make Blessed Sacrament

a great place for learning and playing. We just couldn't do it without you!

We look forward to celebrating many successes with you.

Yours in partnership, Kathy Banfield, Principal





#### A LOOK AHEAD ...

Sep 7:	Ukrainian Heritage Day
Sep 7:	Grandparents' Day
Sep 8:	UN Literacy Day
Sep 26:	PA Day - No school for students
Sep 30:	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day
Oct 10:	PA Day - No school for students
Oct 13:	Thanksgiving - No school
Oct 16:	Walkathon (Theme: Canada)

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#### THE MONTHLY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AWARD

The Monthly Catholic Community Award is a monthly award given to students who may be the "unsung heroes" of our community. They are the students whose daily efforts contribute to nurturing our Catholic school communities.

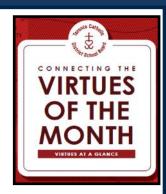
The Catholic Community Award is based on the monthly virtues.

#### SEPTEMBER VIRTUE: HOSPITALITY

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





**SEPTEMBER: HOSPITALITY** 

........

**OCTOBER:** GRATITUDE

**NOVEMBER: PEACE** 

**DECEMBER: CHARITY** ......

JANUARY: COURAGE

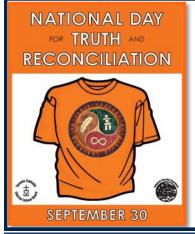
**FEBRUARY:** LOVE

MARCH: FORGIVENESS

**APRIL:** JUSTICE

MAY: COMPASSION

JUNE: FAITHFULNESS



Observed annually on Tuesday, September 30, the National Day for Truth and **Reconciliation** honors the survivors and victims of residential schools. The day was inspired by Phyllis Webstad's story, in which her new orange shirt was taken away on her first day at the St. Joseph Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, B.C. This day serves as a powerful reminder to continue the conversation about the lasting impact of residential schools and to support truth, healing, and reconciliation across Canada.

To commemorate this day, students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt.



#### STUDENT SAFETY AND SCHOOL ACCESS PROCEDURES

At Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, the safety and well-being of our students remain our highest priority. We are grateful for the continued partnership and support of our parents in fostering a safe and welcoming school environment.

To help reduce hallway congestion, minimize classroom disruptions, and ensure only authorized individuals are on school premises, we kindly ask that all families follow these important safety procedures:

- All parents and visitors must report to the main office upon arrival.
- Students should arrive in the schoolyard by 8:30 a.m.
- Parents/guardians are not permitted in the schoolyard during morning drop-off.
- Parents/guardians may enter the schoolyard at 3:00 p.m. for student pick-up.
- If dropping off your child after the school day has started, please accompany them to the office.
- If picking up your child before dismissal, please report to the office.
- For safety reasons, do not walk through the parking lot to access the schoolyard. Please use the designated entrances on Bedford Park Avenue.
- During school hours, only Blessed Sacrament students and staff are permitted in the schoolyard. This allows supervising staff to quickly identify any unauthorized individuals.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe and secure.

#### **SCHOOL SCHEDULE: RECESS & LUNCH**

8:30 a.m.	School Day Begins
10:12 a.m 10:27 a.m.	Recess
11:15 a.m 12:15 p.m.	Lunch Hour
1:40 p.m 1:55 p.m.	Recess
3:00 p.m.	School Dismissal

#### 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 and after 2:30 p.m.

#### SCHOOL MESSENGER APPLICATION: SAFE ARRIVAL

The Safe Arrival system is used to report a student's absence or to schedule a student's late arrival or early departure from school. As per the TCDSB's protocol for signing out students, a parent must visit the school office prior to a student leaving the school.

For information on how to report your child's absence, visit the school website.

Visit SchoolMessenger for resources and user support.





#### **SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

The school dress code is solid white and navy blue. We encourage students to wear collared shirts during special events (e.g., school masses, assemblies, etc.). Please review the school dress code on the school website.

#### **Spirit and Dress-Down Days**

Throughout the school year, a variety of spirit and dress-down days will be announced to the school community. On these designated days, as well as on their birthdays, students may choose not to wear the standard navy blue and white dress code.

Each month's Spirit Day theme will be communicated in advance through the weekly Buzz to help students prepare and celebrate together.



- September 30 : Orange Shirt Day
   National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
- October 31: Halloween
- November (Date/Theme TBD)
- **December 15 19** Christmas Spirit Week
- January (Date/Theme TBD)
- February 13: Red & Pink Day for Valentine's Day

- February (Date/Theme TBD)
- March (Date/Theme TBD)
- April 10: Wear Green for ShareLife
- April (Date/Theme TBD)
- May (Date TBD): May the 4th Be With You
- June 22-26: Spirit Week

#### **BSCS SPIRITWEAR**

We are happy to announce that the <u>BSCS Spiritwear Online Store</u> through Canadian Custom Apparel will be open three times during the 2025-2026 school year:

- 1. August 25-September 8, 2025-Online Store Open Now!
- 2. November 17-December 1, 2025
- 3. February 23—March 9, 2026

Please Note: Kindly include your child's name, grade and teacher in your order to facilitate classroom delivery.

Consider placing your order for the NEW BSCS Orange Shirt! Orange Shirt Day is on September 30th.

#### **Questions? Need Help?**

Contact the Spiritwear Coordinators: Shannon Doyle Raffoul (shannondoyle5@hotmail.com); Kaitlyn Leeb (kaitlynleeb@gmail.com).

For order-specific questions, please contact Canadian Custom Apparel: Emma@canadiancustomapparel.com.







#### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) works with the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) to provide transportation for qualifying children.

#### **School Bus Eligibility**

Transportation is available for students who meet the following criteria:

- Distance: Students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 who live more than 1.5 km from their school and are within the designated catchment area.
- Special Needs: Home pick up for any student not attending their local school.
- Hazards/Board Approved Areas: Students living in specific geographical areas identified by the board will have access to neighborhood bus stops.

For more details and to check if your child qualifies, please use the [School Bus Eligibility Checker].

#### **School Bus Safety**

We encourage families who use the bus transportation service to review <u>Ontario's School Bus Safety Tips</u> to learn what children can do to stay safe when riding the school bus.

#### **More Information**

Please visit TSTG for information regarding school bus transportation.

Please Note: Only students in specialized classes will be receiving services the week of September 2nd. All other eligible transportation services are scheduled to resume September 8th, 2025.





#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL**



#### Weather-Related Cancellations

In cases of severe weather, student transportation, classes, or programs may be cancelled. In rare instances, schools or administrative offices may also close. These decisions affect many families and are made with care. When Environment Canada forecasts poor conditions (e.g., ice, heavy snow, low visibility, or extreme cold), the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) and TCDSB monitor the situation overnight. A decision on bus cancellations is typically made by 6:00 a.m.



The TCDSB uses SchoolMessenger to notify families. During high-volume periods, message delivery may be delayed. Visit the following websites to stay up to date on cancellations or closures due to inclement weather:



- TCDSB Homepage
- Instagram
- TSTG Bus Transportation Delays





#### **KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE**

#### ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

To ensure student safety, prescription medication can only be administered during the school day with **written** and signed authorization from both the parent/guardian and the prescribing physician. Please make sure all medical forms are current and complete.

Please note: **Teachers are not permitted to administer non-prescription (over-the-counter) medications** to students.

#### A REMINDER ABOUT FOOD ALLERGIES

Some students at Blessed Sacrament live with severe, life-threatening food allergies (anaphylaxis), particularly to nut products and other common food items. Ensuring their safety is a shared responsibility, and we kindly ask all families to help by keeping student lunches and snacks completely nut-free.

For more details, please visit our <u>school website</u> to review the full **Anaphylaxis Policy**.

## THIS SCHOOL IS NUT FREE



#### FOOD ALLERGIES—BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

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

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe and healthy!

#### PIZZA LUNCH RETURNS IN OCTOBER

Pizza Lunch will begin in October (exact start date to be confirmed) and will be served every Monday, except on holidays when it will be offered on Tuesday. Pizza Nova will be the provider, offering cheese and pepperoni slices.

**How do I order and pay?** Parents will be asked to pay a one-time fee for pizza lunch for the entire year. Ordering will be available through school cash online in the coming weeks.

Can I volunteer to help? Yes! Parents will have an opportunity to volunteer to distribute pizza in class rooms. Volunteers will be needed every week for all grades ELP-Gr. 8. Volunteer spots will be available on Signup Genius in a few weeks.

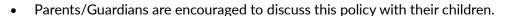
Stay tuned for more details! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to email <a href="mailto:bscspizzalunch@gmail.com">bscspizzalunch@gmail.com</a>.



#### **DEVICE USE POLICY**

The Ministry of Education released new direction affecting the use of electronic devices and access to social media at school. The new <u>Device Use policy</u> outlines expectations for school community members regarding the use of any electronic device during the school day, which includes:

- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 must ensure their devices are switched off or set to a silent mode and stored out of view during the school day/during instructional time (Exceptions are outlined in the policy and school discretion is considered).
- If a student is using a device during the school day/instructional time, the educator will instruct the student to put the device out of sight. If the student fails to comply with the direction, the student will be sent to the principal's office.
- When principals are addressing a student who fails to comply with an educator's
  direction to place a device out of sight, the principal will exercise their discretion and
  consider a range of responses to address the student's behaviour in alignment with
  the TCDSB's Progressive Discipline policy.



• Social media platforms are restricted on school networks and school devices.



#### **SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**

School Cash Online is a convenient and safe way for parents and guardians to pay for school materials and activities, including class trips, pizza lunches, agendas, yearbooks, 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 <a href="https://tcdsb.schoolcashonline.com">https://tcdsb.schoolcashonline.com</a> 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.

#### **LOST AND FOUND REMINDER**

To help recover lost items, please label your child's belongings—clothing, boots, gloves, lunch kits, shoes, etc. with their name. Check the Lost and Found box located in the school's basement regularly.

Unclaimed items are donated to charitable organizations twice a year: during the winter break and at the end of the school year.

**LOST SOMETHING?** 





#### 2025-2026 STAFF LIST

The following staffing model is tentative.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:**

Principal: K. Banfield
Vice Principal: K. Leitmann
Secretary: N. Zaghloul
Clerk Typist (W & TH): M. Liotino
Library Office: H. Huang
Head Custodian: J. Gape
Night Custodian: D. Guangco

#### **HOMEROOM CLASSES:**

Kindergarten: M. Murphy, L. Andonov Kindergarten: A. Adam, C. Gameiro

Grade 1: V. Grober
Grade 1/2: C. Andreacchi
Grade 2: C. Coulter
Grade 2/3: M. Sinclair
Grade 3: S. Cunneen
Grade 3: A. Walker

Grade 4: A. Cassata (formerly Zambri)

Grade 4/5:

Grade 5/6:

Grade 7:

Grade 8:

D. Bustamante

V. Mazzei

L. Marchione

#### **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS:**

A. DiLauro M. Durante



#### **EXTENDED FRENCH/RESOURCE:**

Grade 5 French (AM): A. Kudlik J. Albanese Grade 5 English (PM): Grade 6 English (AM): J. Albanese Grade 6 French (PM): A. Kudlik Grade 7 French (AM): S. lannelli Grade 7 English (PM): C. Parvu C. Parvu Grade 8 English (AM): Grade 8 French (PM): S. lannelli

Resource: Ms. Caravaggio & A. Kowalik

ESL: A. Kowalik

French Specialty: TBA

Core French: T. Magnus
Core French (.50): M. Bichay

#### **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION/MUSIC:**

Health and Physical Education (T-F): J. Qubti
Health and Physical Education (T): C. Camp

Vocal Music (T & W—AM): C. Keem

Vocal Music (F, PM only): M. Raposo
Instrumental Music (M, W, F) S. Artymowycz

#### MEDD:

A. Simonton

#### **CHILD YOUTH WORKER:**

C. Freire

#### LIBRARY TECHNICIAN:

H. Huang

#### **LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS:**

M. Martel; P. Vera-Vassallo











### BSCS STUDENT ACHIEVES RARE PERFECT SCORE IN PRESTIGIOUS GAUSS MATH CONTEST

**TCDSB News** 

Thirteen-year-old Declan O., a student at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, has earned a perfect score of 150 in the Gauss Mathematics Contest, an extraordinary achievement that places him among the very top math students in the country.

The contest, organized by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) at the University of Waterloo, attracted 76,524 participants worldwide in 2025. Fewer than 0.5 per cent of students achieved a flawless score, and only 2.5 per cent of Grade 7 students scored between 136 and 150, underscoring the challenge Declan mastered.

"When I found out I got a perfect mark, I was so happy, and a little surprised, because I wasn't completely sure about the last question," Declan said.

The Gauss contest is open to Grade 7 and 8 students in Canada and internationally. Students face 25 multiple-choice questions that cover algebra, geometry, patterning, data management, and measurement. Questions progress from

straightforward to highly complex, testing not just knowledge but also problem-solving ability.

While contest results do not count toward a student's school grade, they provide a unique opportunity for young learners to challenge themselves. Declan, who has always loved math, embraced the experience with enthusiasm.

The average score on this year's Grade 7 Gauss contest was 88.3, making Declan's accomplishment all the more remarkable. The CEMC runs several contests designed to spark and nurture student interest in mathematics and computer science.

With this achievement, Declan joins an elite group of students who have demonstrated not only talent but also persistence and passion for problem-solving. His success is a promising sign of a bright future in mathematics.

# Congratulations Declar!

# BSCS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

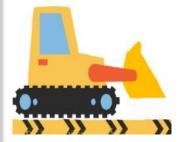




#### SCHOOLYARD REVITALIZATION UPDATE



We are very excited to announce that the work with the installation of the new play structures is well underway and almost ready to welcome the children.



Fencing, tree planting, walkways, softscaping will also go a long way in enhancing the space. The contractors are eagerly awaiting the shipping and delivery of the softscape. If the materials do not arrive by this Saturday, parts of the yard will be fenced off for a short period of time. This project promises to be worth the wait and will bring much joy to our children.

Stay tuned for the official blessing when we'll come together as a community and celebrate.







Thank you!



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome Back! We are excited for another great year of events and activities at our school. Throughout the year we will have many opportunities to volunteer and be involved in our school community. If at any time throughout the school year you have questions about volunteering, or would like to volunteer, please contact Heather Lannigan, BSCS Volunteer Coordinator by emailing heatherlannigan@hotmail.com.

Throughout the year you can find the latest information on volunteer activities and events through our weekly BUZZ email updates, monthly newsletters, the BSCS website, and CSPC meetings.



#### Current opportunities that are available immediately:

Class Parents: Class parents serve as the liaison between the teacher and the parents. For an outline of

roles and responsibilities, please visit the <u>school webpage</u>. A call out for volunteers will be sent to each class in the Fall. Class parents are secured following class list finalization –

typically in early October.

Kiss 'N Ride: Our Morning Drop-Off Program plays a vital role in ensuring student safety as they arrive at

school. This program will start on Friday, September 5th. We're currently looking for volunteers to assist from 8:10 to 8:30 a.m. daily. If you're available, please sign-up for a shift at <u>Kiss N Ride</u>. For more information contact Deb Hutton at **debhutton22@gmail.com** or

416-662-4758.

Walkathon: The 26th annual BSCS Walkathon, our school's largest fundraiser, will be held on Thursday,

October 16th. Volunteers will be needed to assist the committee with collecting prizes and on the morning of October 17th to help run the event. More details will be shared soon! If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please

contact: bscswalkathon@gmail.com.



Information about other opportunities (e.g., Pizza Lunch) will be shared in the coming weeks.

Stay tuned!

We appreciate your continued support and involvement in our school community!











# This year is the 26th anniversary of the annual BSCS Walkathon, our school's largest fundraiser!

On **Thursday**, **October 16**<sup>th</sup> all students in grades 1-8, dressed up in our school's "Canada" theme, will walk or run in our annual fundraiser at Wanless Park. The JK/SK classes will show their school spirit on the turf.

Monies raised fund various programs, such as: upgrades to the schoolyard; Scientists in the School; field trips; math initiatives; mental health support programs; athletic programming and much more!

Our goal is to reach a total donation of \$95 per student. **All donation** amounts, no matter how small or large, are welcome!

Now you can donate directly to the walkathon via our online donation site and receive an immediate tax receipt! You are highly encouraged to share the link below with Friends, Family, Neighbours and Colleagues!

DONATION LINK: http://bit.ly/BSCSwalkathon

More information about this important initiative will be shared through the weekly BSCS Buzz. Stay tuned!



#### **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.



#### PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

#### **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 October-May 10:00 a.m. Mass

#### Weekday Masses

- Monday Friday 8:30 a.m.
- Public Holiday Mass: 10:00 a.m. Monday to Friday
- First Friday Adoration 9:00 10:00 a.m.; Benediction 10:00 -10:15 a.m.



#### Reconciliation/Confessions

• Saturdays 3:45 p.m. - 4:25 p.m. or call the Parish office for an appointment.

For more information, please visit the Blessed Sacrament Parish webpage.



#### **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 School Days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	7
Labour Day	September 1, 2025
First Day of School for Students	September 2, 2025
PA Day: Provincial Education Priorities	September 26, 2025
PA Day: Provincial Education Priorities	October 10, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	October 13, 2025
PA Day: Parent-Teacher Conferences	November 14, 2025
Christmas Break	December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026
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 2025-2026

Source: TCDSB

On Friday, June 27, 2025, the Minister of Education placed the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) <u>under supervision</u>. 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.

#### **CSPC-CONNECT WITH US!**

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

- 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 <u>website: blessedsacramentcs.com</u> 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

Twitter: @BSCSchool

#### **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 October 2025 Newsletter to <u>bscs.newsletter@gmail.com</u> by September 15, 2025.

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