

St. Simon Catholic School

Newsletter

FEBRUARY



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E



Principal
Mr. M. Boccia

Vice-Principal
Ms. L. Graham

Superintendent
Ms. L. Notten

Trustee
Mr. S. Piccininni
416-512-3403

Parish
Fr. Efren
St. Jude Catholic Church
3265 Weston Rd.
416-742-9072

Secretary
Ms. P. Pisani

CSAC Chair
Mr. E. D'Alfonso

St. Simon Catholic School
20 Wallasey Ave.
Tel - 416-393-5383
Fax - 416-397-6299
School Hours 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

School website:
<http://www.tcdsb.org/SCHOOLS/STSIMON>

School BLOG:
<http://stsimonschoolblog.blogspot.ca>

@TWITTER:
<https://twitter.com/stsimonoces>

**Nurturing Our Catholic
Community Through...
Faith, Hope and
Charity**

As St. Simon is an eco-certified school, our newsletter is only available by email (if you have not yet done so, send your request to Laurienne.Graham@tcdsb.org) OR online at www.tcdsb.org/schools/stsimon under News. If you wish to receive a paper copy, please notify your child's teacher. St. Jude's Parish bulletin is also available on our website under News.

Report Cards—Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

Family Day—Monday, February 17, 2014.

The Virtue for the month of February is Love.

While the rest of the world may choose to celebrate the ideal of romantic love on February 14, TCDSB schools will be focussing on the virtue of LOVE as expressed in the gospels. "For God so loved the world, He gave His only son." John 3:16 As we focus on the virtue of love at St. Simon this month, let us remember that love not only inspires the practice of all other virtues, it is the form and completion of all the other virtues. We will not limit our celebration of the virtue of love to February 14th, but demonstrate this virtue through being mindful of how our actions affect others. If we are playing with others, we will ensure we do so with care for their wellbeing; we will be true friends.

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (MYSP) REPORT CARD

As a follow-up to our January publication of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, a MYSP Report Card will accompany your child's term one report card. We are including this survey with the report card to emphasize its high priority. Please complete **one per family**, and return it to the school before February 28th. Thank you for your contribution to this important planning tool.

REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Registration for September 2014 began January 8, 2014 and will continue throughout the year. Placement will be on a first-come first-serve basis, and only if you have completed the entire registration process.

Please see documentation requirements on page 2 of this newsletter.

JK/SK ONLINE REGISTRATION (SOAR.tcdsb.org)

Parents have access to completing an online application and booking an appointment with the school. Parents who do not have computer access will be assisted by school staff in completing the application. SOAR will trigger the registration and appointment process. Should you require any assistance, please call us.

To report an absence, please call 416 393-5383 (5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.)

AFRICAN CANADIAN HERITAGE MONTH

In commemoration of African Canadian Heritage Month (Black History Month) Father Henry Carr will be hosting the Internationally Renowned African Inventors & Innovators Museum for the week of February 10 to the 14.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

January 27th was Family Literacy Day. Created by ABC Literacy Life Canada, this nation-wide initiative raises awareness of the importance of families reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities. The ABC Life Literacy website <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/> lists and describes various family literacy events occurring throughout Toronto. Suggestions for easy day-to-day literacy activities are outlined in the *Fifteen Minutes of Fun* list. Families can take advantage of the various online activities and download family resources. The TCDSB resource Supporting Parent Engagement in Literacy (TCDSB secure site) is a document that has been designed to support parent engagement in literacy. It can be accessed by TCDSB schools through the intranet in the Literacy Resources page.

ADMISSION CRITERIA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

For September 2014:

The following original documents are required upon registration:

- 1) Birth Certificate
- 2) Proof of Catholicity (**one** of the following): student's Catholic baptismal certificate OR the parent's Catholic baptismal certificate (*if child is not baptised Catholic, one **custodial** parent residing in the city of Toronto must be*) OR a letter of enrolment to the R.C.I.A. programme from a Catholic parish priest.
- 3) Passport/Immigration Documents (if child was not born in Canada)
- 4) Proof of Address (some examples: Utility bills, a lease agreement, proof of purchase)
- 5) Immunization Record
- 6) Application for Direction of School Support (ADSS) Form.

VALENTINE'S DAY FUNDRAISER

Our CSAC, supported by the Me to We student leaders, will be selling candygrams from February 5th to the 12th, at a cost of 25 cents each. All funds raised will go to our school.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair - Mr. E. D'Alfonso

Vice-Chair - Ms. A. Martino

Treasurer - Ms. L. Pullano

Secretary - Ms. M. Heim

Parish Liaison - Ms. A. DiSalvo

Principal - Mr. M. Boccia

Vice-principal - Ms. L. Graham

Members at large - Ms. B. Contento, Ms. B. Varacalli, Ms. M. Capani, Ms. C. Faulkner, Ms. J. Fonseca Alvarez, Ms. K. Fowler, Ms. R. Troia,

The next CSAC meeting is Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m. Please join us in the library.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Please note that we have a growing number of students in our school who have **severe, life threatening, allergies to peanuts and nuts**. This is a medical condition that causes a severe anaphylactic reaction to specific foods that can be fatal. Although this may not affect a student in your child's class directly, we ask that you **DO NOT SEND ANY PRODUCTS THAT MAY CONTAIN PEANUT OR NUT PRODUCTS TO SCHOOL**, as children can come into contact with one another elsewhere in the school. **If you wish to treat the children for a special occasion please purchase non-food items, such as pencils, stickers etc. that can be shared without risk.** For more on our anaphylaxis protocol go to our portal and look under For Parents ... Safety.



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please do not allow your children to bring electronic devices to school unless they have been requested for educational use. The school cannot be responsible for students' electronic equipment. Students may have their phones on them, for safety reasons, but are only permitted to use the office telephones during school hours. If you need to contact your child, please call the office and we will ensure that they receive any messages you may need to forward. **If a student is using his/her telephone during school hours, it will be removed.**

ME TO WE

The Me to We student leaders would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to CSAC for their support in funding the purchase of the baskets for the Christmas Outreach project; thank you as well to Mrs. Tu for providing them.

THE PROVINCIAL REPORT CARD

While it seems as if we've just completed a reporting period, the November report was of your child's progress to that point only, and did not include any marks. Term 1 report cards come out in February, and Term 2 in June. According to Ministry guidelines, parent-teacher interview are not held for either of these reporting periods. Parents can contact the school at any time to address the needs of their child(ren). Communication is important, and you are always invited to discuss your child's progress with the teacher. [Provincial Report Card web page.](#)

E-CURRICULUM CORNER

thinkMATH@home: Parents, school and the local community have the shared task of nurturing our students' confidence in learning mathematics and in applying their mathematical knowledge to solve real-life problems. The disposition of appreciating and enjoying mathematics is necessary for our students to persevere in learning mathematics with depth and precision and to continuously improve the clarity of their mathematical communication. It is common knowledge that parent's/guardian's attitudes toward mathematics has an impact on children's attitudes towards mathematics. In fact, students whose parents/guardians show an interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics around the home will be more likely to develop that enthusiasm themselves and persevere to learn and succeed in Mathematics. More info: <http://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/Numeracy/thinkMATH@home/Pages/default.aspx>

VACATIONS & HOMEWORK

It is Ministry of Education Policy not to assign homework to students whose parents choose to go on vacations during the school year. We have given instructions to the teachers that they respectfully inform the parents that homework is no longer assigned.

TRUSTEES 2013 - 2014

Wards

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Peter Jakovcic | 5. Maria Rizzo | 9. Jo-Ann Davis (Chair) |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk | 6. Frank D'Amico | 10. Barbara Poplawski |
| 3. Sal Piccininni | 7. John Del Grande | 11. Angela Kennedy |
| 4. Patrizia Bottoni | 8. Garry Tanuan | 12. Nancy Crawford (Vice Chair) |
- William Lawrence, Student Trustee
Enrique Olivo, Student Trustee

WEATHER CHANGES

When weather conditions become extreme, we will keep our students in at recess and lunch, but on other days they need the fresh air and exercise. Please keep your eye on the weather and dress your children appropriately. If your child is sick, please have him/her remain at home. Students ***will not be allowed*** to stay in during recess or lunch because they are ill. Also, remind them that when they sneeze or cough, they should do so into their arm, not their hand. We continue to encourage students to wash their hands frequently and properly, with soap and hot water, for at least 30 seconds.

BUS CANCELLATIONS

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has a system in place to announce bus cancellations related to weather conditions. The cancellation of buses is announced as soon as possible, using all available media. If parents decide to drive their children to school, they must remember to pick them up at dismissal time.

CARNAVAL/CARNEVALE

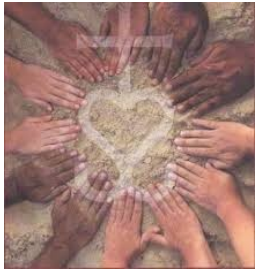
Our annual Carnival/Carnevale festivities will take place the week of February 17th. There will be a variety of activities to celebrate these cultural events.

BECOMING A BABYSITTER (COURSE)

This course is tailored for children 10 years and up who either want to become a babysitter, or may already be one. The Babysitting Course covers the responsibilities of becoming a babysitter, safety tips for taking care of children of all ages, basic child care skills, and what to do in case of an emergency. This course is taught by a certified Red Cross Babysitter Facilitator. Questions? - see attached flyer for email.

BOYS JUNIOR INDOOR SOCCER

Congratulations to our boys indoor soccer team which won their tournament. They represented our school with pride and skill. Thank you to their coach, Mr. Di Nizio, and to our parent drivers/spectators.



ST. SIMON SCHOOL

Year of HOPE

FEBRUARY 2014: Love

OCSGE: A Caring Family Member: Because I care, I pray for all families, and I will live my life as Jesus.

CST: Community and the Common Good: The role of Government is to protect human life and promote the common good.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!</i>	3 <i>AFRICAN CANADIAN HERITAGE MONTH</i>	4	5 CSAC—7:00 p.m. (Library) Candygrams go on sale—25cents each	6	7 Grade 4—Swim to survive	8
9	10 School Mass (9:15 a.m.)	11	12 Report Cards End of candygram sales	13 Rosary Apostolate Skills Canada Presen- tation (Intermediates)	14 St. Valentine’s Day Grade 4—Swim to survive Jump Rope for Heart	15
16	17 <i>FAMILY DAY</i>	18 Carnaval/Carnevale begins	19	20 Cyberbusters presen- tation (Gym) Psychology/Mental Health Symposium	21 Grade 4—Swim to survive Ski Day (Intermediates)	22
23	24	25	26 Reptilia (grades 1 & 2) Marlies Game (grades 4—8)	27 Jump Rope for Heart	28 Junior Achievement (Intermediates) MYSP Survey due Dress Down Day—\$1	1 MARCH
2	3	4 Pancake Tuesday	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7 P.A. Day	8 MARCH BREAK (March 10—14)

FEBRUARY IS PSYCHOLOGY MONTH

Psychology is for Everyone



Creating a Healthy Balance: Technology Use for Children and Adolescents

PSYCHOLOGY PROMOTES SUCCESS



ONE GOAL... MANY PATHS
HELPING STUDENTS REACH THEIR INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL

This article was prepared by TCDSB Psychology staff based on the latest scientific research in the fields of psychology and child development

There are many opinions about the use of technology for children – from the concern about wireless technology to battles at home about too much “screen time”. Needless to say, technology is our new reality. It’s everywhere and kids are becoming savvy at surfing and texting, not to mention the exercise their thumbs are getting from endless gaming!

The Advantages of Technology Use

An article from Psychology Today (December, 2012) proposes that all the new technologies are, undoubtedly, shaping the way we think and focus. Research supports that some technology actually improves our visual-spatial abilities, as well as our reaction time, and the ability to identify details among cluttered information. Here are some additional advantages to consider:

Advantages for children:

- There are many technological games that are both fun and educational.
- Games help to develop hand/eye coordination and fine-motor skills.
- Kids can develop independence and autonomy by accessing information easily and on their own.
- Some interactive video games encourage kids to collaborate and learn turn-taking skills.



TIPS: The use of some websites can help children develop literacy, math and/or other skills necessary for school and everyday life. (i.e. www.starfall.com for early reading skills, www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing for keyboarding skills, www.funbrain.com for math and reading games). Ask teachers about their favourite websites that promote literacy and/or math skills

Advantages for teenagers:

- Some interactive games can allow students to practice strategic and critical thinking skills.
- The use of a laptop or tablet can be important for developing technology skills necessary for future employment.
- Quick access to information from a variety of sources. This allows the teenager to read about different viewpoints from around the world.
- Many websites are dedicated to highlighting healthy choices, with vast information in order to help teens make informed decisions.

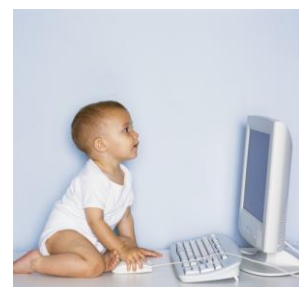
TIPS: We need to educate our teens about the responsible use of the internet and social media.
Take a trip to the library - learn how to conduct research from a variety of sources.

Embrace technology, yet maintain limits and balance!

The Disadvantages of Technology Use

Are We Introducing Technology Too Soon?

- Using technology too soon may decrease the amount of time children are spending doing physical activities and other age-appropriate activities such as art, music, reading and writing, etc., which are all necessary for a healthy and balanced development.



- When children become ‘masters’ of the technology they are using, sometimes these other activities become less interesting but are nevertheless *very important to holistic brain development and academic achievement!* Children today may be deprived of the rich and real experiences that many of us parents had.
- Remember the value of such things as creative play, sports, making up games and exploring nature, reading with and to your children and being a model for them.

Videogame Considerations

- Videogames can be addictive. They are fast-paced, many are based on a rewards-system in order to progress levels and they require a complex and simultaneous set of skills, designed to sustain a person’s attention for a long-period of time.
- Youth tend to be able to ‘focus’ on games for longer periods of time compared to less stimulating tasks such as reading or school work which they may more easily lose interest in.
- Frequent exposure to violence in videogames can have a negative impact on children’s social-emotional development.
- Overuse can lead to isolation from others, spending too much time in the ‘virtual world’ and not enough time in the ‘real world’. For these reasons, video games are particularly addicting to persons who have been diagnosed with ADHD or with Autism.

TIPS: Videogames should be viewed as a ‘reward’ or ‘dessert’ which follows the completion of other activities. Parents are encouraged to place time limits on the use of gaming systems particularly during the weekdays. Consider keeping game systems in common areas of the home to allow parent supervision.

Use of the Internet and Social Media Considerations

- Youth can become dependent on the exclusive use of technology as a communication tool, thereby decreasing their real face to face interpersonal/social skills.
- Social media such as texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others can be very easily misinterpreted and misused, including the risk of cyber bullying. These media require a maturity level that young people have not yet developed.
- Recommended age for Facebook use is 13 years of age or older – however, parents themselves need to determine their individual child’s readiness.
- Using the internet allows children/teens instant access to a variety of images, messages, etc.; that parents may not consider to be appropriate. Using an internet provider that allows parents to control access to unsafe sites is recommended.

TIPS: Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their children and teens around dependency and misuses of technology . Consider your individual child, and avoid ‘peer pressure’ from other parents when considering whether your child is really ‘ready’ for social media, surfing the net independently , or a cell phone with data capacity.

Sleep Problems:

- Looking at a ‘screen’ (phone, computer, iPod or video game) at bedtime is actually said to ‘trick’ the brain to think it is daytime and be associated with sleep problems.
- Sleep problems brought on by technology use too late at night can lead to fatigue during the school day, school attendance problems and mental health concerns.

TIPS: Setting up healthy sleep hygiene should be practiced such as turning off phones and devices one hour before bedtime in order to remove distractions and interruptions.



General TIPS re: Technology or Video game use with Children

- Parents need to be the gatekeepers of all technology use of their child and teen up until the end of high school in order to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the potential benefits.
- Remember that children thrive from spending time with their family members, and that nothing can replace the rewards and memories made. Consider leaving technology at home during family outings and gatherings, having ‘tech-free Sundays’, playing board games or charades, reading, hiking, exploring nature, and enjoying physical exercise to provide **a healthy balance!**



**CANADIAN
RED CROSS**

**CROIX-ROUGE
CANADIENNE**

Babysitting

This course is tailored for children 10 years and up who either want to become a babysitter, or may already be one. Our Babysitting Course covers the responsibilities of becoming a babysitter, safety tips for taking care of children of all ages, basic child care skills, and what to do in case of an emergency. This course is taught by a certified Red Cross Babysitter Facilitator.



Take-home materials

- Red Cross Babysitter's Manual
- Optional Babysitter Wallet Card and Babysitter Wall Certificate



Course content

- Introduction
- The Red Cross
- Business of Babysitting
- Caring for Babies
- Caring for Toddlers
- Caring for Preschoolers
- Caring for School-Aged Children
- Creating Safe Environments
- How to Handle Emergencies and First Aid
- Special Considerations

To Register Please Contact Us At:

416-480-2500 ext. 4802309

toronto.firstaid@redcross.ca

To Register Online:

redcross.ca > Find a Course

Upcoming Babysitting Courses

**PA DAYS & OVER
MARCH BREAK**

9:00AM - 5:00PM

**PARTICIPATING
TCDSB SCHOOLS**



**CANADIAN
RED CROSS** **CROIX-ROUGE
CANADIENNE**

COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

**FIRST AID SERVICES
COURSE REGISTRATION FORM**

email to: torontofirstaid@redcross.ca; fax to: 416.480.0021

OFFICE USE ONLY

Payment (BAM):		Receipt: File / Email / Person	Registered (CM):	
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STEP 1 - CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name:	Phone:
Address:	
City:	Postal Code:
Date of Birth(m/d/y):	Email:
How did you hear about Red Cross courses? Promo code _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Pages <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Please specify any special considerations we should be aware of:	
Please specify any allergies we should be aware of:	

STEP 2 - COURSE DETAILS

Date of Course:	Day(s):
Time:	Location:

STEP 3 - COURSE SELECTION

✓	Course	Fee
	Babysitting	\$60.00

STEP 4 - HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

The candidate is aware of and understands the health precautions.

STEP 5 - PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total: \$	Method of Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex
Card Holder's Name:	
Card Number:	Expiry Date: