



ST. CLARE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER - HAPPY EASTER!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Catholics around the world will be celebrating Easter this coming weekend. Did you know that the Easter season continues for fifty days until Pentecost? It is the beginning of a new season of grace and a time of joy and thanksgiving. During the first week of April, we observe Golden Rule Week. The Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," was taught by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount. When we follow this rule, we are practicing the virtue of reverence.

This month, we celebrate the virtue of Reverence. Reverence refers to the proper attitude we should have towards God. Respect is another dimension of Reverence, and it means to see the other person with new eyes.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has upended family life around the world. From school closures, to working from home, to physical distancing – adjusting to our new normal has been difficult to navigate for all of us, but especially for children. To help manage this new (temporary) normal, let us remember the following suggestions to foster a sense of normalcy during a rather unprecedented time in our lives: cherish one-on-one time with members of your household, keep conversations positive, minimize screen time, and try to maintain structure or routine throughout the day. Creating an atmosphere of calm in your home will help children who may be feeling worried or anxious about the world around them. With God’s grace, I hope to put this chapter of 2020 behind us quickly and return to school soon.

On behalf of the entire St. Clare staff, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a blessed Easter.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. F. De Bartolo, *Principal*

Catholic School Trustee & YCDSB Chair Maria Marchese
Superintendent of Education Opiyo Oloya
Pastor Rev. Mgrs. John Boreon
Associate Pastor Rev. Antonello Murgia
CSC Chair Sandra Carvalho
Administrative Assistant Maria Boem
Principal Francesco De Bartolo
To report student absences and lates, please dial: 1-855-856-7862 OR go.schoolmessenger.ca
SCE SCHOOL DAY: 8:35 Supervision Begins 8:50 Morning Entry 10:20 AM Recess 12:00 Lunch 12:20 Lunch Recess 1:00 Afternoon Entry 2:20 PM Recess 3:40 Dismissal

Mission Statement Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.	Vision Statement Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.	Core Values Excellence, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Catholicity, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect	Strategic Commitments Integration of Our Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources, Engaging Our Communities
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MONTHLY VIRTUES

Each month, a different Catholic virtue is highlighted board wide. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their daily actions both at school and at home.

During the month of April, we celebrate the virtue of **Reverence**. Daily reflections and classroom discussions will be centred around this virtue.

SACRAMENTS

Please note that all sacraments have been postponed by the Archdiocese at this time. They will be rescheduled once it is safe to do so. The parish will inform schools and parents when the time is right to proceed.



Beginning on January 6, 2020, parents/guardians are encouraged to complete the Kindergarten & Grades 1-8 English Track registration online. The option of completing a print copy of the K-8 registration form is also available.

Registration packages are currently available, from the office, for Kindergarten & Grades 1-8 English Track programs for September 2020. Both the online K-8 and paper registration forms can be accessed from the board's website at www.ycdsb.ca/admissions.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our school and encourage you to invite your neighbours and friends who live within our school's boundaries to begin the registration process.



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

On April 2nd, people around the world observed World Autism Awareness Day. On this day, people around the world wear blue as a show of support and to help raise awareness, increase acceptance and celebrate our friends on the autism spectrum.

VIRTUAL EASTER MASS

As Catholics we are about to approach a very significant time in our faith. This past Sunday we celebrated Palm Sunday which commences Holy Week and leads us to the joy of Easter.

Although this Easter we will not be able to gather in our churches nor with our families, the importance of our prayer life along with embracing the joyful message of the Risen Lord is paramount, now more than ever.

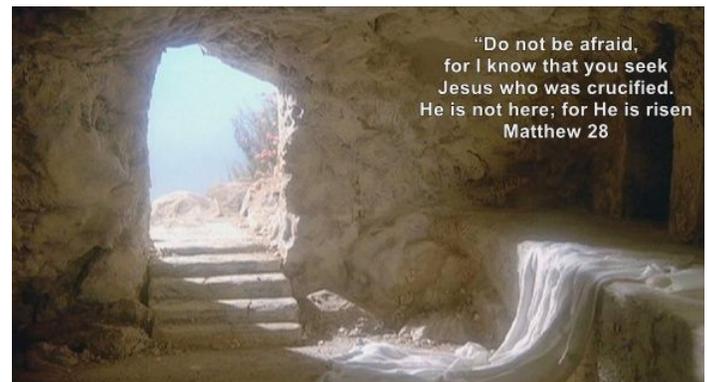
Our community parish, St. Clare of Assisi has virtually opened their doors, allowing us to pray, gather and experience the sorrow of Jesus' crucifixion along with the hope of his resurrection, as a true community of faith. It is my hope that this will assist us all in feeling more connected during this time of physical distancing, as God gathers us within our own homes.

St Clare of Assisi Church

<https://saintclareofassisi.ca/>

Archdiocese of Toronto

<https://www.archtoronto.org/>



PHASE 2 OF DISTANCE LEARNING @ SCE

Monday, April 6th, is when teachers in Ontario will be rolling out Phase 2 of our distance learning program. In order for your child to participate in this next phase of distance learning they must be enrolled in their classroom teacher's virtual learning environment.

Your child's teacher will be contacting you if they have not yet logged into their Google Classroom or D2L online learning platform. We look forward to continuing our learning online until we can be together again.

PHASE 2 MINISTRY EXPECTATIONS

As outlined in a press conference by the Minister of Education, as of April 6th, you can expect your child to be engaged in the following:

- Kindergarten to grade three: Five hours of work per student per week, with a focus on literacy and math
- Grades four to six: Five hours of work per week, with a focus on literacy, math, science, and social studies
- Grades seven to eight: 10 hours of work per week, with a focus on math, literacy, science and social studies

Please refer to the [Parent Guide to Distance Learning](#) shared with you via email by our Director, Ab Falconi, last week, for additional information. We thank you in advance for your patience as we work through the various challenges that come with this different way of learning that is new to many.



MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Students regularly begin their day with morning routines at school. This consists of standing to sing Canada's National Anthem, morning prayer and reflection, and listening to school announcements. As we are currently home due to COVID-19, I thought I would bring the announcements to you! Morning announcement videos will be shared daily with you via your child's Google Classroom or D2L account. We hope you can join your child for their morning routines.



APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

During this period of distance learning, it is the expectation of all stakeholders that all online interactions are respectful, appropriate, considerate, kind and fair. Furthermore, given that there may be some live online video, voice and text interaction, there is a reasonable expectation that everyone's privacy is respected. Please review this expectation with your children and allow it to continue to inform all stakeholders' interactions moving forward. A reminder that parents should monitor their children's online interactions regularly. Teachers will review the appropriate use of technology expectations with their students periodically as well. If you have any concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you for your partnership.

YCDSB MENTAL HEALTH TWITTER ACCOUNT

Working from home can be challenging. It is important to have some tips to support good mental health and well-being for both adults and children. Please follow [@YCDSB_MH](#) for a variety of mental health and well-being resources.

SAFE & CARING SCHOOLS

ST. CLARE IS A CHARACTER SCHOOL

Each morning, as part of our school announcements, we remind all our students at St. Clare is a character school. This means that we always hold ourselves to a higher standard. If students should ever find themselves in difficulty and cannot resolve a problem on their own, they are reminded to approach a caring staff member for assistance. We review daily that we must keep our hands and feet to ourselves and only to use kind words, even when we are provoked. Both the YCDSB and our school places excellence, equity, community and positive relationships at the heart of student success and well-being. ***We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.***

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of the YCDSB and St. Clare Catholic Elementary School that students will:

- ★ Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- ★ Respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions
- ★ Treat one another with dignity and respect, especially when there is a disagreement
- ★ Respect and treat others fairly
- ★ Respect the rights of others
- ★ Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- ★ Seek assistance from teachers to resolve conflicts peacefully
- ★ Demonstrate respect for people in positions of responsibility
- ★ Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching
- ★ Be courteous and polite at all times

We thank you for reviewing these expectations for behaviour and overall conduct with your child.