



St Thomas Aquinas School

We Are Learning To Be...INCLUSIVE

Visit us at:

[www.tbcdsb.on.ca/thomas/](http://www.tbcdsb.on.ca/thomas/)

SEPTEMBER / SEPTEMBRE / WABABAGA GIIZIS 2018

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER –

## WELCOME BACK!

St. Thomas Aquinas School welcomes you and your children back for another exciting school year. We hope your summer was filled with relaxation and fun. We welcome all our new families and our Year 1 (JK) children. We welcome Mrs. Wiseman Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) Teacher, Ms. Sliva Gr.2/3 Teacher, Ms. Krpan, Term SSP and welcome back Mrs. Barrett Gr.1 Teacher (T/Th), Mrs. Davis, Term SSP. Over the summer, we purchased a recess cart with outdoor equipment as we keep striving to make recess more active. We will be continuing with the Balanced Day, with two nutrition breaks and three 100 minute instructional blocks. This has been proven to optimize student learning, support teacher effectiveness and provide a healthy school environment. We will also continue to build on our 2017-2018 Gold Certification as a Healthy School. All staff look forward to working together with you to make this an exciting and rewarding school year for our children. We hope to enrich your lives by passing on our Catholic faith and traditions, as we provide your child with opportunities for academic excellence. Students in Catholic schools are taught to use Jesus Christ as their model. Christian values and academic excellence will be achieved when the home, school and Church work closely together in an atmosphere of respect and compassion. We look forward to making your child's school year a positive experience.



## Catholic Virtues Into Action

In keeping with our call to be faith communities, to respond as co-creators with Christ, to be stewards of the Earth and to be of service to others, the students and staff will be furthering our journey each month through various activities and prayer services. This month's Virtue is Inclusivity and so we keep to our Learning Goal of: We Are Learning To be INCLUSIVE. It complements the welcome back activities naturally associated with September. When we include others, when we welcome them to be part of our activities, our discussions, our lives, we are practicing the virtue of inclusivity. Jesus welcomed all people and invited them to follow him. This month we will also explore our Strengths with Friends as it pairs very well with our virtue of Inclusivity. Students and staff will look at getting to know one's self more in-depthly so as to better call on those strengths when in need. During this month, students and staff will be "posting" their strength on our strength wall titled, "Thank You God for Our Strengths". All are welcome to join us for our Prayer Service Friday, September 21 at approximately 10:15.

**We invite all of our families to please join us at our Open House & Book Fair Night:**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018  
6:00pm – 7:00pm**





### Safe, Accepting & Healthy Schools

Keeping our children, our schools and our community safe and healthy....

### The following items all fall under Safe & Accepting Schools....

**1- Safe Arrival Program:** To ensure the safety of children, Thunder Bay Catholic Schools have a Safe Arrival Program. If your child is going to be **late or unable to attend** school on any day, **you must notify us**. The school secretary will call parents or guardians of children who are absent without explanation. If the secretary is unable to reach you or your designate, **the school is obligated to contact the police**. Our school is equipped with 24-hour voice mail. If you call to leave a message, please include your child's name, the teacher's name, the reason for the absence, the anticipated length of absence, and your name. If possible, please call before 8:30 a.m. or during the evening before the absence.



Our bell schedule is as follows:

8:55- Entry Bell

9:00- Start of the day - Children who **arrive late at school** are required to check in at the office and get a **Late Slip. Kindergarten Yr.1 & 2 students should *always* be accompanied to the office by an adult.**

10:40-11:20- Nutrition Break #1

1:00-1:40- Nutrition Break #2

3:20- End of School Day

**2- Visiting the School:** For the safety of the children, **all visitors**, including classroom volunteers, **must report to the office** to identify themselves.

Parents are reminded that **only adults employed by the school board** are permitted in the schoolyard during school hours.

Parents who need to see their children during school hours are asked to report to the office. We will gladly call your child to the office for you. Please make every attempt to avoid calling for your children when classes are in session. Thank you for your cooperation.

**3- School Security:** In the interests of school security, all doors will be **locked each day at 9:00 a.m.** The front door will remain unlocked for the majority day. During assemblies, prayer services etc., you may find the front doors locked, please ring door bell and wait patiently for a staff member to assist you. Kindergarten students who arrive late must report to the office with an adult.

If you need to contact your child at school, please call the school office and speak with Ms. Hansen. Thank you for your cooperation.

**4- Dropping Off / Picking Up Your Child at School:** at St. Thomas Aquinas School Supervision **begins at 8:40a.m. Please do not drop off your child earlier than 8:40a.m.** Dismissal is at 3:20 p.m. If you are coming to the school to pick up your child, **please do not arrive earlier than 3:20 p.m.** Bus Loading Zone is Oakwood Street. The drop-off/pick-off zone (Kiss N' Ride) is located on Donald Street. I'm confident that if we stay committed to student safety that we will have a very safe and efficient drop off/pick up traffic zones for vehicles, busses and pedestrians alike. Please refer to the letter that was sent home. Thank you for your cooperation, support and your commitment to safety for our school community!

**5- School Environment: We are a peanut & nut free and a scent free zone.** A number of students suffer from life-threatening allergies to the following allergens: peanuts, nuts and tree nuts, fish, shellfish, kiwi, and eggs as well as a variety of scents. To ensure a safe and worry-free environment for these children, we ask that all students refrain from sharing and/or "trading" their lunches or snacks out of respect for their classmates' health concerns. Please take some time to talk to your child(ren) about the importance of following this procedure. We thank you for your support.





## Breakfast Program

The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board has partnered with the Red Cross to establish a Breakfast Program in all our elementary schools. At St. Thomas Aquinas our Knights Breakfast program will begin \*September 17 from 8:40-8:55 (we have moved up the date from the 24<sup>th</sup>). This year we will be participating in the Cereal Drive. Please refer to the letter that was sent home.



### Healthy Schools – Healthy Communities

In keeping with our Board’s Collective Commitments we are proud to be part of the healthy school program. We will follow the Nutrition Policy for all food served at our school and we will also look to community partners to offer our children a variety of active experiences.

#### eNewsletter

We are promoting the use of the eNewsletter and school website. We will only be issuing a hard copy of our newsletter for September and for families not able to access the Internet. Please complete and return the eNewsletter form that went home last week.

#### Water Bottle Dispenser Fountain

We are encouraging all students to bring a water bottle to school that they may have on their desk. We have a Water Bottle Dispenser Fountain located in the junior hallway. Water bottles should be labeled with the child’s name and should be durable (please no glass).

#### Milk Cards

Our milk program will begin on September 17. Milk cards can be purchased through the Cash Online Service for \$20 (for 20 cartons) Last year’s milk cards are still in effect. No need to worry about lost cards – all cards are tracked by the date of purchase and a new card will be issued based on the average of one milk carton purchased per school day starting from the date of purchase. White milk will only be available.

#### Agendas

Students in classes Gr.2 – 6 will be using the Agenda as a communication tool between class and home. Please refer to it daily and stay in contact with your child’s teacher. There is a fee of \$10.00 for the Agenda and can be paid for through the Cash Online Service.

#### Pizza Days

We are happy to continue with our Healthy Pizza Toppings. Toppings will be rotated for each block (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> -9week block is pepperoni & cheese, 2<sup>nd</sup> –ham & cheese, 3<sup>rd</sup>- tomato & cheese, the cycle will repeat). Please refer to the pizza letter. All pizza orders can be paid online. Pizza days are available for all our children JK-6.

#### Litterless Lunches

We encourage litterless lunches. Litterless lunches are a great way to use Tupperware, use leftovers from dinner, get kids involved in their lunch making process, reduce waste and be more environmentally friendly. We encourage you to make everyday a Litterless Lunch day!

#### Active Transportation to School

We will be offering Park & Stride & Knight Rider Biking Days again. There will be more details to follow. We are looking for volunteers. Please refer to the Volunteer Form that was sent home.

#### Neighbourhood Recreation Program (NRP)

The City of Thunder Bay, Parks & Recreation Division’s after school program is back. NRP will run 3 days a week Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:20-6:15. It begins Tuesday, September 11. Participating students must be registered with NRP. Please refer to the note that was sent home.



### PLEASE REMEMBER....

A hard copy of this newsletter is going home to all families for this month only. Please review the eNewsletter section.



### IMPORTANT DATES:

September 11- NRP begins  
September 17- Breakfast Program begins & Book Fair  
September 18- Book Fair  
- Open House, 6-7pm & Book Fair  
September 19- (K - 3) Picture Day:  
September 20- (Gr.4-6) Picture Day  
September 21- Prayer Service, 10:15am  
September 24-27 – cereal drive  
September 28- PD Day; No School

### Terry Fox Walk

Our school will be participating in the Terry Fox Walk on September 27. Parents/Guardians are welcome to join us and support the Terry Fox legacy. There will be a letter sent home with more information.

### **Student Verification Forms**

Every student has received a Student Verification Form. Parents and guardians are asked to review these forms and return them to the school *as soon as possible*.

### **Student Accident Insurance**

Our Board does not provide medical insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises before or during school activities. We **strongly encourage** parents to take out Student Accident Insurance coverage offered by the Board's carrier, Reliable Life. Accident Insurance forms are part of the opening day package and should be mailed **directly** to the insurer.

### **Communication**

In the coming days, teachers will outline expectations and procedures. We encourage all parents to build a strong communication link with the school by participating in school activities and by contacting teachers to share information, ask questions and raise any concerns. If you need to meet with a teacher, *please call the school and set up an appointment*.

### **Lunch Supervisors**

We are in need of lunch supervisors. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Hansen, our school Secretary at 577-1835.

### Visit us at:

<https://www.tbcschools.ca/st-thomas-aquinas>



### Catholic School Council (CSC)

Catholic School Council nomination forms went home on September 8. Please consider running for membership. The CSC and the St. Thomas Aquinas School community will greatly benefit from your involvement.

Summary of the election process:

Monday, **September 17** – Nomination forms are due  
Wednesday, **September 19** – Candidate profiles and one ballot/family will be sent home (Please note: if there are 8 or fewer candidates, those candidates will be acclaimed)

Monday, **September 24** – Voting closes unless the members are acclaimed

October – Election results announced through the newsletter.

ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS SCHOOL



Truth - Unity - Fortitude  
*Love Follows Knowledge*