

St. Ceclilia Catholic School

2017 – 2018

Kindergarten Parents'  
Frequently Asked Questions



## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

### ADDRESS

355 Annette Street, Toronto, ON M6P 1R3

### TELEPHONE

416-393-5218

### SCHOOL HOURS

Start time: 8:30 AM  
Morning Recess: 9:55 AM to 10:10 AM  
Lunch Hour: 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM  
Afternoon Recess: 1:20 PM to 1:35 PM  
Dismissal: 3:00 PM  
Students may start arriving at school at 8:15AM.

If you are late to pick up your child, your child will be taken to the principal's office and left with a teacher.

### CALENDAR 2017 – 2018

First day of school	Tuesday, September 5th
PA Day	October 6th
Thanksgiving	October 9th
PA Day: Parent-Teacher Conferences	November 17 <sup>th</sup>
PA Day	December 1st
Christmas Holidays begin	December 25th
First day back to school	January 8th
PA Day	January 19th
PA Day: Parent-Teacher Conferences	February 16th
Family Day Holiday	February 19th
March break	March 12th -16th
Good Friday	March 30th
Easter Monday	April 2nd
Victoria Day	May 21st
PA Day	June 8th
Last day of school	June 28th
PA Day	June 29th

### SCHOOL COLOURS SCHOOL

Blue and white

### MASCOT

Tiger

**SCHOOL MOTTO** Learning with Hearts, Hands and Minds – Growing in Harmon

# Questions frequently asked by Kindergarten parents

*Please note that information may change throughout the year, and we will do our best to keep this document updated. The most recent version of this document will be posted on our school blog ([www.stceciliaparentcouncil.weebly.com](http://www.stceciliaparentcouncil.weebly.com)).*

## **When will I find out what teacher my child has?**

You will be notified about who will be your child's teacher at *Welcome to Kindergarten Night*. In June, you will be contacted by your child's teacher to come in for a short conference in order to complete some forms, and advise the teacher of your child's after school arrangements. If there are any changes in those arrangements between that day and the first full day of school, you need to inform the office in writing to prevent any misunderstandings.

## **What can I expect on the first day?**

They should wear blue and white and adhere to the dress code. They will need to bring a drink and a snack. Please note that St. Cecilia is a nut-free school. When the bell rings your child will line up in a designated area of the front yard.

## **Where do I drop off my child?**

Students may be dropped off in the Kindergarten schoolyard gate at the front of the school, beginning at 8:15AM when teacher supervision begins. This area can become quite congested and, therefore, the parents have decided that adults are not allowed to enter or stay in the schoolyard with their child for safety reasons, and it allows the supervising teacher do his/her job. Parents may stand outside the fence to watch their child.

Parents cannot walk their children into the classrooms. When the bell rings, the teachers will walk the students into class. For the safety of our children, it is important that we comply with these rules. The first day of school is emotional for some people and you might want to say good-bye to your child inside the school but this compromises the safety of other students by allowing un-documented visitors inside the school. As parents, it is our duty to comply with this rule to protect everyone.

## **What if it's raining when I drop my child off?**

If it is raining in the morning students are asked to go into the lower level of the school or the gym. Teachers will be on duty to supervise the children.

## **What if my child is late for school?**

Your child must report to the office, advise the secretary of their name, grade and teacher, and get a late slip. They can then take the late slip and go directly to their class. You may accompany your child to the office to get the late slip. If the main school doors are locked, just press the button to the right of the door to be let in.

## **What if my child will be absent from school?**

If your child is going to be late or absent from school, you have to notify the school by calling (416) 393-5218 and leaving a message before 8:00 a.m. This action is required as part of the Safe Arrival Program.

### **Is child-care available before and after school?**

St Cecilia does not offer child-care, but PLASP runs a before and after school care program at the school. You can find out more about PLASP at [www.plasp.com](http://www.plasp.com) or call them at 1-888-739-4102. You should have also received information from the school about daycares in the area around St. Cecilia. If not, you can get information about local daycares from the office. As a courtesy to you a list of last year's care providers is attached at the end.

Students that attend PLASP are dropped off inside the school. You may enter the school through the front door or the back door by ringing the bell. The front door of the school is the middle door facing Evelyn Avenue. The back door with the bell is the door that is the furthest south.

### **How do I find out about the school bus schedule and bus stops?**

Registration for busing must be done before June and it is done in writing (very important). You must drop off your request for busing with the secretary in the school office. You may confirm your busing arrangement with Lisa Grise – she handles the busing registration and schedule. Lisa is only available certain days of the week so give yourself plenty of time to make these arrangements. You can reach her at the main school telephone number (416 393-5218).

A teacher will greet bus students at the curb in front of the school. There is a second teacher on duty in the Kindergarten playground.

At dismissal, students line up in the front playground and are accompanied to the buses. It is important that your child knows their bus number, although the school will provide a bus number tag that will be attached to your child's backpack on their first full day of school. It is recommended that you put information in your child's backpack specifying what their after school arrangements are to avoid confusion.

### **Do I need to worry that my child could get lost in the shuffle?**

No need to worry! Although the first days and weeks of schools may be confusing to you as a parent, and to your child, please keep in mind that the school has been doing this for 100 years. Each teacher, or teacher plus assistant, knows exactly who is in their class. There is a buddy system for washroom breaks and children line up going to and from recess and lunch. Children are identified with backpack tags as to how they are getting home, e.g. parent pick up, bus, PLASP, etc. If your child happened to be put on the bus by mistake, do not worry, he/she will be returned to school to the main office. You may want to talk to your child and tell them where he/she is supposed to go after school.

### **What is the best advice for parents to help navigate their child's educational journey at St. Cecilia?**

The best thing you can do is get connected with other parents. Share cell phone numbers and help remind each other of field trips, civvies days or special events. You can start networking with other parents at the Kindergarten welcome night, or the first day of school. If you can drop your child off at school in the morning, many parents are around to drop off their child and you can meet each other face to face. Also, joining CSPC (Catholic School Parent Council) is a great way to meet other parents and find out what is happening at the school. CSPC meets once a month at the school, and you are not required to do anything except show up, meet some great people and find out what's happening in your school community.

Some parents try to organize playdates before school begins so that their child will have a familiar face in the classroom.

### **Where else can I get information?**

You can always talk to your child's teacher or other staff at the school. Every teacher has their own preference on how to communicate. Some prefer email and some prefer notes written in the agenda or placed in the child's backpack. If this is not working for you, discuss other alternatives with the teacher.

CSPC has a Facebook page ([@stceciliaparents](#)) as well blog ([www.stceciliaparentcouncil.weebly.com](http://www.stceciliaparentcouncil.weebly.com)) and the school regularly sends out emails with monthly newsletters and a monthly calendar, you can follow St Cecilia on twitter at [@StCeciliaCS](#) or you can navigate through the Toronto Catholic District School Board website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) and of course, you can join the parent council (CSPC) and get on the email list or come to the monthly meetings.

### **What do I do if my child needs to leave early?**

Parents should send a note to the teacher explaining the date and time of early pick up. When the parent arrives to pick up the child, the child will be called to the office. Parents will sign children out using the checkout system in the office.

### **What is the bathroom policy for JK students?**

Each kindergarten class has its own bathroom; in addition there are sets of bathrooms on each level of the school. If students need to use hallway bathrooms, they are assigned a buddy to go with them.

Unless there are special circumstances, it is expected that kindergarten children have independent bathroom skills including unbuttoning/buttoning, unzipping/zippering, and wiping and washing hands. Summer is a good time to solidify independent bathroom skills if needed.

Kindergarten teachers will request that a second set of clothes be kept in the classroom in the event of a bathroom accident or any other kind of accident where water or paint gets spilled on clothes.

### **What supplies will my child need?**

Kindergarten students will be required to bring a backpack large enough to carry library books, school papers, a lunch box and jacket. Teachers will request any additional items that your child needs at the start of the school year.

### **Can I get the names and phone numbers of the other children in my child's class for playdates and parties?**

St Cecilia will not provide this information to parents, so that's why it's important for you to try to show up at the school the first month to meet other parents and get this information yourself.

Sometimes teachers will send home a class list, with first names only, for the purposes of addressing Christmas or Valentine's Day cards to other children in the class. Hang on to that list!

### **Can my child purchase lunch at school?**

CSPC runs a fundraising program whereby you can purchase slices of pizza and/or a smoothie from Booster Juice or a pita sandwich from Pita Pit for your child several Fridays each month.

Also, there is an independent business called *The Lunch Lady* that delivers hot meals to students on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are interested in signing your child up with *The Lunch Lady*, you can visit their website at: [www.thelunchlady.ca](http://www.thelunchlady.ca)

On occasion, your child's teacher may organize parties with food – such as a Halloween Party or Christmas Party. At this time, the teacher may request that you donate desserts/snacks or drinks.

Also, sometimes the Student Council organizes a Bake Sale. You can send your child to school with money and they can purchase a treat. Parents are generally notified a few weeks in advance of bake sales or special activities.

For most students, most of the time they will bring their lunch from home. St Cecilia strives to be a “green” school and therefore encourages litter-less lunches. This means packing sandwiches in re-useable containers instead of wrapping them in plastic wrap that would be thrown away. We also encourage refillable water bottles instead of juice boxes. Watch for the monthly calendar – it usually reminds students and parents to have completely litter-less lunches on Thursdays.

### **What about food allergies?**

St Cecilia staff and students take food allergies very seriously, and therefore we are a nutfree school. If peanut butter or other nut products are found in your child's lunch, that item will be removed immediately and disposed of. Therefore, if your child will only eat peanut butter sandwiches, we suggest you purchase nut-alternative spreads like Wow Butter. Wow butter comes with nut-free stickers so that you can label your child's food as nut-free.

If your child has an allergy or medical issue, all staff will be notified, not just your child's teacher.

### **Who do I call if I have a concern about my child's teacher or about a general school issue?**

Should you have any concerns, your child's teacher is the first person with whom you should speak. If you feel that your concerns are not adequately addressed, then you should contact the principal or the vice-principal who always willing to listen to parent concerns and take action where appropriate. It is recommended that you call the main office and make an appointment to see them.

### **Can my child bring in a favorite toy or blanket?**

Toys are only allowed if a teacher has set up a show and tell time. Favorite stuffed animals or other comfort items are only allowed with the permission of the teacher.

Electronic devices should not be brought to school, and toy weapons are never to be brought to school, not even for show and tell.

### **Will my child receive a report card?**

Children receive progress reports three times during the school year. Parent/teacher conferences are set up in November and February, usually for about ten minutes, to discuss how your child is doing in school. If you need more time with the teacher, you can ask to meet again at a later time.

### **What is the dress code?**

Plain white or navy blue top and navy blue bottom. No slogans, stripes, logos, denim or denim copies are permitted. Running shoes are the footwear of choice for safety reasons and are crucial to safe and active play during Physical Education.

**What are Spirit Days?**

Spirit days allow students to break out of the monotony of the school year by having some fun and dressing in a humorous fashion. Sometimes the school has a spirit week, comprised of themed days. For example: Pajama day

**What are Civvies Days?**

On days called “Civvies Day” students can wear regular clothing to school and not follow the dress code. Usually the Student Council asks for a donation of \$1 – 2 for charity in order to wear civvies.

Civvies days are usually noted on the monthly calendar issued by the office. You can find the monthly calendars and newsletters on the St Cecilia Facebook page.

**Can I call my child during the day?**

No. The school secretary will not deliver messages to children. The telephone should be used in emergency situations only

**What if my child gets sick or hurt during the school day?**

You will be notified immediately and asked to come and pick up your child. If the school cannot reach the first parent or guardian, then they will immediately call the second parent or guardian for pick up.

If the injury is serious and requires immediate medical attention, staff will call 911 and the parent. An administrator from the school will accompany the child to the hospital and wait there until a parent arrives.

**When can I pick up my child from school?**

Dismissal is at 3:00 p.m. If you are late to pick up your child, your child will be taken to the principal's office and left with a teacher

**What is a book fair? Why am I being sent Scholastic Publishing flyers from school?**

From time to time your child may bring home flyers from Scholastic Books. This is a part of the school's fundraising, and a portion of the sale of these books goes back to the school. You can complete the order form and return to your child's teacher. This is not necessary, but if you are going to buy books anyway, why not help the school raise money?

The Scholastic publisher holds the book fairs at the school and essentially it's an opportunity for students to shop for a book at school. If you would like your child to participate, you can send your child to school with money and their teacher or an older child from the school (a book buddy) will help them choose a book and pay for it. Again, this is not a requirement, and if you don't send money, your child does not purchase a book.

**What do I do if my child has lice, or if I receive a letter stating that a student in my child's class has lice?**

First of all, try not to panic. Lice infestations in schools are a national problem, but pose no major public health threat. Don't be embarrassed – lice tend to thrive in cleaner, freshly washed hair, so getting lice is no reflection on your family's hygiene. School policy dictates that you notify the school that your child

has lice and that you do not send them to school until they are lice free. However, if you've never seen lice or nits before, it may be hard to spot. There are several lice removal agencies you can contact in Toronto (for example, Nit Wits) and they will either come to your home to treat your child and the rest of the family or you can go to their lice removal clinics. This is somewhat expensive but effective. For most parents, once you've been through one case of lice, you tend to be more vigilant looking for them and catching them before your child becomes badly infected. The best way to get rid of them is to purchase a good lice comb from a drug store and comb through your child's hair each night.

You may get notifications from the school that someone in your child's class has reported lice, so when this happens, check your child's hair more frequently to ensure you catch it early.

Although it's not school policy, when you get to know the parents in your child's class, it's good to have an informal way to let each other know if your child has lice and if there is any risk of it spreading to classmates. This seems to be a bigger problem in JK/SK because little children tend to share hats, hug each other and play closely together.

If you feel like the school is not acting quickly enough or taking a lice issue seriously enough – take a deep breath and try to be patient. All primary schools face occasional lice outbreaks and they do the best they can to follow policies designed to advise parents as quickly as possible. But keep in mind that it happens every year, all year, and affects a large number of students, so it's a normal part of their job that they take seriously but it may not alarm them in the same way as it will alarm and inconvenience you and your family.

### **How can I get involved with the parent community/CSPC?**

Our parent community is called CSPC. It is the Catholic School Parent Council formed by parents of the current students. All parents are welcome to join CSAC. Parents who are part of CSPC form committees to organize different events and activities in the school, and these include the Curriculum Night Barbecue, Taste of St. Cecilia, Fun Fair, and First Communion Luncheon, to name just a few.

The families you meet this year are going to be a big part of your child's life for the next decade. St Cecilia Catholic School has great teachers, a wonderful staff and a large and engaged parent community. Welcome to St Cecilia!

### **Last year's list provided by St. Cecilia of before and after school care providers in the area.**

#### **Before and After School Day Cares**

Angelgate daycare	416-763-6078
High Park Early Learning Centre (bus 35)	416-760-9958
Humberside After School Club	416-762-8888
Humberside Day Care	416-762-5509
Little Footsteps Childcare	416-604-0330
Junction High Park Before/After School	416-766-3843
Keelemount Daycare	416-763-6824
One-step-at-a-time	416-767-1897



Stepping stones	416-769-9719
Teddy Bear Academy	647-351-1566

Private Day Care Providers

Amina Degel (Glenlake/Quebec)	416-604-8104
Hidat Fekroy (Drives children)	647-342-6167
Rahella Hussain (Quebec St.)	416-769-1731
Ruta Mesfin (Mountview/Glenlake)	416-763-2165
Elizabeth morales (Mountview/Glenlake)	647-295-7578
Marika Rewt	416-762-8603
Irina koudriavtsev (ECE)	416-854-9022