
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St. Teresa of Avila</b>  <b>Catholic Elementary School</b>          6675 Montevideo Road          Mississauga, Ontario L5N 4E8  <b>Phone:</b> (905) 858-3462   <b>Fax:</b> (905) 858-1673  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.dpcdsb.org/AVILA/">http://www.dpcdsb.org/AVILA/</a>  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:St.TeresaofAvilaInfo@dpcdsb.org">St.TeresaofAvilaInfo@dpcdsb.org</a></p>	
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**Meeting date:** January 22, 2025

**Start time:** 6:06 pm

**Attendees:** Cristina Roda- Principal, Ms. Lotesto-Teacher Rep, Ms. Pimental-Teacher Rep, Ms. Piscitelli-Teacher Rep, Nina Graham-Council Chair, Stacey McLeod- Treasurer and Fundraising Representative, Brenda Morales- Secretary, Ken Jim- parent at large

**Absent:** Laura Di Muzio-Vice-Principal, Brea Corbett- Trustee, Claudia Coniglio-Non-Teaching Rep, Ms. Sequeira-Non-Teaching Rep, Catherine Kirkpatrick-OAPCE Rep, Abby Egonu-Parent at large, Andrew Egonu-Parent at large

**Opening Prayer:** Hail Mary

### **Land Acknowledgement:**

We would like to acknowledge we are on the sacred ground of the indigenous territory and thank the Mississauga's of the First Credit Nation for being stewards of this land.

**Current Agenda:** Approved by Brenda Morales, seconded by Stacey McLeod

**Review of previous meeting minutes:** Approved by Nina Graham, seconded by Ken Jim



**Chair report:** Swiss Chalet lunch option has been well received by students and parents:

- They are full portions and kids are happy
- For first order the sides were not labelled but issue has been fixed
- Owner of this food option also owns a Little Caesar's pizza, to discuss for pizza lunch for the following school year

### **Parish Report:**

- There are two public speaking events through the Catholic Women's League at St John of the Cross, which may be of interest for our Gr 7 and Gr 8 students. Tentative dates to be confirmed for this year or next school year.
  - Mary Matthews Public Speaking ~ Gr. 7 & 8
  - Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay and Poetry ~ Gr. 7 to 12
- Church display is to be taken down by Jan 31, for Avila to put up their display – confirm with Parish Rep on requirements
- Interesting fundraising idea from other parents:
  - Movie night (Easter season) – attendance is free and School would be able to borrow a Popcorn machine (inclusive of kernels and oil) from Ward rep Martin Reid free of charge – popcorn can be sold night of event for ShareLife
- Discussion/brainstorm for a small gift for First Communion/Confirmation candidates

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**Treasurer report:** No extensive report discussed, numbers are in good standing.

**OAPCE-** No updates

## **Principal's report-**

### **Catholic Faith Life**

- St. John of the Cross-Sacraments – All information will be communicated through the church, school newsletter, and school email
- Church worries about newcomers to Canada and the potential lack of understanding of the meaning of Sacraments in English
  - SJOC is making note of these situations and are then scheduled to celebrate the Sacraments the following year (1 year delay only)
- Daily morning prayers are held at 8:35am each morning-classes taking turns, including the FDK's
- Staff liturgies held monthly through Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Monthly Virtue assemblies- each grade/division asked to sign-up.
- Monthly in-person visits from the Rosary Apostolate (3rd Wednesday of each month)
- ShareLife donations underway- staff luncheons serve to support, as well as school initiatives.
- Reconciliation is happening at the school on March 20, 2025

### **Instructional**

- Avila is the only school of West Mississauga to receive support in Literacy
- Teacher from Board is joining Avila to support FDK and Grade 1 literacy and empower reading program for Grade 2
  - 2 programs currently running at the school which require a lot of effort from the students, but which has had great success
  - Highly monitored by SickKids as instructors go through a rigorous qualification process
- Progress Reports go home on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 – delivered to student email account
- Interview opportunity- Thursday, February 13, 2025 and Friday February 14, 2025, new process for sign- received through email from the school
- Progress Report interviews are by request, using new process

### **Extracurricular**

- Junior Boys and Girls Soccer is underway - spectators are welcome to the Soccer facility in Brampton
- Intermediate soccer tournament will be in Mississauga in May
- Study Hall continues to run (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)
- Book Nook has begun (Tuesday- Junior, Friday- Intermediate)
- Social Justice Club heading up a talent show to run during Catholic Education week in May (also during welcome to Kindergarten)
- Talent show to be happening this year – auditions happening soon
- Avila Advocators continue to support mental wellbeing monthly – promoting the importance of Prayer and meditation

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## **St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Elementary School**

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- Avila made a video to promote mental health and well being – it was featured in January's Newsletter
- January 22, 2025 was Bell Let's Talk Day – there were visitor's to each class and a slide deck was shared with Staff to who students in their respective classes
- Chess Club has started- they are meeting over lunch
- PALS continues to occur over lunch recess
- DPA club is happening in classrooms- junior students are representatives
- Coding club, Lego Club, Girls who Game, and Hacker Girl is still happening over lunch
- Skills competition is coming up, Mr. Bentivegna and Ms. Sponagle highly involved in this effort.
- Choir continues to prepare for faith gatherings

### **General Updates**

- Cold Weather policy – 25 below zero, kids stay inside – staff assess situation of weather and if kids are dressed appropriately, field conditions are considered when deciding to have kids outside for recess
- Lunch options are popular – pizza remains the most successful
- LUNCH BOX has been discontinued due to lack of interest – minimum orders were not being achieved
- Eco is a shared effort – all classes are participating
- Breakfast club is alive and well! Staff and community volunteers support daily with cooking, cleaning and entertainment.
- Snacks are available throughout the day for those that may need one
- Advent retreat was a great success- students were engaged in Faith-based activities to send them off for their Christmas holidays
- Cookie decorating is always the favorite station!
- The Christmas concert was a huge success- outstanding turn-out of parents- looking toward two performances in the day going forward to accommodate the crowds
- Christmas baskets- donated by The Streetsville Tea House, was an amazing fundraiser for our grade 8's. These baskets generated over \$900 of funds to be put toward the grade 8 graduation
- Grade 8 Graduation, Friday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:30 am at the Coptic Centre
- Grad Photos, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – a plastic folder will be given to graduates with composite and diploma
- Shrover Tuesday is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Purchase of two griddles has been approved
- There is an opportunity to piggyback this initiative through the Breakfast Club
- Lenten Retreat
  - Pretzels to be delivered on Thursday – order through casonline – but there will be one offered to every student
  - Half day of activities, gather for Stations of the Cross – afternoon is the story of the Pretzel whilst enjoying a treat

### **Catholic School Council Elections**

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1. **Catholic School Council Chair** – Nina Graham
2. **Treasurer** – Stacey McLeod
3. **Secretary** – Brenda Morales
4. **Parish Rep** - Catherine Kirkpatrick, Ms. Pimentel to assist with Bulletin Board at SJOTC
5. **OAPCE Rep** - TBD
6. **Parent Rep** – Ken Jim
7. **Parent Rep** – Abby Egonu
8. **Parent Rep** – Andrew Egonu
9. **Teacher Rep** – Ms. Pimentel, Ms. Lotesto,
10. **Non-Teaching Rep** – Ms. Goniglio, Ms. Elango

**Upcoming Events:**

- Catholic School Council Meeting dates have been finalized:  
     Wednesday March 26, 2025  
     Wednesday, May 21, 2025
- Advent Retreat – Thursday December 19, 2024 – cookie decorating
- Lent Retreat in the Spring, griddles needed
- Grade 8/Grad Trip, discussions underway

**Meeting ended:** 6:45 pm

**Next meeting dates:** Wednesday March 26, 2025, in school library

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