



St Theresa of Lisieux CHS

# The Little Flower

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025



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# MESSAGE FROM ADMIN

As the school year draws to a close and summer break approaches, we find ourselves reflecting on the remarkable journey we have shared. This 2024-2025 school year has been filled with opportunities for growth, discovery, and achievement for each member of our school community.



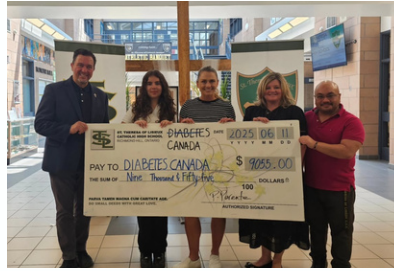
St. Theresa of Lisieux's wide array of extracurricular activities demonstrated many of these achievements as we brought home 8 YRAA banners in our Athletics program this year in: cross country, Rugby 7s, swimming, Jr. Girls' Basketball, rock climbing, baseball, Rugby 15s (Jr. and Sr.). We also had teams and athletes participate at OFSAA in baseball, Sr Boys Rugby 15s, and had athletes medal in table tennis, badminton, Jr. Boys' Rugby (Barbarians Cup) and Jr. Girls Swimming. Our competitive teams: Robotics, DECA, HOSA and Model UN participated in and experienced success at International and World Competitions this year. As we entered into June our nine councils have elected their executive teams for the 2025-2026 school year. Our Music students travelled to Boston in April to participate in the World Strides festival, with our Sr. Band winning a silver medal and the entire ensemble winning a "Best Spirit and Character Award". We are immensely proud of all of our students and thankful to their teachers, coaches and moderators.

Our students continue to excel in their academic pursuits, with outstanding scores in both the OSSLT and EQAO. Two of our students earned medals at the York Region Science and Technology Fair in April: Matthew Shen (Gr. 11) won gold, his project title being: Explainable Artificial Intelligence to Diagnose Early Parkinson's Disease via Voice Analysis; Lucas Chan (Gr, 10) won silver for his project Reducing Carbon Emissions by Optimizing Traffic.

We are also proud to celebrate the outstanding success of our math department and the math contest program! A total of 469 students participated in 10 different mathematics contests offered by the University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto—an impressive turnout that marks one of the highest participation in our school board. Our students not only showed exceptional enthusiasm but also achieved remarkable results, with many earning individual awards and even monetary prizes for their outstanding performance. Several students were also invited to attend the prestigious math camp hosted by the University of Waterloo, further recognizing their talent and dedication. Congratulations to all participants on a phenomenal year of mathematical achievement!



Our staff and students engaged in many charitable activities this semester, including: our March Break service trip to Costa Rica, the L'Arche walk in May, the Business Luncheon which raised funds for Diabetes Canada and our Market Fair which raised funds for ShareLife. Staff and students also donated to the 360 Kids fundraiser. An STL team comprised of Mr. Parente, Ms. Sabatini and Ms. Venditti spent a night out in the cold in March to raise money for 360 Kids. In total, the team raised just under \$10,000 for youth experiencing homelessness in York Region. Thanks to the donors for their generosity!



All of these remarkable achievements would not be possible without the participation of our students and the leadership of our competent and committed St. Theresa of Lisieux staff. We were certainly able to hear the STL roar in our hallways this year!

We want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude and thanks to all of our teachers, support staff, administrative assistants, custodial staff and to our Catholic School Council for everything they have done throughout this year. Your dedication, patience, commitment to St. Theresa's Little Way and unwavering support has had a profound impact on our community.

To our graduating students, congratulations on reaching this important milestone! Your hard work, dedication and resilience have prepared you for the next chapter of your lives and we are immensely proud of all that you have accomplished. As your journey begins, carry with you what you have learned during your time here at STL and always remember that "nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with Love". We wish you all the best in your upcoming journeys!



To our returning students, thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to learning throughout the year. Your curiosity and passion are the driving force behind our school's success, and we look forward to seeing your continued progress both in and out of the classroom in the years to come. We welcome our incoming Grade 9 Cubs as part of this community.

This year we say goodbye to several members of our STL team. Three members of our staff, Ms. Palma (Teacher-Special Education), Ms. Hayhoe (Teacher-Guidance), and Mr. Milone (Custodian) are preparing for a well-deserved retirement. We are deeply grateful for their years of service and invaluable contributions to our school community and education in the YCDSB. Their passion for education and commitment to nurturing the school communities they have served throughout their educational journey have set a standard of excellence that will continue to inspire us in the years to come. As they transition into retirement we extend our heartfelt best wishes for a future filled with good health, relaxation and adventure!

We also say goodbye to Mr. Leonardo (English), Ms. Pali (Math) and Ms. S. Montanaro (Science) and LTO teachers Mr. Beck, Mr. Beltrame, Mr. Caruso, Mr. Coccia, Mr. D'Andrea, Ms. Di Lorenzo, Ms. Didiano, Ms. Landolfi, Ms. Lo Schiavo, Ms. Maugeri, Mr. Niro, Mr. Petosa, Ms. Vacca, and Ms. Wicks. We thank them for their hard work, passion, and dedication to excellence and wish them well. All of our departing staff should know that they will always be part of our STL Lions family!

As we look ahead to the future, let us carry forward the lessons we have learned this year and continue to strive for excellence in all that we do, by doing "small things with great love". In this Jubilee Year 2025, let us continue to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' trusting in our God-given talents, and using our Catholic values and Christian virtues to build a more peaceful, just, sustainable and loving world.

We wish all our families a blessed, safe, and rejuvenating summer break!

The St. Theresa of Lisieux Administration

# STL Arts : Everything, Everywhere, All at Once!

**STL Arts** has been a hub of creativity this semester! We are incredibly proud of all that our students have accomplished this semester. Let's take a look back at all that we've done!

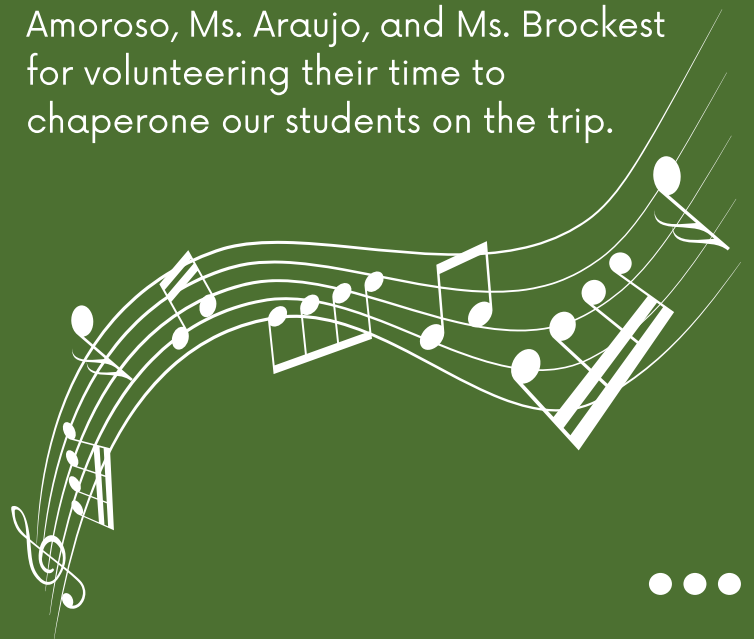
From April 10–13, our Senior Band and Choir traveled to Boston for an unforgettable experience at the WorldStrides International Music Festival. Our talented students proudly represented our school, earning Silver Ratings, a true testament to their dedication, teamwork, and musical excellence. Our STL Music students also received the Spirit Award, which speaks volumes about their character, teamwork, and positive energy throughout the trip.

In addition to their outstanding performances, students explored the historic streets of Boston, taking in its rich culture and history. A highlight of the trip for students was participating in professional music clinics at Boston University, where they received invaluable guidance and inspiration from internationally renowned musicians and educators.



This trip was a perfect blend of performance, learning, and adventure. A celebration of our students' hard work and passion for music!

A big and heartfelt thank you to Ms. Amoroso, Ms. Araujo, and Ms. Brockest for volunteering their time to chaperone our students on the trip.



Our Grade 11 Drama students took part in a dynamic 2-hour improvisation workshop, with Alessandra Vite, professional comedy writer! Students engaged in games and activities while learning tricks of the improv trade. It was a true eye-opening experience for all our Grade 11s that they will undoubtedly take with them throughout their drama careers and lives!



In honour of this year's Jubilee, the STL Chapel doors were transformed through beautiful watercolour pieces symbolizing hope. From a symbolic viewpoint, the Holy Door takes on a special significance: it is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it.

Thank you to Ms. Bonofiglio's Grade 10 visual arts class for these special pieces.

*"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved"*  
St. John, Chapter 10.

Our 90 Grade 10 Drama students performed the Stations of the Cross, in 4 consecutive performances, for our student body. The performance, which took place during Holy Week, was enacted in the style of theater in the round - with the dramatic action taking place around the audience, while being simultaneously cast to the screens above. To mark each station, beautiful visuals of the Stations of the Cross were painted, creating Jesus' path around the cafeteria. Our musical accompaniment made a significant impact allowing our population to reflect on the solemnity of Jesus' final journey. Thank you to all students involved for making this multidimensional presentation possible.



Our Music students had a busy spring, wowing every crowd they performed for this season. From our Easter Liturgy to our Rhapsody in Bloom Spring Concert at the St. Elizabeth Theater for Performing Arts, our musicians were unstoppable in showcasing their skills.

Most notably, our students were able to participate in a true live performance, complete with full scale lighting, rehearsal and stage dress for our Rhapsody in Bloom concert. Our musicians were poised, mature and thoughtful in all of their performances. They showed discipline and endurance with their many hours spent rehearsing and their dedication to their craft and final performances. Bravo, musicians!



Rounding out the semester were our incredible grade 10 and 11 CPTs. These performances drew upon the students' creativity and required that students perform both original and published scripts. Students had access to a full gamut of props, costumes and set pieces. Their talents certainly shined bright on stage in our beautiful theater.

Congratulations, Student Artists, on an incredibly creative, inspiring and invigorating semester in the Arts.

May God bless you and your artistic talents, all summer long.

We look forward to another successful and memorable year in Arts in the 2025/2026 school year! Follow along on Instagram @STLArts!



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# BUSINESS

## DEPARTMENT

10

The grade 10 business classes held an amazing 2 days of selling yummy and innovative foods. Whether preparing snacks and desserts to creating full blown meals and delicious specialty drinks the students did amazing. A lot of time and energy was put into making their products sell and showcasing their learning from the Grade 10 Launching and Leading a Business course. They were able to put conceptual knowledge into action. This semester the classes raised approximately \$4,200.00. Money raised is going to Share Life. We are so proud of all the Grade 10 Business Students. BRAVO!



# Business

# LUNCHEON



Grade 12 Business Leadership students put on a wonderful luncheon on Thursday May 15th. Our gymnasium was in full bloom reflecting this year's theme of **Spring Into Summer**, with handmade decor and props. Teachers and administration were able to enjoy a delicious lunch served by the students. The business leadership classes received a special message from Junior Hoilett, professional soccer player who remind us all to "never give up on yourself, always bet on yourself, work hard and believe in your dreams"



Proceeds of \$9,055 raised from ticket sales and silent auction went to Diabetes Canada.

Congratulations to all the grade 12 business leadership students and to Mr. Deocampo. This amazing opportunity allowed the students to put into practice all of the leadership qualities and skills that they have learned throughout the semester.



# DECA ICDS

12

15 of our DECA students travelled to Orlando, Florida from April 25th - 30th alongside Ms. Ah-Chin, Mr. Villa Alvarez, and Ms. Bulger to compete at ICDC. These students qualified by placing in the top positions both at regionals, and provincials in their respective competitions.

Throughout the trip, students explored Orlando, visited Disney Springs, attended mass, engaged in intense pin trading, and bonded over team-building activities. While having fun, the ICDC qualifiers worked hard in each of their events during this unforgettable experience.

A special congratulations to the following students for achieving awards at ICDC; Ahsan Sajwani, for placing top 10 in the personal finance multiple choice exam, Vivian Zhang for placing top 20 in her franchise business plan event, and Natalie Sienkiewicz for placing top 10 overall in retail merchandising. Honourable mentions to Kevin K, Benjamin X, and Michael Z for placing 5th overall in the virtual business sports competition. Congratulations to Steven Kim for placing 3rd in his virtual business finance competition event and huge congratulations to Donna Sanatkar for placing 1st overall in her quick serve restaurant management event.

Congratulations to all ICDC participants!

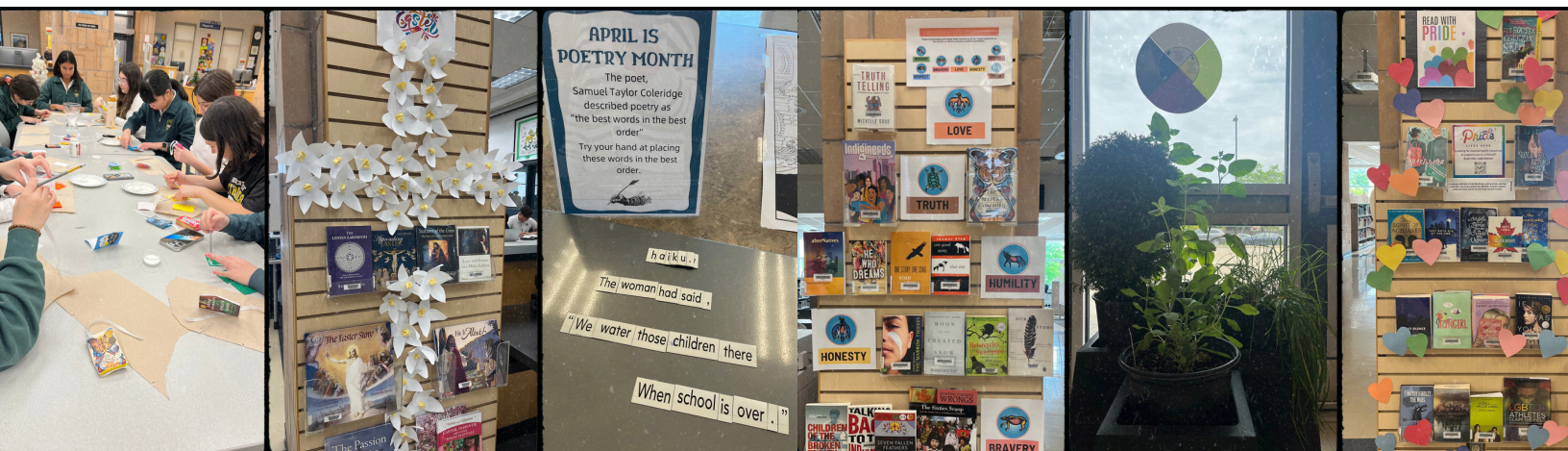


## SO MANY BOOKS... SO LITTLE SHELF-CONTROL

The STL library isn't just a quiet corner—it is a space for connection, creativity, and community. This semester, in particular our LLC has been buzzing with activity—from expanding our collection with fresh voices and diverse materials to assisting with inspiring school-wide initiatives. In support of the English Department we hosted Mim Harder, an Indigenous guest speaker, we helped CWS classes take a virtual journey to Parliament! We sipped tea with the Mental Health Committee, made bracelets with the Pride Club, and fueled minds through AP Exams, PISA, and OSSLT assessments. More than just books, The Bookmark club sparked new friendships and fresh takes one chapter at a time. Teachers joined in the fun, too, with staff lunch and learns that inspired creativity and challenged us to embrace emerging technological changes in education.

Looking ahead, we're dreaming up even more ways to connect and create—think book swaps, maker spaces, and collaborative corners for students and staff to learn and grow together.

Word on the Street is... the library's next chapter is going to be an absolute page-turner.



The O.E.C.T.A. Prix Jeunes Écrivaines et Écrivains - the French edition of the annual Young Authors Awards creative writing contest - has once again recognized the talent of our aspiring french language writers.

Open to Catholic elementary and secondary school students across Ontario, The Prix welcomes submissions in the following genres: poetry, short story, nonfiction, and play. Entries are judged at three levels of competition—School, Unit (Board), and Provincial—with the top entries in the School and Unit (Board) Levels advancing to the subsequent level.

The Department of Modern Languages would like to thank all participants for their interest, time, and efforts and congratulate our winners!

**Erin Suzie Lee** - French Grades 9-10 Poem

**Rachel Liang** - French Grades 9-10 Short Story

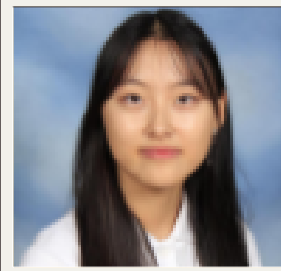
**Emilee Hoang** and **Sarah Lu** - French Grades 9-10 Play

**Tanya Joulæi** - French Grades 11-12 Poem

**Alyssa Park** - French Grades 11-12 Play

Winning students will receive commemorative plaques and their own personal copy of the Young Authors book.

What a great honour for our students and school.



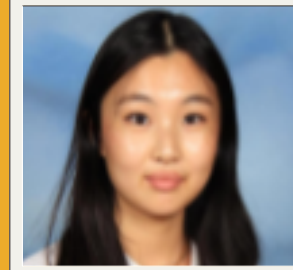
**ERIN SUZIE LEE**



**RACHEAL LIANG**



**EMILEE HOANG**



**SARAH LU**



**TANYA JOULAIL**



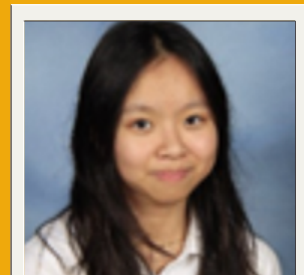
**ALYSSA PARK**

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department is thrilled that grade ten student Vivian Zhang has won the OECTA Young Authors Award for Short Fiction in grades nine and ten.

In addition to winning this prestigious provincial award, Vivian's short story, entitled "I'll Be Waiting for You at the Oak Tree", will be published in this year's Young Authors Commemorative Book.

Congratulations Vivian!



**VIVIAN ZHANG**

# Student GOVERNMENT



## PICTURE PERFECT



**ATHLETIC**



**CUB**



**CHAPLAINCY**



**D+E**



**ENVIRO**



**INTRAMURAL**



**SOCIAL JUSTICE**



**SPIRIT**



**STUDENT**

**THE LITTLE** *Way*



“Nothing is sweeter than love; nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing more generous, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth: for love proceeds from God, and cannot rest but in God, above all things created.”.

- St Theresa of Lisieux