

February 2018



# St. Gabriel The Archangel



91 FIORI DRIVE WOODBRIDGE, ONTARIO L4L 5S4 PHONE: 905 856-4155 WEB: WWW.SGA.YCDSB.CA

**Trustee**

Maria Marchese  
Maria.Marchese@ycdsb.ca

**Superintendent**  
Marianne Fedrigoni

**Principal**  
Anna C. Provato

**Vice Principal**  
Christine Sandig

**Secretarial Staff**  
Maria Iazzi  
Maryanne Comisso

**Office Support Staff**  
Christina Marascio

**Immaculate Conception Church**

**Pastor:**  
Fr. Eugene Chianain  
**Associate:**  
Fr. Martin Cherumadathy

**Catholic School Council (CSC)**  
Tony Lacaria—Chair  
Frank Longobardi—Vice Chair

## February's Virtue Is Wisdom

With God's grace, I  
will use my con-  
science as my guide.

I will love God and  
others as myself.

I will use my gifts  
and my creativity  
for the good of all.

### Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

January was off to a quick start with lots of events and activities planned for everyone to enjoy. St. Gabriel participated in Family Banquet Night at Supreme Banquet Hall. Thank you to CSC members for organizing this community building family event, their hard work and time put into preparations paid off. There was an abundance of prizes that were donated and we thank all of our community businesses for their very generous contributions! Families were treated to inspirational performances from our very own student dancers from Arthur Murray Dance Studio. February is a short calendar month, but it's packed with activities and events. On Feb.13 Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home, highlighting your child's successes and providing you with insight as to areas where goals can be set for improvement and development in Term 2.

Our French and Italian departments will host Carnival/Carnevale Feb. 5 to 9th - a week of fun-filled activities for all our students and staff. The halls and classrooms are decorated with images of Bonhomme and Arlecchino, in celebration of Carnival and Carnevale respectively.

A heart-felt thank you, to Catholic School Council for partial funding of this week's events and prizes through your fundraising dollars. Please refer to the information letter for Carnival/Carnevale which was emailed to you for complete details for each of the daily events and activities. Also refer to our website and newsletter page 6.

February 14th is both Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day, please see page 2 of this newsletter for details regarding school activities.

In February we focus our prayers to include the entire Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Having a picture of the Holy Family in a prominent place in our homes is a good way to remind ourselves that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph should be the model in all things for our family life.

February 19th is Family Day – a statutory holiday, as such there is no school. We wish you and your family a wonderful day together.

Yours in Catholic Education,  
Mrs. A. C. Provato  
Principal

**Mission**

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**

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

**Core Values**

Catholicity, Excellence, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect

**Strategic Commitments**

Integration of Our Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources, Engaging Our Communities

# Partners in Faith



With Immaculate Conception Parish

## Important Upcoming February Dates

### Sacraments

**First Holy Communion** Parent/Child Workshop:  
Saturday, February 10 1:45 to 4:00 p.m.

**First Reconciliation:**  
Monday, February 26 at 7:30p.m.

**Confirmation** Retreat & Gown Measurement:  
Saturday, February 24 from 1:30 to 4:30p.m.

## Anaphylaxis—Life Threatening Allergies Valentine's Day

A kindly reminder that any Valentine's Day Bags and Valentine Cards that your child is distributing to friends and classmates **must NOT contain any food and/or candy/chocolate items.** Candy and/or food items brought in by students will not be distributed.

A handmade card goes a long way. Students can personalize cards for their friends. Although it is unnecessary to bring gifts for Valentine's Day, here are just a few ideas for students who wish to bring a gift for their classmates



Please Remember:

- not to send any food treats and/or peanut or nut products;
- not to send specific products to identified classrooms;
- to take the time to read **all** labels which may state "May contain traces of..." or "Manufactured in a facility that produces nut/peanut products..."
- to remind caregivers/babysitters of our allergy policies;
- to enforce the "no food sharing" policy with your children.

*Thank you! - Working together to keep our allergic friends safe."*

## JK Registration For 2018/ 2019

Registration packages are currently available, from the office, for the Kindergarten program for September 2018. Parents/guardians have the option of completing a print copy of the Kindergarten registration form and, beginning on February 15, 2018 you will have the option of completing the Kindergarten registration **online**. Both the paper and online Kindergarten registration form can be accessed from the board's website at [www.ycdsb.ca/admissions](http://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.

Early Years Hotline

Email: Early Years Helpline or Phone: 416-221-5051 or 905-713-1211 ext 13642.

## Catholic School Council

NEW DATE FOR THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is on:

Tuesday, February 20th @ 7:00 p.m. in the library.

## February 14th is Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day

Ash Wednesday is a somber occasion that marks the beginning of the 40-day period of Lent. In order to keep the sanctity of Ash Wednesday, we will be combining Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday celebrations and St. Valentine's celebrations on Tuesday, February 13th.

It is important that our students celebrate Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 14th. Please join us for the distribution of Ashes at 9:15am on February 14th in the gym.

## Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday—February 13



Students will be receiving Pancakes on Tuesday, Feb. 13th. The pancakes are all being donated by Just Catering for Kids (our hot lunch provider on Tuesdays). The pancakes will be delivered to the classrooms and students will feast together! Thank you to CSC for covering the cost of syrup and apple juice boxes for each child. All dietary restrictions and allergies will be accommodated. If you have any dietary concerns or questions please contact your child's teacher or the office.



## Cheryl Pounder

On Tuesday, January 23 Cheryl Pounder, Canadian Women's Ice Hockey Olympiad visited SGA. She gave a powerful motivational speech not only about her experiences of winning 2 Olympic and 5 World Champion Gold Metals, but also about how St. Gabriel students can accomplish their dreams and goals too!

Ms. Pounder involved students by asking them questions about the winter Olympics, setting person goals, character building etc. She lead them through her personal journey from when she was a child to how she got to the Olympics, telling students that they could do what ever they set their minds too. One of our students had the privilege of trying on one of her gold medals.



Grade 7 student: Domenic B., got a little taste of Gold!

## Report Cards

Term One report cards will be sent home with your child on Tuesday, February 13th. Please review the report with your child and assist them with setting goals for Term Two.

Parent-Teacher Interviews are only upon request this term. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher(s) please contact the teacher and set up an interview time and date. Interviews can be either in person or by telephone.

This is also a good time to review lates and absences with your child. Punctuality and regular attendance are contributing factors for overall achievement. Early leaves at the end of the day are also disruptive to student learning and cut into instructional time and should be avoided.

## Parents and other adults in the school

For safety purposes, all parents/guardians/grandparents/visitors must sign in at the office upon entry to the school.

Please do not go directly to classrooms or walk down the hallways. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, come to the office to set up a meeting. Visitors must not enter classrooms without permission before, during and after the school day. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Civvies Day—February 16th**  
**Students do not have to wear their Standardized Dress Code clothing.**

**Family Day—February 19th**  
**No School**  
**A day set aside to spend time with family.**

## Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found box is over-flowing with items. If your child is missing items such as clothing, lunch bags, water bottles, etc. Please check the Lost and Found. Sign in at the office and take a hall pass. The Box is located just behind the library, in the hallway with the brick island (intermediate Hallway).

All unclaimed items, by March Break, will be packed up and donated.

## Chinese New Year—February 16th 2018 is the Year of the Dog



### The "My Healthy Lunch" Challenge

During the week of January 22nd, all students were encouraged to participate in the "My Healthy Lunch" Challenge whereby they were to keep track of the food groups they had in their lunch. Students were encouraged to try to eat from at least 3-4 food groups everyday.

CSC also provides Healthy Snacks to all students on Thursdays. They choose foods that are healthy and also encourage children to try different snacks—hoping to expand palates and choices for healthy food choices. The Healthy Snack Committee has accommodated for gluten-free, vegan, dairy-free, etc for necessary classrooms and all nut/peanut-free for the entire school. Please contact the school if you have any dietary concerns or needs that are not already being accommodated for your child.

### Photo Day

February 6th is photo day. The following photos will be taken.

- ⇒ Grade 8 Grad Photos
- ⇒ Retakes
- ⇒ Sibling Shots

Only students taking photos today are permitted to dress up in formal clothing for their photos.

All other students must be in Standardized Dress Code.

# Family Skate Night

## 3rd Annual Family Skate Night is



**February 9th at Canlan Ice Sports -York**

A pizza dinner will be served in the **York Room** to families starting at 6:00pm until 7:00 p.m. for those who have sent in their forms. Skating will occur from 7.15p.m to 9:00 p.m.

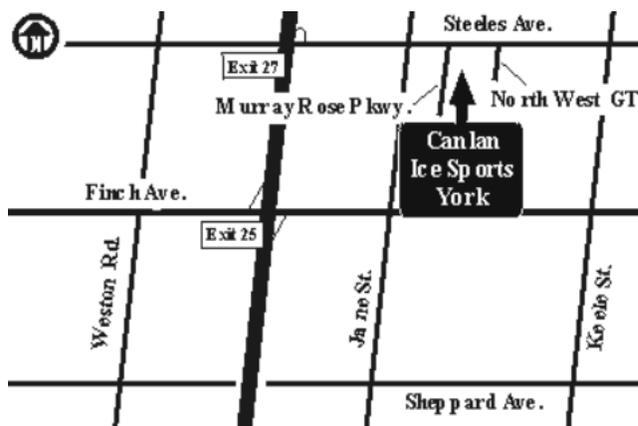
Didn't send in a form and you'd like to come—no problem

just contact the school for a form, late skaters will be accepted.

Dig out your skates and come out on **Feb. 9.**

If you have extra skates & helmets that you can loan for the night to those without please let your child's teacher know.

This event is free—funding provided by CSC Fundraising. See you on **Feb. 9th!**



## ***Athletic News***

Both the Girls' and Boys' Intermediate Basketball teams took advantage of an incredible opportunity to play an exhibition game on the Toronto Raptors' court at the ACC on Jan. 26 and everyone (including parents) had an awesome experience! Adding to the experience was the journey from Woodbridge to the ACC in downtown Toronto! Students and teachers traveled using our new subway system. It was a truly remarkable experience being able to reduce the trip cost which would normally involve the cost of chartering school buses, while exploring the ease of subway travel.

Congratulations to the Junior Girls volleyball team for a successful season. The team which was coached by Mrs. D'Urzo and Mrs. Troiano participated in their tournament Tuesday, January 30th at St. Margaret Mary, where they represented our school with pride and spirit. The team included Grade 4 students: Julianna, Olivia and Alessia; Grade 5 students: Melissa, Samantha, Sydney and Alexa; Grade 6 students: Katia, Jessica, Sarah, Stefanie, Mikayla, Gianna, Isabella, and Katrina. We are so proud of all that you have been able to accomplish this season. Go Way to go Panthers!

February is pretty quiet on the athletic front with regards to games but our Intermediate Boys' and Girls' divisional tournaments will take place in early March, so we'll be practicing and getting ready throughout February. St. Gabriel Panthers will be hosting an Intermediate Boys' Volleyball Tournament on March 5th, and the Girls will play at St. Agnes of Assisi on March 6th.

### **Winter Walk on Feb. 7th**

Celebrate Walking in Winter on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. That day is Winter Walk Day across Canada. Winter is still a great time to walk and be outside! At St. Gabriel the Archangel, classes will be encouraged to take a walk outside for a hike on Winter Walk Day. Ensure that your child has warm clothing for the walk.



## **Black History Month**

February is Black History Month. On February 26, Loretta Penny will be back at SGA for two presentations.

Kindergarten to Grade 4  
Safari in Kenya—9:10am Presentation  
10:40am Hands-on—classes view artifacts

Grades 5 to 8  
Black History Part 2—1:00pm Presentation  
2:40pm Hands-on—classes view artifacts

## **National Pink Shirt Day—Feb 28th And Anti-bullying Speaker from Huddle-Up Program through Toronto Argonauts**



This year's focus is Cyberbullying. We are encouraging others to combat cyberbullying by thinking twice before posting something negative, and instead using the internet to spread kindness -because we know that Nice Needs No Filter! " Visit [www.pinkshirtday.ca](http://www.pinkshirtday.ca) for details.



Guest Speaker—Jason Colero  
Director, Education & Communications for  
The Toronto Argonauts will be presenting  
at SGA at 7:00pm in the gym. See next page  
for full details.

Stay tuned for an upcoming visit from  
Toronto Argonaut Football Players to SGA as  
a continuation of our Anti-bullying Events.  
Our own team of 12 students will be participating  
in the assembly on this day.  
Date to be announced soon!

# St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic School

91 Fiori Drive, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 5S4



## Carnaval/Carnevale 2018

Monday, February 5 - Friday, February 9, 2018



St. Gabriel is enthusiastic and ready for our annual winter Carnaval/Carnevale.  
Please refer to the list below for details of the daily activities planned for our school.

Theme Days				
February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8	February 9
<b>Loony Lundi</b>	<b>Tuque Tuesday</b>	<b>Midnight Madness Mercredi (Civvies Day)</b>	<b>Gioioso Giovedì all'italiana</b>	<b>"Vive le Canada" Vendredi</b>
Wear your clothes inside out, style your hair in a crazy way. You be the judge!!!	Wear your tuque or favourite hat all day! 	Dress in your pyjamas & slippers. Come to school cozy and warm!! 	Wear Italian colours; green, white & red or your Italian jersey. 	Allez-y Team Canada! Wear Team Canada Colours (red & white) or a Team Canada Jersey! 
<b>Additional activities this week:</b>				
<p><b>French/ Italian Prayers/Anthems</b> Students will say morning prayers 'en français' and 'in italiano' each day during Carnaval/Carnevale. National Anthems will also be sung in French and Italian.</p> <p><b>Bingo 'en français' and 'in italiano'</b> Daily numbers will be called over the announcements. Winning class will receive a prize.</p> <p><b>Trivia 'en français' and 'in italiano'</b> Winter trivia questions will be asked throughout the week!</p> <p><b>Bonhomme and Arlecchino visits</b> Bonhomme &amp; Arlecchino will visit all classes to spread good cheer and the spirit of Carnaval/Carnevale!</p> <p><b>Bonbons Mania/ Candy Guessing Contest</b> Classes who guess the closest number of candy will be awarded a bag of candy. One winner per division.</p> <p><b>Outdoor Activities- Vive l'hiver!!!</b> Attention all students! Grades 1-8, will spend one French class outdoors, weather permitting. Students are to be dressed appropriately.</p> <p><b>Viva il Carnevale!</b> Students will participate in Italian plays and mask making in Italian class. </p> <p><b>Family Skate Night (evening event)</b> Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Carlan Arena (York U). Thank you to our SGA Parent Council for organizing this winter event!</p> <p><b>Bilingual French/English Theatre Performances</b> Join us in our school gym for 3 separate performances! * <b>Le retour d'Étienne Brûlé</b> Performances by Mike Ford on Monday Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and 10:30 am (Gr. 6-8) * <b>Blanche-Neige (Snow White)</b> performed by the Dufflebag Theatre on Wednesday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am (FDK-Gr.5) Parents &amp; Guardians are most welcome to join us! Thank you to our SGA Parent Council for supporting these performances with fundraising money!</p>				

Thank you for your support and co-operation during this exciting and fun filled week!

Mrs. Provato, Ms. Sandig  
Mme. Paolozzi, Mme. King, Mme. Varricchio  
Signora Tucciarone, Signora Ascenzi

## PARENT INFORMATION SESSION – FEBURARY 28, 2018 AT 7PM



### TORONTO ARGONAUNTS ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM - HUDDLE UP

#### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILY MEMBERS:**

St. Gabriel the Arch Angel Catholic Elementary School is pleased to present:

#### **A PARENT INFORMATION SESSION ON:**

- Erasing Bullying Myths
- Recognizing some signs of bullying
- Cyberbullying
- Prevention parents can do at home in conjunction with the program
- A background in the Huddle Up program

#### **THE SESSION WILL BE PRESENTED BY:**

**Mr. Jason Colero**  
Director, Education & Community Programs  
Toronto Argonauts Football Club

#### **THE HUDDLE UP PROGRAM:**

St. Gabriel has teamed up with The Toronto Argonauts Football Club to collaborate with students on erasing bullying. The Huddle Up program helps address those issues by teaching youth how to be positive, build character within themselves and others, and by helping youth celebrate, embrace and encourage diversity and inclusion.

#### **The program aims:**

- a) To empower youth to be the leaders in creating a positive school climate
- b) To improve the overall well-being of youth
- c) To assist the ministry, schools and schoolboards in educating youth about building positive character in themselves and others
- d) To give students a voice to speak up when they need help or know of someone who needs help to demonstrate caring

Please join us on February 28, 2018 at 7pm to learn more about the collaborative approach that St. Gabriel has taken in conjunction with this Anti-Bullying program.



## February 2018

by our Catholic School Council

"A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Please read below for more information about CSC events and other important news.

*"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship."*

- Thomas à Kempis

*Happy Valentine's Day, my friend!*



Thank you for your compassion. Thanks to all of you who participated in Bingo Night and "paid admission". We gathered 6 boxes of socks, mitts, gloves, scarves and hats. We took them all to a very grateful The Yellow Brick House staff. Thank you for your generosity towards the Adopt-a-family program. The volunteers at Immaculate Conception Parish said that all families were overjoyed to receive all the food items and gifts. We are so very blessed to belong to a community that responds to the needs of others with a generous spirit. Thank you for your participation in our first ever (and hopefully annual) Family Banquet. We had a great time with the dancing, great food, prizes and fantastic friends. There was even magic there that night :) Photographs will be sent home with your child shortly.

### Family Skate Night



February 9, 2018

Join us for a fun filled traditional evening with family and friends! This is a free event but registration is needed. We hope to see you all there!

**SGA's Annual Family Skate Night**

**Friday February 9, 2018**

**Canlan Ice Sports Village (989 Murray Ross Pkwy)**

**6:00pm until 7:00 p.m FREE pizza dinner will be served in the York Room**

**7:00p.m to 9:00 p.m. Skating**



Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday) is on February 13th!  
Children will be served pancakes in their classrooms.

### Anti-Bullying (Pink Day)



February 28, 2018

Argo's Huddle Up for Parents

February 28, 2018 is Pink shirt Day, a day to celebrate kindness and respect towards each other. "It is so important that victims of bullying know they are not alone and there is help and support available. Wearing a pink shirt on this day sends a strong message to them that others care." Pink T Shirt Day Society Anti-Bullying Campaign

Please join us on February 28, 2018 at 7pm to learn more about the collaborative approach that St. Gabriel has taken in conjunction with this Anti-Bullying program. More information to follow later this month. Session will be presented by Mr. Jason Colero (Director, Education & Community Programs), **Toronto Argonauts Football Club**

**Bullying Stops Here! Together we can make a difference!**

COMING SOON

Healthy Starts with the Arts event  
Chocolate Fundraiser



The Catholic School Council runs the hot lunch program on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help with lunch distribution.

**PLEASE** contact the office if you can help out between 11:30 and noon each day.



The York Region Alliance of African Canadian  
Communities presents...

## Celebrating the Success of our Black Families in York Region



**Saturday, February 17, 2018**

*Simcoe*

**Thornlea Secondary School  
8075 Bayview Ave. Thornhill, ON  
L3T 4N4**

**Time: 11:00am - 2:30pm**

**11:00-11:30am  
Registration**

**11:00-11:30am; 1:30-2:30pm  
Networking**

**Free Admission**

***Uplifting our Black Families***

***Bridging the Past with the Present***

***Navigating the Present into the Future***

**Celebrating our "First's":**

**Members of our Black  
community in York Region who  
have broken glass ceilings.**

**Bring the entire family!**

**Activities include:**

- **Community Speakers**
- **Black Marketplace**

**Entertainment:**

- **Drumming**
- **Youth Entertainment**

**Refreshments provided**



Contact: Ann Marie (647)-280-9879 | [info@yorkregionaacc.ca](mailto:info@yorkregionaacc.ca)

Register at: <http://bit.ly/YRAACCEvent>