

October 2018



St. Gabriel The Archangel



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Trustee

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Opiyo Oloya

Principal

Christine Sandig

Secretarial Staff

Maria Iazzi
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Office Support Staff

Christina Marascio

Immaculate Conception Church

Pastor:

Fr. Eugene Chianain

Catholic School Council (CSC)

Tony Lacaria—Chair
Frank Longobardi—Vice Chair

October's Virtue Is Compassion

Seek to
understand others by
listening.

Be willing to
forgive others.

Give of our
resources to help
those in need.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September was mixed month weather-wise, however it provided us with some opportunity to enjoy prolonged warm weather and bright sunny days. With the increasing inclement weather, it is important to keep in mind the safety of the students coming to and from school. Please note that the front driveway and the parking lot are not to be entered or exited from 8:30 –9:00 am and 3:35-3:55 pm. During these times, students are crossing the driveway and buses are entering and leaving the driveway. The only exceptions are for school buses, staff, and those limited few with special passes from the office. As well, whether it is inclement or fine weather, if you are escorting your child(ren) into the building, please drop them off in the foyer and allow them to proceed to their classroom(s). Safety protocol includes that all parents/guardians/ visitors must report to the office upon entering the school past the foyer.

Thank you to Father Eugene for presiding over our mass celebrating the Feast Day of St. Gabriel. Our next mass celebrating Thanksgiving will be on October 10th at Immaculate Conception Parish @ 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. This year's Food Drive is beginning later this year. We will be collecting non-perishable items from October 23-31 as part of our WE school initiative "WE scare Hunger. This year's Halloween Dance will not be a fundraiser, instead we encourage children to bring in a non-perishable food item on that day. All food items will go to the Vaughan Food Bank. Finally, we welcome Ms. Christina Marascio as our new part time secretary. She will continue as well in her role as office support staff. We look forward to the many activities and events that are being planned for the months ahead and encourage all to participate and join us.

This past week, the 2017-2018 Yearbook went home. Under the direction of staff, this is the result of the hard work and dedication of the following students: **Currently in Grade 9:** Isabella B., Michael C., Alexandra G., Sofia G., Nicole M., Matteo M., Sophia M., Sarah P., Sofia R., and Alyssa V. **Currently in Grade 8:** Sabrina C., Deniz C., Julia G., Kiana J., Victoria L., Elina M., Daniela N., Gabriel R., Vanessa S., Isabella S., Nicoletta T., and Jessica T. Thank you! On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and blessed Thanksgiving,

Yours in Catholic Education,

Ms. C. Sandig
Principal



Thank You, God
For the food we are about to eat,
For those who are here
To share these blessings,
For the generosity of our hosts
That make this possible.
Bless those who are here
And those who are in our hearts,
And all those who are not
As fortunate on this day. Amen.
(By Patricia Gore)

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

- * A reminder for families of Grade 2 children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion and Grade 7s wishing to receive Confirmation, registrations began at the parish in August, first meetings have occurred. There are still a few families who have yet to register. Please be sure to register if you haven't already done so.

Dates to remember:

- * **Tues. March 26 Reconciliation @ 7:30 pm**
- * **Fri. May 10th Confirmation @ 7:30 pm**
- * **Sun. June 2nd First Holy Communion @ 12:30 pm**
- * **Thanksgiving Mass: Wed. Oct. 10 @ the parish
Wednesday, October 10 at 1:30 pm**

Catholic School Council

Thank you to last year's Parent Council for their dedication and hard work in making the year such a spectacular success.

We welcome our new Catholic School Council for the 2018-2019 school year and look forward to new initiatives, projects and enthusiasm they will bring to our school:

Executive:

Chair

Tony Lacaria

Vice Chair

Frank Longobardi

Secretary

Diana Lacaria

Treasurer

Janice Sopta

Community Rep.

Emanuela Polin-DeLuca

Parish Rep.

Anabela Da Silva

Parent Reps:

Linda Calabro

Alexander Russo

Dianne Curran

Leanna Santorsola

Silvia Espinoza Chavez

Sonia Segretti

Diana Fiorucci

Riccardo Scicchitano

Julie Paolucci

Nancy Spagnuolo-DaSilva

Nancy Papa

Rosemary Stalteri-Barranca

Maria Papasthis

Joanne Tibaldi

Vanessa Pedone

Anna Vescio

Student Reps (Gr. 8s) Jessica T., Elina M., Lucas L., Kiana J.,
Victoria L., Alessio P. (shared/rotated
monthly)

Teacher Reps.

Ms. Vavaroustos

Ms. Conroy

Mrs. Romano

You don't have to be an elected member to join our meetings and/or volunteer! Your support is always appreciated and welcomed - come out to the meetings.

Meetings are in the library—7:15 to 9:00 pm

Oct. 24

Nov. 21

Dec. 12

Jan. 16

Feb. 20

April 17

May 22

June 19

Civvies Days

Civvies days will take place on every **last** Friday of every month. Students are permitted to wear regular clothing. They are reminded to dress appropriately and respectfully.

Dates:

Oct. 26

Jan. 25

Apr. 26

Nov. 30

Feb. 22

May 31

Dec. 21

Mar. 29

June 21

On occasion students will be asked to bring in a loonie/toonie on a Civvies day to support a school/board initiative. You will be notified the week prior to Civvies Day. Please note that there may be times throughout the year when we will have special themed civvies days (on the aforementioned days or in addition to these days). You will be notified accordingly via website and/or email.

2017–2018 EQAO Results

Individual Student Results will be sent home the week of Oct. 15th for students who wrote the test in Grades 3 and 6 last year.

Progress Reports

On November 21, Progress Reports will be sent home. Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place on the evening of November 22nd and the morning of November 23rd. Information will be sent home in the Progress Report Envelope.

YCDSB Fall 2018 Evening Programs

There is still availability to register for YCDSB's ministry-funded [Homework Helper](#) (Grades 7 to 12) literacy and numeracy program, as well as [International Languages](#) (JK to Grade 8) programs. Classes begin next week. **Please register your child before Tuesday, October 9th.** The Homework Helper program runs from October 9th to December 13th. Classes are available on Tuesday or Thursday evenings (6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) in Markham and Vaughan. International Languages classes run from October to May. To register, please visit <http://ce.ycdsb.ca> or contact the Continuing Education Department at 905-713-1211 or 416-221-5051, extension 13620, for further information.

DRESS CODE REVIEW

Please be reminded that the first CSC meeting with newly elected CSC members will be on **October 24th @ 7:15 pm**. On that evening, Policy 219 A—Elementary Dress Code will be addressed. This means that there is the opportunity to review the dress code as well as to undergo the process for potential change to the school's current student dress code. If you are interested in considering a change to our current student dress code, you are invited to attend this meeting or communicate to me your interest via phone or email prior to October 24th.

Anaphylaxis—Life Threatening Allergies

At St. Gabriel the Archangel, we work in collaboration with the YCDSB, school, home and community in teaching our children and staff all about anaphylaxis and keeping our allergic children safe. St. Gabriel is a peanut/nut safe environment. You will see signs to this effect clearly posted at the entrances of the school. Please review with your child our Board's Policy 209, "*Protection of Anaphylactic Students*", which is located in on the Board's website, www.ycdsb.ca, under Policies.

HALLOWEEN REMINDER

Please do not send candy or food loot bags or treats for students for Halloween in keeping with our Anaphylaxis Safe School procedures.

Visit Allergieliving.ca

This is an on-line free magazine which provides a wealth of information on allergies, provides menu ideas for snacks, lunches, dinners, baking etc.

You can also sign-up for their free allergy-safe recipe E-letter.

Also visit: AnaphylaxisCanada.ca

For detailed information on Anaphylaxis—life-threatening allergies.

"Working together to keep our allergic friends"

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Common times of the year for head lice to occur are Spring and Fall, and after travel/vacations. Anyone can get head lice regardless of cleanliness. Head lice are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent head lice from becoming a problem we all need to work together. Please check your child's head weekly for lice or nits.

"The York Catholic District School Board recognizes and appreciates concerns related to pediculosis at the school, community, and regional level. The Board also recognizes that the Ministry of Health does not designate pediculosis as a communicable disease, and as such, it is not considered a health hazard to the community." (Policy 210)

If you do find lice or nits, contact the office so that we can notify other parents in the class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. There is never any mention of the child's name in the letter, and discretion is utilized when dealing with children with head lice so as to maintain confidentiality and the integrity of all involved.

Children are re-admitted to school when there are no longer any lice present and all the (nits) eggs have been removed. Parents must provide the school with Appendix C of Policy 210- Pediculosis Treatment Form, which acknowledges that treatment has occurred.

For more information, please call
Health Connection at
1-800-361-5653

Some other recommended websites:

www.cps.ca
www.healthcare.ubc.ca/lice/intro.html
www.sickkids.ca/kidshealth/fall00issue4/headlice.asp

TICK INFORMATION:

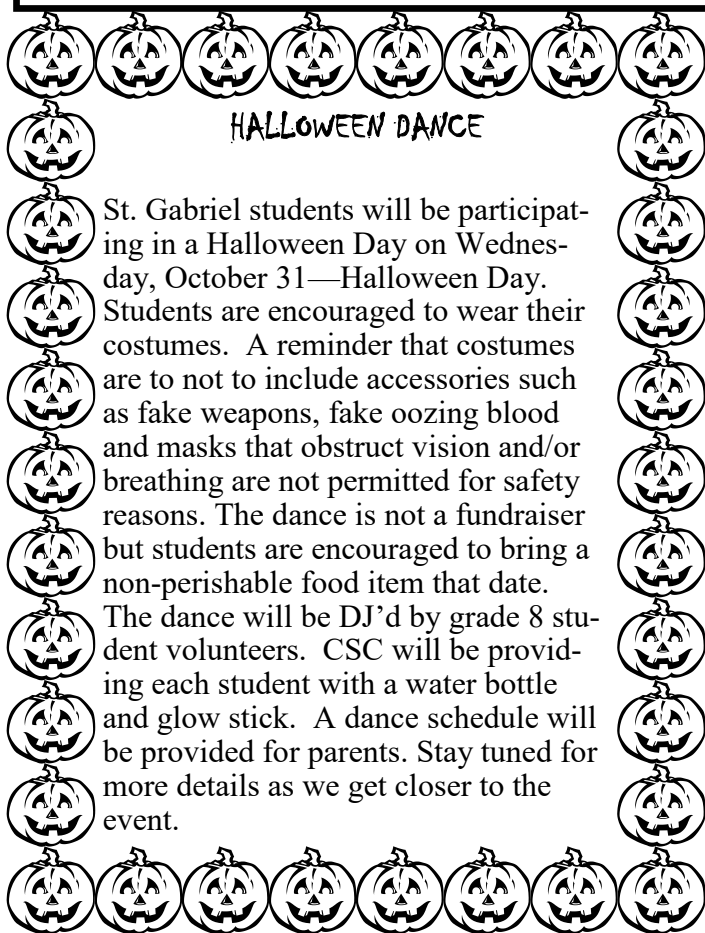
As an extra precaution, we would like to inform families about ticks so that students can take measures to protect themselves when visiting wooded or brushy natural areas.

It is important to protect yourself each time you are in an area where infected ticks have been found. When travelling to areas with infected ticks, follow these simple tips to protect yourself:

- Wear long pants and long sleeved tops that are light coloured to help spot ticks
- Wear closed footwear and tuck your pants into your socks
- Use an insect repellent containing DEET and apply according to manufacturer's directions
- Search your body for ticks
- Remove attached ticks from your body as quickly as possible
- Pay special attention to the following body areas:
 - groin
 - scalp
 - underarm areas
 - back

For more info please visit York Region Public Health at the link below...

<https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/73fe7103-e444-49c9-b88b-41e55c6fbec6/6713+Lyme+Disease+fact+sheet.pdf?>



HALLOWEEN DANCE

St. Gabriel students will be participating in a Halloween Day on Wednesday, October 31—Halloween Day.

Students are encouraged to wear their costumes. A reminder that costumes are to not to include accessories such as fake weapons, fake oozing blood and masks that obstruct vision and/or breathing are not permitted for safety reasons. The dance is not a fundraiser but students are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item that date.

The dance will be DJ'd by grade 8 student volunteers. CSC will be providing each student with a water bottle and glow stick. A dance schedule will be provided for parents. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event.

Events: It's Happening Here at SGA!

Terry Fox Walk September 28th

Through your very generous donations and the outstanding work and motivation instilled by the staff members who lead the committee (Ms. Paolozzi, Ms. Varricchio, Ms. Portolese, and Ms. Ellero), we were able to raise \$1,309.70 this year! As I had promised students that if funds raised exceeded \$1,000.00, they would receive a "no homework" day, I am happy to announce that October 9th will be the official "no homework" day. Congratulations students—we are so very proud of you. As well, during the kick-off assembly, the following students won Terry Fox T-Shirts:

FDK Division	Nicolas R.
Primary Division	Gia R.
Junior Division	Julianna C & Gabriele P.
Intermediate Division	Olivia M.

**GIVE
THANKS**
FAMILY • FRIENDS • GRATITUDE

We Day 2018—September 20th By Jessica T. and Elina M.

We Day was such a powerful presentation and the crowd was ecstatic! There was so much energy in one area. The WE Day slogan is "Get Doing". They chose this because they want people to start doing good in the world. It was shocking to know that We Day started with a bunch of young students. This shows us that you can change the world at any age. For example, Louis Braille was 15 when he invented Braille! At We Day, there were several celebrities that we knew: Johnny Orlando, Miss Piggy, Adam Devine, Nick Robinson, Olivia Holt, Lily Holt and many more. All these people are here to help us to understand why it's important to do good in the world! It's awesome! Our experience was amazing. We found that with all the people who wanted to do good in the world and to help others, were also very passionate about this. We believe that rafikis are very important because whenever someone buys a bracelet, \$5.00 goes to people in third world countries or to people in poverty. Each rafiki has a different meaning: food and water, healthcare and education. Did you know that in Swahili, rafiki means friend? Rafikis are made by women in Kenya. Every bead is unique. The message behind WE Day is very important to us.

Asante na kupata (Thank you and get doing!)

As a WE school we are going to continue to collect used batteries. Students are encouraged to bring them in throughout the year. The **Zinc Saves Lives** Battery Recycling Campaign provides participants with the opportunity to reduce the amount of electronic waste going to landfills and to **help save a child's life**. Every AA battery contains the same amount of **zinc** that can **help save the lives** of six children.

Cross Country Meet—Wednesday, October 3rd

Grade 4 to 8 students participated in a Cross Country Meet at Bruce's Mill. We have over 40 runners participating this year! Good luck to all of our students. They have been training hard and we are proud of their participation. They came in 5th overall! Thank you to Coaches Montemarano, Fantauzzi, Conroy, Romano, and Tenaglia for your hard work and dedication.



Visit our school website regularly for events, school information and calendar

sga.ycdsb.ca

ECO CLUB:

St. Gabriel is once again an Gold Eco School. This year, one of our initiatives is Litterless Lunch Wednesdays. They should pack a litterless lunch every Wednesdays with reusable containers.

SGA LIBRARY EVENTS

An important and much anticipated annual event is about to take place in the library and we would like to invite all students and parents to visit. Beginning on **Monday, November 19th** students along with their classes, will have the opportunity to visit and then purchase books and other great items at *SGA's Fall Book Fair*. *SGA's Fall Book Fair* will be open for parents on Progress Report Interview Night—**Nov. 22nd and Nov. 23rd a.m. only**. Hope to see you all there!



SGA recognizes Orange Shirt Day!

On October 1st, staff and students recognized Orange Shirt Day by wearing something orange. This began in the spring of 2013, a commemoration event was held in Williams Lake, BC to honour those who attended the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school. Orange Shirt Day was inspired by the experience and story of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad whose shiny new orange shirt was taken away on her first day of school at the Mission. Her story and Orange Shirt Day has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.



ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL

What is Active School Travel?

You may have heard the terms Active Travel, Active School Travel, Active Transportation or Sustainable Transportation before. What do these terms mean?

Active School Travel is the use of any form of human-powered travel, such as walking or wheeling (including cycling, rollerblading, skateboarding, or using a wheelchair) to get to and from school or to the school bus. These forms of transportation are sustainable because they have a low impact on the environment.

Do your children currently walk or wheel to school? The York Catholic District School Board is committed to encouraging Active School Travel in all of our school communities and providing education on the many health benefits of Active Travel. Over the course of the 2018-2019 school year we will provide tips and information to educate and encourage students to walk and wheel to and from school. For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice, or a few days a week or parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way still provide benefits.

MAKE A COMMITMENT TO WALK THIS OCTOBER

October is International Walk to School Month (IWALK), and on **October 3, 2018**, YCDSB will join communities across the globe in celebrating International Walk to School Day! Join the movement! Teachers, administrators and Catholic School Councils can learn more about IWALK or register their school to participate in IWALK Day at: <http://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/international-walk-to-school-month/>.

We encourage all students to WALK to and from school for the month of October.



Enjoy the Walk,

YCDSB Active School Travel Team



October 2018

by our Catholic School Council



"We must not let any season pass without Thanksgiving"
- St. Athanasius the Great



Hello families!!

We've had our first meeting of the new school year and it was wonderful to see so many parents come out to support our school.

We'd like to tell you a little about our council. We are a caring, fun group of parents who love to be involved with our school. We work together with the teachers and administrators to establish a supportive and encouraging community in our school. Together we help plan fun and informational events that the whole family can attend. The money raised from fundraisers directly benefits our students by providing them with resources, equipment and experiences. Our council is constantly adapting to the needs of our families, there are many flexible ways to be involved and we can adjust responsibilities to fit with your time constraints. Your voice and opinion matter! It makes a difference when you speak up with ideas to help improve the quality of education for all our children. **We hope you will come out and join our council meetings!** You don't have to be a member to attend.



YUM!! Here at SGA we can provide a hot lunch service for our children daily. The school administration runs the hot lunch program on Tuesdays and the CSC (Catholic School Council) runs the hot lunch program the remaining days of the week. We've made some changes to the lunch offerings based on the information from last years families.



Back again is another student favourite ... our **Healthy Snack Program** is back again for another year. The snack program is a free volunteer run program offering a healthy snack to all students once a week during first recess. The snack program will commence towards the end of October. More information to follow.



Dress up and take a chance
It's SGA's annual halloween dance!
Grades 7 & 8s are in charge of the day
Time to dance, sing and play!
Halloween Dance is Wednesday October 31st
throughout the day!
CSC will be providing water, popcorn and glow sticks to all students. Hooray!

Next council meeting is Wednesday October 24th at 7:15pm.
Meetings are open to all SGA families.