

December 2018



St. Gabriel The Archangel



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Superintendent

Opiyo Oloya

Principal

Christine Sandig

Secretarial Staff

Maria Iazzi
Christina Marascio

Office Support Staff

Christina Marascio

Immaculate Conception Church

Pastor:

Fr. Eugene Chianain

Catholic School Council (CSC)

Tony Lacaria—Chair
Frank Longobardi—Vice Chair

December's Virtue Is



With God's grace,
I will never give up
hope.
I will maintain a
positive attitude
and look for the
brighter side
of situations.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Few times are more sacred for us than Christmas and the Advent season. Advent is often referred to as the Season of Hope, a time of joyful anticipation of the coming of our Lord into the world through the birth of His son, Jesus Christ. It ushers in with it the opportunity to reflect upon our many blessings. It gives us pause to consider what is truly important in our lives: our families, our friends, and the many treasured relationships that are so easy to take for granted amidst the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. We ushered in the Advent Season with a magnificent mass on December 10th. Many thanks to Father Ugo for presiding. Also, many thanks to those staff and students (choir, set up and tech crew) involved in the preparation of the mass.

Throughout December, St. Gabriel students, staff and community, will be putting their efforts together to join in the true spirit of Christmas, and focus on helping those less fortunate. We began with our collection of hats, mitts, gloves and scarves which were collected on Bingo Night and now adorn our "Giving Tree" in the foyer. Each class will also participate in "Adopt A Family". Each class has been assigned an family (identity unknown) and they are asked to contribute various items of clothing, toiletry, gifts and toys for their family. Immaculate Conception Parish will take care of distributing these boxes to the respective families. Thank you for your continued generosity.

December promises to be another exciting month and we look forward to the Kindergarten and Primary Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 18th @ 7 pm. December also signals the end of the calendar year and the promise of renewal and new beginnings. As 2018 comes to an end, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all of you for your support. On behalf of the staff of St. Gabriel the Archangel and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas. May the New Year brings you much love, joy, and good health.
Yours in Catholic Education, C. Sandig, Principal

AN ADVENT BLESSING

May the spirit of Christmas which is PEACE...
The gladness of Christmas which is HOPE...
The adoration of Christmas which is JOY...
And the heart of Christmas which is LOVE...
Be yours now and tomorrow.



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



York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
Tel: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051, 1-800-363-2711
Fax: 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

December 2018



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Church begins a new liturgical year with the season of Advent, our schools resonate with the sense of hopeful anticipation for the coming of Christ. It is a blessing for students and staff to learn and work in an environment where they can fully prepare for the profound and powerful reality of Christmas and aspire to all of the virtues that the season inspires.

Advent is a time of year when our schools joyfully participate in celebrations that lift the hearts of our students on the blessed journey to Christ's birth. This happens through musical concerts and Nativity plays, community service projects and most importantly through a deepened time of prayer. Each of these orient our students towards a rich spiritual experience that gives deeper meaning to this wonderful season.

My sincere thanks to you for choosing the great tradition of Catholic education for your children. Catholic education is a transformational gift, one that encourages students to strive for excellence and virtue, while at the same time discerning Christ's call in their lives.

May this blessed Advent season fill your hearts with hope, peace, joy and love as we prepare for Him who is our salvation. I want to wish you and your families, a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Marchese".

Maria Marchese
Trustee

Partners in Faith



With Immaculate Conception Parish

Happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception!

Our Parish community celebrated its Patronal Feast, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with a solemn bilingual Mass on Friday, December 7th, 2018 at 7pm. Our church is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and our Priests are consecrated to her in the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. The novena in preparation began on Thursday November 29, 2018 at 8:00pm.



CSC Family Bingo Night— An Evening to Remember!

Thank you to everyone for a marvelous evening. The turn out was far beyond what was anticipated, everyone had such a fantastic time! From the pre-planning, the collection of prizes, the Giving Tree Banner, the set-up, execution and clean-up - CSC had it all covered! The gym was filled with anticipation and laughter! Not only were funds raised; donations of hats, mitts, etc filled our boxes and adorn our "Giving Tree"; families mingled and spirits were raised as well! Thank you the CSC who did a superb job organizing this event which took a great deal of time and dedication. Thanks you to all who you participated. We hope to see an even bigger turn out at our next event (Pasta Night)!

This month, we will be collecting items to support families in need in our very own community. Please see page 9, CSC Newsletter for further details. An information letter outlining specific details has been sent out last week via email and hard copy.

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00p.m. in the library.

Preliminary Dress Code Survey Results

This Fall, the community of St. Gabriel the Archangel CES participated in a preliminary survey to determine whether or not to change the type of dress code (standardized) presently at St. Gabriel the Archangel. Of the total eligible number of families in the school community, **less than 30%** indicated a preference to move forward with a formal voting process. As per Policy 209A—Elementary Student Dress Code, this means that the dress code at St. Gabriel will remain as a **standardized dress code**. As per 209A policy, the next review of type of dress code will be in five years. Thank you for your participation in the preliminary survey.

JK Registration begins on January 7, 2019 For School year 2019/ 2020

To register your child(ren) for September 2019, you must provide the following original documents/forms for each child:

1. Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (child or parent)
2. Proof of Age (i.e. child's birth certificate)
3. Proof of Legal Status in Canada (if required)
4. Proof of Residency (i.e. Drivers License, tax bill or rental agreement, utility bill, etc.)
5. Proof of English Separate School Support (i.e. property tax bill that shows school support designation, MPAC Assessment Notice, Confirmation of school support designation or, completed and signed school support form(s), which are included in the registration package).

OUR "GIVING TREE"



Thank you to all families who donated new hats, mittens, scarves and socks on Bingo Night. The donations are on our "Giving Tree" in the foyer and will be donated to a women's shelter and Immaculate Conception Parish. Donations are still being accepted. Thank you to all!



Events: It's Happening Here at SGA!

Library News: The Hour of Code

This month, students at SGA will be participating in The Hour of Code. The Hour of Code began as an introduction to computer science, to show students that anybody can learn the basics of coding. It now has become a world-wide event to celebrate computer science by introducing students with coding activities. The Hour of Code takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week. This year it has taken place on December 3rd to the 9th. However, the Hour of Code can take place all year-round. Computer Science Education Week is celebrated annually in honour of the birthday of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper on December 9th, 1906. Every student should have the opportunity to learn Computer Science because it will help them develop problem-solving, logic and creative skills. These skills are essential for students to be successful in any 21st-century career path.



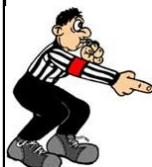
***Oh the Places They Will Go!
SGA Field Trips in December:***

December proves to be a busy month for field trips at SGA: The **Grade 3s** visited Black Creek Pioneer Village on December 7th to enrich the Grade 3 Social Studies unit on Communities in Canada 1780-1850. The students had an opportunity to visit and learn about the major components of a pioneer village and the traditions and celebrations of Christmas in Pioneer times through a guided walking tour of various buildings. The students were also involved in a variety of interactive activities to truly experience the lifestyle of the early settler. All activities revolved around completing tasks in an authentic heritage log house such as learning how to use a spinning wheel, a loom, exploring various tools, and much more.

As part of the Grade 8 visual arts program, the **Grade 8 students** participated in a clay workshop at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga on December 7th. There they learned about the fundamentals of slab, coil, and punch pot building techniques to create a clay art piece. Finally, The **Grade 6s** traveled to St. Elizabeth CHS to watch the play "Christmas Chaos" on December 7th.

The **Grade 1s and 2s** will go and see the Exhibition of the Nativity Scenes at the Columbus Centre on Monday, December 17th. Over the years thousands of students have visited the exhibition. Such visits, commitment and support have enriched the culture and Christmas Traditions of our Catholic Community and remains an integral part of our existence.

**COACHES' CORNER:
VOLLEYBALL**



Both Boys and Girls Intermediate Volleyball Teams had their tournaments in

November. The Boys on November 28th @ St. Andrew and the Girls on November 29th at St. Gregory the Great. Both teams played their best and had a wonderful time. Thank you to Coaches Amado and Grasso for a wonderful season. The coaches and the entire school is very proud of both teams who played with dedication and sportsmanship. Well done to Michael C., Alexander S., Max G., Gianluca M., Matteo P., Joshua O., Aidan P., David P., and Nicholas T., as well as to Sophia De., Sofia D., Sophia Di., Giorgia F., Stefanie I., Victoria P., Oriana S., Sara S., Katrina M., Nicoletta T., and Mikayla Z.

ECO CLUB NEWS

The Eco Club is continuing its "Litter-less Lunches" each Wednesday. As well, the Eco Club is spear-heading the Board's Active Travel monthly initiative and has launched "The Jesse Journey Tree" for the month of December (see page 10 for more information). The letter was also sent home via email in the beginning of December. The Jesse Journey Tree is a way of celebrating our religious family tree while we promote healthy living and a rich prayer life. We hope you will continue to join us on this Advent journey!












***You are cordially invited
to attend
St. Gabriel the Archangel's
Christmas Concert
Featuring Grades FDK-3
On Tuesday, December 18th
@ 7:00 pm
We will be gratefully accepting
donations which will be
given to Hospice Vaughan.***










Events in Pictures: It's Happening Here at SGA!

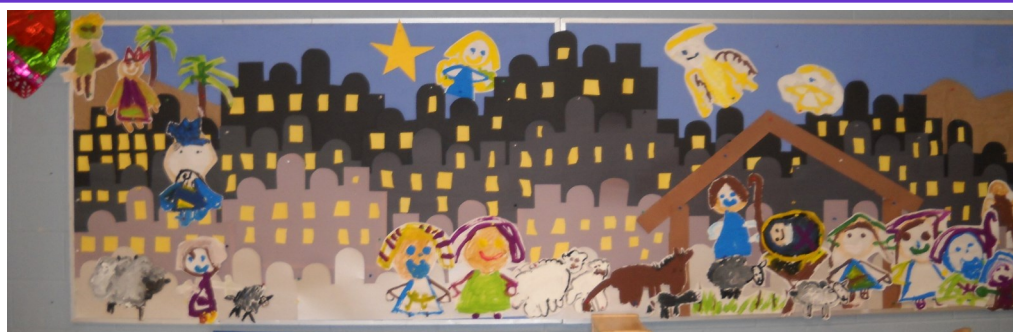


Mrs. Montemarano's Grade 4 Class



**FAMILY
BINGO
NIGHT:**

A fun time was had by all!



*Mrs.
Marzario/Ms.
Abraham's
FDK*



Mrs. Colasanti/Mrs. Imbrogno's FDK



Mrs. Del Bove/Mrs. Amaral's FDK



SNOW

We encourage children to play in the snow, but we do have some safety rules that they must follow for their safety and well-being:

1. When building snow structures - no roofs, no tunnels. As these pose serious risk of collapsing which can result in serious injury.
2. No snow ball throwing, no kicking or throwing of snow. Injuries have occurred in the past due to the force of impact and/or ice particles in the snow causing scratches/cuts/bruising etc.
3. No tripping or tackling, or pushing students into the snow on the ground or snow banks. This is also in keeping with our daily rule which is read over the P.A. every morning.

“At St. Gabriel we respect ourselves and others, we keep our hands and feet to ourselves. We respect others through words and actions. We work and play fairly and include others.”

If students do throw **snow/snowballs** the consequences may include one or more of the following:

1st time: a **letter** to parents and detention(s).

2nd time: **phone call** to parents for a repeated incident, and increase in number of detention(s) and Reflection paper.

3rd time: **parent meeting** and appropriate consequences, and Reflection paper.

ROUGH PLAY

Rough play is absolutely not allowed. Games that include physical contact: such as wrestling, tackling, tugging, kicking, punching, pushing etc., are not permitted, due to it may lead to increase aggression toward others and/or may result in serious injury.

Cooperative play is encouraged. Students are encouraged to take turns, include others, and never physically or verbally abuse anyone.

It is **never** acceptable to hit another person. Self-defense is for dangerous community/public at risk situations, where ones' personal safety is at risk. At school students must resolve conflicts by:

1. Using their words, in an appropriate manner
2. Walk away
3. Ask an adult to assist them

Students are reminded frequently and regularly of these rules on the announcements, by their classroom teachers, staff on duty and with reminders for safe recess play which are posted in their classrooms.

Please discuss this rules with your children and the

WINTER RECESS ROUTINES

Weather permitting, students will be outside for both 15-minute recesses and the 40-minute lunch recess during the winter months.

We check the weather station before each recess and adhere to:

-15°C lunch recess is shortened to 20 minutes outdoor and 20 minutes indoor and short a.m. and/or p.m. recesses are outdoor

-16°C and lower, it will be indoor recess for short and lunch recesses

Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed for this length of time outside. Students who play in the snow must have snow pants, boots, hats, scarves and water repellent gloves.

It's a good idea to have **an extra change of clothes**, at school especially for primary students, in the event that their socks or pants get wet. These clothes items should be clearly labelled and kept in the child's school bag so that we do not have to inconvenience you with a phone call requesting that you bring dry clothing for your child.

Check out the following website to read about why playing outside during winter months is beneficial for children:

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/children-winter-cold-health-safety/40982792>



**THE NEXT CIVVIES
DAY IS FRIDAY, DE-
CEMBER 21ST!**

REMINDERS:

- * **Spirit Wear Order Forms are due in the office no later than Friday, December 14th.**
- * **Hot Lunch Order Forms are due in the office no later than Friday, December 14th**
- * **Last Day of school is Friday, December 21st. School resumes again on Monday, January 7th.**

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

sga.ycdsb.ca

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

In the event that school buses are canceled due to Inclement weather, parents/guardians are able to listen to the radio and TV stations listed below for bus cancellations. Also make note of the following:

- Please use the Safe Arrival System if your child(ren) is absent due to inclement weather.
- Please exercise discretion in deciding whether to send your child to school.
- The decision to cancel school transportation service is region-wide, meaning all school buses, vans and taxis are not operating. Schools will be open and parents/guardians can make alternate arrangements to transport their children to and from school.
- As school transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will not operate in the afternoon.
- Exams, tests, quizzes, excursions, charter trips, school programs, co-curricular activities, evening presentations, workshops, in-services, as well as, parent meetings (e.g. Identification, Placement, and Review Committee Meetings, IPRCs) are cancelled and will be rescheduled.
- Hot lunches will be canceled. If you choose to send your child to school, they must bring a lunch from home.
- Permits are cancelled for the evening.
- All Continuing Education Courses scheduled for during the day and evening, are cancelled. This includes: ESL, Secondary, and Adult Interest Courses.

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001.


Radio and TV Stations

Radio



AM 640	640AM
CBC	99.1FM
CFNY	102.1FM
CFRB	1010AM
CHAY	93.1FM
CHFI	98.1FM
CHIN	1540AM & 100.7FM
CHRW	94.9FM
CHUM	1050AM & 104.5 FM
CIQB	101.1FM
CJBC	860AM
CJCL	590AM
CJEZ	97.3FM
CJKX	95.9FM & 89.9FM
CKDO	1580AM
CKDX	88.5FM
CKFM	99.9FM
KISS	92.5FM
NEWS	680AM
Q107	107.1FM

Television



CITY TV
CTV BARRIE
CTV TORONTO
CP24
GLOBAL NEWS



Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR)

Our Mission

STSYR is committed to supporting student achievement by planning and managing safe, efficient transportation that focuses on customer service and utilizes innovative resources.

Our Vision

Continuously striving to be the model for Student Transportation Services in partnership with our schools and communities.

Student Transportation Services of York Region

320 Bloomington Street West, Aurora, ON L4G 0M1
905.713.2535 www.schoolbuscity.com

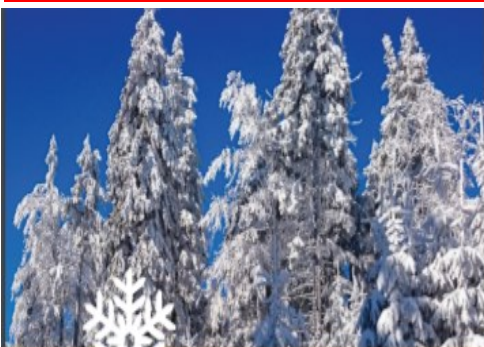


Better Together!
Student Transportation Services of York Region
Service de transport scolaire-Région de York

Inclement Weather Guideline

York Catholic & York Region
District School Boards

A Resource for
Parents/Guardians



Inclement Weather Notification

School transportation service may be cancelled due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. Unless otherwise stated, schools remain open when transportation services are cancelled. The safety and well-being of our students is taken into consideration when making decisions concerning the cancellation of school transportation. In the event that school transportation is cancelled, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Information regarding the cancellation of school transportation or school closures is made available by 6:15 a.m.

Cancellation decisions are made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecasts.

A decision to cancel school transportation service is region-wide, meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.

Cancellations are made region-wide as both the YCDSB and the YRDSB operate many regional educational programs, and students attending these programs are transported over large areas covering several municipal boundaries.

In the event of School Transportation Cancellations:

- **Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open.**
- If school transportation is cancelled in the morning, it **will not** operate in the afternoon.
- If school transportation is cancelled, all excursions and charter trips will also be cancelled.



Inclement Weather Notifications will be posted to:

- Transportation Website: www.schoolbuscity.com
- Board Websites: www.ycdsb.ca / www.yrdsb.ca
- Twitter: @YCDSB @YRDSB
- School Websites

Parents/Guardians:

- Exercise good judgment in deciding whether to send your child to school when school transportation has been cancelled.
- Listen to designated TV and radio stations.
- In the event school transportation is cancelled, exams, tests, quizzes, excursions, school programs, co-curricular activities and evening presentations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- For a complete list of program, service or meeting cancellations as a result of inclement weather, please visit your school board website.





December 2018

From your partners at the SGA Catholic School Council

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." Luke 1:30-31



	<p>Adopt-a-family</p> <p>Back by popular demand. Our parish, Immaculate Conception, is very grateful that we will be running this program again this year. THANK YOU for your generosity and kindness toward those who need it. The families we helped were touched by the loving spirit of our community.</p> <p>Our Adopt-a-family program will run from December 5th to December 14th. The classes received all the information for their specific families. If you have any questions, please forward them to the school and a Faith Committee member will get back to you. THANK YOU for helping promote the Christmas Spirit in our community!</p>
	<p>Santa Claus to visit classrooms - December 20th</p> <p>We know all of our children are trying to make it onto the nice list, to help make sure they stay on that path ☺, Santa is coming to SGA during the day on December 20th. Santa's elves will also be assisting with delivering hot chocolate, and cookies that day. A great big THANK YOU to Ward 3 Councillor DeFrancesca, Regional Councillor Rosati and MP Sorbara for their donations towards this event.</p>
<p>CSC Meeting</p>	<p>Our next CSC (Catholic School Council) meeting will be on Wednesday December 12 at 7:15pm in the library. All parents are invited to all council meetings. We hope to see you there.</p>
	<p>Hot Lunch News!</p> <p>Next Hot Lunch term is from January 14th to the end of March... AND...</p> <p>Harvey's will join our menu as a lunch option on Fridays 😊</p>
	<p><i>Thank you for all your donations of new socks, mittens, gloves or hats for the homeless as an "admission" ticket from Bingo Night.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you to all the volunteers that assisted with Hot Lunch, the Health Snack Program and the Halloween Dance these past few months.</i></p> <p><i>Your generosity and support help make our community special! Thank you for all you do!</i></p>

St. Nicholas prayer

Lord, you make this day special
with the memory of the good bishop Nicholas.
He praised you in all the wonders he worked,
he thanked you in all the gifts he shared with the poor.
May we have ears like Saint Nicholas to hear when any are in need,
and hands always ready to help and share.
Blessed are you, O Lord, in all your saints.
Amen



**Your partners at the SGA Catholic School Council
wish you and your families the very merriest Christmas and
may the joys and warmth of Christmas remain with you in the New Year**





Active School Travel

December 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As the colder months approach us, our time spent outdoors is often limited. However, there are many benefits to being outdoors in the winter including: encouraging creative play; increasing physical exercise using different muscles groups; getting fresh air; improving problem-solving skills; and increasing exposure to vitamin D.

Just as we prepare for winter by bundling up or getting our flu shots, we prepare for Christmas by celebrating the Advent season. Advent is a time to reflect and prepare for the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our York Catholic **Active School Travel Team** and **Religious Education Department** have teamed up this Advent to take our students on an **Active School Travel Challenge**. Using the Jesse Journey Tree, pictured on the right, students are encouraged to reflect on a different Jesse Journey Tree symbol and its related scripture passage each day as they journey to school between December 3 - 21.



How it works:

- [Download our Active School Travel Challenge Package](#) containing Jesse Journey Tree symbols, scripture passages and prayers for each day of Advent. Please print off a copy for your child. The package is also posted on the Boards website under Student Transportation at: <https://www.ycdsb.ca/student-transportation/>.
- Each day, families/students read the passage and prayer and children colour and cut out their symbol at home (with the help of an adult as needed), and carry it with them as they walk/wheel to school or their bus stop while making the daily journey connections.
- When students arrive at school, or at an appropriate time during the school day, they should then add their symbol under the Jesse Journey Tree located in the school's front foyer. Over the course of the 15 school days during Advent, the tree will fill up.
- We will Tweet the symbols and connections each school day from [@ycdsb_AST](#). Tweet us photos of your journey and tag [@ycdsb_AST](#) so we can share your child's Advent journey.
- Following the daily symbols in the [Active School Travel Challenge Package](#) there is a picture of a Jesse Tree for your child to colour the corresponding symbol for each day they walk/wheel to school or the bus stop. Send a photo of your child's coloured tree to: activeschooltravel@ycdsb.ca by January 7, 2019 to be entered in a prize draw! The winner will be chosen by random draw, no minimum days required for entry.

The Jesse Journey Tree is a way of celebrating our religious family tree while we promote healthy living, and a rich prayer life. We hope you will join us on this Advent journey!

Sincerely,

YCDSB Active School Travel Team and the Religious Education Department

**ACTIVE
SCHOOL TRAVEL**
York Catholic District School Board



York Catholic District School Board



Learning Together in Christ
Creating Learning, Growing

Student Services will be hosting an

INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS REGISTERING FOR KINDERGARTEN YEAR 1 (JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN) IN SEPTEMBER 2019



**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR PARENT INFORMATION SESSION TO
LEARN ABOUT OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019
York Catholic District School Board
Boardroom
320 Bloomington Road West
Catholic Education Centre
Aurora
7:15 pm - 8:30 pm

Register at link:
<https://goo.gl/fs2bAf>
 Registration deadline:
 January 15, 2019

Mission Statement

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 Statement

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

Core Values

Excellence, Equity, Integrity, Respect, Catholicity, Individuality, Social Responsibility

Strategic Commitments

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