

September 2019



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

Opiyo Oloya

Principal

Christine Sandig

Secretarial Staff

Maria Iazzi
Christina Marascio

Office Support Staff

Christina Marascio

Immaculate Conception Church

Pastor:

Fr. Eugene Chianain

Associate:

Fr. Martin Cherumadathy

From The Principal's Desk:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for a very successful and smooth beginning to the school year. It is wonderful to be at St. Gabriel's with such a vibrant and supportive community. As we say good bye and wish all the best to staff who have left St. Gabriel's (Mr. Filippelli, Ms. Venier, Mr. Grasso, Mr. Pianezza, Mr. Guarneri, Ms. Muzzi, Ms. Tonelli, Ms. Sassi, Mr. Miceli, and Ms. Racco), we welcome new staff: Mrs. Maneli (Gr. 2/3), Mrs. Varricchio (Gr. 5/6), Ms. Pasquariello (Teacher-Librarian), Mr. Culmone (Music), Ms. Bruno (French), Ms. Torres-Quesada-Karys (French), Ms. Micaleff (Phys. Ed), Ms. Papini (Phys. Ed), Ms. Phang (ESL), Mrs. Fortunato (E.A.), and Ms. M. Rodriguez (E.A.). Finally, a warm welcome to a new school year, for both our new families who have recently joined our community and for our returning families. A new school year brings with it new hopes and goals for the year ahead. Thank you as well to our dedicated team of caretakers who worked tirelessly throughout the summer months to ensure the school was ready for September, Peltar Paving for the wonderful new grounds, and Angela Grella who tended and nurtured the lovely flowers in front of the school. Many of these flowers were donated by the community and planted by students and Ms. da Costa.

Even though the school year has just begun, we are already planning events, teams and activities full of rich learning opportunities, experiences and challenges. Together in partnership with parish and parents we will continue to strive to teach our students to become responsible, respectful, successful global citizens who are life-long learners able to meet the challenges of their world.

I invite you to join us throughout the year to attend all of our events, assemblies, activities and trips—become involved as a volunteer or member of Catholic School Council (CSC), a nomination form is included with this newsletter and already sent out via email. There will be a CSC meeting including elections on Wednesday, September 25th. Please consider joining—I am very proud of all that the CSC has accomplished over the last year and look forward to a new year of partnership. Please join us on Curriculum Night on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. for an opportunity to meet teachers, staff, see the school and learn more about the curriculum and what St. Gabriel is all about.

We are very proud to be able to continue to call our school a "WE" school and a Gold Medal Eco-School. We are confident that this year will bring equal or greater success in these endeavours. We will continue to distribute monthly school newsletters via email as well as being posted on the school's website www.sga.ycdsb.ca on the first Friday of every month. Please ensure that we have your correct email address. Also I encourage you to refer to the website for news as well as the calendar portion which is updated frequently.

Looking forward to a promising and successful new school year working together in partnership with school, home and parish. In closing, I would like to share the prayer of St. Gabriel.

Yours in Catholic Education,

*Ms. C. Sandig
Principal*

*Dear God,
With Saint Gabriel as our guide,
may we grow in love, faith
and knowledge.
May our uniqueness always be a source
of strength and driving force to
a world of peace.
As Saint Gabriel proclaimed the Good News
To our Blessed Mother, may we too share
the light of Christ with others.
We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen*

September

16th to 24th—CSC Nomination Forms accepted in the office

18th—Curriculum Night
7:00 p.m. at SGA

19th—WE Day Trip

23rd—PA Day—no school for students. Faith Day for YCDSB staff.

25th—CSC Elections and Meeting—7:00p.m.

27—Terry Fox Run pm & Civvies Day

28—10:40 Mass @ school
pm Terry Fox Rain Date

24th-28th—Safety Week

30th—Immunization Gr. 7 & Orange Shirt day

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

**In the Month of September we celebrate the virtue of
Courage**

Our three "I Will" statements are:
I will stand up for what I know is right and just. I will face challenges, fears and difficulties with fortitude.
I will take responsibility for reaching my potential.



Partners in Faith



With Immaculate Conception Parish

All grade 2 and grade 7 students who will be celebrating the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation must register with Immaculate Conception Parish as soon as possible. Notifications for meetings regarding the sacraments have already been issued from the Parish through the Sunday bulletins and sent via email from the school. Please watch for special notices with specific information regarding preparation for the sacraments. Please note that there will be a fee applied to cover the expense of books and other activities. A copy of the Baptismal certificate of the candidate is required at the time of registration. Forms may be obtained in the Church office or on the Parish website and can be returned during office hours. The deadline to register for either sacrament is **Monday, September 30th**. This year, Confirmation is **Thursday, May 7th @ 7 pm** and First Holy Communion is **Sunday, May 24th @ 12:30 pm**.

Upcoming school masses and liturgies (such as the Thanksgiving mass) will be published throughout the year on the school website as well as the newsletters. Please check the website calendar.

CIVVIES DAYS 2019-2020:

The first Civvies Day will be September 27– toonies and loonies will be in support of Terry Fox – students are encouraged to wear red and white.

Unless otherwise specified, all civvies days' contributions will be going to Share Life. The following are civvies days for the upcoming school year will generally be on the last Friday of the month with a few exceptions (noted by the *). Please note that throughout the year, there will be special days to observe important causes –for example, September 30th Orange Shirt Day.

October 18* (as 25th is Photo day and dress code is required)

November 29

December 20 (Holiday Theme)

January 31

February 28

March 27

April 24

May 29

June 25

St. Gabriel 2019-2020 Staff

FDK M. Colasanti

FDK L. DelBove

FDK P. Marzario

Gr. 1/2 D. Gironda

Gr. 1 I. DiLoreto
& P. Mazzoli

Gr. 2 R. Conroy

Gr. 2 A. Ellero

Gr. 2/3 D. Maneli

Gr. 3 R. Vavaroutsos

Gr. 3/4 D. Simos

Gr. 4 S. Montemarano

Gr. 4/5 L. Fantauzzi

Gr. 5 M. Santeramo

Gr. 5/6 L. Varricchio

Gr. 6 T. D'Urzo

Gr. 6 R. Tenaglia

Gr. 7 E. Aresta

Gr. 7 V. Marchese

Gr. 8 L. Amado

Gr. 8 L. Rodrigues

I.S.A L. Bagnoli

Sp.Ed. T. daCosta

Sp.Ed. A. Romano

Sp. Ed L. Bagnoli

Teacher LibrarianG. Pasquariello
ESL F. Phang

French E. TorresQuesadaKarys

French C. Paolozzi

French M. Bruno

Italian TBD

Italian F. Tucciarone

Phys.Ed. J. Micaleff

Phys.Ed. J. Papini

Music R. Culmone

E.A.s C. Auciello

C. Donia

A. Chiola

V. Gomelesio

M. Fortunato

M. Rodrigues

E. I S. Adu

E.C.E.s C. Abraham,

M. Imbrogno

C. Carnovale

L.T.S. C. Marascio

N. Lafiura

L. Calabro

J. Paolucci

Custodians

D. Nortangelo

R. Arena

R. Abainza

CANADA'S ANTI-SPAM LEGISLATION

Commercial Electronic Messages

from the York Catholic District School Board and its schools

The York Catholic District School Board requires the permission of its parents / guardians in order to receive any electronic messages, which contain a commercial element.

Examples of Commercial Electronic Messages include:

- School newsletters
- All fundraising information (hot lunch, pizza days, civvies days, school BBQ)
- Field Trips
- Year Books
- Spirit Wear
- Student Photos, etc.

If you have not consented, please visit

<http://www.ycdsb.ca/cas/> and enter the same email address which was provided on the School Emergency Form.

Our school's Golden Rule is read each day on the morning Announcements:

"At St. Gabriel we respect ourselves and others. We keep our hands and feet to ourselves. We work and play fairly and include others."

Important Forms

The majority of forms and important letters, will be sent home with the eldest child in the family. Please look for the following forms and return them to the school as soon as possible:

- Emergency Information Form
- Freedom of Information
- Lunch Routine Form
- Annual Technology Consent Form

Catholic School Council Nomination Form is at the end of this newsletter

Reporting Student Absences

Reporting Student Absences Safe Arrival Please call 1-855-856-7862 or log into go.schoolmessenger.ca to report your child's absence PRIOR to 8:50 am. If you do not call, you will receive automated phone calls and calls from the school secretary in order to confirm your child's absence and to provide an explanation for the absence. If we are unable to reach you the emergency contacts will be called in order to locate the child. If we are unable to locate the child, the Police will be called.

Please be advised that if your child is returning to school after an illness, they will be required to go outside for all recesses, unless they have a note from a Doctor.

Freedom of Information Notice to Parents

During this school year, your child(ren) will be involved in a variety of school related activities and events consistent with the purpose of educating students in accordance with the *Education Act*.

Upon registering your child with the York Catholic District School Board you completed a **Freedom of Information Consent**.

Personal information is collected pursuant to the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. We bring to your attention the following areas that you and/or your child's personal information may be disclosed without separate notification to you, such as:

- Catholic School Council activities and Catholic School Council communications.
- Class lists, emergency phone networks, local Parish, Catholic Community Services, etc.
- In case of an accident or witness to an accident, the student's name and home address will be released to the Board's insurer.
- The release of photographs, artwork, writing or other school-work to the media (print/electronic) and/or school/Board website.
- The use of names, photographs, etc. used for display in the school, newsletters, and yearbooks

Please complete the FOI A21 Freedom of Information Form included with this newsletter and return as soon as possible. Otherwise, the school will assume your approval.

Questions about the collection and the use of this personal information should be directed to the Freedom of Information Coordinator, York Catholic District School Board, 320 Bloomington Rd. W., Aurora, Ontario L3G 3G8 or (905) 713-2711.

SEPTEMBER 23TH is a PA Day -There is no school for students.

Supervision At School

Supervision begins at 8:35a.m. Please ensure that your child does not enter the playground prior to the 8:35 a.m. supervision. After school, please pick up students promptly at 3:40 p.m. if they are not on the school bus. **Parents are kindly asked not to remain in the school yard after drop off or pick up, this allows for easy stranger identification for all, if the only adults in the yard are school staff.**

Lunch Drop-off

Children should arrive at school with their lunch in the morning, however, at times you may find it necessary to deliver a lunch to school. Please:

- Keep lunch drop-offs to a minimum (emergency or special occasions)
- Deliver to the lunch table in the front foyer before 12:00 noon
- Write your child's name on the bag

Going Home For lunch

Students going home for lunch are to be picked up at the front doors of the school only. Please ensure that you have completed the Lunch Routine Form which is included with this newsletter and return it to the school. This will inform us of what your child will be doing for his/her lunch time routine. Notes for going home/off the premises must be presented **each time/day no later than 10:30 am of that day. We do not accept notes covering the entire year.**

Catholic School Council

A CSC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 25th** at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Nomination Forms are due Sept 24. Elections will be held on this date. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend and participate in all CSC meetings and events.

CSC Elections

The forms for the Catholic School Council Nominations are included in this newsletter. Our CSC plays an important advisory role in the successful operation of our school. This council provides a great opportunity for parents' input and feedback. **In order to be an eligible candidate, your nomination form must be handed into the office no later than Tuesday, September 24th by 4:00 p.m.** If an election is required, it will take place during the meeting on Tuesday, September 25th in the library. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. Good luck to all candidates. **Being a part of Catholic School Council is a great way to volunteer and get involved.** Candidacy form is the last page of this newsletter.

Curriculum Night

Please join us on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. for our meet the teacher/Curriculum Night. From 7:00—7:30, you may visit the classrooms and meet with your child(ren)'s teachers. Followed by an assembly in the gym from 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Grade 7 Immunization

The health nurses will be in on **Monday, September 30th** to administer vaccinations to Grade 7 students. Consent forms will be sent home in the near future. Your child must return the form to the school in order to receive their vaccine.

Photo Day

Thursday, October 25th is picture day. I am pleased to announce that this year, **Clear Images Photography** will be taking student photos and providing you with package information and cost. Students must be in full Standardized Dress Code. Remember to bring your smiles!

Anaphylaxis—Life Threatening Allergies:

The beginning of a new school year is the perfect time to review and continue to work together in making our school a safer environment for our students with *life-threatening food and insect bite 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/tree nut safe environment. You will see signs to this effect clearly posted at the entrances of the school. Please review with your (ran) our Board's Policy 209, "**Protection of Anaphylactic Students**", which is located in on the Board's website, www.ycdsb.ca, under Policies.

There may also be a student in your child's class who is allergic to a specific food other than peanuts/nuts. If this is the case, a letter outlining these specific foods will be sent home with your child. Please remember our *entire* school is peanut/tree nut safe. Our school has been proactive in the following ways:

- All staff is trained at least twice a year regarding administration of the Epi-Pen and recognizing reactions/symptoms
- Peanuts/tree nuts and nut bi-products are strictly avoided throughout the school
- Some classes will have additional food items which also must **not** be brought into that specific classroom
- Sharing of food and drinks is **strictly prohibited**
- All snacks/lunches must be eaten indoors; food is not permitted on school buses, outdoors at recess breaks and lunch recess.

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- Inform the school principal of their child's allergy
- In a timely manner, provide the office with an Epi-pen, complete the medical forms and the Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan, which includes a photograph, description of the child's allergy, emergency procedure, contact information, and consent to administer medication. The Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan will be posted in key areas of the school, e.g. Health Room, Office, teacher's daybook.
- If possible, have the child wear a medical identification, e.g. MedicAlert bracelet. The identification could alert others to the child's allergies and indicate that he/she carries an Epi-pen.
- Have their child at risk of anaphylaxis carry their Epi-pen with them in a KozyEpi Pouch, E-belt or Ana-tote -see Anaphylaxis Canada at their website: Anaphylaxis.org

All birthday treat-bags must contain **non-edible** items only (no food of any kind). Donating a game to your child's classroom is a great alternative to individual treat bags. Students can use these games during indoor recesses once the cold weather approaches. Talk to your child's teacher to find out which games would be appropriate.

Please inform the school immediately if your child has a life-threatening allergy. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. We thank you for your continued support and collaboration with regard to these procedures.

Check out our website (including the calendar) for upcoming events at: <http://sga.ycdsb.ca/>

POLICY 206: PROTECTION OF STUDENTS WITH ASTHMA

Please advise the school immediately upon registration and/or when in receipt of a diagnosis of asthma. It is also the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all medical information pertinent to their child's diagnosis of asthma is always current. If your child has a diagnosis of asthma please contact the school office immediately so that the appropriate forms are completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Policy 206. Thank you for your immediate attention to this request and your ongoing support in the shared responsibility for asthma management in our school. Please refer to the Board's website for more information related to Policy 206.

Medication: If your child requires medication (prescribed by a physician), please notify the school and complete the necessary forms (available at the office). All medication must be sent to the office for safekeeping. Please note that medication cannot be administered without completing the necessary forms.

Driveway and School Bus Safety:

Drive slowly and carefully - student safety is our priority.

Parents are respectfully asked to use the parking lot on the south side of the school or park on the street and walk their children to the yard. Thanks to recent site improvements, we have a lovely new driveway as well as crosswalks, sidewalks and speedbumps which are there for everyone's safety. Everyone is encouraged to cross the driveway/parking lot only where there are the painted crosswalk/speedbump and not to run across. We can try using the second lane in the front driveway **ONLY** if all of the following rules are observed: Please:

-stop at speed bumps/cross walks to ensure that all may cross safely

-do not attempt to pass the school buses

-Please remember that the entrance driveway is one way only and is not to be used as an exit.

-do not park in front of the exit

-the left lane of the front drive is no longer a parking area, we can try to have students dropped off as long as only they are exiting the car

-Please do not park along the Fire routes at any time (now painted with lines)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Safety Week is September 24 to September 27

During safety week we will be practicing various safety drills such as Fire Drills/School evacuation, Severe Weather Drills and Hold and Secure. So don't be alarmed if you hear the alarm go off or if your child comes home and tells you that we had to evacuate the building. We are practicing so that in the event of a real emergency we can quickly and calmly provide safety for our students, staff and visitors in the school. A letter will be sent home via email next week.

Terry Fox Run

We are proud to be participating in a Terry Fox Run on Oct. 3rd, rain date will be Oct. 4th. Schools across Canada will be running/walking to show their support for cancer research, and to keep Terry's dream alive. Information and pledge sheets will be sent home shortly with every child from Kindergarten to Grade 8. More details will be sent home shortly. Hope to see you there!

PACE Screening: Every fall, all of the Grade 4 students in the York Catholic District School Board write the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT). This test provides us with information that help us in programming for all the students, and enable us to identify students in our school who may benefit from our program for gifted students known as “Program for Academic and Creative Extension” (PACE). Details have been sent home with Grade 4 students this past week.

ECO CLUB: We are pleased to once again be an Eco Gold School. One of the initiatives is Litterless Lunch Wednesdays. In support of this, please pack a litterless lunch every Wednesday with reusable containers.

Zinc Saves Lives Battery Recycling Campaign:

This campaign gives students the opportunity to recycle used batteries to help save the lives of children. For every AA battery recycled, Teck will donate the value of zinc recycled to WE in support of Zinc and health programming in Africa. One AA battery contains the same amount of zinc that can save the lives of 6 children. During this campaign, we can recycle to help keep batteries out of landfills and help get zinc to those who need it most.

Personal Electronic Devices (PEDS) – Student Use

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board that:

all personal electronic devices (PEDs), which include cell phones, ipods, etc., carried by students shall be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used during the day. Students must have prior authorization from the school principal for use during school related activities. Teachers will review the policy with students, and students will be made aware of the consequences. Thank you for working with us to ensure an environment within our schools that is conducive to student learning and is respectful, safe, and protects individual privacy of both staff and students; promotes and teaches behaviour within our schools that demonstrates responsible and respectful use of these electronic devices. Please see the YCDSB website- Policies - PED for complete details.

No Parking—Through Lane



No Parking—fire and bus lane



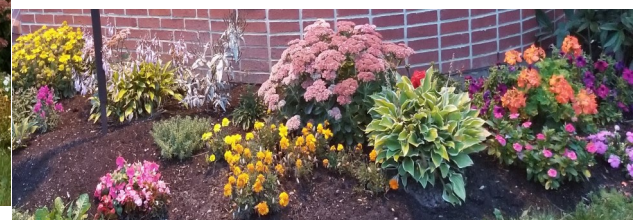
Speed bumps/ Cross Walks



New FDK Fence /wider sidewalks



Thank you for your donations last spring, planting supervised by Ms. daCosta and Mrs. Grella who nurtured and took loving care of our flowers!





St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic School Council 2018-19 Annual Report for 2018-19



Dear Parents and School Community:

THANK YOU!!!! Thank you for all you do as part of our community. Our community is united in our commitment to common goals and values imbedded in our strong faith. We are pleased to present this Annual Report for the year 2018-19.



"We are all one family in this world. Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights and responsibilities make the world a better place to live."
Pope John Paul II on community

Our school council held 9 regular meetings during the school year. Council meetings are open to everyone in the community; you do not have to be a voting member to attend. As always, we encouraged every member of our community to come out to our meetings. Everyone's input is valuable and respected. We also encouraged families to contact the school council with questions about how to get involved at the school or any other information from a parent perspective.

The purpose of the school council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board.

School councils are responsible for:

- Sharing information with families & the community and seeking input on matters being discussed.
- Providing advice to the principal and school board on issues such as school year calendars, strategies to improve school performance, codes of conduct and dress, curriculum priorities, safe arrival programs, community use of schools and community programs provided at the school.
- Many school councils are also actively involved in organizing social events for the school community and fundraising events.

Our school council excels at community building events where our families can come together, create and renew bonds and foster a sense of family and togetherness. They provide activities and opportunities for participation, volunteering, awareness, developing partnerships and involvement within our community.

This year our focus was on student health, safety and wellbeing. We were actively involved in organizing events this school year. We've put together a summary of our activities in this report.

The members of this year's council were:

Members: Christine Sandig (Principal), Tony Lacaria (Chair), Frank Longobardi (Vice Chair), Janice Sopta (Treasurer), Diana Lacaria (Secretary), Linda Calabro, Dianne Curran, Silvia Espinoza Chavez, Diana Fiorucci, Julie Paolucci, Nancy Papa, Maria Papastathis, Vanessa Pedone, Alex Russo, Leanna Santorsola, Ricardo Scicchitano, Sonia Segreti, Nancy Spagnuolo-DaSilva, Rosemary Stalteri-Barranca, Joanne Tibaldi, Anna Vescio
Teacher reps: Ms. Conroy, Ms. Romano and Ms. Vavaroutsos
Community reps: Anabela Da Silva and Emanuela Polin-DeLuca

Hot Lunch – September to June

"Bless us Oh Lord and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive, from Thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen"



Our students really enjoy the variety that we can provide through this lunch program. Our families really enjoy the quality and convenience of this program. This year we had the help of student volunteers to assist with lunch deliveries. Thank you students!

Snack Program – October to June

"Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day; teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime"



Our healthy snack program is as much about teaching children healthy food options as it is about providing them a healthy snack once a week. We also held the 4th annual Big Crunch event in March. This program is funded in part by grants obtained through the work of the Snack Program Committee as well as fundraised dollars throughout the year. The program ran every Thursday for morning snack and was free to all. This year we also began a "Grab and Go" basket filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, it's in the main office and available to all the students daily.

Halloween Dance – October 31st

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28



This was the second year where a group of phenomenal grade 8 students were in charge of the dance, with our assistance. We met a few times a week during lunch to coordinate the dance. They compiled a play list, DJ'd the dance, worked on the décor of the gym, set up and the clean up afterwards. It was a fantastic opportunity where our students showed a tremendous amount of maturity and community.

Bingo Night – November 30th

"All the believers were together and had everything in common" Acts 2:44



This was the first community building committee event this year. Over 400 people attended and enjoyed this event. It was held in the gym during the evening, the tables were all lined with craft paper and the bingo "dabbers" were crayons. All prizes were donated by families and vendors in our community. As in the previous year, "admission" to the event was a donation of hats, mitts, gloves or scarves that were then donated to charities helping families.

Poinsettia Sale – December

"and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" Hebrews 10:24



The Fundraising Committee ran the poinsettia sale as a small fundraiser before Christmas. The proceeds were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies.

Adopt-a-Family – December

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving" – Mother Teresa



The Faith Committee led various activities this year. The first was the adopt-a-family program just before Christmas. This program supports the efforts of the Immaculate Conception Parish Communities at Christmas time. Each classroom adopted a family. Our families were very generous, and we were able to provide gifts and food for families in need.

Visit from Santa & his elves – December 20th

"Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down." Pope Francis



With the assistance of some special elves from the Snack Committee we were also able to provide our students with some cookies and hot chocolate during the Advent season.

Youth Speak -February 8th an March 21st

"I don't want other people to decide who I am, I want to decide that for myself." – Emma Watson for Youth Speak



The Diversity subcommittee put together two "Youth Speak" presentations and dialogue. The first was for our students on February 8th. The speakers spoke about kindness, exercise, emotions, acceptance, self-awareness, inclusivity, respect, perseverance and empowerment. Our students really enjoyed this and had good conversations with the speakers.

With the help of the last of the re-instated ProGrant funds, we had a family follow-up Youth Speak event. Through the Mental Health and Awareness Parent Session youth speakers share their personal stories to increase understanding of relevant issues on mental health and online/social media bullying etc... Families learned tips on building relationships with their children, identifying their strengths and resiliency skills, etc. Families in attendance received a parent tip sheet and resource list.

Family Dinner Night at Premier Banquet Hall - February 22nd

"God wants us all to see one another as brothers and to live as such, forming a great human family that's harmonious in its diversity" – Pope Francis



Our Community Building Committee's efforts for the second St. Gabriel's Family night were very successful. The goal of this night was to have a fun family night out with friends. Goal accomplished! There was a 3-course dinner, a DJ, a photographer and some fantastic performances by students from The Arthur Murray Dance Studio. We also had some terrific prizes that were raffled that night.

Shrove Tuesday – March 5th

"Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand" – Mother Teresa



The Faith committee coordinated Pancake Tuesday for the school. Volunteers were at school early to begin setting up all the juice boxes, utensils and pancakes. A special thank you to Just Catering for Kids for donating all the pancakes that morning. Over 1200 pancakes were served throughout the morning on Tuesday February 13th.

Pay It Forward * Birthday Boxes* – March

"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted" – Aesop



Led by the Diversity Committee, the Pay It Forward Birthday Box provided children in need at a local women's shelter, with all the supplies needed for a birthday party. Each classroom filled one or two "party in a box" with party plates, napkins, tablecloths, candles, streamers, gift cards for birthday cakes, presents etc... The local shelter was very happy and moved by our efforts.

Chocolate Fundraiser – March & April

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" Helen Keller



The Fundraising Committee ran the sale of chocolate fundraiser this year around Easter time. This fundraiser was to raise funds for student activities like scientist-in-the-school, agendas, quiet room, etc...

The proceeds of our fund-raising efforts were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies. These activities are identified in the financial statements submitted to the YCDSB. Minutes of meetings held and financial records are available for inspection at the school office.

Chapters Indigo Family Night – May 15

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child." Dr. Seuss



Following up on the success of last year's event we were able to host another evening at Chapters Indigo this year. 20% of all purchases that evening came back to the school as well as provide 3 whole boxes of new books.

Year End Celebration – June 21st

"A day spent with you is my favourite day. So today is my new favourite day." Disney's Christopher Robbin



The last event held was our Year End Celebration. What an evening! We had a blow-up castle, Music and Henna provided by students and alumni, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Snow Cones, Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips, Iced Coffee & Water, all available to our families at no cost. We also hosted a few local vendors who we able to join us for this fabulous community event.

Safe Schools

"I plead with you, never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." – St. John Paul II



The Safe Schools Committee holds conversations with the school board and other municipal agencies and governments around the safety of our children and families. There is still much work to be done and as always, we encourage feedback and participation from our community. The new walkway, driveway and parking lot improvements are thanks in part to the hard work of this committee from this and past years.

Money well spent!

With our fundraising efforts we were able to partially or fully fund the following programs and events:

Agendas, Arts & Crafts for the students, Calming room renovation support including New Century floor, Carnavale support, Confirmation celebration acknowledgement, First Communion celebration acknowledgment, Glow stick and Popcorn for the school dance, Good Sheppard's fund, Grade 8 hoodies, Grade 8 graduation ceremony support, Healthy Snack Program, Kindergarten celebration acknowledgment, Library Support, Reduce cost of Yearbooks, Scientist in the school, Staff Appreciation with the purchase of Cricket machine for staff to use and the purchase of new Technology.





We had a great time putting all the events together and really appreciate **ALL** the wonderful volunteers that make all our events successful. We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the school council last year. **THANK YOU!** for your friendship, support, encouragement, participation and generosity this school year. We are grateful to be part of such a supportive community. Thank you for all you do for our children.

Finally, we would like to wish the best of luck to candidates in the September 2019 school council elections. We are looking forward to continuing to serve in our new community.

Sincerely yours,
The SGA Catholic School 2018-9
September 5, 2019

St. Gabriel The Archangel Catholic School Council
Nomination Form 2019
"Our Children Are the Future – Get Involved"

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back as we begin another school year, one which we know will be a most exciting and rewarding experience for students, staff and parents alike. We cannot emphasize the importance of this learning partnership enough, and with that in mind, extend an invitation to our parent community to consider becoming a member of the St. Gabriel Catholic School Council. This is an exciting opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic, social and spiritual aspects of school life here at St. Gabriel. Nomination forms will be accepted from September 16 to September 24th and an *all candidates meeting* to establish new members will be held at our first meeting on Wednesday, September 25th at 7:15 p.m. in the library. Please review the responsibilities and procedures outlined on the reverse and submit nomination forms by the indicated deadline. We look forward to working together. You can send your Nomination Form to school with your child to hand it to their classroom teacher or you can drop it off at the office.

<p>Responsibilities of Catholic School Councils per Regulation</p> <p>Conduct yearly elections – within first 30 days. Hold at least 4 meetings a year. Hold meetings in school or location accessible to the public. Keep minutes of meetings. All financial transactions must be recorded. Publish an annual report – submit to Principal Board. Consult with parents on matters under consultation by the council. May engage in fund raising activities according to Board policy</p>	<p>Catholic School Council Membership:</p> <p>Parents, minimum 6, maximum 21 (to be elected by parents) Chair Vice Chair Secretary Treasurer Parent Representative(s) 1. Community Representative (elected by Council) 2. Parish Representative (elected by Council) Non-teaching staff 1 (elected by non-teaching staff) Teacher 1 (elected by teachers) Principal (automatic member)</p>
<p>Procedures for Voting: Parents are invited to attend the All Candidates Meeting. Parents will vote for a maximum of 21 representatives (secret ballot). A notice to all parents/guardians will announce the results.</p> <p>If you are interested in becoming a candidate for election, or if you would like to nominate a candidate, please complete the form below and forward it to the School Principal as soon as possible.</p>	

Nominations will be accepted from September 16th, 2019

Candidate Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Business #: _____ Cell #: _____

Parent/Guardian of: _____

I wish to declare my candidacy/nominate for elected position as a parent representative on the Catholic School Council.

I understand the role and responsibilities of a member of the School Council

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Duties of Members of Catholic School Councils as outlined in the Ministry of Ontario: School Councils, A Guide for Members (2002)

The Co-Chairs of the Council shall:

- a) act as the official spokesperson of the Council;
- b) provide the necessary leadership in the formation and effective operation of a vital Council; and
- c) chair, when present, all general meetings of the School Community and of the Council.

In consultation with the Principal, the Co-Chair(s) shall:

- d) call the Council meetings;
- e) prepare the agenda for Council meetings;
- f) set the date of all meetings of the members of the School Community;
- g) prepare an annual report on the activities of the Council;
- h) ensure that the minutes of the Council meetings are accurately recorded and maintained;
- i) participate in the information and training programmes;
- j) regularly communicate with the Principal;
- k) ensure that there is a regular communication with the members of the School Community; and
- l) consult with senior Board staff and trustees as required.

The Secretary of the Council shall:

- a) keep minutes of the Council meetings;
- b) attend to all official correspondence and communications;
- c) post notices and file records as directed by the Council;
- d) perform such other duties as may from time to time be determined by the council;
- e) prepare and distribute a copy of the minutes of all meetings to all Council members within a reasonable time of said meetings; and
- f) shall post a copy of the approved minutes on the community bulletin board at the school. The minutes will include attendance, a brief summary of discussion, motions and action/responsibility notations.

In the absence of both the Co-Chairs at meetings of the Council, the Secretary shall call the meeting to order and preside until the Council elects an acting Chair for that meeting.

The Treasurer of the Council shall:

- a) keep full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Council in proper books of account;
- b) provide at regular meetings of the Council or whenever required, an account of all transactions of the Council and the financial position of the same;
- c) perform such other duties as may from time to time be determined by the Council;
- d) receive all monies due and payable to the Council and deposit them to the credit of the Council in a bank approved by the Council;
- e) pay all bills authorized by the Council; and

A full financial statement of the Council year shall be prepared by the Treasurer and presented at the AGM.

All Parent Members of the Council (including officers indicated above) shall:

- a) promote Catholic and Gospel values;
- b) participate in Council meetings;
- c) participate in information and training programmes;
- d) act as a link between the Council and the Catholic community;
- e) encourage the participation of parents/guardians from all groups and of other Separate School ratepayers within the School Community;
- f) perform such other duties as may from time to time be determined by the Council, including membership on one or more Council committees; and
- g) Chair, where possible, the committees established by the Council and the School Community.