

December 2019



St. Gabriel The Archangel



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

Vice Chair & 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

Catholic School Council (CSC)

Vanessa Pedone—Chair
Leanna Santorsola—Vice Chair

December's Virtue Is

FAITH JESUS GRACE FREEDOM
LOVE PEACE KINGDOM LIGHT GOD
MESSIAH BAPTISM GIVE LOVE GOD
GOD BAPTISM LOVE LOVE GOD
KING PEACE KINGDOM LIGHT SAVIOUR

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,

As we enter into the season of Advent, we do so with hope and joyful anticipation of the coming of our Lord through the birth of His son, Jesus Christ. It is also a time for us to reflect upon our many blessings—the most important of which are our family and friends. St. Gabriel the Archangel community will celebrate the Advent Season with a Family Advent Mass on Wednesday, December 11th at Immaculate Conception Parish starting at 6:30 pm where the FDK students will sing a few Christmas songs. This will be followed by a Liturgical Dance and Mass begins at 7:00 pm sharp. Our choir will also sing throughout the mass. After mass, Catholic School Council invites you to the parish basement for refreshments. Thanks you to all those involved in making this a wonderful community event. Many thanks to Father Eugene to whom we offer best wishes and congratulations on the 10th year anniversary of his ordination with the Sons of Immaculate Conception.

Thank you to the Catholic School Council Movie Night Committee and parent volunteers: Mrs. Fiorucci, Mrs. Maraventano, Mrs. Calabro, Ms. Barone, Mrs. Pedone, Mrs. Pace, Mrs. Albanese, and Mrs. D'Angelo. Movie Night was on November 29th and was full of fun and activities—the students had a great time! Thank you to the fundraising committee—both the poinsettias and Christmas ornaments were a great success. An especial thank you to Mrs. Calabro, Mrs. Pedone, Mrs. Da Silva and Mrs. Santorsola. Finally, you will notice that the school foyer has been transformed with the Christmas Spirit. This is thanks to Mrs. Maraventano, Mrs. Calabro and Mrs. Albanese—your creative help is greatly appreciated!

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. This year, we are again participating in the Catholic School Council and Luke 4:18 initiative "Adopt-a-Family". Each class has been assigned a 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.

While December is the last month of the calendar year, it remains the promise of renewal and new beginnings. As 2019 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 blessed and joyous Christmas. May the New Year bring 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



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we get into the excitement of Christmas and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I invite you all to join me as we reflect on the many blessings from this past year and to look forward to the many blessings that await us.

Christmas 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. In our schools, students are celebrating through musical concerts and Nativity plays, community service projects and most importantly through a deepened time of prayer. Each of these provide our students with opportunities to enrich their spiritual journeys that give deeper meaning to this faith-filled season.

Let us be grateful that we are a part of a Catholic school system where students can practice their faith every day as they grow intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Let us be inspired by the foundation of excellence which supports all that we do here at the York Catholic District School Board.

I hope that your hearts will be filled with the warmth that is the closeness of your family, friends and loved ones this holiday season. May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you throughout the year. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Maria Marchese.

Maria Marchese, Vice-Chair

Maria Marchese, Trustee – Vaughan, Woodbridge (Area 3, Ward 3)
maria.marchese@ycdsb.ca • Cell: 647-960-3165

Partners in Faith



Happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception!

Our Parish community will celebrate its Patronal Feast, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with a solemn bilingual Mass on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:00pm. Refreshments to follow in the parish hall. Our church is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and our Priests Fr. Eugene, Fr. Ugo and Fr. Anish are consecrated to her in the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. The novena in preparation for the feast of Immaculate Conception, the Patroness of our Parish Community, began on Friday, November 29, 2019 at 8:00.



You are cordially invited to attend
*St. Gabriel the Archangel's
Family Advent Mass on
Tuesday, December 11th @
Immaculate Conception Parish*

- * 6:30 pm FDK will sing
- * 6:50 pm Liturgical Dance (Intermediates)
- * 7:00 pm Mass Begins
- * Our choir will be singing during the mass
- * Refreshments in the parish basement after the mass

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is on Wednesday, January 22 p.m. in the library.

JK Registration begins on January 6, 2020 For School year 2020/ 2021

To register your child(ren) for September 2020, 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. 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).

**THE NEXT CIVVIES DAY
(Christmas Sweater Day) IS FRI-
DAY, DECEMBER 20th!**



REMINDERS:

- * Spirit Wear Order Forms are due in the office no later than Friday, December 20th.
- * Last Day of school is Friday, December 20th School resumes again on Monday, January 6th, 2020.

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

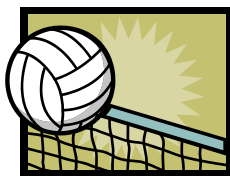
CSC Santa Visits SGA December 19th!

On Thurs., December 19th, Santa will visit SGA bringing good cheer, hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of the Catholic School. Thank you CSC! In honour of Santa's visit, Dec. 19th is the official "Wear Your Christmas Pajamas to School" Day!!

Events: It's Happening Here at SGA!



**COACHES'
CORNER:
VOLLEYBALL**



Both Boys and Girls Intermediate Volleyball Teams had their tournaments in November. The Girls on November 21st @ St. Padre Pio and the Boys on November 22nd at Immaculate Conception. Both teams played their best and had a wonderful time. Thank you to Coaches Amado and Rodrigues for a wonderful season. We are all very proud of both teams who played well and with dedication as well as sportsmanship. Well done to Cailee B., Alexa C., Gianna F., Giuliana I., Carina I., Samantha I., Stefanie I., Katrina M., Victoria P., Sarah S.H., Isabella U., Mikayla Z., Leonardo B., Michael C., Ryan C., Massimo F.B., Lucas M., Gianluca M., Matteo N., Christian P., Matteo P., Christian R., Alexander S., and Niko S. Stay tuned for information about Junior Boys and Girls Volleyball!

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

December is a busy month for field trips. To enrich their Social Studies unit on *Communities in Canada 1780-1850*, the **Grade 3** students went to Black Creek Pioneer Village on December 6, 2019. The students learned about the major components of an early settler village and the traditions and celebrations of Christmas in Pioneer times. Students were also involved in various interactive activities such as using a spinning wheel, various tools, a loom, and more to truly experience the lifestyle of an early settler in an authentic heritage log house.

Also on December 6th, the **Grade 1 and 2** students visited Casa Loma where they saw a magic show, a skating performance, saw Santa, toured the Castle and made crafts!

On **December 12th**, the **Junior Division** (Grades 4,5, & 6) are going to Famous People Players Theatre to watch the musical production entitled "Jingle All the Way".



Library News - Book Fair update

Thank you to all the St. Gabriel the Archangel families, staff, and volunteers who pulled together to make this year's Book Fair a **HUGE** success! Our sales totalled **\$6080**. An immediate purchase of **\$680** in books was made. Another **\$550** is available for future purchases and **\$910** in cash. What an amazing display of support and love of reading!

A special thank you to the following parent volunteers who helped set-up, run the book fair and/or take down the book fair; Mrs. Calabro, Mrs. Douglas, and Mrs. Paolucci. The success of the book fair would not have been possible without their support!

Congratulations to all the winners of the Cool Contests!

Colouring pages winner: Noah A (Kindergarten)

Guess the number of marshmallows in the jar winner: Francesca G (Primary)

Guess the number of pages in the wrapped book winner: Valerie C (Junior)

Winners who created literacy themed MEMEs: Katrina M and Kyle R (Intermediate)

Congratulations to Andrew G who won the \$25.00 Family Door Prize and his teacher Ms. Fantauzzi who won \$25.00 worth of books for her classroom library.

Your continued support for this wonderful literacy initiative that benefits the school Library Learning Commons and entire school community is much appreciated!

Sincerely,
Ms. G. Pasquariello
Teacher-Librarian

What is the Hour of Code?



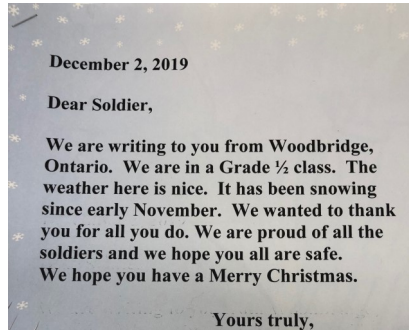
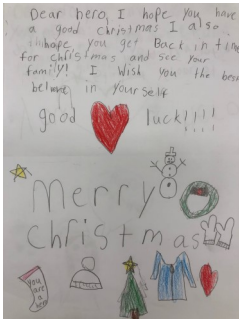
The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts.

The students will be given an opportunity to experience coding either in their classrooms or in the library during the first 2 weeks of December. If you are interested in trying it out yourself, visit the following website (<https://code.org/learn>) and try out some of the tutorials and activities involving coding. Have fun!

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

St. Gabriel the Archangel students write letters to soldiers overseas

Led by our French teacher Katerina Umbrello who joined us in November, the students at St. Gabriel the Archangel have been participating in a Christmas initiative for our Canadian troops. In order to make this Christmas season away from home a little easier, the students have written letters, drawn pictures and created poems to help lift the spirits of our soldiers. So we are sending love, prayers, and happiness this Christmas season from our school to our fellow Canadian troops around the world.



Catholic School Council Initiatives:

Family Movie Night:

Poinsettia Fundraiser





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 importance to respect the safety of others.

WINTER RECESS ROUTINES

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

At the November 20th CSC meeting, it was advised and decided to adhere to the following- (We check the weather station before each recess):

-15°C –17° C—At the principal's (or designate's) discretion, lunch recess is shortened to 20 minutes outdoor and 20 minutes indoor and short a.m. and/or p.m. recesses are outdoor taking into consideration ground and weather conditions

-18°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>

DRIVEWAY SAFETY:

With the snowy and colder weather, you are reminded to continue to exercise safety when using the school driveway:

1. Please follow all signage (i.e. STOP, Pedestrian Crossing, ONE WAY)
2. The driveway is ONE WAY! Please do not exit through the entrance
3. Remember to drive SLOWLY on school grounds and watch for pedestrians at all times
4. The driveway is ONE WAY
5. Do not block the entrance or exit as this disrupts the flow of traffic—including buses
6. Driveway loop is only in operation when no buses are present
7. There are two lanes in the front driveway. One lane closest to the school curb is for drop off and the other lane (left lane) is for traffic flow. No one should ever walk across this lane. Students should exit the car through the right side closes to the curb.
8. When dropping off students in the lane closest to the school, you should not park or keep your car idling to get out of the car to escort your child(ren) or to retrieve knapsacks from the trunk as cars will come up from behind.
9. At dismissal, cars should not exit through the entrance and wait until the buses have left in order to use the correct exit.



Celebrate Advent with our School Community

St. Gabriel the Archangel's Family Advent Mass

Hosted by the Intermediate Division

at Immaculate Conception Parish on

Wednesday, December 11th

Celebrations begin at 6:30pm



FDK singing Christmas songs before mass (6:30pm)

Intermediate Students perform Liturgical Dance to "Breath of Heaven"

Mass begins at 7:00pm (sharp) with our wonderful SGA Choir singing during mass

**Please join us after mass in the church basement for hot chocolate and cookies
provided by the Catholic School Council**



The Advent Wreath

An advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, with four candles that represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, reminding us to pray and offer up little sacrifices to help prepare the way for Jesus. The rose candle is lit on the third week of Advent reminding us that Jesus' birth is near. Some wreaths include a white candle as well, this is lit on Christmas Day symbolizing the birth of Jesus.



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
CJXX	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.

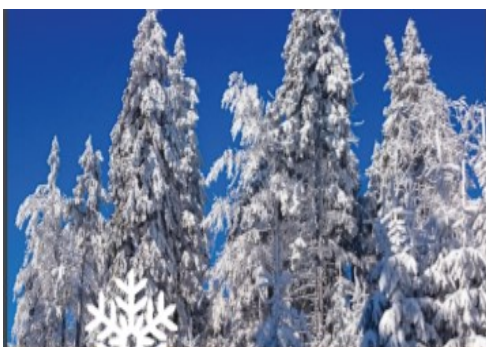
Student Transportation Services of York Region

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

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.

