

December 2020



St. Gabriel The Archangel



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Christina Marascio

Immaculate Conception Church

Pastor:

Fr. Eugene Chianain

Catholic School Council (CSC)

Tony Lacaria—Chair
Leanna Santorsola—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,

As we continue our Advent journey, we do so with hope and joyful anticipation of the coming of our Lord through the birth of His son, Jesus Christ. Staff and students—face to face and remote alike were fortunate to be able to celebrate a virtual Advent Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 16th. Thank you to Father Anish for officiating this special celebration. Although this year has offered many special challenges, we should remember to take a few minutes to ponder reflect It is also a time for us to reflect upon our many blessings—the most important of which are our family and friends.

Thank you to the Catholic School Council for continuing to supply bottles of water. A big thank you also goes out to the CSC Faith Committee for organizing the annual Adopt-A-Family initiative. They began the campaign by donating food and then some dedicated members volunteered to receive the donations at the church this past Saturday in less than optimal weather. Thank you too to those in our community who were able to donate items. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. All donations will be distributed via Immaculate Conception Parish. This initiative is embodies the meaning of Christmas.

I would like to inform the community of the retirement of Mrs. Irene Di Loreto at the end of this week. Mrs. Di Loreto has taught for over 33 years. he began her career at St. Joseph the Worker in Markham and has taught at St. Catherine of Siena. Mrs. Di Loreto was a staff member of St. John Bosco for over 20 years and joined the staff of St. Gabriel the Archangel in September of 2017. She has taught Core Resource and Grades 1-6. For the past 20 years, her passion and joy has been teaching Grade 1. Throughout her career, Mrs. Di Loreto has been a dedicated, caring, conscientious, hardworking and knowledgeable teacher. She cares very much for her students and has their best interests at heart in terms of achieving their academic and personal potential. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. While we will miss her, please join me in wishing her all the best as she embarks on the next phase of her life.

While December is the last month of the calendar year, it brings the promise of renewal and new beginnings. As 2020 finally comes to an end, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all of you for your support during uncertain times this year. 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 PRAYER

God's hope to direct you.
God's love to surround you.
God's joy to warm you.
God's peace to comfort you.
Bless our Advent journey to Christmas with
light and patience.



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



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"We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another."

- St. Teresa of Calcutta



Dear Families,

It is that time of year again where we in the Catholic community begin preparing for the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This time of year is always special because it is a time for all of us to share in the excitement of this joyous celebration. It is an important celebration because God sent his one and only Son to Earth to spread the Word of God and bring us all to salvation.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal once said, *"Hold your eyes on God and leave the doing to Him. That is all the doing you have to worry about."* During this unprecedented time in our world today, it is important for all of us to be reminded of these words. So long as our faith in Him remains strong, our love for each other will continue to prevail. Our students, families and staff have demonstrated this time and time again.

This Christmas season and always, I pray that you will have everlasting happiness, joy and hope. I pray that you will be reminded of all the goodness in your life that makes your heart full and happy. I pray that you will always find joy and beauty in all of God's creation. And lastly, I pray that you will always remain hopeful in your faith and relationship with the Lord, Our Saviour.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a blessed and safe Merry Christmas.

Yours in Catholic Education,

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

Maria Marchese

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

Partners in Faith



Thank you to Father Anish for celebrating Advent Mass (and first Virtual Mass) with SGA!

JK Registration For School year 2020/ 21

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).

Spirit Week @ SGA:

✓ Monday, December 14 *Red Day*

✓ Tuesday, December 15th *Green Day*

✓ Wednesday, December 16th
Christmas Headgear &/or Socks

✓ Thursday, December 17th
Pajamas Day (Christmas if possible)

Friday, December 18th
Ugly (or nice) Christmas Sweater Day

CSC SGA Virtual Santa Visit: December 17th

On Thurs. December 17th, Santa went online to virtually visit SGA bringing good cheer, fun, games and bottled water courtesy of the Catholic School. Thank you CSC! From FDK to Grade 8 and staff, it was a huge success– Many thanks to Santa and his Chief Elf. Pictures will be included in the January newsletter!!

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will be a virtual one and is on Wednesday, January 20th @ 7:30 p.m.

* Last Day of school is Friday, December 18th School resumes again on Monday, January 4th, 2021.



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 and able to follow the staggered recess routines during the winter months. The temperatures for extreme weather was discussed at the Dec. 16th CSC meeting at which Council members were invited to give input and advise upon this matter.

We will adhere to the following: **-18 degrees and below will be indoor recess taking into consideration ground and weather conditions (weather conditions are checked before each recess).** As we have staggered recesses and the lunch hour recess is shorter, there will not be an intermediary temperature at which recess is shortened any further.

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>

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

sga.ycdsb.ca

DRIVEWAY SAFETY:

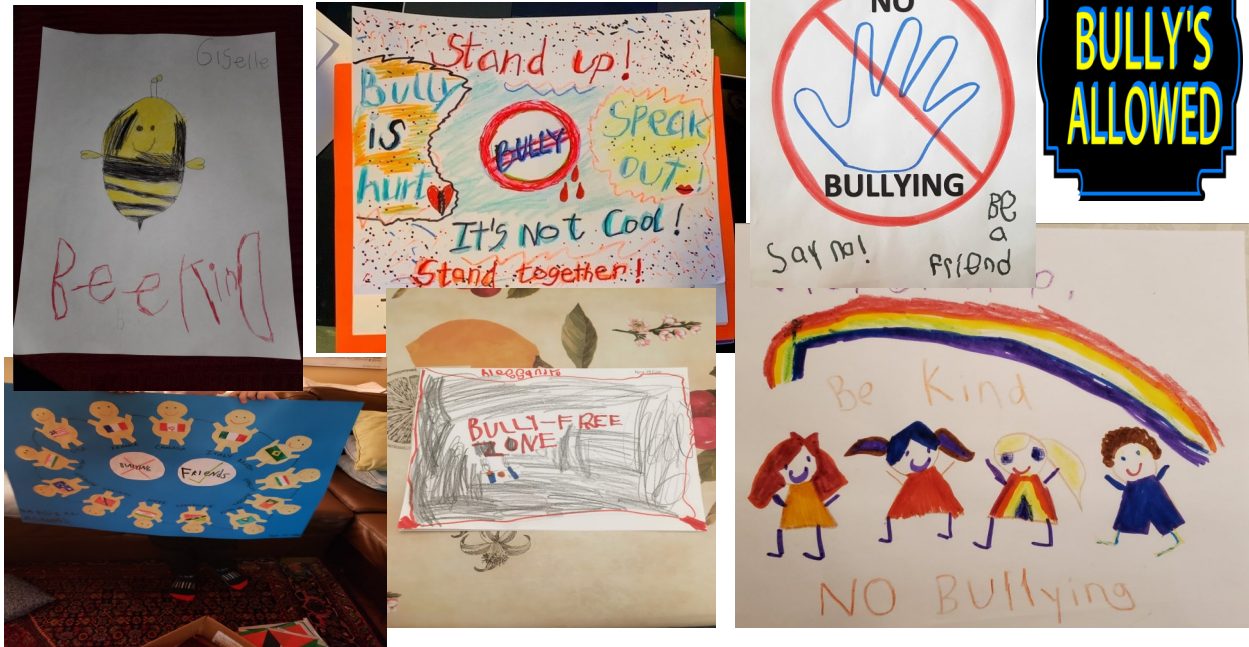
With the snowy and colder weather, you are reminded to continue to exercise safety when using the school driveway:

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. Students are to enter and exit the school through their assigned doors in the back, **NOT through the front door**
9. 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 knap-

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

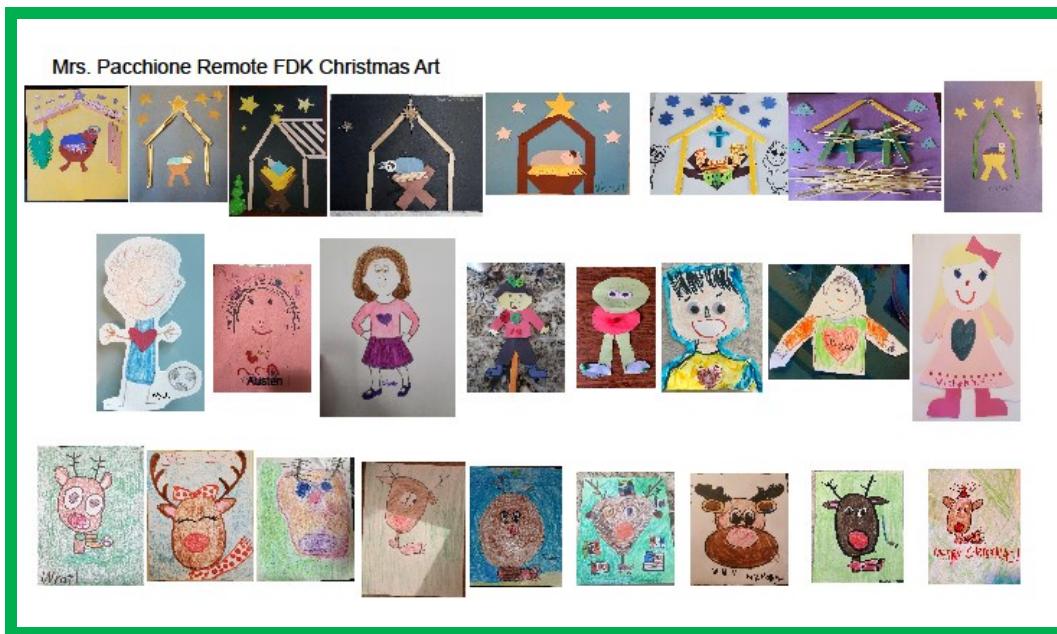
Artistic Responses to Anti Bullying Virtual Assembly

Mrs. Pacchione's FDK Remote Class



Mrs. Schirripa's Grade 5 Class

Artistic Expressions of the Season: It's Happening Here at SGA!



*Mrs.
Simos'
Grade
4*

Artistic Expressions of the Season: It's Happening Here at SGA!

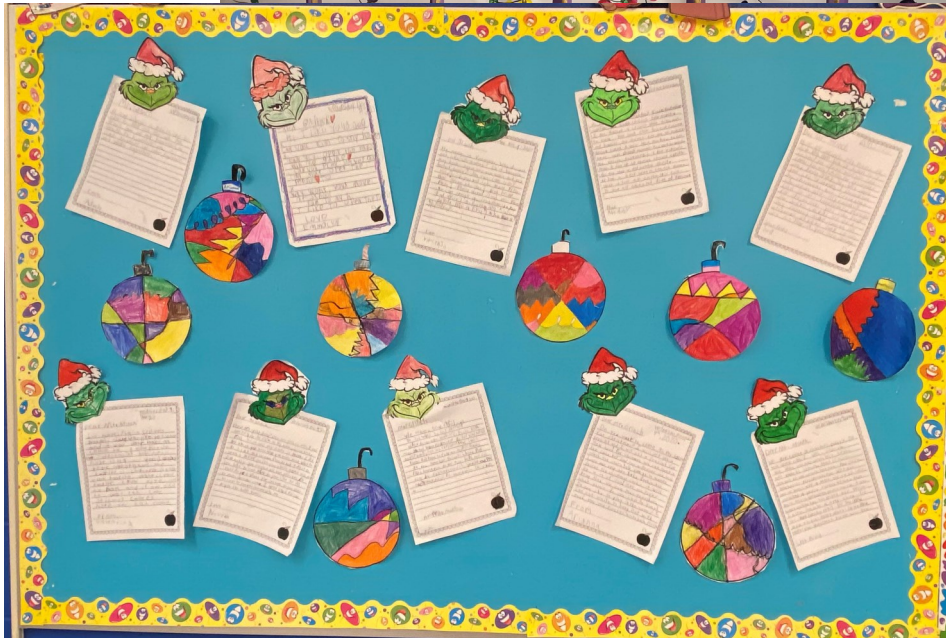


Ms. McCrindle's Grade 1



Artistic Expressions of the Season: It's Happening Here at SGA!

Mrs. Marzario's FDK



Ms. Conroy's Grade 2s

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic School Council Initiatives –led by Faith Subcommittee

Adopt-A-Family: Thank you SGA community for your generosity!



Last Saturday Drive-in food-drive on behalf of St Gabriel CS families was a Great Success! On behalf of our parish's Reach Out Committee, I'd like to send out a big appreciation for your help this year. Your school community has helped a number of families celebrate Christmas with a little more joy and lots more faith.

God's timing is always perfect. Just days before the lockdown we were able to count on your kindness and generosity to help families in need. Thank you for always being there and demonstrating a faithfulness that comes from a deep love of Christ. We pray that God bless you for your love, support and kindness! We have received an incredible amount of non-perishable food items in addition to generous donations of gift cards and cash.

Thank you to every one of the volunteers for the hard work.
Thank You And God Bless You!

Joseph Yoganathan, Parish Reach Out Committee