



**St. Gabriel
Catholic School**
396 Spring Garden Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 3H5
416-393-5256
FAX: 416 393-5199

**Principal
C. Crispo**

**Secretary
P. Monaco**

**Head Caretaker
S. Coulter**

**Superintendent:
P. Aguiar
416-222-8282**

**Trustee:
M. Rizzo
416-512-3405**

**CSPC Chair:
M. Sparkman
416-397-6800
Mailbox #88256
csac.stgabriel@tcdsb.org**

**Parish:
St. Gabriel Catholic Church
670 Sheppard Ave. E.
416-221-8866
stgabrielsparish@bellnet.ca
Pastor: Fr. Brando
Hours of Operation:
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**



St. Gabriel Catholic School

December 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

December Virtue: Charity

On Sunday, November 27 all Roman Catholic churches around the world began celebrating the Christmas season with the lighting of the first candle of Advent. Advent is meant to be a quiet time when Catholics everywhere prepare for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ. A time when, as a Catholic educational community, we retell our biblical story of Jesus' birth. This year, I'm asking you to keep in your thoughts Mother Mary, a strong woman of faith, who put her whole life in the hands of God, when asked to be the mother of his Son. A woman who made a very strong choice to bring Christ to the world and said 'yes' to God. Please take a moment to view this video and ask yourself, "How do you say 'yes' when God calls upon you?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewXHhddkpC8>

During the month on November our staff continued to work towards our SLIP goal to improve student achievement by fostering a love of Mathematics through PD (Professional Development) that aims to improve instruction. Staff had the opportunity to share best practices and decided to improve lessons by:

1. focusing on BIG IDEAS in mathematical instruction
2. identify the effects of mathematics on student achievement
3. focus on gaps (small group instruction)
4. balance the program - computational, conceptual and problem solving
5. use manipulatives more effectively to help move towards the abstract

St. Gabriel is so very fortunate to have such a dedicated, reflective and professional staff - thank you all for your efforts in making our school the best it can possibly be - God bless!

On behalf of the staff we wish all of our St. Gabriel families and community members a very peaceful, joyful and healthy Christmas and may the New Year bring peace and happiness throughout God's beautiful world.

Yours in servant leadership,
Cathy Crispo



SAFE SCHOOL ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Please leave a message by calling the school at **416-393-5256** when your child will be absent or late. Please make sure that all students who arrive late check in at the front office.

P.E.A.C.E.

P.E.A.C.E. stands for People Everywhere Actually Co-Existing Equally. This ensemble of talented performing artists will be coming to our school on **Wednesday, December 14 @ 9:30am** to present and celebrate the amazing world history and African heritage. "The Roots of Us" is a passionate display of African Roots, Canadian History and the Legacy of these cultures in our lives today. Incorporating music, interactive segments and prizes, this high energy assembly by P.E.A.C.E delivers an inspirational message that will have our students singing for weeks!!! Please come join us for this remarkable presentation on the 14th!

ORFE Eco-Art PROGRAM

During the past 8 weeks, the Orfe Eco-Art program was here at St. Gabriel school teaching children to love our beautiful planet through different artistic techniques and the use of recycled materials that were provided by the school (pizza boxes, bottle caps, etc.). During lunch time, Orfe's students made wonderful eco-artworks. Their creativity and inspiration were ignited when they saw every week recycled materials turn into unexpected characters, beautiful artistic creations that made them feel proud, developing not only an appreciation for art, but also, love for their planet, themselves and others.

Orfe will return to St. Gabriel at the end of January 2017.

MONTHLY VIRTUES

September - Hospitality
October - Gratitude
November - Peace

December - Charity

January - Courage
February - Love
March - Forgiveness
April - Justice
May - Compassion
June - Faithfulness

The following students were recognized for their demonstration of **peace making in the month of NOVEMBER** ... "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." John 14:27

- Xander Okuneye
- Johnathan Rennie Hull
- Cameron Chan
- Jackson Sparkman
- Richard Antigua
- Kodi Clarke
- Gio Kim
- Matthew Cherian
- Avery Riley
- Rayne Geraldez
- Gregory Ghali
- Alejandro Socas
- Alexis Ondaatje
- Kaitlyn Bagayawa
- Alessandro Staffetta

ROYAL WINTER FAIR

On November 4th, 2016 St. Gabriel's junior and intermediate classes went on a trip to the Royal Winter Fair. It took an hour to get there by TTC. There were many animals including cows, horses, goats and bulls. Some of the animals did tricks, and some did a fashion show! Judging of animals in many categories took place. There was a wide variety of food to buy. Also, there were demonstrations such as magic acts, a mechanical bull, and a horse show. It was a lot of fun, and the students enjoyed it. Thanks to Ms. Gauthier for arranging the trip!

- Daniel Yuen

Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

On Friday, December 23, we are asking students to wear their ugly Christmas sweater. Students, here is your opportunity to be CREATIVE - remember, you don't have to buy an ugly Christmas sweater, you can create one! In fact, a small prize will be given to the student with the most creative, ugly Christmas Sweater!! Good luck!



ADEVNT MASS

Advent is the season of preparing and waiting. We prepare our hearts to remember Jesus' birth in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. Our staff and students have been working hard to prepare for our Advent Mass. We would like to invite everyone in our school community to come out and celebrate with us! Our school Advent Mass will be held on **Thursday, December 22 at 7pm at St. Gabriel Church**. We hope to see you all there!

St. Gabriel's Annual Christmas Fair

The St. Gabriel's annual Christmas Fair will take place on **Wednesday, December 21st, 2016** from **9 - 11:45am**. Children from grades JK to 6 will be able to shop for 2 special people in their lives. Each gift will cost 50 cents. The senior classes will be leading the sales and wrapping gifts - all proceeds will be donated to **ShareLife** this year!

A little bit about ShareLife - Since 1967, ShareLife agencies help more than 40,000 children and young people in the GTA annually; offering counselling, guidance and community education. When necessary, they can also offer meals and shelter in troubled times. This local, Catholic based charity started by funding 8 agencies; today there are over 40 different agencies and grant recipients providing services to many people in need regardless of religious affiliation.



Math Tips for Parents

It is important to help children recognize that everyone uses math all the time. Here are tips to help your child have a positive attitude about mathematics.

- Make learning math a positive experience. Don't talk negatively about math to your child—it can lead to “math anxiety” (a proven cause of low achievement).
- Schedule math homework at the same time in a quiet location every day. Be available during this period to talk with your child. Create a math homework toolkit with pencils, erasers, ruler, protractor, graph paper, counters (beads or beans) and a calculator.
- When helping with homework, follow the method being taught. Don't teach short cuts that could confuse your child. Do not say, “Let me show you my way – it's simpler and faster.”
- Be relaxed and positive. You are not expected to be an expert. You are there to encourage learning.
- If your child becomes frustrated, stop. Remind your child of the things they have already learned how to do successfully, such as riding a bicycle, writing a paragraph or speaking a second language.
- Ask your child's teacher for strategies to use at home that reflect your child's learning style.

Lynda Colgan, Associate Professor and Director, Queen's University

Wishing you a Very Merry “Mindful” Christmas

Christmas is often a very busy time of year with much planning and activities. While it's enjoyable, we may find ourselves rushing from one event to another without taking the time to enjoy each moment. We encourage you to consider the following tips so that you will enjoy a “mindful” Christmas.

- Play Christmas songs each day
- Eat mindfully - when eating your favorite holiday treat enjoy each bite by paying attention to the flavor and texture
- When waiting in a shopping line be mindful of all that you are grateful for. This may help you feel calm and help to put things into perspective
- Go for a walk in nature and pay special attention to the sights, sounds, and smells
- When decorating your Christmas tree take the time to enjoy the beauty of the moment
- Most of all take a deep breath and enjoy the magic of Christmas!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2013 to register for Kindergarten beginning **Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10 a.m. EST.**

- Online: Parents will be able to complete their application online at:
<https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2016

INDIVIDUAL ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 7th: 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday, December 24th
4:30 PM Vigil Mass - Carol Singing
7:00 PM Family Mass - Carol Singing
9:00 PM Adult Choir - Carol Singing
12:00 AM Midnight Mass - Contemporary

Group

Office Open 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25th

8:30 AM
10:30 AM
12:30 PM

Office Open 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM

BOXING DAY - Monday, December 26th

Office Closed

No 9:00 AM Mass

Tuesday, December 27th

Office Closed

No 9:00 AM Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Saturday, December 31st

4:30 PM Mass

Vigil for Feast of Mary the Mother of

God

Office Open 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Sunday, January 1st

Feast of Mary the Mother of God

8:30 AM
10:30 AM
12:30 PM

Office Open 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM

MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd

Office Closed

No 9:00 AM Mass

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

FAMILY MASS - CHRISTMAS EVE AT 7:00 PM
Rehearsal: Sunday, December 18th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Each year, young people, Grade 3 and up, form a special choir for the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Children must be at the Church by 6:00 PM. One rehearsal, which is mandatory, will be held on Sunday, December 18th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

For more information call Marilyn Calderone at 416-618-2041.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL:
Sunday, December 18th from 4:00 to 6:00 PM

S.K. to Grade 5 children are invited to participate in the pageant. The rehearsal will be held on Sunday, December 18th from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in the Church

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2016-2017

Wards

1.	Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2.	Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3.	Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4.	Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404
5.	Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6.	Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair	416-512-3406
7.	Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407
8.	Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9.	Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
10.	Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11.	Angela Kennedy, Chair	416-512-3411
12.	Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
	Karina Dubrovskaya, Student Trustee	416-512-3417
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