



**St. Gabriel
Catholic School**
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Toronto, Ontario
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416-393-5256
FAX: 416 393-5199

**Principal
A. De Roma**

**Secretary
P. Monaco**

**Head Caretaker
S. Coulter**

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

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

**CSPC Chair:
K. Koroloff
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 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

December Virtue: Charity

Since the beginning of the school year, we have focused on the virtues of hospitality, gratitude, peacemaking, and charity. We encourage and remind students that these monthly virtues are to be practiced every day! Please help to reinforce these virtues at home by asking your child what he or she is learning about each virtue.

Charity is the greatest form of all the virtues. With the beginning of the Advent season, it is important to spend some time with our children, to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. It is in the giving of our time and efforts with others that goes the furthest in helping them. Consider discussions with your child on how he or she can be more charitable in words and actions.

As we look forward to the New Year, let us take this as an opportunity for self-renewal and to make promises and develop a plan for its success. Appropriately, the virtue of January is courage. It takes great courage to accept that change is needed and that we need to be more reflective, thoughtful, and empathetic regarding our choices and actions towards others.

We extend an invitation to all families to celebrate the season of Advent as a community at our Family Advent Mass on Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel Catholic Church. On behalf of the entire St. Gabriel School family, we wish you a blessed Christmas! May the peace and light of the Incarnation abide with and in us always! See you all in 2019!

Yours in Catholic Leadership,

Ms. A. De Roma



ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL HOURS
2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Start of School Day: 9:00 a.m.
Morning Recess: 10:42 a.m. to 10:57 a.m.
Lunch Hour: 11:45 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Afternoon Recess: 2:10 p.m. to 2:25 p.m.
Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

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.

ST. GABRIEL'S MASS TIMES
AND YOUTH CHOIR

St. Gabriel's Parish mass times:
Saturday 4:30
Sunday 8:30, 10:30, 12:30

Confirmation - Sunday, June 9 @ 3pm
First Communion - Sunday, May 26 @ 3pm
Graduation - Friday, June 21 @ 6:30pm

ART DONATION

Thank you to Ms. Pacheco for picking up an art supply donation from Elmer Glue and other vendors. These supplies will help enhance our ELP programs and support student art projects. Our ELP classes are grateful for all items donated to support student learning and development.



MONTHLY VIRTUES

Monthly Virtues are celebrated by all TCDSB's schools. Throughout the year we will be recognizing students each month by honouring those students who have demonstrated the virtue of the month through their words and actions.

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** ... "

- Justin Lee
- Sofia DaSilva
- Julia Dos Santos
- Henry Park
- Luke D'Angelo
- Landon Assimakopoulos
- Jasmine Kim
- Maythe Aguilar
- Maya McCallum
- Simona Cologna
- Violet Kim
- Romela Abad
- Michaella Viado
- Madison Sparkman
- Gregory Ghali
- Naomi Lue

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The last day of classes before the Christmas break will be Friday, December 21, 2018. Schools will reopen on Monday, January 7, 2019.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL

With the approach of winter and the associated ice and snow, there is always a possibility of school bus cancellations or delays, as well as cancellation of programs and services such as evening classes or permits. Your best source of information is via Twitter @TCDSB. For those who are not on Twitter, please tune in to local television and radio networks for updates. Other good sources of information are:

- TCDSB's website www.tcdsb.org
- Toronto Student Transportation Group website <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org>
- TCDSB 24-hour Telephone Information Line: 416-222-8282 ext. 2873
- Or if you wish to receive updates right to your email, subscribe to enews: <https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>

Indoor Shoes

With snowy weather expected soon, please ensure that your children have a pair of indoor shoes to keep in the classroom so they can remove wet and/ or cold boots while indoors.

It is very important that students always have dry footwear. It is unsafe (easy to slip) and unhygienic for students to walk around in sock feet or in boots all day. If there ever was a fire drill or lockdown, an emergency, there may not be time to put on boots.



INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CLASSES

New students are welcome!

Did you know that the TCDSB International Languages Dept. is offering International Language classes for JK to Grade 8 students at your children's school on Saturday mornings from 9:30am to 12:00pm?

We are accepting new students so please call or visit the school on Saturday mornings at 9:30am for more information.

We are also able to offer new International Language classes if parents of at least 23 children are interested.

Please call us at 416-222-8282 ext. 2495 for more information.

Family Advent Activities

From ancient times, people have worshipped God in many ways. They have gathered in circles, stretched their arms toward heaven, made the sign of the cross and praised Him with loud shouts of thanksgiving. Certain times of the year have been set apart for special worship. The introduction of Advent devotions, four weeks before the celebration of Christ's birth, has enriched the devotional life of many Christians.

Following are some suggestions for use during the Advent season. They are only suggestions. Parents can inject their own ideas and innovations to make the Advent celebration truly their own.

Set up a **Nativity Scene** for Advent: add a different item each night, completing the scene by Christmas Eve.

Make your own Advent wreath. Use a circle of wood or of Styrofoam with four holes for candles. Let everyone participate in decorating the wreath with greens, etc. Place three purple candles and one pink one in the four holes. Purple is the penitential and pink represents the third Sunday of Advent known as "The Joyful Sunday". In the centre, place a white Christ candle. One candle is lit each day (or Sunday) of Advent. At Christmas, the Christ candle is also lit.

Make cookies, candy, gifts, and ornaments for your own family to share with others.

Use an **Advent Calendar** that suggests an activity or prayer for each day of Advent.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP THEIR CHILD MAKE FRIENDS

By Laurie Futterman

Children are not born with social skills. Parents need to help prepare them to interact successfully with peers. Parents are role models who, by their own behavior, can teach children how to meet people and talk to them, to cooperate with others and to ask for favors. Parents can teach how to win or lose well, to apologize and accept apologies and how to be patient, respectful, and considerate. Parents can help their child learn how to be the type of person others like to be around.

Ferrer and Fugate provide some things you can do to promote long lasting friendships for your child:

- **Provide your child with opportunities to spend time with other children.** Invite other children to your house to play or let your child participate in clubs, classes or teams. For older kids, make your home inviting so that your child wants to invite friends over, respect their privacy and provide them with guidelines that will allow them to talk/text with their friends.
- **Help your child learn games and sports.** Being able to play games and sports tends to be important for school-age children. It is easier to join in and have fun if they know the rules and have the basic skills to become a participant. Make sure not to let the sport become a drill or drudgery.
- **Set clear rules for appropriate behavior.** A child learns social skills in part through family rules about how to treat others. When you need to discipline your child, remember that he will imitate your actions. How you treat him when he breaks a rule will influence how he responds to others. Be firm, kind and respectful when you express your expectations of him.

- **Teach your child how to handle different social situations.** You probably began to teach your toddler how to share and how to say please and thank you. Continue coaching your child as she grows older and encounters more social situations.

- **Talk with your child.** Spend some time every day talking with your child. This time is not for giving instructions or lecturing, but just for talking about the day's events or things that interest both of you. When your child is talking, make sure you are listening. Talking with your child will not only help you keep up with him, but it will also let him practice the very important social skill of holding a conversation.

- **Help your child learn to see others' points of view.** Around the age of 6 or 7, children are more able to understand others' feelings and points of view. Help your child develop this ability by talking about different situations. For example, when reading with your child, stop and ask how a character is feeling and why he does certain things. Or when your child tells you about a situation at school, ask how she thinks the people felt and why they acted as they did.

- **Help your child learn to manage negative feelings and solve problems.** Being able to manage negative feelings and work out problems are important skills in getting along with others. First, help your child identify the situation. For example, say, "It sounds like you're upset because Jamie didn't include you in the game." Then help him brainstorm solutions to the situation. Talk about the solutions he comes up with and have him pick one.

- **Do not sweat the small stuff.** Fitting in with friends is very important to school-age children (and becomes increasingly important as children near adolescence). Recognize how important it is to your child. She and her friends may do things that seem silly to you. For example, you may not like how children this age like to dress. However, if your child's behavior is not dangerous or offensive, do not sweat the small stuff.

**TORONTO CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEES 2018-2019**

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, Vice-Chair 416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico 416-512-3406
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9. Jo-Ann Davis 416-512-3409
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11. Angela Kennedy 416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford 416-512-3412
- Taylor Dallin
Student Trustee 416-512-3413
- Joel Ndongmi
Student Trustee 416-512-3417

International Languages Elementary (ILE) Program: December Update
ILE Survey Conducted in All TCDSB Elementary Schools

On July 12th, the Board of Trustees of the TCDSB approved a motion to survey parents, in all TCDSB Elementary Schools, from November 13th to November 27th, to determine whether parents wish to continue or initiate an International Languages program at their child's school.

We would like to thank everyone that was involved with the delivery, distribution and collection of the completed ILE survey. We would like to especially thank all families for providing your voice to the process by completing and returning the survey.

Results of the survey will be compiled and reported to the Board of Trustees in January 2019. This report will include a list of results by school, including the response rates for each school. However, only schools with the required threshold of 67% response rate will receive a detailed summary of parent responses.

For updated information regarding the International Languages Elementary (ILE) Program please visit:
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/schoolprogramsk12/internationallanguages/pages/change-to-international-languages-program.aspx>

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

St. Gabriel Parent Council News

The Parent Council held their monthly meeting on November 20th, 2018. The meeting began with a presentation by Harold Rosenfeld, President of the Bayview Village Association (BVA). The BVA is a non-profit community organization that works towards enhancing different aspects within the community. If you are interested in learning more about what the BVA does in our neighbourhood or would like to become a member of this group you can find more information on their website: www.bayviewvillage.org.

The *Big Box of Cards* fundraiser organized by the CSPC is well underway. Thank you to all the families that participated and ordered boxes of cards. Orders will be sent home with students during the second week of December. Please send in your orders or returned sample boxes if you have not already done so. We thank all parents for their cooperation with this very important fundraiser for St. Gabriel's School.

The Parent Council will be hosting a Movie Night on **Thursday December 6th, 2018** at 6:30pm (doors open at 6pm) in the St. Gabriel Gymnasium. The movie night is for children from JK- Gr.6 and an accompanying parent/guardian. Students have brought home an order form and are able to purchase popcorn and a drink box for \$3.50. Please return all order forms and money by **Monday December 3rd, 2018**.

The Parent Council is also hosting its annual Christmas Fair on **Tuesday December 18th, 2018**. Students from JK-Gr.7 will have the opportunity to buy a Christmas present for two special people in their lives. Each gift will cost \$2. We are asking that each family donate at least two gifts (one male and one female). We are requesting new or gently used items to please be delivered to the school prior to **Thursday December 13th, 2018**. If you wish to help volunteer on this day please email Gwen Brittain (gbrittain@hotmail.com) for more information. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation with this event!

The CSPC will be serving juice and cookies following the Advent Mass on **Thursday December 20th, 2018**. We look forward to seeing you all then.

The CSPC members would like to wish all St. Gabriel families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Christmas Schedule for St. Gabriel Catholic Church 2018



ADVENT INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

Friday, December 21st from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

REGULAR SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday December 22nd Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Office Open - 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 23rd

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

Office Open – 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE – Monday, December 24th

5:00 PM Family Mass - Carol Singing

9:00 PM Adult Choir – Carol Singing

12:00 AM Midnight Mass – Contemporary Group

Office Open – 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY - Tuesday, December 25th

10:30 AM

12:30 PM

Office Open – 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

BOXING DAY – Wednesday, December 26th

Office Closed

No 9:00 AM Mass

REGULAR SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday December 29th, Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Sunday, December 30th, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus

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

Office Open – 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Monday, December 31st

5:00 PM Mass

Vigil for Feast of Mary the Holy Mother of God

Office Open – 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Tuesday, January 1st

Feast of Mary the Holy Mother of God

10:30 AM

12:30 PM

Office Open – 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Parking

While parking at ground level is limited to 51 spaces, there is plenty of space in the underground parking lot. Please follow the instructions of the attendants. Do not park in front of the Church since this is a fire route and must be kept clear.

Additional parking is available on the east side of Elkhorn Public School and in the bus loop. Again, please follow the instructions of the attendant. The school requests that we do not park on the grass. Many thanks to Holly Richards, the Principal of Elkhorn Public School, for allowing us the use of the school property.