



**St. Gabriel  
Catholic School**  
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**Principal  
C. Crispo**

**Secretary  
P. Monaco**

**Head Caretaker  
S. Coulter**

**Superintendent:  
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416-222-8282**

**Trustee:  
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416-512-3405**

**CSPC Chair:  
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416-397-6800  
Mailbox #88256  
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**Parish:  
St. Gabriel Catholic Church  
670 Sheppard Ave. E.  
416-221-8866  
stgabrielparish@bellnet.ca  
Pastor: Fr. Brando  
Hours of Operation:  
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**



## **St. Gabriel Catholic School**

### **February 2017**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

#### February Virtue: Love

As you are well aware, our school went through a review process set out by the Ministry of Education on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> called District Review. A team of educators (made up of superintendent, principals and vice principals) were here to observe the effectiveness of our school in terms of student learning. This quote from our superintendent sums up their preliminary observation of our school community; **A welcoming, calm place, where students are engaged and happy to take risks and make mistakes in a caring learning environment.** Congratulations to the entire staff and student body for their courageous daily efforts and reflective practices that allow for improvement to take place and flourish here at St. Gabriel - I couldn't be more proud of all of you! Moving forward, we will take the recommendations given to us by the District Review Committee and implement them within the school year.

Hallmark holiday - I think not! St. Valentine's Day is a very special day set aside to acknowledge our friendships - LOVE is at the very foundation of our Catholic faith. Jesus asks us, **"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."** John 13:34-35

We will be celebrating St. Valentine's Day with a few activities organized by our grade 8 students and the Grade 8 Graduation Committee with the hopes of fundraising for the 2017 Grade 8 Graduation. Students will be selling Valentine candy grams for 0.25 cents each, starting on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at lunch recess from 11:45 to 12:05pm in the foyer. On St. Valentine's Day the Grad Committee will also be hosting a photo booth, where students have the opportunity to have their photo taken with friends. Each photo will be \$1.00, more details to follow!

Our Nutrition Program will be running everyday starting Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. That means that students will be receiving a healthy morning snack from Monday to Friday. Also, please note that on Shrove Tuesday (Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>) all staff and students will be receiving pancakes for morning snack in order to have our 'fatty' fill before the Lenten season begins.

Yours in servant leadership,  
Cathy Crispo



## February 2nd- National Sweater Day

Our school will be taking part in National Sweater Day on Thursday, February 2! National Sweater Day is an annual event organized by World Wildlife Fund Canada. On National Sweater Day, WWF asks Canadians to turn down thermostats by two degrees Celsius at home, at school and at work to highlight the role that energy conservation plays in preventing climate change. Our school buildings will be a little chillier on February 2, so we are asking that all students wear or bring a sweater to school. In addition to turning down the heat and turning up our sweaters, our class will be participating in a number of activities designed to help students understand how everyday actions affect our planet's future. We are looking forward to a cozy day in the classroom!



ARTS &  
CRAFTS

**SUNNYSIDE UP**  
**MARCH BREAK CAMP**

FIRST  
AID

SPORTS

March 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>  
St. Gabriel Catholic School

SCIENCE



After three years of fun in the summer, Sunnyside Up is hosting our first March Break Camp. our structured program includes Arts, Science, Sports and First Aid taught to ages 4 -12 we invite young campers to join in on the fun and create memories that will last a lifetime

**for more information and to register visit [www.sunnysideupcamp.com](http://www.sunnysideupcamp.com)**

## The Importance of Visualization in Mathematics

By Gary Swain, Ed.D.

Take a moment and think about the number "12". In mathematical thinking, we might say that "12" is an abstraction of a certain number of "things". You might, for example, have twelve garden tools, marbles, or most anything. Thinking a bit more deeply, we might come to visualize "12" as connoting/representing various things from our own life experience. We might visualize the face of our daughter, born on the 12<sup>th</sup>, a chicken (based on dozen eggs in a carton), or, for that matter, the classic War movie of the 60's, "The Dirty Dozen". We hold an understanding of "12" that is both common (mathematically speaking) and unique to our experience.

More and more, researchers are identifying a clear link between abstract mathematical concepts and concrete experiences; that is, between mathematical ideas and our experience of them. Researchers at Stanford University have identified visual components of the brain that are active during mathematical thinking. These visual-spatial mechanisms work in conjunction with rather than separate from more abstract, symbolic components of our brains. Teacher can create concrete experiences in classrooms that allow students to have greater visual deposits or referents from real world experiences for mathematical understanding. A key strategy in linking our experience and mathematics is "concrete fading". Concrete fading seeks to connect the concrete and abstract. In doing so, it eliminates many of the negatives associated with each. While concrete experiences activate learning through real events (like playing with blocks, creating models, or modeling patterns), students can get lost in non-essential information in the experience. This can negatively influence their abilities to transfer their learning to new situations. A simple example: "adding" 3 bingo markers to 6 applies to more than just bingo markers, a detail that might be lost on some younger learners.

Through a middle phase, a pictorial or representational step, concrete fading moves from concrete to abstract with pictorial representations of the earlier concrete learning experience. In this case, bingo markers may be drawn on a page with the use of "+" and "=" signs. In this way, both the abstract concept (like  $3 + 6 = 9$ ) and its early representations in experience are held in mutually supportive ways. Research confirms that early representations of the abstract concept are held in memory by the student and are activated when students engage in problem solving, especially when the problems are unique and challenging. Researchers note as well that concrete fading is not just for younger learners but applies to all learners of all ages in all areas of mathematics.

We know that mathematical learning is a complex task requiring a balance of many effective strategies. These include: clear objectives and learning goals, timely feedback, shared and guided mathematical learning, independent practice, as well as problem solving. Concrete fading is another key strategy in making mathematical learning better for our students.

### **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
	Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

## 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.

## AFRICAN CANADIAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is the month TCDSB sets aside to honour and celebrate the achievements of people of African heritage and acknowledge their contributions to the social, political economic and cultural life in our community. This provides students with an opportunity to learn about the experiences of Black Canadians and the vital role they played throughout our shared history. Daily announcements will be read by students to honour these Black Canadians.

Ms. Sutherland has organized a workshop for our grades 4-6 to participate in HOZA! "Hoza" is an African word which implies STOP, START or CHANGE. The intention of HOZA is to help put a STOP to negative thinking and behaviors, and facilitate CHANGE that is needed to START living in a more socially just world. This interactive workshop will have our students energized and thinking about how they too can make a positive change in the world.

Kiona Sinclair is a motivational speaker and volunteer coordinator at Humewood House. She has worked with several other Toronto based nonprofit organizations. She is coming to speak with our grade 7 and 8 students about her experience as a black female activist in Toronto. She wants to remind students that their voices can be heard and can make a difference!

## CSPC MEETING

The CSPC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> will have to be postponed to Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held in the computer lab at 7pm.

## 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 **courage in the month of JANUARY** ... *But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* Matthew 27

- Shaine Aglosolos
- Jasmine Kim
- Miguel Surco
- Isabella Mabanta
- Ogechi Oguamanam
- Naira Soto Lage
- Junior Brown
- Quincy Keir
- Maryella Agop
- Jimena Dominguez
- Tyra Barallon
- Connor Sparkman
- Phoenix McConnell
- Peter Paolitto



## SHROVE TUESDAY

