



**St. Gabriel
Catholic School**
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Pastor: Fr. Brando
Hours of Operation:
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



St. Gabriel Catholic School

March 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

March Virtue: Forgiveness

The virtue for this month is forgiveness and it is central during the season of Lent. Forgiveness is the cornerstone of our faith and one that Jesus modeled for us in his life and death. We should strive to let go of the burden of resentment through forgiveness and teach and model this to our children as a gift.

Planning for Next Year

Please contact the school if you expect your child will be transferring to another school before the next school year commences in September 2019. Also, if you are planning an extended summer vacation, whereby your child/children will not be returning until after the first week of September 2019, please let us know as soon as possible. Staffing and classroom organization are directly related to student enrolment and therefore it is crucial that we have the most accurate information possible as we begin to plan for next year.

Dressing Appropriately for the Weather

A reminder that students need to come to school each day dressed to be outdoors for the regularly scheduled recess periods. Winter coats, appropriate footwear, head and hand protection are all required by all students. It is our school policy to maintain regular outdoor recesses during the winter season except on those occasions when rain or severe cold would require alternative decisions to be made. We regularly monitor the temperature and wind-chill for risk of frostbite. Students are expected to have a separate pair of shoes for indoor footwear.

March Break

Our Mid-winter Break is scheduled for the week of March 11-15. On behalf of our staff, we wish you a safe and enjoyable March Break. As always, we appreciate the ongoing support given by the St. Gabriel Catholic School community to support our student's learning.

Yours in Catholic leadership,

Ms. A. De Roma



*O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You,
and I detest all my sins, because of your just punishment;
but most of all because they offend You, my God,
Who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace,
to sin no more, and avoid the nearest occasion of sin.*

Amen.

ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL HOURS
2018-2019 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

To report your child as late or absent, please use one of the following options:

Call 1(833)251-3286 (toll-free)

Online go.schoolmessenger.ca

School Messenger Mobile App

Please make sure that all students who arrive late check in at the front office.

Please ensure the school office has your current email address on file.

SIGNING IN AS A VISITOR

Please be reminded that signing in as a visitor and wearing a sticker that identifies you as a "VISITOR" to our school is mandatory!! We encourage and appreciate all our volunteers, be it for the nutrition program, for scientists in school, school excursions, etc. However, the safety of our staff and students is our number one priority and signing in allows us to regulate and monitor who is in our school, when and for what purpose. Full compliance is expected.

ST. GABRIEL'S MASS TIMES
AND YOUTH CHOIR

St. Gabriel's Parish mass times:

Saturday 4:30

Sunday 8:30, 10:30, 12:30

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 **LOVE**:

- Maya Lamb
- Floyd Wong
- Victor Martinez Cintra
- Aaron Crespo
- Irene Shin
- Zachary Yonas
- Essay Beraki
- Dayland Rexhepi
- Stellar Han
- Laila O'Brien
- Isabella Mabanta
- Pheonix Morgan
- Jordyn Wheeler
- Ella Choi
- Amy Usme Reyes
- Timmy Fatukasi
- EJ Panzo

The Role of Parents - PBS Parents

Although a parent's role in their children's learning evolves as kids grow, one thing remains constant: we are our children's learning models. Our attitudes about education can inspire theirs and show them how to take charge of their own educational journey.

Be a role model for learning. In the early years, parents are their children's first teachers — exploring nature, reading together, cooking together, and counting together. When a young child begins formal school, the parent's job is to show him how school can extend the learning you began together at home, and how exciting and meaningful this learning can be. As preschoolers grow into school age kids, parents become their children's learning coaches. Through guidance and reminders, parents help their kids organize their time and support their desires to learn new things in and out of school.

Pay attention to what your child loves. "One of the most important things a parent can do is notice her child. Is he a talker or is he shy? Find out what interests him and help him explore it. Let your child show you the way he likes to learn," recommends Dalton Miller-Jones, Ph.D.

Tune into how your child learns. Many children use a combination of modalities to study and learn. Some learn visually through making and seeing pictures, others through tactile experiences, like building block towers and working with clay. Still others are auditory learners who pay most attention to what they hear. And they may not learn the same way their siblings (or you) do. By paying attention to how your child learns, you may be able to pique his interest and explain tough topics by drawing pictures together, creating charts, building models, singing songs and even making up rhymes.

Practice what your child learns at school. Many teachers encourage parents to go over what their young children are learning in a non-pressured way and to practice what they may need extra help with. This doesn't mean drilling them for success, but it may mean going over basic counting skills, multiplication tables or letter recognition, depending on the needs and learning level of your child. "There may be times to review, but don't take on the role of drill master," adds Diane Levin, Ph.D. "And when you do review it should feel as if your child wants to be a part of the practice."

Set aside time to read together. Read aloud regularly, even to older kids. If your child is a reluctant reader, reading aloud will expose her to the structure and vocabulary of good literature and get her interested in reading more. "Reading the first two chapters of a book together can help, because these are often the toughest in terms of plot," notes Susan Becker, M. Ed. "Also try alternating: you read one chapter aloud, she reads another to herself. And let kids pick the books they like. Book series are great for reluctant readers. It's OK to read easy, interesting books instead of harder novels."

Connect what your child learns to everyday life. Make learning part of your child's everyday experience, especially when it comes out of your child's natural questions. When you cook together, do measuring math. When you drive in the car, count license plates and talk about the states. When you turn on the blender, explore how it works together. When your child studies the weather, talk about why it was so hot at the beach. Have give-and-take conversations, listening to your child's ideas instead of pouring information into their heads.

Connect what your child learns to the world. Find age-appropriate ways to help your older child connect his school learning to world events. Start by asking questions. For example, ask a second-grader if she knows about a recent event, and what's she heard. Then ask what she could do to help (such as sending supplies to hurricane victims). You might ask a younger child if he's heard about anything the news, and find out what he knows. This will help your child become a caring learner.

Don't over-schedule your child. While you may want to supplement school with outside activities, be judicious about how much you let or urge your child to do. Kids need downtime as much as they may need to pursue extra-curricular activities. "If a child has homework and organized sports and a music lesson and is part of a youth group in church or synagogue, it can quickly become a joyless race from one thing to another. Therefore, monitor your child to see that he is truly enjoying what he is doing. If he isn't, cut something off the schedule," advises Michael Thompson, Ph.D.

Keep TV to a minimum. "Watching lots of TV does not give children the chance to develop their own interests and explore on their own, because it controls the agenda," advises Diane Levin, Ph.D. "However, unstructured time with books, toys, crafts and friends allows children to learn how to be in charge of their agenda, and to develop their own interests, skills, solutions and expertise."

Learn something new yourself and have fun!

TORONTO CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEES 2018-2019

Wards

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Virtue of Forgiveness—March 2019

March, has been assigned the virtue of FORGIVENESS. We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus who, while hanging on the cross, he forgave the repentant thief, bringing him back to God. But forgiveness is also an important part of Catholic teaching beyond Christ's Death and Resurrection. The need to forgive and be forgiven comes from our need to be healed, to ask forgiveness and be forgiven. The power of forgiveness comes from being created in God's image. During March, we will emphasize teaching the students about forgiveness. Pope Francis has said that marriage is the sacrament of forgiveness because in it you know a person's strengths and their brokenness and from that, one is called to accept the other person as they are, particularly their vulnerability. We aim to teach the students that being forgiving is a skill that needs to be learned. Our goal—students as champions for forgiveness, real world problem-solvers, responsible citizens. When someone hurts you, you can hold on to anger, resentment and thoughts of revenge — or embrace forgiveness and move forward. Forgiveness means letting go of grudges and bitterness. By embracing forgiveness, we can also embrace peace, hope, gratitude and joy. Recognizes that "sin, human weakness, conflict and forgiveness are part of the human journey" and that the cross, the ultimate sign of forgiveness is at the heart of redemption. Students regularly say to each other, I forgive you when someone apologizes for hurting them while at school.



Monthly Update from the Board

March 2019

TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2019-2020

Number of school days 194 Number of Professional Activity Days 7

Labour Day September 2, 2019

First Instructional Day September 3, 2020

Thanksgiving Day October 14, 2019

Christmas Break December 23, 2019–January 3, 2020

Start of second semester for secondary schools February 3, 2020

Family Day February 17, 2020

Mid-Winter Break March 16-20, 2020

Good Friday April 10, 2020

Easter Monday April 13, 2020

Victoria Day May 18, 2020

Last day of classes for all students June 26, 2020

Seven (7) Professional Activity (PA) Days for ELEMENTARY schools:

October 11, 2019 Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development

November 15, 2019 Parent-Teacher Conferences

December 6, 2019 Provincial Education Priorities

January 17, 2020 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

February 14, 2020 Parent-Teacher Conferences

June 5, 2020 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

June 26, 2020 Provincial Education Priorities

***Seven (7) Professional Activity (PA) Days for SECONDARY schools:**

October 11, 2019 November 15, 2019

December 6, 2019 February 14, 2020

June 24, 25, 26, 2019

Three PA days devoted to Provincial Education Priorities and supporting Article 19 of the Collective Agreement. One PA day devoted to Faith Development. One PA day devoted to numeracy across the curriculum. The remaining two PA days will be devoted to system priorities, annual learning plans and local goals articulated in the School Learning Improvement Plans.

* Secondary schools, in consultation with their Local School Staffing Advisory Committee, may schedule a Professional Activity Day to align with the day following one of the Parent-Teacher Interview nights.

Clocks Spring Forward

Remember that the clocks go forward one hour on March 10th.

Never Miss Out on Important News

Follow @TCDSB on Twitter to stay up to date on parent engagement opportunities, scholarships, contests, employment and community service opportunities for students, weather related cancellations or closures, consultations and more.

Not a Twitter user, no problem.

Subscribe to E-News and have the same information delivered to your email weekly.

<https://web1.tcdsb.org/InterestSubscription/subscription.aspx>