



# October 2024 Newsletter



## St. Gabriel Catholic School

### Principal's Message

Dear Parents

Wow...where did September go? As we mark the beginning of October, Fall is in the air. We continue to be very busy at St. Gabriel, as we establish our routines and complete our educational plans for the school year.

We want to thank all our families who came out to our Meet the Staff event. It was wonderful to see students excited to show their families around and introduce them to their teachers.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> we have a PA Day, and our staff will be sharing in our Faith to learn more about board theme of "Pilgrims of Hope." We look forward to sharing with students how they can share in this theme throughout the year.

We will begin our Hot Lunch Program the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to check out the online Lunchbox ordering through School Cash Online and ensure all orders for each week are placed before noon on Sunday's.

We've had a great start to the school year. Our students are outstanding, and we look forward to watching them grow spiritually, academically, and socially this year.

May your Thanksgiving tables be filled with the bounty of God's harvest and be surrounded with the love of your families.

Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Jennifer McLaren Gibbons and Mrs. Roseanne Plant

**Principal:**

Mrs. Jenifer McLaren Gibbons

**Vice Principal:**

Mrs. Roseanne Plant

**Secretaries:**

Ms. Jenine Melo

Mrs. Kerry Rawson

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## Important Dates

Tuesday October 8th	PA Day (No School)
Monday October 14th	Happy Thanksgiving (No School)
Friday October 25th	Wear Purple Day
Tuesday October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Cross Country County Meet
Thursday October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween (Information to follow)

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### Dismissal from School

**Our school day ends at 3:00pm.** At dismissal, staff will ensure that they bring students outside to have a safe release to parents or an older sibling. Parents and families are asked to say a quick hello to staff but avoid congregating. **It is important that families pick their child up from school promptly.** If you are unable to pick up your child at 3:00pm we ask that you make alternative arrangements for someone to pick up your child and communicate this arrangement to the office.

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### Parking

Please be aware that the Bylaw officer will continue to monitor the parking throughout the year. He will be ticketing individuals who are parking in the no parking spots across the street from the school. Please remember that double parking in the parking lot is not allowed. Please do not block the entrance way and exit to the school. This year we have the Boys & Girls Club picking up some students at the end of the day. Our kids are worth it. Park in designated areas only.

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### INDOOR SHOES



While at school, all students are expected to wear a clean pair of shoes when indoors. This practice provides for a cleaner and safer school facility. We recommend that students have running shoes that can also be worn in the gym as their indoor shoes all year long.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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### ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL COUNCIL

The St. Gabriel School Council is an important component of our school community. Our first meeting will be held on **Monday October 21<sup>st</sup> at the school** at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in learning more about School Council, please reach out to Mrs. McLaren.

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### HOT LUNCHES

We will have hot lunches through LUNCHBOX again this year. Remember to order before Sunday at noon for the upcoming week. **Please note that our hot lunches support our fundraising efforts.** We appreciate you supporting the hot lunch program



## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE—VERY IMPORTANT

We really appreciate having every family on board with this initiative. St. Gabriel School will only utilize School cash online as a form of payment. Sorry, NO CASH or CHEQUES will be accepted. Credit Cards are now accepted. Once you are registered, you can pay for field trips, hot lunches etc., for all your children at one time. You will also receive notification when an item has been placed on School Cash.

**If you require HELP setting up or using SchoolCash Online, please call:**

**1-866-961-1803**

*Don't wait until it's too late and your child misses out.*



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## Become a Volunteer

A Vulnerable Sector Police Check AND Completion of an Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (A.O.D.A.) training module are requirements of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for all volunteers. **You must apply for your Vulnerable Sector Check via the online process of the Brantford Police Services or the area where you live.** The process to obtain a Vulnerable Sector Check in the province of Ontario is now **online**. A standardized **electronic form** obtained from the school is used in the online VSC application process. The form includes details of the volunteer position and authorized signature. Volunteers must have a Vulnerable Sector Police Check every three years. All volunteers (parents, guardians, grandparents, etc.) require a Vulnerable Sector Police Check. If you do not have one at the time of the event (e.g. class trip), you will not be able to participate.

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## ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL AND LEAVING FOR APPOINTMENTS

Students who arrive late to school must report to the office before going to class.

A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must come to the office to sign the student out. All students must be picked up at the office. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all students.



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## October is Child Abuse Prevention Month

We will be participating in **GO PURPLE DAY!!** Children's Aid Societies are working with schools and other organizations across the province to **PURPLE** and break the silence that surrounds child abuse. Please wear purple on **October 25<sup>th</sup>** to support this important topic.



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## MEDICATION

The staff at St. Gabriel Catholic School must follow Board procedures for the administration of medication during school hours. If your child requires such medication you are asked to contact the Principal, and the necessary arrangements will be made.

Authorization to provide such service must be made in writing by the parent and physician on the appropriate form (obtained at the school). Only prescription drugs will be administered. Nonprescription drugs such as

aspirins will NOT be administered to the students.

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### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports will be going home on Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be an opportunity for parent/teacher interviews on Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> in the evening and Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> in the morning, to discuss your child(s) progress. More information will be forthcoming regarding scheduling an interview time.



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### **JUNIOR & SENIOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

On **Wednesday October 2nd** our school co-ed junior and senior soccer teams competed in the Board soccer tournament at the John Wright Soccer field in Brantford. We are proud of both of our teams! A special congratulations to our junior team for winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the tournament.



A very big thank you to our **Junior Soccer** Coach Ms. Centritto and our **Senior Soccer** coach Mrs. Lucas-Nikota.

**Junior Soccer Team Players:** Lilya C., Stryker R., Cara D., CJ S., Nolan S., Oscar L., Gabriella B., Malina S., Lucas T., Ariella R., Jadon E., Nikala M., Adriana C., Evan F., Ben F., Felix B., Juan F., Ava D.

**Senior Soccer Team Players:** Sophia D., Zoe A., Emma C., Kayla B., Samantha L., Sasha L., Jackson S., Charlotte G., Jake R., Keyden R., Avery S., Nadel E., Sophie M., Kianna J-A., Pia S., Avery S., Preston J., Philip K., Ben K., Evan D., Bentley S.

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### **September – “Being a Good Friend” (Hospitality and Friendship)**

*Demonstrates a desire to create good friendships and a friendly classroom environment*

**This September recipients of the Catholic Virtue are:**

Rebecca J., Aleks C., Madelyn D., Teo U., Cataleya V., Beatrisse L., Layla G., Vivienne P., Stevie B. Benjamin M., David A., Orla O., Carson L., May S., Lyrique H., Willow U., Keira C., Liam D., Tenley M., Audrey W., Juliannah A., Elliott C., Drew D., Ella D., Jazmynn G., Brianna Y., Layla H. Sydney L, Lochlan R., Jaylen X., Niva V., Nujhaa N., Wyatt D., Jackson L., CJ S., Lincoln W., Briella M., Cara D., Eva B., Albert S., Nikala M., Ben F., Shreya B., Jadon E., Christian L., Bentley S., Mya V., Zulfaa N., Matteo B., Ben O., Kianna L., Luca H., Sasha L., Ethan M.



***Congratulations to all of our winners!***

### **October’s Focus – “Being a Team Player” (Compassion)**

*Demonstrate kindness towards others and is considerate of their actions and words, forgiving towards others.*

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## **Nut Allergy**

### **St. Gabriel's is a NUT FREE facility.**

There are students in our school with life threatening allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. Even a trace amount from peanut/nut products or food that has come in contact with a peanut/nut source (cross contamination) can result in a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reaction being respiratory difficulties, blockage of the airways, which if not medicated immediately, can lead to death.

To provide the minimized allergen environment, we need the support and cooperation of the parents/guardians and the school community. Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts and tree nuts as well as products that have the "may contain **peanuts/tree nuts**" warning on them. Please read labels before sending food to school. Keep in mind not all packaging is clearly labelled with the warning. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If you have caregivers who provide your child with lunches or snacks, we encourage you to share this information with them.

Please note that as per **Board Policy 200.05** Peanut Butter Substitutes are not permitted. School administrators, staff and volunteers are not food experts and are not qualified to decide what is (or is not) real peanut butter; peanut butter substitutes are not permitted in school

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