



October 2025 Newsletter



St. Gabriel Catholic School

Principal:
Mrs. Shelley
Callender

Vice Principal:
Mrs. Catherine
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Secretaries:
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Principal's Message

Dear Families,

October is upon us, and we have evidence of that in the chillier weather that has graced our presence. As we look forward to Thanksgiving weekend, we are reminded of the multitude of blessings that God has given to each one of us. At St. Gabriel School, we are surrounded by many such blessings; the staff that work tirelessly to plan, implement, and execute engaging learning experiences for our children, the staff behind the scenes who care for and manage the day-to-day tasks that need attention thus allowing all things to operate and flourish, the children who make us smile each day and provide us with hope and gratitude for all things good, and the families who provide enduring support to our school team.

Please note that on October 7th we have a PA Day. Our staff will be engaging in faith-based learning centered around this year's board theme, "Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness." We look forward to sharing with our students how they can embrace and live out this inspiring theme throughout the year. We've had a fantastic start to the school year. Our students are truly outstanding, and we eagerly anticipate watching them grow spiritually, academically, and socially in the months ahead. We are so proud of and thankful for our school community.

Wishing you Thanksgiving blessings and the opportunity to be with family and friends this weekend and always.

Peace and Blessings,

Shelley Callender (Principal) and Catherine Colatosti (Vice-Principal)

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving,
We ask your blessings on our family,
our friends, our home, our health—and
on the food we are about to eat.

We thank you for this time together and
the many gifts that you have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of
bounty those less fortunate. And may
your love consume us all that we
might share in your glory.

Amen.



Important Dates

Tuesday October 7th

PA Day (No School)

Thursday October 9th

Fall Flannel Spirit Day

Monday October 13th

Happy Thanksgiving (No School)

Thursday October 16th

Dress Purple Day

Thursday October 23rd

Camp Celtic Parent Meeting

Friday October 31st

Halloween (Information to follow)

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.

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.

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.

HOT LUNCHES

Our hot lunch program has started again. All hot lunches must be ordered on 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.



*****Just a reminder that hot lunches including pizza will not be saved. We will make every effort to send hot lunches home with siblings. Sorry for the inconvenience.*****



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.

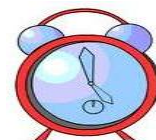
Become a Volunteer

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. **Parents interested in volunteering can contact the main office and provide their Full Legal Name (first, middle, and last name) and Date of Birth to receive a copy of the Vulnerable Sector Check Request Form.** The form includes details of the volunteer position and an 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.

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. Parents are asked to use the Safe Arrival App, Website or toll-free number to indicate that their child is arriving late or being picked up early. Please see the website info and toll free number below.



<https://home.schoolmessenger.ca>.

1-844-445-4381

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 **GO PURPLE** and break the silence that surrounds child abuse. Please wear purple on **October 16th** to support this important topic.



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.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be going home on Monday November 3rd. There will be an opportunity for parent/teacher interviews on Thursday November 13th in the evening and Friday November 14th in the morning, to discuss your child(s) progress. More information will be forthcoming regarding scheduling an interview time.



JUNIOR & SENIOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT

On Thursday September 25th 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! Our junior team made it to the championship game. A special congratulations to our senior team for winning 1st place in the tournament.



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

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:

Wesley B., Aleks C., Maia L., Isla V., Nathaniel A., Vivienne P., Daniel D., Christian S., Lennon F., Miguel M., Kaitlynn R., Alfred S., Liam L., Ariyah V., Krystian R., Layla S., Claire C., Kenzie L., Caymn C., Rosy M., Kaden L., Myla M., Liam M., Tenley M., Ethan J., Willow U., Elliott C., Jazmynn G., Raiden S., Chloe C., Khadijat B., Jordan B., Talia D., Zak Y., Miley Q., Niva V., Hayden S., Avery P., Lia S., Adriauna T., Keji G., Kemeyeose O., Nikala M., Mehri B., Ava D., Chelsea M., Shreya B., Greg U., Makaley O. Benny K., Sophia L.

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.

October Attendance Matters – Building Strong Habits Early

As we begin the second month of the school year, it's the perfect time to reinforce the importance of regular school attendance. September gave everyone a fresh start, and now October is about building consistent routines that help students succeed — both academically and socially.

Developing strong attendance habits in the early months of the school year sets the tone for the rest of the year. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to feel connected, keep up with classwork, and build strong relationships with peers and staff.

We understand that every family may face challenges — whether due to illness, unexpected changes, or stress — and we want to remind you that our school is here to help. If you're finding it hard to maintain consistent attendance, or if your child is experiencing difficulties (including mental health concerns), please don't hesitate to reach out. Your school principal, office staff, or our student support teams are available to assist you.

Let's work together to make October a month of strong starts, consistent routines, and meaningful learning.

Thank you for your partnership in helping all students grow and thrive.

PARENT COUNCIL NEWS:

The next meeting will be at the school on **Wednesday October 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome to join in and find out what we are about and share your ideas on upcoming events. Please know you do not have to commit to all meetings or events to join, we welcome everyone to come when they can.

Welcome to our Council: Chair Hillary Smiley Co-Chair Nicole McNally Secretary Amanda Gowan Treasurer: Lisa Walsh.

Are you looking for ways to get involved with our school? Come join parent council to help improve student achievement, accountability and the students well being. We as parent council support administrators and teachers. We advocate and discuss funding and issues that affect various aspects of education, and school improvements. Parent council allows you to contribute your skills and knowledge to benefit not only your child(ren) but your school community as well. There are many opportunities to help with volunteering, fundraisers etc.

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

**Follow us on twitter @astgcatholic and get alerts from our website,
www.stgabrielbrantford.ca/ when we add new information.
Stay in the know! All correspondence will be via our website and/or ema**