St. Gabriel School
September/October Newsletter

Dear St. Gabriel Families

As we begin a new school year, I want to extend a warm welcome to all our families—both those returning and those joining us for the first time. The start of the year is always filled with excitement, anticipation, and the promise of new learning experiences for our students.

Our teachers have been thoughtfully planning, preparing classrooms, and collaborating to ensure a smooth and engaging start for every child. Their dedication and professionalism have created a strong foundation for the months ahead, and we are entering this year with a positive outlook and a shared commitment to student success.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. We look forward to a wonderful year of growth, learning, and community.

Ms. Caruso

Principal

September Mentions, Events and Reminders

- ***Parent Forms:*** On the first day of school your child was given forms to be completed by their guardians. Please complete those forms and return them to your child's teacher by the due date indicated on each form. **Families requesting a second copy of the forms, for two household families, can come by the main office to pick up an extra set or simply request an extra set from your child's teacher.**

- ***School fees/lunch fees and daycare fees:*** All fees are expected to be paid by the due dates of the respective memos in the parent forms package. Families with outstanding balances will be contacted and offered payment plans. Families with outstanding daycare fees will be contacted by Ms. Nancy to make payment before being able to use the daycare service. Please reach out to our team should you have inquiries about payment options.

- ***Code of Conduct:*** Our School Code of Conduct can be found on our website. Parents are asked to review the code of Conduct with their children and sign the confirmation form sent to families.

- ***Dress code/color code***: Our school dress code can be found in our Code of Conduct. A reminder that for phys. ed students must wear their logo T-shirt with crest and running shoes.

- ***Labor Day Holiday*** (no school): September 8th, 2026

- **Geordie Production, *Nohkom's Knick-Knacks* Synopsis,** will be presented to all students on September 15th, 2026, from 10:10am-11:30am

- **Snacks/Lunch:** Our Generations Lunch Program has yet to begin. Information on the start date is forthcoming. Students are to bring snacks and a lunch to school every day until further notice. Lunch will not be able to be warmed up at school; we ask families to plan accordingly. Reminder that soft drinks and energy drinks are not permitted.

- ***Snack Program Begins***: September 14th, 2026

- ***Curriculum night:*** On September 17th, 2026, all families are welcome to meet their child's teacher from 6:00pm-8:00pm

- ***The Annual General Assembly*** will take place at Saint Gabriel School on September 17th, 2026, at 5:15pm. At this time, we will be electing members for the vacant positions on our Governing Board. ***3 two-year positions***

- ***Ped Day*** September 18th, 2026. Daycare will be open all day.

- ***Terry Fox/Welcoming Back corn roast:*** September 25th, 2026. Our annual Terry Fox Run as well as our Welcoming Back Corn Roast is planned for the day. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable bottoms, running shoes, their St. Gabriel logo t-shirt., and bring a water bottle We are asking for volunteers to help with the Corn Roast and the Terry Fox Run. Please contact the school if you are interested.

- ***Attestation Day*** is on September 30th, 2026. Attendance on this day is very important. Should your child be absent we will be sending you home a form to be completed upon their return indicating their school registration.

- ***Orange Shirt Day***: September 30th, 2026, Students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt. Orange Shirt Day was first established as an observance in 2013, as part of an effort to promote awareness and education of the Canadian residential school system and the effect it has had on Indigenous communities for over a century.

October Mentions, Events and Reminders

- ***Progress Report Cards*** will be ready for parents on Mozaik beginning October 9th, 2026

- ***Thanksgiving Holiday*** (no school): October 12th, 2026

- ***School Picture Day***: October 15th, 2026. Students will be called down by class to take their school and individual pictures.

- ***Ped Day*** October 16th and 26th, 2026. Daycare will be open

- ***Halloween Activities*** will take place October 30th, 2026. School activities will be taking place throughout the day (More info to come)

Building Update

We are pleased to provide a formal update regarding the ongoing renovation of the building's façade.

Phase One of the project has almost been completed, and the demobilization process is underway and will be completed shortly. We wish to acknowledge the professionalism of the project team. Collaboration between the school board's project managers and the school administration has remained consistent throughout this phase, ensuring smooth execution of all planned activities.

At this time the building is being prepared and protected on the exterior for the winter months. Until further notice from the project team, students will continue to use the yards as they were at the end of the school year last year (opposite the school on Hall Street and the yard on Wellington).

Phase Two is scheduled for the upcoming summer. Planning for this next stage is already in progress. Further details will be communicated as they become available.

The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community continue to guide all decisions related to this project.

Daycare Update

St. Gabriel's Daycare is excited to welcome all our students back for another wonderful year!

We are kicking off the fall with lots of fun; exciting activities planned for the children. Our first special event will be our Ped Day Cupcake Festival where the children will have the opportunity to enjoy a fun and memorable day together.

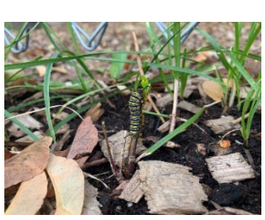
As we move into October, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a variety of fun and engaging activities designed to bring the children together and create special memories. We will also be celebrating Halloween with festive activities, Halloween treats, and costumes as the children show off their creative looks! 🎃🐓👻

We are so happy to have everyone back at daycare and look forward to an amazing year filled with fun, laughter, learning, creativity, and wonderful memories.

Home and School Update

Home and School will be receiving their chocolates for their annual Chocolate Bar Drive towards the end of September. We hope to have our fundraiser begin around the end of September or beginning of October and run for about 3 weeks. Proceeds will go towards school initiatives.

EcoSchools Update: Welcome Back!



We're excited to continue our EcoSchools initiatives this year, with the hope of working towards our third consecutive year as a Gold-Certified EcoSchool. We'll be keeping up with composting, milk carton recycling, waste-free lunches, and more while continuing to expand our outdoor garden spaces.

Last June, in collaboration with Vezina, we planted several new fruit trees in our Wellington garden, along with a collection of native pollinator plants and butterfly host plants. Our garden certainly kept busy over the summer, with some beautiful visitors stopping by! This year, we'll also be installing our Bug Quest Malaise Trap in the Wellington garden, which will allow us, with the help of the University of Guelph's Centre for Biodiversity Genomics, to monitor and learn about the fascinating variety of insect species visiting our garden. We're looking forward to another year of working together to make our school greener