



SAINT GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mrs. Woloszynowicz, Vice-Principal

“With Jesus as our guide, we see the value and potential of each person.”

Mr. Vavala, Principal

SEPTEMBER PRAYER

Loving God, our creator,
our saviour, our companion.
Bless this journey
of a new school year
that we undertake today.
Refresh our souls and
renew our spirits
as we embrace the beautiful
ministry you have called us to.

We welcome those who
are new to this community
and ask that you strengthen
them to share the wonderful
gifts you have given them.
Lord, make our hearts pure
as we prepare for the return of
students to this school,
and may you guide them to
return with open hearts
and minds eager to learn.
We ask this in Your name,

Amen.



SAINT GABRIEL
THE ARCHANGEL
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From the Principal's Desk

We are very excited to get another school year started. On behalf of Saint Gabriel the Archangel Catholic School I would like to welcome all parents, students and especially welcome all of the new additions to our school community. This year The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board's theme is **“Celebrating God’s Family”**.

You will also see this theme reflected throughout our school. We will be planning many events and activities to help celebrate our spirit throughout the year. As we enter this new school year, I am thrilled and thankful to be surrounded by such dedicated and devoted staff members, parents and students. I know with all of us working together, the many achievements will be joyously celebrated and the challenges will be overcome. Thanks for helping us continue to ensure we keep our students safe.

8:20 – 8:35	Supervision in the yard	
8:35 – 10:35	120 minutes of Instructional time	
10:35 – 10:55	Nutrition Break JK – 4	Recess Grades 5 – 8
10:55 – 11:15	Nutrition Break 5 - 8	Recess JK - 4
11:15 – 12:55	100 minutes of Instructional time	
12:55 – 1:15	Nutrition Break JK – 4	Recess Grades 5 – 8
1:15 – 1:35	Nutrition Break 5 – 8	Recess JK - 4
1:35 – 2:55	80 minutes of Instructional time	
2:55	Dismissal	

Upcoming Dates and Events

Our staff begin yard supervision in the morning at 8:20 a.m. For safety reasons, please do not send your child to school before supervision starts. Dismissal is at 2:55 p.m. and supervision in the yard ends at 3:10 p.m.

We would remind all students and their parents of the importance of arriving on time for school. In an effort to provide an efficient safe arrival program it is important that office information be accurate. We ask that students who arrive late please report to the office in a timely manner to help the office in obtaining accurate attendance records.

PARKING A.M./KISS-N-RIDE – Our front parking lot is designated for our school buses and vehicles with a red parking pass only. All other vehicles will not be permitted to enter the front lot. If you are dropping students off in the morning, please use the kiss-n-ride located at the south side of the school. We ask that you please remain in your vehicle so we can keep the flow of traffic moving. We also ask that you do not park in the side lot in the morning as we require all these spaces for staff.

PARKING P.M. – Only vehicles with a red special needs parking pass are allowed to enter the front parking lot. Our parking lot located at the south side of the school is closed to vehicles in the afternoon.

PARISH: Our school is part of the St. John Vianney Parish. If you need to contact the church to make arrangements for Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation, please call the parish office at 726-8007. Information will be sent home for

students preparing for First Communion and Reconciliation.

BIKES/SKATE BOARDS ETC.:

Students may ride bicycles roller blades, scooters, or skateboards to school, however, they are not to be used on school property. We expect all students' who ride a bike to school to wear a helmet. We also recommend the use of a lock to ensure safety during the day. Heelies (rollers built into shoes) are not allowed on the school grounds or in the building.

C L A S S R O O M INTERRUPTIONS:

In order to promote the best learning environment possible for children, it is important to minimize disruptions during the school day. If you wish to drop off some homework, lunches or other items, please check in at the office and we will notify your child during recess time that there is an item that needs to be picked up.

MEDICATION:

Certain students require the administration of oral medication. The school will adhere strictly to the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District Board's Policy in this regard. If it is essential that oral medication be administered to your child by the school, please request from the office, a copy of the policy and a Parent's Consent and Instruction Sheet to be completed and returned to the school.

**WE CANNOT
ADMINISTER MEDICATION
WITHOUT WRITTEN
PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION
AND COMPLETION OF THE
FORM.** If medication is to be left at the school it must be in the original container and labelled accordingly.

Upcoming Dates

September 6 - Welcome Back

September 19 - Student verification forms returned to school

September 20 - CSCC Mtg.

September 29 - Open House

September 29 - Feast of Saint Gabriel the Archangel

September 30 - P.A. Day (Faith Day for all staff. No school)

October 3 - Milk Program Starts

October 7 - Pizza Program Starts

October 10 - Thanksgiving

October 12 - Mass at SJV Church

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

If your child will not be in attendance or will be arriving late to school, please leave a message on the school answering machine or use the safe arrival form on our website. If buses are cancelled and your child is a walker or is driven and will not be attending school, please call in the absence. Our school phone number is **705-722-0293** and our answering machine is available 24 hrs per day.

SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION:



Bus Drivers are advised that they are not to drop off kindergarten students if there is no one at the stop to meet them. Please ensure that you or your caregiver meets the bus. The buses often run a little late in the first weeks of school, so we ask that you please be patient. Please indicate in writing to the office (**a phone call will not be accepted**) if your children are to get off at a different designated bus stop. *This would be for childcare purposes only.* Once we have received the note a Transportation Approval Form will then be given to the bus driver. Please make sure your child's name, bus # and description of the stop (street names) are included on the note. Policy states that students who live within 1.6 km of the school are to walk to and from school and are not permitted to be transported by bus for any reason. To limit bus cancellations or early dismissal if weather conditions warrant, The Simcoe County Transportation Consortium has developed "Inclement Weather Zones." These four zone areas have been determined with consideration to weather patterns, school catchments areas, routes that cross over catchment areas and special needs transportation.

Saint Gabriel the Archangel School is located in the CENTRAL WEATHER ZONE.

C A T H O L I C S C H O O L COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

Parents who are interested in joining the CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CSCC) are invited to attend a meeting on **September 20 in the school library at 6:30 p.m.** During the first meeting the CSCC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL will be elected. If you are not able to attend the meeting but are interested in an executive position, please contact the school office. Positions open are Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Parish Rep., Community Rep and Treasurer. If you would like to be a member and are not able to attend the meeting please contact the school so we may add your name to the list. The CSCC Candidate Nomination Form can be found on our school website or please contact the office. All are welcome to attend and be an active member of your school community. The main focus of the Catholic School Community Council is to be a voice in Catholic education.

MILK, PIZZA, SUBS& The Lunch Lady:

Milk, pizza and subs will be available to students beginning in October. Pizza, milk and subs will be delivered during the second nutritional break. Pizza and milk orders will be prepared and sent home later in September. Orders will be processed twice a year. Sub orders will be processed every two months. If you have any concerns with this arrangement, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Late orders cannot be accepted. If you wish to order lunch through The Lunch Lady (Mondays only), please visit their website at: thelunchlady.ca. The first Monday to place an order for will be Oct.3rd.

OFFICE PROCEDURES:

When you are entering the school for an appointment or for a scheduled volunteer time, we ask that you sign in

at the office. You will receive a visitor or volunteer tag. Our students and staff know that if they see adults in the school who are not wearing these tags, they will be stopped and asked to return to the office. **We ask adults not to go on to the playground including along the (JK/SK fence) while our students are outside. This also applies in the morning on the yard between 8:20-8:35 a.m.**

OPEN HOUSE:

Saint Gabriel the Archangel will be holding an Open House on September 29th, from 6:00- 7:00 pm. The purpose of the Open House is for parents to meet their child's teacher and to ask general questions about your child's program.

PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGIES:

Several of our students have a life threatening food allergy to peanuts and peanut butter and /or tree nuts. This is a medical condition that causes severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. We are asking your assistance in this matter to provide the safest environment possible for these children. You can help keep these students safe by providing lunches that do not contain tree nuts, peanuts and/or peanut butter. **We are striving to provide a peanut free and scent free (perfume, cologne, etc...) environment.**

P A R E N T / T E A C H E R DISCUSSIONS:

Our teachers welcome communication with parents. Please indicate in a note to the teacher when you can be reached by phone. The teacher will contact you to set up a mutually convenient time to meet if concerns cannot be resolved during the telephone conversation. If you have concerns, we encourage that you speak to the classroom teacher first before contacting the office.

SAFE WELCOME

All elementary schools in our board are using front door intercom and video technology to manage visitor access into the school facility. This is part of the Ministry of Education's Safe Welcome Program, which is aimed at providing enhanced security, better monitor who is visiting our schools and to ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office.



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM:

If your child will not be in attendance or will be arriving late to school, please leave a message on the school answering machine or notify us on-line by going to our school website. Our school phone number is **705-722-0293** and our **answering machine is available 24 hrs per day**. If your child will be absent for a duration, it is important to notify the classroom teacher as this helps with the daily routine in the classroom and it alleviates unnecessary telephone calls home.

SCHOOL AGENDAS:

Agendas will be made available for all students in Grade 1 to Grade 8. **The cost is \$6.00**. They are designed to improve organizational skills as well as provide a way to convey messages between home and the school.

SCHOOL LUNCH TIME:

Students are not permitted to leave for lunch unless signed out by a parent. If you wish your child to go home for lunch on a daily basis, a letter

must be sent in that indicates that your child will be consistently going home for lunch at the second nutritional break. This letter will be kept on file for the school year. As a school, we work to be environmentally responsible. We request that the students bring litter-less lunches to school. We also require that the students not take snacks into the yard. If you will be dropping off a lunch or other items for your child, please proceed to the front office. Please advise your child they are to pick up their lunch at this location.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE LINES:

Our telephone lines are very busy and contacting the school may be difficult. In order to ease this situation, the phone will not be available for students' use unless it is an emergency. In emergency situations, our school office administrators or the classroom teacher will make the necessary phone calls. For change of routines at the end of the day please notify the office prior to 2:00 p.m. After this time, we cannot guarantee your child will be notified of the change.

STUDENT PICTURES:

Green Apple will be in the school to take students pictures on September 27th. More information will be sent to you closer to the dates. If your child will not be in attendance on these days, they can get their picture taken on picture re-take day, Nov 4th.

STUDENT PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF:

Parents, please do not accompany your children to their classes or pick them up at their classroom. Due to safety reasons parents of children in JK/SK are asked to wait for their children at the Kindergarten Gates. Primary students will be walked out to the doors in the

back of the school. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding in helping us implement this successfully.

STUDENT PROFILES:

Forms for neighbourhood walks, inclement weather, health updates, Picture/Video agreement, Internet use agreement (for applicable grades) and student verification forms will be sent home. Please make sure you update your information and return these forms to your child's classroom teacher. It is important that we have accurate information on file.

TERRY FOX RUN:

On **September 28th** the students of St. Gabriel the Archangel School will be participating in the Terry Fox National School Run Day. We are encouraging each student to bring in a "TOONIE FOR TERRY" during the week of September 21st – 25th, 2013. Thank you for your support.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE SCHOOL:

If you wish to volunteer in the school, you must have a Criminal Background Check (CBC), including a Vulnerable Sector Screening. There is no cost if you provide a letter from the school. The original CBC must be submitted to the office.