



# THE GIBSON GAZETTE

June 5



@JosephAGibsonPS

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## Message from Indigenous School Trustee

Aaniin (Hello), I am Indigenous Trustee for the York Region District School Board and a member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, the only First Nation in York Region and one you may recognize YRDSB acknowledging as their “partner in education” when providing land acknowledgements.

I would like to offer greetings for the month of June, the month when we recognize and celebrate the Indigenous People of Canada, our unique status as Canadians, our history on this land and our many significant contributions. In 1996, Governor General Romeo LeBlanc declared June 21 as National Aboriginal Peoples Day. He said, “On June 21<sup>st</sup>, this year and every year, Canada will honour the native peoples who first brought humanity to this great land.” In 2017, the name was formally changed, and we now recognize this day as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

June 21 was chosen because it is summer solstice, a time of spiritual significance for Indigenous people. It is a time when the sun is at the highest point in the sky and we experience the longest day of the year, and the most amount of daylight. This is considered powerful medicine and is a time for practicing ceremonies that honour our interconnection with the land and the cosmos.

The Anishinaabe also recognize June as the month of the Strawberry moon, Ode'min Giizis. The beautiful red heart shaped strawberry offers us the teaching of reconciliation and forgiveness. It is the first berry of the season that brings us that sweetness for life. June offers us many special gifts and much to be grateful for.

People ask what they can do to celebrate Indigenous People Day and as Canadians support Indigenous people in Canada?

We can build our awareness by reading Indigenous books, listening to Indigenous podcasts, and attending Indigenous events. We can create positive change and promote public awareness by lending our support to Indigenous issues. We can also offer land acknowledgements as we do at the beginning of meetings and events in the YRDSB.

However, I believe most importantly to Indigenous people across this planet is to

recognize our right to reclaim and practice our Indigenous languages and the important significance of the earth under our feet. Our traditional knowledge and our cultures exist in our languages and without the opportunity to learn them in our schools and speak them in our communities much of our ancestral knowledge will be lost forever.

Further, recognizing Indigenous relationship with the land and taking the time to build land awareness and connection is imperative. We must practice environmental stewardship and protect our greenspaces. Walk in nature, plant, or hug a tree, help a turtle across the road, sing to the water, just be with the land. It does little to offer a land acknowledgement if we do not acknowledge the earth on which we live. The earth is our mother, this is why we call her "Mother Earth" in our Anishinaabe creation stories. We are extrinsically interconnected; without her we would not exist. As her children we must care for her and protect her. Stand with Indigenous people by honouring her, this is the most important land acknowledgement you can give.

Chi-Miigwech and Happy Indigenous People's Day!

### **Your Indigenous Trustee, Lauri Hoeg**

This is a good resource and activity guide for students:

[https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD\\_activity\\_guide\\_2018\\_1528380426091\\_eng.pdf](https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD_activity_guide_2018_1528380426091_eng.pdf)

### **Message from Our School Trustee**

As we approach the end of the school year and the start of the summer break, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make this school year a positive one. This is our first school year since 2018-2019 that has not been interrupted by closures as a result of COVID-19, and it has been such a pleasure to visit schools and school events over the past few months and see students, staff and families connecting and learning together.

I think it's important to acknowledge the effect the pandemic has had on students; and we have made it a priority to put supports in place for student learning, achievement, mental health and well-being. We also continue to work hard to create safe, inclusive and caring learning environments where our students know and feel that they matter and belong.

June is also a time when we look ahead to transitions - students moving ahead to new grades, new schools and new adventures. Thank you to the school staff who support students through these transitions. Congratulations to all of our graduating students moving on to secondary school or post-secondary pathways. We are so proud of all that you have achieved, class of 2023, and wish you all the very best in what comes next.

I also want to acknowledge all that you have done, as family members, to support your child and our schools - whether that's asking your child about their learning, communicating with their educators, attending school events, reading the information that comes home from the school, sharing feedback, completing surveys, tracking down library books, volunteering on field trips and in the classroom, participating in school

councils, and so much more. We are grateful for all of the ways you support your child's learning and our public education system.

Communicating with families remains an important priority for us. I have had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with many families throughout the school year and appreciate how important it is that we remain connected to you. In addition to communication from your child's school, there are also many ways you can stay connected with what is happening in the Board, including our [newsroom](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [award-winning podcast](#). We were also very pleased to launch this year the [Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List](#) for families looking to receive information directly related to supporting Black students, celebrating Black excellence and dismantling anti-Black racism.

As we approach the summer, we look forward to welcoming students who will be participating in our variety of [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) summer learning programs. I wish everyone a happy, safe and restful summer break.

**Nadeem Mahmood**

Trustee, King and Vaughan Ward 1

June is....

## Italian and Portuguese Heritage Month and PRIDE Month

**Italian Heritage Month.** This month recognizes the contributions that Italian-Canadians have made to our country. Every June we honour and recognize the many years of achievements, successes and valuable contributions of Italian immigrants and Italian Canadians. Canada is home to more than 1.5 million Canadians of Italian descent, which makes it one of the largest Italian migration groups in the world.

**Portuguese Heritage Month.** In 2001 the Government of Canada enacted June 10th as Portugal Day and the month of June as Portuguese Heritage Month. Portuguese Canadian communities, which have contributed towards the growth and development of our country since the year 1500, continue to make many significant contributions to our society and to enrich it with its history, language, culture and work ethic

### PRIDE Month



Last week, J. A. Gibson proudly raised the PRIDE flag to acknowledge and celebrate June as Pride Month. As a school community, we are committed to recognizing 2SLGBTQAI+ history, creating safer and inclusive environments and recognizing the PRIDE flag as a symbol of pride, hope, diversity, acceptance, empathy and inclusion of all!

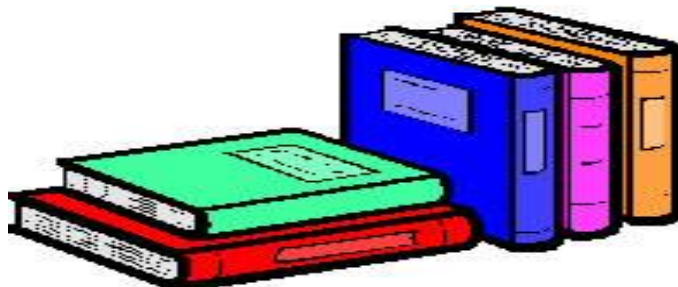
## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
<b>JUNE is Indigenous History Month; Italian Heritage Month, Portuguese Heritage Month and PRIDE Month</b>	
<b>June 5</b>	<b>Music Festival</b> – Int. Band at Wonderland
<b>June 6</b>	AREA Track/Field – Juniors
<b>June 7</b>	AREA Track/Field – Intermediates
<b>June 7</b>	Gr. 1-3 at Kortright Centre
<b>June 8</b>	RAINDATE – AREA Track/Field – Juniors
<b>June 8</b>	<b>Kindergarten Orientation</b> – 6:30 pm
<b>June 9</b>	RAINDATE – AREA Track/Field – Intermediates
<b>June 12</b>	Gr. 2s to BORC
<b>June 12</b>	School Council Meeting – 7 pm in library
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Music Festival</b> – J/I Choir at Wonderland
<b>June 13</b>	Gr. 4s to BORC
<b>June 17</b>	Gr. 7s to BORC
<b>June 16</b>	<b>ALL library books due today</b>
<b>June 16</b>	REGIONAL Track and Field (Gr. 4-8 students who qualify)
<b>June 19</b>	Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast – 8:45-10:00 am
<b>June 19</b>	RAINDATE – REGIONAL Track and Field
<b>June 21</b>	<b>National Indigenous Peoples Day</b>
<b>June 22/23</b>	Graduation Rehearsal in gym - AM
<b>June 22</b>	<b>Spring Fair</b> – 6-8 pm
<b>June 23</b>	Gr. 1 French Immersion to Water Park

## ALL Library Books Due – June 16

Students are asked to return all borrowed library books by **Friday, June 16th**. Students are responsible for returning all materials that have been signed out. Overdue notices will be distributed the week of June 19<sup>th</sup> and a fee will be charged for lost and/or damaged materials.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ms. Benninger at the school.



## Big Box of Cards Fundraiser



Congratulations to the following prize recipients for the Big Box of Card fundraiser!

**Top Selling Class.....Ms. Esho's Gr. 5/6 class**

**\$25 Dairy Queen Gift Cards..... Athena P.  
Lauren D.  
Niam O.**

**\$25 Indigo/Chapters Gift Cards ..... Abigail O.  
Maya C.**

**\$25 McDonalds Gift Cards..... Mariana A.  
Yeliz M.**

**Samsung Tablet ..... Adriano L.**

## Every Child Counts Survey – K- Gr. 3 Deadline extended to June 23

The Every Student Counts Survey was scheduled to close on Friday, May 19, 2023. In order to ensure families have enough time to complete the survey, we are **extending the deadline for the Kindergarten - Grade 3 survey until June 23, 2023.**

Families of students in Kindergarten - Grade 3 will receive another invitation letter to complete the survey. If you have already completed the survey, or do not wish to complete the survey, please disregard the invitation letter.

## Important End-of-the-Year Reminders



### **MEDICATION:**

Please make arrangements to have your child's medication picked up on June 30th or earlier. Any medication left at school after June 30th will be discarded.



**PERSONAL AND SCHOOL PROPERTY:**

Students are reminded to start cleaning out their lockers and desks as the school year comes to an end so that all personal items, locks and gym clothes are taken home. School property such as books and instruments must be returned to the classroom teacher, Ms. Sivanesan in the music room or Ms. Benninger in the library.



**LOST AND FOUND:**

Remember, to come and have a look at our Lost and Found during the last week of school, and claim any items that may belong to your child. All items remaining on June 30th will be donated to those in need.

**Volunteers for Spring Fair Needed – June 22**

Our School Council and Spring Fair Committee are working hard at putting together a wonderful evening of parent engagement and celebration of our school community. We are looking for any volunteers to help support that night. If you, or your high school child, would like to volunteer that evening, please send an email to [claudia.fischer@yrdsb.ca](mailto:claudia.fischer@yrdsb.ca)



*Joseph A. Gibson School Council is thrilled to once again present our annual ...*

**Gibson Spring Fair**  
**Thursday, June 22, 2023**

\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm

**Outside at the back of the school—Rain or Shine!**

**All families are invited to bring their own chair/blanket/picnic and enjoy an evening of family fun! Food Truck items and Super Smoothies must be pre-ordered on School Cash Online.**

**All students must be accompanied by their parent or guardian for the entire evening and please keep your pets at home.**



## REMINDER - Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> – Early Dismissal

All schools in the York Region District School Board are committed to improving student achievement and well-being. On **Friday, June 30, 2023**, an early release day will take place to allow elementary teachers and support staff to take part in meetings during the afternoon of that day. These meetings will allow for school staff to engage in culminating activities regarding the review and revision of the School's Improvement Plan as well as year-end and transition activities that support student success.

As has been our practice in the past, students will attend school during the morning of Friday, June 30, 2023 only. Students will be **dismissed early that day at 11:30 am**. Arrangements will be made to ensure that students who are normally bused to and from school will receive transportation at this time. **Parents/guardians whose children attend after school child care should make appropriate arrangements to address this change in schedule.**

## School Council News

2022-23 School Council Chairs:

*Pina Olsson and Lisa Papa*



### **NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:**

**Monday, June 12, 2023**

7:00 pm in the library

*We welcome all parents and guardians to attend any or all meetings.*

**Claudia Fischer**

Principal

[claudia.fischer@yrdsb.ca](mailto:claudia.fischer@yrdsb.ca)

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