

THE GIBSON GAZETTE

Dec. 18



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Wow! What an incredible Holiday Concert and Art Display by our students last night. Thank you to **Ms. Sivanesan** for organizing this amazing evening and to all the teachers and students who worked so hard to make it such a success. To the families that came last night – which looked like the entire school community ☺ - thank you for celebrating the evening with us. It was great to see all of you!

It's the final week of school before the Winter Holidays and I know we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break. Thank you to all the staff, students and families for your food and clothing donations to our Giving Tree. We will be donating all the items to the Food Bank and Women's Shelter at the end of the week.

We have a new addition to our Gibson Kindergarten team. Welcome to **Ms. Paradiso** who started teaching Kindergarten in the mornings in Rm. 127. We are happy to have you as part of our Gibson family.

Thanks to our Youth Space Leadership team for the following Spirit Week ideas for next week. Get ready to show your Winter Spirit, Gibson!

- Monday – Sweater Weather Day** (*wear a fun, ugly or decorated sweater*)
- Tuesday – Holiday Colours Spirit Day** (*wear your favourite holiday's colours*)
- Wednesday – Keep warm on Hat/Scarf/Ear Muff Day**
- Thursday – Blizzard Spirit Day** – (*wear all white*)
- Friday – Cozy up on Pyjama Day**

At this time of year, we have the privilege of celebrating diversity and recognizing different cultures as many of our families celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. On behalf of the Joseph A. Gibson staff, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday, and a very happy new year!

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
December is Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa	
Dec. 1 - 21	Gibson Gives Food and Clothing Drive continues
Dec. 18-22	Holiday Spirit Week
Dec. 18	Sweater Weather Day
Dec. 19	Favourite Holiday's Colours Day
Dec. 20	Hat/Scarf/Ear Muff Day
Dec. 21	Blizzard Spirit Day
Dec. 22	Pyjama Spirit Day
Dec. 22	Last Day of School
Dec. 23 – Jan. 7	Winter Break - Check out the Holiday Self Care Checklist attached in this email and see how many items you can check off this Winter Break!
Jan. 8	Back to school
Jan. 8	Dance with Justin Begins (see more information below)



Gr. 1 French Immersion Information Session and Registration

What is French Immersion?

- Provides opportunities for students to develop enhanced proficiency in French.
- Students receive instruction in French from teachers who are fluent in French.
- Begins in Grade 1 and is designed for children whose first language is not French.
- In Grades 1, 2 and 3, all subjects are taught in French. Starting in Grade 4, instructional time is shared equally between French and English.
- Program continues in secondary school.
- Secondary school students must earn at least 10 French Immersion credits to qualify for the French Immersion Certificate upon graduation.

Important Considerations

- Grade 1 is the only entry point into French immersion in YRDSB.
- Communication with parents/guardians is in English including, but not limited to, report cards, newsletters and parent-teacher interviews.
- For the first few months of Grade 1, children may not acquire skills identical to those learned by children in an English program as the focus is on learning in French.
- During the first few years of the FI program, students may not develop the same level of English proficiency as their peers in an English program, however children should acquire these skills by the end of Grade 8. Families are encouraged to continue to read to their children in their first language.

FI Accommodation Plan

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program is offered in Dual Track or Single-Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the [Board's website](#). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Information Sessions

This year, our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion program will take place in French Immersion schools on **January 18, 2024, at 7 p.m.** Program locations and additional information is available on our [website](#). If families are unable to attend the information session, they can hear about the French Immersion program on the [Tune In YRDSB: French Immersion Podcast](#).

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 19, 2024. Parents or guardians of Year 2 Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2023, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office and indicate their intention to enrol. The home school will notify the French Immersion school, and the French Immersion school will contact families by phone or email to collect any necessary information. Families are asked to register by February 6, 2024. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 6, 2024. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Lost and Found Items



The **LOST AND FOUND** tables will be on display in the front hallway during the week of Dec. 18th for students and parents. Any unclaimed items at the end of the day on December 22nd will be donated to families in need.

Dance with Justin is back!



The **Dance with Justin** program is returning this year and will begin on January 8th and continue through to January 18th. Each homeroom class from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be scheduled to receive lessons during their Phys. Ed and/or Drama/Dance classes during these two weeks.

On Thursday, January 18th, students will present their class dances to parents. A schedule of these two **day performances** will be sent to the community in the new year.

Thank you to Gibson School Council for bringing back and supporting this event this year!

Inclement Weather and School Transportation

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible, and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. Transportation cancellations or school closures are communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services - www.schoolbuscity.com or 1-877-330-3001
- [Board](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on [severe weather days](#), please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca.

School Council News

2023-24 School Council Chairs:

Laura Celli-Henriques and Pina Olsson



NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday, January 22, 2024

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

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