

# THE GIBSON GAZETTE

Feb. 5



## Website

[Joseph A Gibson P. S. Website](#)

## Email

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Superintendent  
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Trustee  
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**IMPORTANT REMINDER** for Gr. 1 French Immersion registration for September, 2024. Parents or guardians of Year 2 Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2024, and wishing to enroll in the French Immersion Program, can email or call the office and indicate their intention to enroll. Families are asked to register by February 6, 2024. **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.

It is always difficult to say goodbye to Gibson staff whether they have been with us for years or for a short time. **Ms. Paradiso** has been working in the Kindergarten class these past few months and her last day will be February 9<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank her for all her support with our kindergarten students and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

It is always exciting to have Teacher Candidates join us at Gibson as they work on getting teaching experience in schools. This month, we would like to welcome **Rigel Shafin** who will be working with Ms. Au in the Grade 7/8 class.

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
<b>February is Black History Month and Lunar New Year</b>	
<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>PA DAY</b> – no school for students
<b>Feb. 5</b>	Term 2 Begins
<b>Feb. 5</b>	Safe and Caring Schools Refresher Presentations (K to Gr. 8)
<b>Feb. 6</b>	Head Lice Check (K to Gr. 8)
<b>Feb. 10</b>	<b>Lunar New Year</b>
<b>Feb. 14</b>	Valentine's Day
<b>Feb. 15</b>	Intermediate Girls Basketball AREA Tournament
<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>Family Day Holiday</b>

**SAVE the DATE – Gr. 8 Graduation is Monday, June 24, 2024**

## A Message from our School Trustee

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is Black History Month. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder winter weather this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPs accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion](#) registration opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at course selection in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at [www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb](http://www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb) that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

Families in the Kleinburg area can look forward to the opening of a [new school](#) proposed to open in September 2024. If you live in the boundary area, you can expect to receive information about next steps and an update on the [naming process](#).

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area, or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) to guide system direction for a four-

year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

***Nadeem Mahmood***

King and Vaughan Ward 1

## Safe and Caring Schools REFRESHER Presentations Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>

To support and promote positive student behaviour, students will attend the **Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentations on Feb. 5th**. These presentations underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe, and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussing school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentation. Presentation topics include:

- YRDSB and School Code of Conduct (including items that are not to be brought to school)
- Staying safe online
- Progressive discipline, and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

### **Promoting Behaviour**

In the Mid-Year Presentation, students learn about following the YRDSB and the School Code of Conduct. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students will also be reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as **peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives**.

### **Reporting Behaviour**

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying.

Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



## **Mental Health**

We will stress the importance of connection to students as we continue the school year. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

## **Student Discipline**

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

## **Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment**

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping, electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

## **Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology**

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

## **For More Information**

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

## Look What's Happening at Gibson....

Thanks to our amazing staff who volunteer their time to support various teams and extra-curricular activities. We currently have the following happening at school:

**Junior/Intermediate Choir (Gr. 4-8)** (*Daniels, Sivanesan, Viau*)  
**YouthSpace (Gr. 7-8)** (*DeRoia, Pulla, Sivanesan*)  
**Volleyball (Jr. Girls)** (*Kahloon, Sivanesan, Tustin*)  
**Volleyball (Jr. Boys)** (*Tustin, Mr.Katwaru*)  
**Intermediate Girls Basketball** (*Marconi*)  
**Chess Club (Jr./Int.)** (*Charalambous, Esho*)  
**YR Skills Challenge (Jr/Int)** (*Au, Tustin*)  
**Forest of Reading Book Club (Gr. 3-8)** (*Abecassis and Benninger*)

*And coming soon....*

**Bollywood Dance Club (Gr. 1-8)** (*Kahloon, Sivanesan*)  
**Intermediate Band** (*Esho, Sivanesan*)

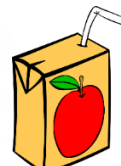
## Are You Moving?



As we begin to plan for the 2024-25 school year, we are carefully tracking enrolment numbers for the next school year. If you are moving, or know that your child **will not** be returning to Joseph A. Gibson in September, 2024, please inform the office as soon as possible

## Still Collecting Items for Family S.T.E.A.M. Night

Please send any of the items listed below to school with your child or you can also drop them off in the office. Thank you for your support!



Pizza Boxes – grease free  
Newspaper  
Tissue Boxes  
CDs – old computer discs  
Cardboard  
Empty Juice Boxes  
Empty Water Bottles  
Toilet Paper Rolls  
Paper Towel Rolls  
Mini Pool for Water

# School Council News

2023-24 School Council Chairs:

*Laura Celli-Henriques and Pina Olsson*



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

**Monday, February 26, 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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