

# THE GIBSON GAZETTE

Jan. 8



## Website

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

## Email

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January is not only the start of a new year it is also **Tamil Heritage Month**, which aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature, as well as to highlight the vibrant traditions, histories, arts, and cultures of Tamil Canadians. Tamil Heritage Month recognizes and focuses on the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians.

A huge thank you to all our Gibson families for your generous contributions to our Gibson Giving Tree in December. Your donations were delivered to the Vaughan Food Bank and to Yellow Brick House and will support the many families in need in our greater community.

As part of our Daily Physical Activity and Dance Curriculum we are looking forward to having Dance with Justin return to Gibson starting on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to School Council for supplementing the cost of this popular program!

## **Important Reminders**

As we start the new year, I would like to send out an important reminder to all our families regarding our Safe Schools Policy. Please remember that **all parents/families must check into the office through the front doors and should not be wandering the halls or going to classrooms or portables during instructional time.** If you are picking up your child before the end of the day, the office will call your child down to be picked up. All students being picked up before the end of the day must be signed out by a parent or guardian.

Families are also reminded to please **park on the road and walk your child in to the school when dropping them off in the morning, or picking up at the end of the day.** The bus loop entrance is closed from 8:15-8:30 and from 3:00 – 3:15 every day in order to ensure the safe arrival and dismissal of students. If possible, please park on Netherford (instead of on Naylor Street) as buses need to be able to drive in and out of the school safely. Often times, cars are parked on the north side of Naylor right up to the stop sign making it very difficult for busses to drive out of the school and turn safely onto Netherford.



## Gr. 1 French Immersion Information Sessions

This year, our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion program for September, 2024 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](#). J. A. Gibson will be hosting the French Immersion Information Night in our gym on that day.

## Gr. 1 French Immersion 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.

### **Registration**

**FI registration will begin on January 19, 2024.** Parents or guardians of Year 2 Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2024, 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.

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
<b>January is Tamil Heritage Month</b>	
<b>Jan. 8</b>	Welcome back to school!
<b>Jan. 8</b>	Dental Screening for JK, SK, Gr. 2 and Gr. 7
<b>Jan. 8- 18</b>	Dance with Justin Program for all students from K to Gr. 8
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Dance with Justin performance – schedule to be shared next week
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Gr. 1 French Immersion Information Night – 7 pm in the gym
<b>Jan. 19</b>	<b>PA Day – no school for students</b> Kindergarten Registration begins for entry in Sept. 2024 Gr. 1 French Immersion Registration begins for entry in Sept. 2024
<b>Jan. 22</b>	School Council Meeting at 7 pm

## 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](http://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](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

## School Yearbooks 2023-24



The Joseph A. Gibson 2023-24 yearbook captures Kindergarten to Grade 8 student and school memories from the school year and can now be ordered online at [ybpay.ca](http://ybpay.ca) using **Yearbook ID Code 13489724**. If you prefer to submit a cheque for your order, please make your cheque payable to **Lifetouch**.

Don't miss out and pre-order **before May 6, 2024** to own your copy of this year's Gibson memories.

## SAVE the DATE - S.T.E.A.M. Night for Families April 18

**S.T.E.A.M.** stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics and Gibson is planning a **Family S.T.E.A.M. Night on April 18<sup>th</sup>**. In order to prepare for the various activities that evening, we are looking for donations of the following items:

**Pizza Box (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**

If you are able to donate any of these items, please send them to school with your child or drop them off at the office. Thanks in advance for your support!

## 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

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