

THE GIBSON GAZETTE

Sept. 11



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Grant Fawthorp
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Trustee
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We're officially back and very excited to welcome back all of our Gibson students. A very special welcome, and bienvenue, to all our **new** students and their families.

Every September takes a lot of preparation from everyone to get the school ready for our students. Thank you to Mr. Ferreira, Mr. Apostol and Ms. Perez Vega, our amazing caretaking team, who have spent this past summer cleaning and sanitizing the school in preparation for our start-up last week. As you can see from the photo, we are all set with our new bench and accessible picnic tables as well!

With the passing of our beloved Miss Paulette this past summer, start up for Gibson hasn't been quite the same. Ms.

Leggieri and I worked hard at ensuring we did everything Paulette taught us over the years to ensure September started smoothly. A huge thank you to **Ms. Leggieri**, our new Administrative Assistant and to **Ms. Russano**, our new Administrative Support, who were able to ensure a smooth transition back to school this September. A huge thank you to our incredible staff who have worked hard again this year to get their classrooms and programs organized and ready for this coming new school year. We are ready to make this year a great one!

Over the summer, we have had some new staff join our school. I am happy to welcome back **Mlle Rodriguez** as the long term occasional teacher who will be teaching Gr. 1 French Immersion and a warm welcome to **Ms. Yuen** who will be the long term occasional teacher in the kindergarten class. We also would like to welcome to the school - **Ms. Cerezo, Mr. De Roia, Ms. Misquitta and Ms. Monteith** who are joining our Educational Assistant team this year. We also had some new *future* Gibson Gators arrive this summer. Congratulations to **Ms. Carrazedo** on the safe arrival of her son, Mateo; and to **Mme Musheerah** on the safe arrival of her new baby girl, Maleeha.

As we do every year, during the first few weeks of school, we will focus on establishing a safe and supportive learning environment, where students will be made aware of curriculum

expectations, School Code of Behaviour, Safety Awareness and health and safety protocols. Many of these items and more are found in the **YRDSB Guide to the School Year 2023-24** (which is online this year and on the YRDSB website) **and in the Start Up Package/Book of Forms**. These forms will need to be completed and returned to the office **as soon as possible**. We will be working together with our families to support the social, emotional and mental well-being of your children and set high academic and social expectations for them - where every experience they have will be supportive, inclusive and identity-affirming.

We are looking forward to meeting or reconnecting with all of you on **Thursday, September 28, 2023 at our Curriculum Night Open House**. More information about our Curriculum Night can be found in this Gazette.

Message from our School Trustee

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many [responsibilities](#), including making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Nadeem Mahmood
Trustee, King and Vaughan Ward 1

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
Sept. 15	School Council Nominations due to office
Sept. 16-17	Rosh Hashanah Significant Faith Days
Sept. 18	School Council Meeting – 7 pm in library
Sept. 22	PA DAY – no school for students
Sept. 25	Yom Kippur Significant Faith Day
Sept. 25-29	Safety Week
Sept. 26	Tuesday Pizza Lunches begin
Sept. 27	Terry Fox Walk around the Community - AM
Sept. 28	Curriculum Night Open House – 6 pm
Sept. 29	Orange Shirt Day to acknowledge National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Every Child Matters!
Sept. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



SAVE THE DATE - Curriculum Night Open House – Sept. 28

Curriculum Open House

Thursday, September 28, 2023
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

*Meet the teacher, visit your child's classroom and take a tour of your child's daily learning environment. **Presentations in both sessions are identical in order to accommodate for siblings in different classes.** Feel free to join the session that is most convenient for you.*

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|-------------|--|
| 6:00 – 6:30 | Classroom Visits/Presentations – Session 1 |
| 6:30 - 6:45 | Transition between Visits/Presentations |
| 6:45 – 7:15 | Classroom Visits/Presentations – Session 2 |



We are looking forward to seeing you!

Terry Fox School Walk – Sept. 27

J. A. Gibson will once again be participating in the Terry Fox Walk to raise awareness and funds for Cancer Research. Our Terry Fox Walk around the community will take place in the morning on **September 27th** (weather permitting). If you would like to join your child for the walk, please let their teacher know.

Our hope is to raise over \$800. We can reach our goal by bringing in a Toonie for Terry or donating online on our School Fundraising Page

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/35753>

Thank you in advance for your donations.

IMPORTANT - School Enrolment and Class Placements

Please note that due to late registrations and increasing enrolment, **there may be staffing changes and class reorganization by September 22nd, which may result in a change of teacher and/or classroom for your child.** We will do our best to keep these changes to a minimum and to support students during any transitions.

In the event re-organization affects your child, you will be notified by the school of any changes.

IMPORTANT – Families are reminded of the importance of ensuring schools have updated contact information including: telephone number, home address, email address, emergency contact information and medical information for their child. Please inform the office immediately if there are any changes to this information.

Safe Arrival Program

Through a directive from the Ministry of Education and Training, all School Boards are to implement a safe arrivals program in their schools. The York Region District School Board has been working very closely with the York Regional Police to ensure the safety of our students. The safe arrival program at Joseph A. Gibson P.S. depends on parents to notify the office in the event of their child's late arrival or absence.

All parents and guardians are reminded to please call the school at (905) 832-1291 if their child is going to be late or absent for any reason (including a religious holiday). You can record your child's absence on Edsby or leave a message on the answering machine if calling before 8:00 am or after 4:00 pm. Please leave your child's name, teacher's name and the reason for the absence. If calling is not possible, please inform the school in person as soon as possible. If a student is not in school and the school office has not received notification from the parents, the school will take the following steps:

Step One:

Call the student's home.

Step Two:

If there is no answer, the school will call the parents at work or on their cell phones.

Step Three:

If there is no response, the school will call the emergency contact person(s).

Step Four:

If a contact person cannot be reached, then the school will notify the York Regional Police that a child is missing.

Each year, we are forced to contact York Regional Police to assist in finding a “missing child”. In each case, the child is found with his/her parent. Please support the safe arrival program by being conscientious and phoning the school when your child is going to be absent or late. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

V.S.S. - Vulnerable Sector Screening

We always welcome parent volunteers in our school, on school trips or assisting with athletic events. All volunteers in the school require a VSS in order to be able to volunteer at the school. You can obtain a VSS online from the York Regional Police website. Once completed, please bring it in to the school so we can make a copy and keep it on file.

However, if you already have a Vulnerable Sector Screening on file at our school, we welcome you to come in to the office and sign an **Offense Declaration and Confidentiality Form** that is required every September for the upcoming school year in order to continue to volunteer in the school. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Gibson Staff for 2023-24

Kindergarten	Ms. Benninger, Mrs. Defulviis, Mrs. Gallo, Mr. Marconi, Ms. Partland, Ms. Yuen
French Immersion	Mme D’Agostino, Mme Fleck, M. Loukili, Mlle Rodriguez
Primary	Mrs. David, Mrs. George, Mr. Mahoney
Primary/Junior	Mrs. Charalambous, Ms. Jensen
Junior and Intermediate	Mrs. Abecassis, Ms. Au, Ms. Daniels, Mrs. Esho, Ms. Jensen, Mr. Marconi, Ms. Sivanesan, Mr. Tustin
French	Mme Pulla, Mme Viau
Music/MLL	Ms. Sivanesan
Empower and Teacher Librarian	Mrs. Benninger
EA Staff	Ms. Cerezo, Ms. Cowin, Mr. De Roia, Ms. Linardi, Ms. Misquitta, Ms. Monteith,
Office Staff	Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Leggieri, Ms. Russano
Caretaking Staff	Mr. Apostol, Mr. Ferreira, Ms. Perez Vega

IMPORTANT - Edsby Account Registration

For those families who have yet to register for their Edsby parent account, please check your email for an Edsby invitation sent from YRDSB. Child absences and school messages can be done through Edsby – so, please ensure you have registered. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

If you did not receive an email, or are having difficulty registering with Edsby, please see the attached Edsby Instructions or call the school office for assistance.

Student Agenda Planners for 2023-24 - Now Available!

Agenda planners are designed to assist students in the development of their learning skills and are an effective time management, organization and communication tool. The Gibson agenda also includes important information about the daily operation and expectations of our school.

Agenda planners are **\$6** each and are available for the Primary, French Immersion and Junior/Intermediate grades.



They can be purchased through school cash-on line or through the office.

School Council News

2022-23 School Council Chairs:

Pina Olsson and Lisa Papa



Our final 2022-23 School Council meeting and elections for this year's 2023-24 School Council **will be held on September 18th at 7:00 p.m.** I encourage and invite any interested parents or guardians to become a member of our incredible School Council. The Gibson School Council have supported the school over the years with school initiatives, fundraising campaigns and parent engagement in the areas of Arts, Athletics and Academics.

Nomination forms for this year's Council are available in the Book of Forms (green form) that was sent home last week. If you are interested in seeking an executive position (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer), please fill out the nomination form and return it to the office by Sept. 15th.

Claudia Fischer

Principal

claudia.fischer@yrdsb.ca

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