

THE GIBSON GAZETTE

Sept. 25



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As we enter into the last week of September, we are thrilled to welcome **Ms. Kahloon** to the Gibson staff. Ms. Kahloon will be teaching Grade 4 in Portable 1. With the recent re-organization, we were able to reduce the large numbers in our junior classes and our new classes will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023. This will be the first day some of our students are in their new classes and staff will be supporting them with the transition and with their new schedules.

Every two weeks, the Gibson Gazette will be sent to update our families on school reminders and school events taking place in the coming weeks. Please review the Gazette carefully so you don't miss out on anything! This year, Gibson will be taking a break from X, formerly known as Twitter, and up-to-date communication to our families will continue through our school website, bi-weekly Gazette, Welcome Screen, outdoor school sign, Edsby and through Inform messaging. In addition, your child's teacher will keep you updated with any class or school-based events.

Earlier this month, all classes were part of the YRDSB Safe and Caring Schools Welcome presentations and School Code of Behaviour presentations in the gym. This week is **Safety Week** and students and staff will be participating in a **Fire Drill, Lockdown** and **Hold and Secure drills**, and new this year, a **Bomb Threat Drill**. More information about these drills is outlined in this Gazette.

Curriculum Night – Sept. 28 – 6 pm

Curriculum Night Open House is a wonderful time to meet your child's teacher and see their classroom and the school. Also during this evening, teachers will be sharing a curriculum overview and reviewing homework expectations and School Code of Conduct. Both a copy of the School Code of Behaviour and Homework Policy are attached in this newsletter.

Bus Transportation

Thank you to all our families, and especially our families whose children take a bus. We understand the frustration with the start-of-school bussing issues and we are working every day with Student Transportation and the Bus Companies to rectify them. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding.

Personal Items

This is a very important reminder as we continue to see students bring personal items to school to play with at recess or have in the classroom. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. We strongly recommend that students keep personal items and items of value at home, but if items are brought to school, please ensure they are labelled clearly with your child's name.

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
October is Albanian, Islamic and Hispanic Heritage Month 2SLGBTQ+ History Month National Bullying Prevention Month	
Sept. 25 – 29	SAFETY WEEK
Sept. 25	Bomb Threat DRILL
Sept. 26	Pizza Lunch Begins Lockdown DRILL
Sept. 27	Terry Fox Walk around the Community Hold and Secure DRILL
Sept. 28	Curriculum Night Open House – 6 pm (see flyer below)
Sept. 29	ORANGE Shirt Day to recognize and raise awareness for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Sept. 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Oct. 2	Milk Program begins
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Holiday

IMPORTANT Safety Week Information – Sept. 25-29

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, building occupants and visitors in the event of an emergency. As such, during Safety Week (September 25 to 29, 2023) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practise various safety drills including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to [Board Policy #669.0](#) for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might affect the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

General Supports for Emotional Well-Being:

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7, <https://kidshelpphone.ca/>
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters. Visit www.yorkhills.ca for more information.
- Trans Lifeline: <https://translifeline.org/>
- Black Youth Helpline: <https://blackyouth.ca/>
- Naseeha Helpline: <https://naseeha.org/>
- 2SLGBTQ+ Youthline: <https://www.youthline.ca/>

ORANGE SHIRT DAY – Sept. 29 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 is a National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and since this day falls on a Saturday, all staff and students are encouraged to wear **ORANGE** to raise awareness of the residential school experience and to ensure that every child matters on **Friday, Sept. 29, 2023!** We need to focus on our hope for a better future in which children are empowered to always help each other because **Every Child Matters!**

Save the Date – Curriculum Night Open House September 28th

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.*

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 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.

Medication



The safety of our students is paramount. Please inform the office of any medical conditions or allergies that affect your child by filling out all necessary Health Care forms. It is also a good idea to mention any significant health issues to your child's homeroom teacher. Children who need to take medication at school require a *Request for Administration of Oral Medication Form* signed by the parent before the medication is given to your child. If your child requires medication during the school day, please speak to the office staff.

Anaphylaxis Safety

School staff and parents are responsible for creating safe and healthy environments for students. This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life-threatening allergies. While we take every step to create a safe environment, school staff and parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions as there are implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms. Several of our students have severe allergic reactions if they come in contact with certain allergens. Even a trace amount or airborne particles can trigger a reaction. We ask for your co-operation by please ensuring that your child does not bring any nut products to school. Thank you for helping making our school safe for all!

REMINDER - V.S.S. - Vulnerable Sector Screening

We always welcome parent volunteers in our school and on school trips; and if you already have a Vulnerable Sector Screening on file at our school, please come in and sign an **Offense Declaration form** that is required every September for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office.

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, or require the invitation to be re-sent to you, please contact the office.

REMINDER - Student Agenda Planners for 2023-24

There are only a few more copies of the Gibson agenda available for purchase in the office and on School Cash Online.



School Start Up Packages and Forms

Joseph A. Gibson Start Up Packages were sent to all our families earlier this month. Please ensure you complete the information in these forms as soon as possible so that we have the most up-to-date information about your child.

Included in the School Book of Forms is our yearly **FUNDRAISING – DONATION DRIVE**. Although our Fundraising campaign will officially kick off in October (with fundraising goals and school-wide incentives), we want to thank all our families who have already made donations to support the students in the school!

School Council News

2023-24 School Council Chairs:

Laura Celli-Henriques and Pina Olsson



On Monday, September 18, 2023, the 2022-2023 Council was dissolved and elections were held to vote in the new Council. Congratulations to the following executive members of the School Council for 2023-2024:

Laura Celli-Henriques and Pina Olsson - Co-Chairs
Rosemary Alam and Andria DeCesare - Co-Treasurers
Nitasha Ragnauth – Secretary

We are excited to have so many members interested in participating in this year's School Council and welcome all parents/guardians to attend any, or all, future meetings. The meetings for the remainder of the year are as follows and will be held in the library at 7 pm.

OCT. 16 NOV. 20 JAN. 22 FEB. 12 APR. 15 MAY 13 JUNE 10

Claudia Fischer

Principal

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