



THE GIBSON GAZETTE

APRIL 2018

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Administrator Message

Spring has finally sprung and it is a busy time of the year with many academic, athletic and social activities being planned for the remaining months of school. Stay tuned as we will keep you updated through letters home, emails, the School Blog and on our Welcome screen in the main hallway. Students had a chance to celebrate March in a number of ways including our Carnaval Day, March Break, Super Smoothie Day and the Jump 2 Math event for our primary students that was sponsored by School Council. We also send best wishes to our caretaker, **Amor Apostol** for a speedy recovery and look forward to his return to school in September, 2018.

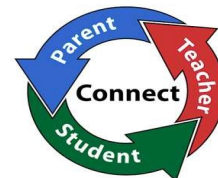
As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are beginning to plan for September, 2018. I recognize that parents/guardians may have new and/or important information to share about their child (e.g., a recent medical diagnosis, peer relationships which exist outside of school, learning style, individual and family issues, etc.) which may impact class placement decisions. If you wish to share any information that should be considered as we begin to tentatively place students in classes, I ask that you do so in writing (or in an email) addressed to me before May 15th.

Our primary goal is to develop balanced classes that reflect the diversity of our community and allow for a variety of abilities, interest and talents of our learners to be successful next year. Teachers work diligently to balance the classrooms in terms of gender, academic ability and social and emotional concerns. Class placement is an important and complex process that takes many hours of thought and discussion, so it is imperative that families adhere to the **May 15th deadline**.

Please be aware that any information you provide will be kept in confidence as part of the class placement process. Your input is valuable and I will certainly take it into consideration, but please do not consider it confirmation of a particular placement. Because of changing enrolment patterns in the spring and summer months, final class placement will not be shared until the first day of school in September.

Claudia Fischer
Principal
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 @JosephAGibsonPS



**Good Friday and Easter Monday—no school
March 30th and April 2nd**

Important Dates

- Apr. 3** **Light it Up Blue for Autism Awareness**
Don't forget to wear blue!
- Apr. 3** **Spring Fair /BBQ Volunteers Meeting 7:30 pm in library** – anyone who is interested in volunteering is welcome to attend!
- Apr. 9** **Gr. 8 Lake St. George Trip** – first payment due
- Apr. 10** **Future Building Conference**
Gr. 7 and 8 students to Toronto (all day)
- Apr. 11** **A Capella to Music Competition**
- International Day of PINK**
Wear pink to support anti-bullying, equity and inclusivity
- Sibling Photo Day**
- Apr. 16** **Glee Music Competition**
- Apr. 16** **School Council Meeting**
7 pm in Library
- Apr. 17** **Gr. 8 Bake Sale Fundraiser**
- Apr. 18** **Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off Assembly (PM)**
- Apr. 20** **Rock/Jazz Band Competition**
- Apr. 24** **Gr. 7/8 One Act Play Performances at MHS** 6– 9 pm
- Apr. 27** **Spirit Day—Day of Inspiration**
- Apr. 27** **Gr. 8 Lake St. George Trip—final payment due**
- Apr. 30/May 1** **Chef a L'ecole presentation—Gr. 4 and Gr. 1 French Immersion**

Coming soon...

Gibson is looking at providing an additional **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM** every Friday from our current Lunchbox Orders supplier. This will be a trial hot lunch opportunity from April to June of this year.

More information about this lunch opportunity will be communicated in the upcoming weeks.

Stay tuned....



Moving?

We have started planning for the 2018/2019 school year. Our school organization of classes is based on the projected enrolment for the school. If you are moving out of our school area before September, we would greatly appreciate a call to let us know. Thanks in advance!



Students in Action



Junior Basketball—The Area Tournament is just around the corner and our junior teams are getting some practice games in. Thanks to Mrs. Bender and Mr. Cipollone for coaching these teams.



Student Council—Thank you to our incredible Student Council for hosting various fun filled Spirit Days this year and to Mrs. Abecassis and Mrs. Benninger for leading these groups of students. Students at Gibson have a great time dressing up and participating in some fun physical activities. Stay tuned for more upcoming Spirit Days.



Music Competitions—Good luck to our A Capella, Jazz and Rock Band and Glee Club as they attend various music competitions this month. Thank you to Mr. Cipollone for organizing these opportunities for our students.

Spring Weather

With the much anticipated arrival of spring comes the need to send a change of clothes for your child. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes in the event that they get wet in puddles or mud.



As always, be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated

Cookies



School Council continues to sell cookies every **Wednesday at lunch time** for \$1.50. .

Don't forget about these days to enjoy a tasty treat.

Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism Awareness month and the ninth annual World Autism Awareness Day was April 2, 2018. Every year, autism organizations around the world celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-raising events. Joseph A. Gibson acknowledged Autism awareness with our own Light It Up Blue day on **APRIL 3rd**.



Jump 2 Math—Kdgn to Gr. 3



Thank you to our amazing student, high school and parent volunteers- **Lilianna B., Landon B., Sia S., Prisha S., Nick Di Mondo, Toula Zegas-Duarte, Christine Gulyasik and Chris Mastine** for making our Jump 2 Math Family Math Night a huge success!

Summer Institute—YRDSB

Summer Institute Registration is now open!

Please visit the YRDSB website to register. YRDSB is pleased to offer [online registration](#) this year, but families can also continue to [register](#) in person or by mail

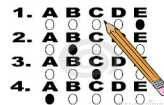
The York Region District School Board **Summer Institute** is a program that offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum for children and youth entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Programs are offered in Richmond Hill, Markham, Stouffville, Newmarket, Woodbridge, Vaughan and Georgina from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.

Weekly sessions are provided from July 3, 2018 to August 10, 2018 (visit the website for more details about weekly sessions). Before and After Care is also available by the YMCA at an additional cost.

EQAO—Grade 3 and 6 Students

Each spring the **Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)** administers annual testing in both Math and Language with all Grade 3 and 6 students across the province. These tests occur in each elementary school from May 22 to June 4, 2018. It is important that all of our Grade 3 and Grade 6 children are at school and properly prepared to do their best during this testing period. Each test session will be approximately one hour in length with extra time available if needed.



Summer School for Grade 6, 7 and 8 students

Once again this summer, the York Region District School Board is offering a summer school program for current year Grade 6 (NEW), 7 and 8 students. Under the YRDSB Summer Learning Strategy, this program is designed to provide students with a dynamic and engaging learning experience. Through an Arts integrated, inquiry based model, students will be given an opportunity to develop their literacy and math skills. Students must be committed to achieving their best, modeling good behaviour and attending for the entire length of the program.

Homeroom teachers will be reaching out to the parents of students who they will be recommending for the program. However, if you are interested in this opportunity for your child, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Reminder about Community Safety—What Children Need to Know

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
- How and under what circumstances to call 911.
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
- Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so. It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. For more information on this subject, visit www.yrp.ca.



NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:
Monday, April 16, 2018