



THE GIBSON GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2017

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Administrator Message

This past month at Joseph A. Gibson was filled with many activities and presentations – including a beautiful Remembrance Day assembly (see page 6 for the key message that was shared by two of our Grade 8 students), Jr./Int. Electives, field trips, volleyball tournaments and the Maplefest Santa Claus parade. In addition to school related events, we have a couple of staff announcements to make. Congratulations to **Mrs. Charalambous** on the safe arrival of her son, Luca, who was born on Nov. 3rd. And, a sad farewell to **Mrs. vanGeest** who has decided to retire after 41 years of teaching. We wish her all the very best as she embarks on this next adventurous phase of her life. For all the student lives you have touched—thank you, Mrs. vanGeest. Gibson will miss you!

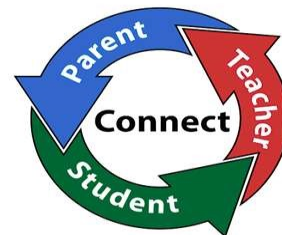
On November 23rd and 24th, parents also had the opportunity to participate in parent/teacher interviews and in some cases, student-led conferences, where they were able to reflect with their children in order to set goals for future learning in preparation for Term 1 report cards which will be coming home in February. Children are unique and individual in their learning style, and it is very important that they are at the centre of their learning and that they take pride in their accomplishments. Many thanks for all that you do to ensure that our students can be successful. In an effort to continue our partnership with parents and keeping you up-to-date, please subscribe to our School Blog (click on the link on left hand side of this page) and subscribe by email. You will receive updates on the same day they are posted and can have them translated into a language of your choice. A convenient way to stay informed with what is happening at Gibson!

This year, our holiday concerts will take place on **Wednesday, December 20th** and **Thursday, December 21st at 6:30 pm in the gym**. Because of our increased enrolment this year and our very small gym, we have divided our celebrations between two nights. The Primary Choir and some of our primary classes will perform on Dec. 20th; and Glee Club, Rock Band and Band will be performing on Dec. 21st. Look for a special flyer that will be sent home with more information next week. As we approach the holidays, knowing that members of our global community face adversities, we will once again be having our annual food drive; but in addition we will be taking donations of brand new hats, mittens, socks or scarves for our Hat and Mitten tree that will be on display in the front lobby. On the last day before the holidays, we will be donating these items to local charities to support those families in need.

At this time of year, we have the privilege of celebrating diversity and recognizing different cultures as many of our families celebrate Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. On behalf of the Joseph A. Gibson staff, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday and a very happy new year!

Claudia Fischer
Principal
claudia.fischer@yrdsb.ca

 @JosephAGibsonPS



Monday, Dec. 25—Friday, Jan. 5
Winter Holiday Break

Important Dates

- Dec. 7 **Grade 7's to BORC**
- Dec. 13 **Band Banquet and Ball
6:00—8:00 pm in the gym
*Date Change***
- Dec. 15 **Covenant House
Presentation—Gr. 7 and 8**
- Dec. 20 **Holiday Concert—6:30 pm
(Primary)**
- Dec. 21 **Holiday Concert—6:30 pm
(Jr. and Int.)**
- Dec. 22 **Pyjama Spirit Day**
- Dec. 22 **Last day before Winter
Break**
- Dec. 26-
Jan. 6 **Christmas/Winter Holidays**
- Jan. 8, 2018 **School resumes**
- Jan. 8—18 **Dance with Justin Program
(whole school)**
- Jan. 22 **Dance with Justin
Performance**



Dress for the Weather

All our students will be expected to be outside before, during and after school in all weather conditions (i.e., rain or shine, snow or heat). Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses. Boots (for rain or snow), rain jackets, hats, mitts, scarves and snow pants will help make recess an enjoyable time. It is advisable for children to keep extra pants and socks at school in case they get wet.

To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found Bin, please be sure to label all articles of clothing with your child's name.

Bus Cancellations and Weather

If the condition of the roads necessitates the cancellation of bus service, local radio stations will be informed as early as possible and will broadcast this information to the community. Please be advised that if buses are cancelled in the morning they will not run after school—regardless of the weather. Review your plans as to what your children will do in the event of late buses or cancellations. The following radio stations announce cancellations:



AM 640	AM 680	FM 88.5
FM 90.3	AM 1010	AM 1540
FM 92.5	FM 93.1	AM 1050
FM 99.9	FM 97.3	FM 98.1
AM 1530	FM 100.7	FM 104.5
FM 107.1	AM 590	

Students in Action

At Gibson, students participate in many different clubs and teams offered by various staff members. Here are some that are in place already:



- Announcement Team
- Glee Club
- Chess Club
- Battle of the Books Team
- Student Council
- Nutrition Basket Leaders
- Garden Club
- “Grease” Musical Team

- Int. Volleyball Teams
- Band
- Tech Team
- Sound System Team
- Lunch Monitors
- Student Voices Team
- Eco-Council
- Primary Choir

- Library Helpers
- Rock Band
- Poetry Slam
- Cross Country Team
- Milk Helpers
- Mental Health Team
- Flag Football
- Yearbook Club

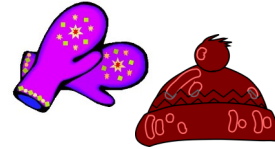


Welcome to Our New TREES!

We are excited to share that York Region District School Board has partnered with The Regional Municipality of York and Evergreen to plant trees at select schools across York Region and J.A. GIBSON was selected as a good candidate to receive trees through this program. These trees will increase shade tree cover and provide environmental education opportunities within the school grounds and as a school community, we are committed to providing long-term care for the establishment of the proposed trees, and the long term commitment to increasing the health of our local community through increased tree canopy cover.



Hat/Mitten Tree and Food Drive



Please help support our food and clothing drive during the month of December! We are collecting non-perishable food items; and new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks for those in need. Donated items can be placed on or under our tree in the front lobby.
Thank you for your support!

Outdoor Recesses in Winter

All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless the principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes during lunch. **We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions (e.g., wind chill), we keep the students indoors or shorten the time spent outside.**

We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students who are ill enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of illness to others.

Lost and Found Items

Remaining Lost and Found items will be on display in the front hallway during the week of December 18th for any students and parents who would like to take a look. Any unclaimed items after December 22nd will be donated to those in need.

Inclement Weather Entry in the Morning

At times in the morning, it becomes necessary for students to come in from either the rain or extremely cold weather. **Joseph A. Gibson begins daily supervision at 8:15 a.m.** Students are not to arrive before 8:15 as there is no supervision for students before that time. If the weather requires indoor arrival, administration will call for indoor supervision.

When it is indoor supervision, all students will enter the school and go directly to their classroom. Kindergarten students will enter through the kindergarten doors .

To maintain safety, it is absolutely imperative that parents and other adults **do not** enter the hallways or portables during that time.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will start on **January 19, 2018** for the 2018-19 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2018, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A Welcome to Kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for Joseph A. Gibson in the Spring. More information will be sent out in the new year.

Cookie Days

Over the past few years, School Council has been able to offer cookies for \$1 every week. However, starting in January, cookie prices will increase to **\$1.50** in order to support increased purchasing costs and to continue to support our fund-raising efforts.

Cookies will continue to be sold every **Wednesday at lunch time** by our School Council parent volunteer—Ms. Gulyasik.



French Immersion— Accommodations/Information/Registration

YRDSB's **French Immersion (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 will be 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. 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: www.yrdsb.ca. 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.

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on **January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m.** Please visit YRDSB's website in January, 2018 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

FI registration will begin January 19, 2018. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2018, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 19, 2018 and February 9, 2018. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

Holiday Concerts— December 20 and 21, 2017



On **Wed. December 20th at 6:30 pm**, our Primary Choir; and some Kindergarten to Grade 3 and French Immersion classes will be performing in a Holiday Concert. On **Thursday, December 21st at 6:30 pm**, our Junior/Intermediate Holiday Concert will take place in our gym and will include performances by Glee Club, Band, Rock Band and a special performance of "Grease"

Our talented students are working hard to showcase their talents and we look forward to seeing you there!

A Message from our Trustee

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected. At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

~Anna DeBartolo

Mrs. vanGeest is RETIRING



"Teaching is the best job there is!"

I started teaching Grade One in January of 1976 and what I remember most clearly about that first half year was thinking, "I am having so much fun, and, I am getting paid for this too?" I have always loved teaching and it doesn't matter what I teach. I love the kids, and am energized by watching them learn. No two children are the same, and each one has gifts, strengths and challenges. I love the captive audience, and thoroughly enjoy telling stories, and, always bringing home great stories to tell. But more than anything ... I love those special moments when "the light goes on." Thank you Gibson, from the bottom of my heart, for giving me the opportunity to finish my career with such joy!

School Council News

Thanks to the support of the Joseph A. Gibson families that contributed to our Invest-in-Student Donation Drive, we have raised **over \$3900** which has been used to support the purchase of computer technology for the classrooms; and a Dash and Dot Wonder Pack (a robotic tool for learning programming and coding) for our Library Makerspace.

Donations can still be made on School Cash Online or by filling out the Donation Drive form that is available in the Parent Information Centre across from the office.

We couldn't have done it without you!



NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday, January 22, 2018

7:00 pm in the library



Remembrance Day Assembly
Key Messages of Peace, Love and Respect
from Aman and Sia

Our school is a community.

We are all together like one big, whole, happy family and should
treat each other with the love and respect that we all deserve.

Peace is important in our school to make sure we're happy and
everyone feels welcome.

We should all solve conflicts with one another and become friends –
everyone deserves a second chance.

Many people have grudges against a person or a group of people
because of a conflict that had occurred in the past.

We should not hold on to the past for it has already happened –
it's done –

you are wasting your time by hating a person for something they did.

We all need to realize that **people do change with time.**

If someone hurt you in the past, they have probably become a better person now, have realized
their mistake and
deserve another chance to be friends with you.

Even if the person doesn't like you or has no interest in talking to you
try to talk it out with them to resolve the problem.

Holding grudges against someone really hurts the person
who you have a grudge on.

As a school, we should all come together and end this, so
we all feel happy and welcome around each other.

We can turn this world into a better place and
it all starts here at our school.

We have the power to make peace in the world
by finding common interests between us
and putting our differences aside.

Together, we can all create a peaceful and inclusive school, community and world
for all of us to be a part of and
to be happy in.

WOULD YOU ENJOY **COLLABORATIVELY** LEARNING THE ONTARIO CURRICULUM THROUGH **THE ARTS?**

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an **Elementary Integrated Arts Program** at **Baythorn Public School**. If you are currently in grades four or five you may apply for the **arts@baythorn program**, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a **cooperative learning environment**.

To learn more about the **arts@baythorn** program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Thursday, January 18, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Applications will be available at **bit.ly/arts_application2018** online after the January 18th, 2018 info night.

If you require further information, please call us at
Baythorn Public School
(905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek
Principal

The Arts Team

Meytal Daniels
Vice Principal

