



THE GIBSON GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2018

Administrator Message

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Principal

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Administrative Assistant

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Office Administrative Support

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Welcome back, everyone, and a special welcome and bienvenue to new families to the Joseph A. Gibson community! I hope you had a restful and wonderful summer with your family and friends. I am looking forward to working together with students, parents, staff and community partners as we gear up for another successful year!

The beginning of a school year is an exciting time and involves much preparation. I want to thank Mr. Ferreira and Mr. Schmider who have spent endless hours making the school look clean, organized and ready for the first day of school. Thank you to Miss Paulette and Mrs. Leggieri who assisted with September start up in the office; and to the staff who have worked hard to get their classrooms ready and programs organized for the new school year. A warm welcome to **Ms. D'Addurno** and **Ms. Cowin**, our new Educational Assistants; and to **Mme DiTommaso, Ms. Dudani, Mme Pulla and Mr. Tustin** who are joining our teaching staff this year. We would also like to welcome back **Mr. Marconi** who will be working with Mrs. David this year; **Ms. Chan** who will be working with Ms. Au to start the year and **Ms. Pilato** who will be the long term occasional teacher for Mrs. Charalambous to start the year.

We anticipate a great year ahead, as we continue working with your children in diverse ways introducing them to many exciting and engaging experiences. 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 other routines. We will be supporting our students to set goals for themselves as learners and as individuals in our community. We encourage you to work with us to set high academic and social expectations for your children and model the attitudes and behaviours that are conducive to developing respectful citizens of our society. Please review the information that is outlined in the YRDSB Guide to the School Year 2018-19 that will be sent home with your child.

This year, our first **School Council meeting (and elections) will be held on September 17th at 7:00 p.m., in the school library.** I encourage and invite our parents to become a member of our School Council. Nomination forms for this year's Council are available in the Book of Forms. If you are interested in seeking an executive position on Council, please fill out the form and return it to the office by Sept. 14th.

The 2018-19 school year promises to be an exciting one as we plan to celebrate our students' successes with you.

Claudia Fischer
Principal
claudia.fischer@yrdsb.ca

@JosephAGibsonPS



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PA DAY—Monday, September 24, 2018
no school for students

Joseph A. Gibson PS Staff 2018-2019

Ms. Abadjian	Ms. Kokotsis
Mrs. Abecassis	M. Loukili
Ms. Au	Mlle Macdonell
Mrs. Bender	Mr. Mahoney
Ms. Benninger	Mme Musheerah
Mrs. Charalambous	Mme Pulla
Ms. Chan	Mme Smith
Mr. Cipollone	Mr. Tustin
Mlle Cohen	Mlle Zadarko
Mrs. D'Angelo	
Mrs. David	
Ms. DiTommaso	
Mrs. Dudani	
Mrs. Esho	
Mrs. Gallo	
Mrs. George	
Ms. Jensen	

Ms. Appolloni	EA
Ms. Carrazedo	EA
Ms. Cowin	EA
Mrs. Defulviis	DECE
Ms. D'Addurno	CYW
Ms. Seefried	EA
Mrs. Tamburro	DECE

Miss Paulette	Office Admin. Asst.
Mrs. Leggieri	Office Admin.Support
Mr. Ferreira	Lead Caretaker
Mr. Apostol	Caretaker
Mrs. Fischer	Principal



As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, we will be watching fluctuations in our enrollment numbers over the month of September. As is the case in all elementary schools in the province, there is a possibility that some classes at the school may experience some re-organization of students in order to maintain compliance with Ministry expectations for class sizes.

By September 24th, should it become necessary to re-organize classes, our highly professional staff will do its best to be sensitive to children's needs and to minimize disruption to programming. Parents and/or guardians will be notified by the school, of any changes to your child's class placement.

Kindergarten Entry

Kindergarten students will have automatic entry into the classrooms every morning. Kindergarten staff will inform parents of the end of day regarding pick up procedure that will be in place for kindergarten students. For everyone's safety, parents will not be permitted in the enclosure.

Visitors

The Board has a Visitor's Policy that requires **ALL visitors to report to the office upon entering a school.** Parents must also report to the office before meeting or picking up their children in order to *sign their child out*. Please remember that parents are not permitted to go directly to the classroom to pick up their child. Please meet your child/ren in the front foyer or at the main office. Thank you for supporting the safety of all of our students.

Freedom of Information

The York Region District School Board recognizes and highlights the significant achievements of our students through a variety of sources—front hall displays, school and board publications, as well as in the media and on our computer website, special fundraising events that attract media attention, recordings and displays for events such as graduation, assemblies and seasonal celebrations. We believe this recognition is essential to enhance our students' self-esteem and to foster a positive school environment. To enable us to be in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, we request that those parents who do **NOT** want their child(ren)'s accomplishments recognized, work displayed or photographs taken for this purpose, **please notify the Principal in writing.**

Start Up Package/Book of Forms

The Board's Guide to the 2018-19 School Year and the BOOK OF FORMS will be sent home during the first week of school and needs to be returned to the office by Friday, September 14, 2018. Included in the Book of Forms, is an information sheet that will allow us to add you to our email distribution list. If your email address has changed from last year, please complete this form. At J. A. Gibson, we communicate with our school community by sending school newsletters, event notices and other important bulletins or announcements via email, Blog and Twitter. This saves paper, time and money. Some paper copies of the monthly school newsletter will be made available each month in the front lobby.

Home/School Communication

Communication between home and school is important in supporting student achievement and well-being. Homeroom teachers will also communicate regularly with parents through newsletters, phone calls, **student agendas** and in other ways. Communication is reciprocal. Please feel free to call the school at any time if you have a question or concern. Your child's teacher is usually the first contact; however, all staff and administration are here to support as needed.

School agendas are on sale for \$6 and can be purchased through School Cash On-line.

School Day

- 8:15 Supervision begins outside
- 8:28 Bell rings
- 8:30 Instructional Time begins
O'Canada, Announcements
- 10:10 Recess (Snack 10 mins before
or after recess)
- 10:40 Instructional Time
- 12:20 Lunch
- 1:20 Instructional Time
- 3:00 Dismissal

We encourage students to be on time for school, as late arrivals cause disruptions to a class that is already in session and impact student learning.

School BLOG and TWITTER



Joseph A. Gibson P.S. School Blog

<http://josephagibson.blogspot.ca/>

Join the Joseph A. Gibson blog today and get the most up-to-date school news and information sent to your email between 5 and 7 pm that same day. Parents can opt to subscribe to the blog (see the right hand side of the blog page when you visit the site—address above). The blog also includes a **translation feature which will translate posted items into a selected language.**



You can also see what is happening at the school by following us on **TWITTER**

@JosephAGibsonPS

Important School Dates, Holidays and PA Days 2018-2019

September @ Gibson

- 14 Book of Forms due in the office
- 14 School Council Nomination Forms due
- 17 2017-18 Final **School Council Meeting**
& elections for 2018-19 @ 7 pm
- 24 **PA Day**—no school for students
- 25-28 **Book Fair**
- 27 **Meet the Teacher/Curriculum**
6 pm (tentatively). More info. to follow
- 27 **Anti-Bullying Presentations Gr. 4-8**
- 28 **Terry Fox Walk/Run**

Upcoming Holidays and PA Days

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Thanksgiving | October 8, 2018 |
| PA Day | October 22, 2018 |
| PA Day | November 23, 2018 |
| Winter Holidays | Dec. 24, 2018 to Jan. 4, 2019 |
| PA Day | January 18, 2019 |
| PA Day | February 1, 2019 |
| Family Day | February 18, 2019 |
| March Break | Mar. 11, 2019 to Mar. 15, 2019 |
| Good Friday | Apr. 19, 2019 |
| Easter Monday | Apr. 22, 2019 |
| Victoria Day | May 20, 2019 |
| PA Day | June 3, 2019 |
| PA Day | June 28, 2019 |

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 may 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 help out by being conscientious about phoning the school when your child is going to be absent or late. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

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. **Please ensure that your child does not bring in any nut products.**

Student Accident Insurance

Early in September, all students will be able to purchase IAP KIDS PLUS INSURANCE. There is always a potential risk of injury with field trips, competitive sports, and other student activities both on and off school grounds. Accident Insurance helps parents with unexpected expenses arising from accidents. Please take some time to review the insurance information. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Medication Required

The safety of our students is paramount. Please inform the office of any medical conditions or allergies that affect your child by filling out the Emergency Form. 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 can be given. If your child requires medication during the school day please speak to the office staff.

Transportation

Information regarding your child's bus information is automatically uploaded according to your home address and is the same information that you can obtain on the website: [www. schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

If your child's transportation to and from school is from a daycare or babysitter and the address is other than your home address and still within our school boundaries, (or French Immersion) please notify the office so that our records can reflect that information and will ensure your child is on the right bus. If your child is eligible for bussing and you do not wish to take advantage of transportation, please notify the office so that we may remove the bussing information from our records.

Donation Books and Makerspace

Birthdays, holidays and celebrations are very important in your child's life. Why not make this event last a school lifetime by donating a book or items for our new Makerspace to the Library. Book donations will be added to our book collection with a special sticker in it stating your child's name and the occasion in which the book was donated.

For more information about books on Gibson's wish list, please see Mrs. D'Angelo in the library.



PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice)

Each year cases of pediculosis (head lice) are found throughout our schools. In an effort to reduce the numbers of cases found and decrease the inconvenience to parents/guardians and students, the York Region District School Board requests your assistance. As your child is now returning to school after the holidays, please inspect his/her hair and scalp for pediculosis. Periodic inspections during the year will help prevent the spread of head lice. Head lice are tiny (1/8" or 3mm long) wingless insects with flattened bodies. They cling to the hair by means of six legs. They live mostly behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. The female lays tiny, yellowish-white eggs called nits. They resemble dandruff but are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are very difficult to remove. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first. If head lice are found, please begin treatment as soon as possible. This will prevent the spread of pediculosis. For more information, please call the Public Health Nurses at York Region Health Services Health Connection line, 1-800-363-5653, (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).

Friday Lunches For Grade 7 & 8

Friday lunches are an opportunity for grade 7 & 8 students to go off school property to buy their lunch. Again, this year, students will only be permitted to go off-site for lunch on **Fridays** in order to ensure a safe and consistent environment at school. Students that wish to go off-site must have the Parent Permission Form signed and on file. Students must eat and finish their lunch off-site as food or drinks will not be permitted back in the school for themselves or others. Off-site lunch is a privilege and as always, **students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and safe manner** as their conduct in the community is a reflection of our school.

Lunch Assistants Needed

Parent or community members are invited to apply for paid lunch assistant positions at Gibson that run from 12:20-1:20 pm. If you love children and have one or more days available please contact the office at 905-832-1291.



Electronic Devices and Personal Items

Students will be advised by their teachers about the rules and expectations related to cell phones and iPods and any other personal electronic devices. There may be some occasions where cell phones may be allowed in class under the direct supervision by a teacher. As with any device, the Board policy regarding the Appropriate Use of Technology always applies. **Please be advised that all emergency situations are always handled by the office staff and not by personal cell phone.**

With the exception of above, during the school day, including recesses, electronic devices (ie. cell phones, iPods) are not permitted and it is recommended that valuable property such as these, in addition to personal items (i.e. toys, cards, games, sports balls, etc.) remain at home **as items that are lost, stolen or damaged are not the responsibility of the school.**

V.S.S.- Vulnerable Sector Screening for ALL Parent Volunteers

We always welcome parent volunteers in our school and on school trips. If you are interested in volunteering at the school in any capacity (i.e. field trips, driver, volunteer in class, etc.), **you are required to have completed a Vulnerable Sector Screening dated within the last six months prior to volunteering at the school.**

If you already have a Vulnerable Sector Screening on file at the school, you must come in and sign an **Offense Declaration** every September. **If this applies to you, please stop by the main office to receive this form and sign off for the 2017-18 school year as soon as possible.**

SAVE THE DATE— Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night on Sept. 27th

Joseph A. Gibson will be hosting a Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night on Thursday, Sept. 27th at 6 pm. Parents will be invited to come and meet their child's teacher and visit the classroom. More information about the evening will be sent to families closer to the date.



IMPORTANT - End of Day Bus Dismissal/Student Pick up

The safety of students in the main parking lot area afterschool (and in the morning) is always a priority for us. During bus dismissal at 3:00 pm, it is the responsibility and role of our supervisors to ensure that students are ready for bus dismissal and that they board the correct bus. That is their main priority! On days in which your child will NOT be taking the bus and will be picked up by you or an approved family member on file, **you must notify the office by 2:30 pm in order to ensure that we communicate to your child's teacher and/or to your child the change in dismissal for them on that day.**

Bus dismissal supervisors **will not be searching for students in bus lines at 3:00 pm** as their priority is the safe dismissal of all students who take a bus/taxi/van. Parents are NOT permitted to go to the bus lines or on busses to retrieve their child at 3:00 pm.

Thank you for your co-operation with this and if you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Fischer.

Lates and Absences

If your child will be absent or late, please contact the school. Call and leave a clear message. Messages can be left on the answering machine when the office is closed.

If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher or in your child's agenda that morning with the details eliminating the need for the office to have to call into the classroom and disrupt the class. Where possible, arrangements should be made ahead of time.

Remember that if you are picking up your child early, you must sign them out in the office. Thanks for your support in keeping our students safe.

A Message from our School Trustee

I am pleased to welcome all of our students and families to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. This is an exciting time of year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is looking forward to the months ahead.

York Region District School Board is committed to advancing student achievement and well-being. The Trustees' new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), developed based on feedback from the community, outlines four priorities that will guide this work: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, Build Collaborative Relationships and Empower Ethical Leadership. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts.

Our schools are stronger when families are engaged. There are many different ways families can support their child's learning and get involved in life at the school, and I hope that you find opportunities to get engaged.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.

Anna DeBartolo