



St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy

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NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION

Dear Parents and Guardians -

With Thanksgiving and Halloween behind us, we enter the month of November. This month we pray for the saints in our Church to intercede for us and to inspire us to live holy lives. We also pray for the souls of our loved ones who have left their earthly home. November is also the month that we give thanks to all those soldiers who gave their lives in service to their country so that we could live freely in our lifetime.

In our schools, November is always a very busy month. Teachers and students are well immersed in learning and projects and we are putting final touches on our school improvement plans. Progress Reports are being completed and will arrive home November 12th. At interview time, we celebrate our students' accomplishments and make necessary adjustments for continued success. This is an opportune time to review your child's goals with them, tell them how proud you are of their successes and plan for what's coming ahead! As always, we are grateful for our ongoing home and school partnership.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. Vince Galea, Principal

**Catholic School Trustee
& YCDSB Vice-Chair**
Maria Marchese

Pastor
Msgr. John Borean

Associate Pastor
Fr. Antonello Murgia

School Superintendent
Opiyo Oloya

CSC Chair
Joseph Cosentino

Administrative Assistant
Lilli DiCarlo

Principal
Vince Galea

*The season is changing - winter is coming;
the calendar year soon ending and Church year soon beginning.*

*As November begins,
we remember our faithful departed and our saints.
We remember that Jesus has called us all to be saints.*

*As leaves fall and trees lay bare, let us also be stripped of
our doubts, our insecurities and our self-loathing.
Guide our ways, pointing to Your light that never fades.*

Amen

To report student
absences and lates,
please dial:
1-855-856-7862 or visit
go.schoolmessenger.ca

SGG School Day:
8:35 - Supervision Begins
8:50 - Morning Entry
10:20 - AM Recess
12:00-12:20 - Lunch
12:20-1:00 - Lunch Recess
2:20 - PM Recess
3:40 - End of Day

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values



Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our
Catholic Faith

Continuous
Improvement of
Student Achievement

Effective Use of
Our Resources

Engaging Our
Communities

Catholic Communities of Faith



OCTOBER VIRTUE - COMPASSION: In October, we celebrated and recognized the virtue of compassion. We would like to congratulate the following students for demonstrating compassion at St. Gregory the Great through their words and actions. Congratulations!

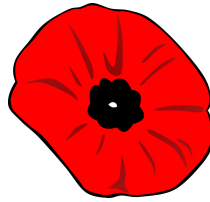
Ms. Granchelli & Ms. Ruscio:	<i>Nicole M., Ione D.</i>
Mr. Ricci:	<i>Luca D., Benjamin H.</i>
Ms. Pasquariello:	<i>Veronica D., Eros S.</i>
Ms. Mammone:	<i>Aaliyah T., Lucas V.</i>
Ms. Cipriani:	<i>Victoria G., Massimo T., Julian G., Faith M.</i>
Ms. Filippazzo:	<i>Christian P., Elisa B., Georgia C.</i>
Ms. Mischiato:	<i>Lauren M., Julian M.</i>
Ms. Ferazzutti:	<i>Nathan R., Isabella S.</i>
Ms. Nunes:	<i>Gabriel A., Gabriella G.</i>
Ms. Mastrangelo:	<i>Sierra C., Thomas M.</i>
Ms. Lapolla:	<i>Matteo M.</i>
Ms. Scariot:	<i>Wilamina B., Olivia C.</i>
Ms. Cook:	<i>Michael F.</i>
Ms. Loizides:	<i>Angelica G.</i>
Ms. Solimine	<i>Serena G.</i>

NOVEMBER'S VIRTUE: In this month, we celebrate the virtue of **JUSTICE**. Our students will be guided by the following statements: *I will treat others in a just, equitable and unbiased manner, I will play by the rules, take turns and share, & I will be open-minded and listen to others.*



ROSARY APOSTOLATE: SGG will be visited by the Rosary Apostolate to pray the rosary on November 21st.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DECOR FOR OUR FOYER: Would you like to help decorate our foyer and office for Christmas? Do you have gently used Christmas decor that you wish to donate to our school? If so, please speak with Mr. Galea. Let's continue to make SGG a warm and inviting place to be!



NOVEMBER LITURGY OF THE WORD: We will gather in our gym as a school community on November 11th at 10:30 am in prayer. A special thanks to Ms. Ferazzutti and her students for preparing and leading this November **Remembrance Day** liturgy for us. As always, our parent community is welcome to join us for faith celebrations.

SHARELIFE CIVVIES DAY: SGG will continue its tradition of collecting for **ShareLife** through its monthly civvies days. Civvies days will be on the last Friday of the month. The November civvies day will take place on Friday, November 29th. Remember to exercise appropriate dress on those days and don't forget your loonie or toonie for **ShareLife**.



SGG CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL: Our November Catholic School Council meeting will take place on Thursday, November 21st at 7:00pm in our school library. All are welcome to attend CSC meetings.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK AT SGG: SGG will join schools across the province in marking **Anti-Bullying Week** from November 18th to the 22nd! We have many activities and presentations prepared for our students. We look forward to sharing the complete schedule of events intended to raise awareness and share strategies for our students with you shortly! Thank you for continuing to share the important message to 'choose kindness' with your children at home. As the adage goes, "it takes a village ..."



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PYJAMA DRIVE: It is that time of year again ... SGG's Luke 4:18 committee will be leading the parish Pyjama Drive at our school. A letter will be sent home shortly with the details of the drive!

SPOOK-A-THON FUNDRAISER:

Our Spook-A-Thon fundraiser is now complete, and there are still a few final donations trickling in. A sincere thanks to all those who pledged monies to support the purchase of technology and an update to our library. Our students had a great time at their dance and many prizes were won! We will share a complete list of our prize winners, donors and the total collected with our community shortly. Thank you for your generosity! We couldn't do it without you!



VOILA HELP: Last month we shared homework help for grades 7 and up via **TVO Mathify (formerly known as Homework Help)**. This month, we share with you Voila Live. They provide homework help in/for French, but also support Math and Language in English! Check out their flyer at the back of our newsletter.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS: Progress Reports will be coming home on November 12th. These documents are intended to be a discussion piece between parents/guardians and teachers about students' progress so far. Interviews will take place on the evening of November 14th and the morning of November 15th. A letter to assist with the scheduling of the interviews came home with students Monday, October 28th.. Please note that Friday, November 15th is a PA Day for students.



SGG PRIMARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Our kindergarten and primary classes are getting ready to rock around the Christmas tree and deck the halls as we wait for our dear Saviour's birth! **On December 19th at 1:30 pm, our parent community is invited to the SGG gymnasium where our primary students will perform Christmas songs and skits for your viewing pleasure.** Please mark the date and time in your calendars. Thank you to the staff and students preparing for this event. We look forward to having you join us!



BAG 2 SCHOOL: Each year our landfills take on more and more textiles that pollute our Earth, taking lifetimes to break down! Those old clothing items, tablecloths, towels, shoes, bags and purses represent tonnes and tonnes of waste. That's why our Luke 4:18 committee is helping SGG do their part by encouraging our community to bring those items to school for recycling. **Until November 7th, you can bring all your textile recycling our foyer.** Then, the **Bag 2 School** team will come pick up the load at our school and make a donation to SGG. Not only are we helping the environment, we're also supporting our school's social justice initiatives. Way to go, Luke 4:18!



FRESH FROM THE FARM UPDATE: Our orders are in and our fresh produce is on its way to SGG! We are hoping for the order to arrive in time for parent teacher interviews so they can be picked up from the school on those days. We'll update our community once the shipment date has been finalized with our office! Thank you for your orders!

CHAPTERS NIGHT:

Thank you to all our families who came out on Chapters Night! It was a great evening for us to get together and enjoy the company of our neighbours. A special thanks to all our staff that helped to organize the event, those that volunteered their time, and our community for purchasing books and supporting our school library. We raised \$600 for our library and added 45 books to our updated collection! Thank you so much for a great night!

Chapters

PICTURE RE-TAKE: SGG's picture retake day is November 19th! If you missed having your photo done in October, here's your chance for your close up!



INT. BOYS AND GIRLS VOLLEYBALL:

We wish our boys and girls intermediate volleyball teams the best of luck in their respective area tournaments at the end of the month. We thank their coaches Ms. Lapolla and Ms. Loizides (boys) and Ms. Solimine (girls) for their time and guidance. Go, Grizzlies!

Quality Learning for All

Scholastic Book Fair:

The Scholastic Arctic Book Fair will be hosted by our school from November 11th to the 14th. You are invited to come and share in this celebration of literacy with us! Now more than ever, reading is vital to leading a better life. Our Book Fair will also be open during the evening of Nov. 14th during interviews. Students will be given flyers highlighting our great selection. Please ensure you complete the **Family Event Door Prize** ballot located at the back of the flyer! We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair!



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 2019-2020 STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister: James S.

Deputy Prime Minister: Mikayla T.

Secretary: Makenzy D.

Minister of Media: Santiago O., Erika C.

Minister of Finance: Lisa F.

Minister of Faith & Social Justice: Wilamina B.

Minister of Health & Environment: Joshua W., Leonardo P.

Senators: Julia G., Thea F., Sofia G., Anna S.

MP's (Class Representatives):

Grade 6: Ava B. | Grade 6P: Adam D.

Grade 7: Iseo F. | Grade 7P: Steven F.

Grade 7/8: Matteo P.

Grade 8: Sofia G. | Grade 8P: Michael C.

Safe & Caring School Community

Expected Behaviour:

We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesis as our inspiration.

It is the expectation of the YCDSB and St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy that students will:

- ★ Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- ★ Respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions
- ★ Treat one another with dignity and respect, especially when there is disagreement
- ★ Respect and treat others fairly
- ★ Respect the rights of others
- ★ Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- ★ Seek assistance from teachers to resolve conflict peacefully
- ★ Demonstrate respect for people in positions of responsibility
- ★ Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching
- ★ Be courteous and polite at all times

We thank you for regularly reviewing these expectations for behaviour and overall conduct with your child.

Safe & Caring School Community

BUZZING IN & REPORTING TO THE OFFICE: Visitors to the school are required to buzz into the office using the doorbell at the front entry. Office staff will ask visitors to identify themselves and the reason for their visit. All visitors must report to the office upon entering the school for any reason and obtain a visitors pass if visiting beyond the office.

MAKING APPOINTMENTS: We want to give our parents and guardians our undivided attention when speaking with you. Morning entry, lunch times and dismissal may not always be the best times to meet when our attention must be on the students and daily operations. If you wish to discuss something of length with us, kindly give us a call and we will be happy to schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time. Thank you for your kind consideration and cooperation in this matter.



END OF DAY DISMISSAL: All students exiting the building at dismissal must use the back doors, exiting onto the playground. Parents and guardians should make arrangements to pick up their children from the back. Only students riding the bus are permitted to use the front doors. Thank you for respecting this safety routine.

CONCUSSIONS: All staff at SGG have received information and training regarding concussion symptoms, protocol and management/support. If a head injury is sustained, our school office will notify parents and share 'Management of Concussion Process' paperwork with parents. It is the expectation of the school that if a concussion is suspected, parents/guardians follow up with a medical or nurse practitioner to rule in/out a concussion. If a concussion is diagnosed, a plan for safe return to learning and play is required. Recognizing that concussions and concussion management are a serious matter, we want to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students at St. Gregory the Great.

SAFE ARRIVAL: Parents and guardians must communicate all lates and absences. This can be done by using the Safe Arrival number or website on the front page of this newsletter. Extended absences must be communicated to the office and your child's teacher. Late students will need to sign and in to the office and obtain a late slip for class. Ongoing lates are disruptive to the child's learning and to the whole class. Please support the on time arrival of your children to school.



MEDICATION AT SCHOOL: Where possible, we ask that medications be administered at home. However, should your child require medication administered at school please pick up the required S16 and S16a forms from the office. Complete the form (including physician's signature) and return it to school. **Students are not to keep medication (aside from inhalers and EpiPens) in their knapsack or in the classroom.**

APPROPRIATE DRESS FOR COLD WEATHER: With the onset of colder weather, it is important that our students are appropriately dressed for the weather. This means that students are coming to school in full length clothing and wearing jackets or coats, gloves, hats, mitts, scarves, etc. Students are expected to be outside at recess and the fresh air and exercise does them good, especially in the colder weather when colds and flus are more prevalent. When wet weather arrives, it is a good idea for students to have snow pants and an additional pair of pants and socks in their school bags. Please ensure that students are appropriately dressed for the weather. **Please note that St. Gregory's inclement weather temperature has been set to -17** (between -15 and -17, students may be outside for an abbreviated recess period; at -18 students will remain indoors).



ANAPHYLAXIS & ALLERGIES: The YCDSB has an anaphylactic policy to help protect students affected by life threatening allergies. Parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies and are required to fill in S15 and S15a forms available in the office. Each form must include a passport sized photo. Parents are asked to ensure that students for whom Epi-Pens are prescribed have two EpiPens at school. **It is strongly advised and encouraged that one Epi-Pen is to be on the student's person at all times.** We continue to remind and inform our students NOT to share food in our school environment (including on the school grounds, buses, field trips, before/after school and in any school sanctioned events for students). Visit our website for our school's Allergy/Anaphylaxis Plan.



ASTHMA PROTECTION: Students who require the use of a puffer or inhaler for asthma may keep it on their person. Kindly inform the office immediately if your child will require the use of an inhaler at school and complete the requisite forms. Thank you for your support of this policy and procedure.



Free Access to French Online Homework Help and Practice for Your Child

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's classroom has been selected by the York Catholic District School Board to get access to *Voilà Live's* Virtual Immersion Campus. Every evening from Monday to Thursday students have access to live teachers online to **practice their French** and get **homework help** in French, English and Math.

The Virtual Immersion Campus

will be open **Monday to Thursday**

(October 1st 2019 to May 31st 2020, excluding school breaks)

from **5pm to 8pm (EST)** for homework help and French practice

You can send your child's homework to homework@voilaliving.com before accessing the platform. Your child can also practice their French and play live, communicative games in French on the platform, all while earning points.

Registering for Voilà Live is easy! All you have to do is:

1. Visit <http://voilaliving.com/en/free-online-tutoring/>
2. Click on 'My school board is registered'
3. Complete the form and use the code: **YCDSB2019**
4. You will receive a link to download the platform the next day

We look forward to helping your child on the campus!

Your online tutor,
1(866)900-0658 (Toll free number)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Smith", is written below the contact information.





Help support St. Gregory the Great and this **green initiative!**

We hope you all enjoyed a safe and fun night of Trick-or-Treating. Now that Halloween is over, **please consider donating your gently used Halloween costumes and accessories to our school.**

Items will be collected in the office from November 1st to November 14th.

Donated costumes will be featured during SGG's 1st **GREEN HALLOWEEN COSTUME SALE** next October 2020.

Costumes will be priced under \$15, and accessories under \$5.

All proceeds raised will go to the school to be used for student initiatives.

This is a great opportunity to empty your closets of old costumes, and then purchase a 'new-to-you' costume next year at significantly lower prices than retail shops.

Your generous participation in this recycling program, directly benefits our school community.

We thank you for your continued support,

SGG Parent Council

RECYCLE - REUSE - RESCARE !



PICK UP, DROP OFF & PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please note the following if you are planning to drive your children to SGG ...

The emergency lane and bus route are exclusively for emergency vehicles and buses; vehicles are not permitted to drive into this area

Northside of Greenpark Blvd.:

- Kindly refrain from parking within 9 metres of the school driveways as buses require this area to turn safely. This area is posted as a No Stopping Zone.
- Parents and guardians are welcome to drop off their children on the north side of Greenpark Boulevard directly in front of the school between the posted No Parking signage and east of the speed bumps **Please note:** "Park" or "Parking" when prohibited means the *Standing* of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when *Standing* temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers;
- Vehicles must not park or be left unattended
- Drivers/Motorist's Vehicles may not stop or leave their vehicles unattended on Greenpark Boulevard west of the school's west parking lot exit
- Parents that choose to escort their children onto the school property, parking is permitted for a maximum period of three hours on the north side of the roadway east of the school property (adjacent to parkland).

Southside of Greenpark Blvd.:

- There is no stopping or parking on the south side of Greenpark Avenue as indicated by the posted signage directly opposite the frontage of the school property. Please note: "Stop" or "Stopping" when prohibited, means the halting of a vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not

Parents and Guardians are urged to pay close attention to all street signage.

When walking in front of the school and in the parking lot area where there may be moving vehicles, please exercise caution and make use of walkways to the east and west of the school property. As many parents wish to drop off their children, please be respectful of one another. Once children have been dropped off, please clear the area of vehicles so that others may do the same.

Parents, guardians and students are also encouraged to use active travel methods to come to school. Walking, jogging, or bike riding to school are great ways to get some daily exercise and there are many studies linking student success and well-being to daily exercise and movement.

Please note that parents and guardians are not permitted on the school yard for morning routines, however, they are encouraged to pick up their children from the back of the school at dismissal times. Only students taking the bus will be permitted to exit the building at the end of the day from the front doors. All other students will exit from either the back doors or kindergarten pen.

Kindly note that morning supervision does not begin until 8:35 a.m.. Supervision for students either in the building or outside in the yard is not available until 8:35 a.m.. For parents needing to drop students off to school before supervision begins, please contact the Before and After School Care Program (St. Gabriel Childcare Centre) for more information.

Thank you for following these rules and routines. Safety is our collective responsibility.