

MARCH
2019

St. Gregory the Great Academy Newsletter

Interim Principal - A. Hayes
Trustee Mrs. Marchese
YCDSB 905-713-1211

March sees the first distant signs of spring and takes us through the days of Lent. The welcome of March break interrupts our academic year and as we move to signs of new life and glimpse of spring warmth we are given signs of hope. Lent falls in March this year. This is a season of simplifying one self and preparing for Easter. It is a time of prayer and reaching out to others.

Sacraments

We thank Fr. John and Fr. Antonello for coming to our school and preparing the students for the blessed sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is with great pride that we share our Faith commitment together with school and church. We feel blessed to have St. Clare of Assisi be our provider for so much as we ensure the faith development of our children.

March 27 – Gr. 7 Confirmation at 7pm at the church

May 4 – Gr. 2 First Holy Communion at 1:30 pm at the church

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

FAITH UPDATES:

Shrove Tuesday – Tuesday, March 5, 2019

CSC Parent Volunteers will be delivering pancakes to each class **starting at 9am**. All pancakes will be nut-free and gluten free for specific students. We thank our parent volunteers for organizing this special event for the students.

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, March 6, 2019

We will be celebrating mass in the **school gym at 10:45 am**. We thank our Grade 6 students and teachers for preparing this mass for us. This marks the beginning of Lent and a time for prayerful reflection. All parents/guardians are welcome!

Celebrating Black History – Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 1:15 pm in the gym

St. Gregory the Great will be hosting Duane Gibson a Guinness World Record setting rapper that has been inspiring many youths with his music. During his presentation Gibson will focus on inspirational Canadian heroes such as: Viola Desmond and freedom fighter Josiah Henson. His interactive presentation will include traditional spiritual music.

Luke 4:18

Milk Bag Collection: There is a donation drop off box in the front vestibule of the school. Thank you in advance for your generous donations of clean, dry milk bags!

Confirmation Crosses

On Monday, March 4, 2019, in preparation for Confirmation, the grade 7 students will be participating in an afternoon of painting and reflection. The grade 7's will be painting their own crosses with "*Your Fired Ceramics*".

SPORTS UPDATES:

Boys' and Girls' Basketball at SGG

This year's Intermediate Basketball Teams have continued to impress their coaches: Mr.Venier; Mr.Silva, Ms. DiNicolantonio and Ms. Solimene. We thank these coaches for their time and dedication!

We are very proud of all of the participants this year! The boys will be participating in their tournament on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at St. Agnes of Assisi CES.

Luca D., Daniel G., Mateo D., Jacob TM, Jordan C., Diego V., Eric B., Justin F., Joseph D., Daniel V.

The girls tournament will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at St. Gabriel the Archangel.

Ava-Lauren C., Julia C., Sarina S., Emilia S., Mya B., Melissa T., Marie L., Estelle Z., Emilee B., Olivia Ch.

We wish both teams all the best at their tournaments! GO GRIZZLIES GO!

SGG Hockey 2019!

We are ready for another year of fast-paced, exciting hockey season! The season begins on Thursday, March 7, 2019! Our hockey team this year includes: Luca C., Dario D'A., Luca D., Michael F., Daniel G., Serena G., Matteo P., Leo P., Domenic S., James S., Tyson T., Paul V., Jesse V., Mateo C., David D., Marcus D., Christopher J..

We thank our coaches: Mr. Carbone; Mr. Venier; and Mr. Silva for their time and dedication.

GO GRIZZLIES GO!

SCHOOL UPDATES:

Catholic School Council

***URGENT REMINDER:** Please make note that there will be **NO Costa Verde on March 20th, 2019**. If you have ordered Costa Verde for your child on this date, it will be **rescheduled to Wednesday, May 1st, 2019**. Please ensure that you send a lunch for your child on March 20th, 2019. CSC apologizes for this inconvenience.
Next CSC Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7pm in the Library.

Safe and Caring Schools

Please remember to dress your child properly for the cold snowy weather. Extra mittens, change of clothes, and socks are appreciated as these items are the first to get wet due to outdoor play. If your child enjoys playing in the snow then it is important that snow pants are provided in order to ensure that your child stays dry and warm. Students are reminded to keep the snow on the ground while playing and to play cooperatively when creating forts and play structures. As we begin a new term it is a good time to establish new goals and review St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy's expectations in order to ensure continued success. Please continue to have your child dressed in proper uniform.

Getting Ready for September 2019

Please assist us in determining our staffing and accommodation needs for the school year commencing this September 2019. If you are moving out of the area or your child will be attending another school, please let us know so that enrolment numbers can be adjusted accordingly. We are currently accepting FDK registrations.

Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Poster and Literacy Contest

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this worthwhile contest. Aryiana L. in Grade 5P was selected as a 1st place winner in the Junior Poem category and James G. in grade 5P was selected as a 1st place winner in the Junior essay category. Students will be presented their prizes on Sunday, March 3rd, 2019 at the Legion Branch ceremony.

Environmental News

Our school will be hosting an Electricity Safety and Conservation Presentation on Wednesday, March 27th, 2019. The presentation will focus on general safety and conserving electricity in the school and at home. The times are as follows: Intermediate – 9:15 – 10:15; Junior – 10:45 – 11:45; Primary – 1:05- 1:50.

Earth Hour is on Saturday, March 30th, 2019. We will commemorate Earth Hour at our school on **Friday March 29th from 1:15-2:15 p.m.** The school will turn off all lights and electronics for the hour. The eco-club will make paper lanterns and distribute 1 to each classroom for Earth Hour. We will also be making energy saving tips on the announcements for the week.

We are collecting used markers that students may have in the classroom or at home to be recycled. A recycling bin has been set up outside the Library for students to drop off any markers or highlighters. This box will be sent to Crayola ColourCycle Program to be broken down and converted into wax compounds for asphalt and roofing shingles. Let's all work together to recycle these items!

Spelling Bee

St. Gregory the Great will be hosting our annual Oral School Spelling Bee Contest. It will take place in the morning on Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 in the Library. There will be a spelling bee for each division (Primary, Junior and Intermediate). The top classroom winners have been hard at work preparing and studying their word lists. Parents of classroom winners are welcome to attend!

REMINDER TO GRADE 8 STUDENTS

Grade 8 students will have their **Graduation Pictures** taken on **Monday, March 25th, 2019**. Please come prepared for your picture!

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

Thursday, March 21st, 2019 will be Down Syndrome Awareness Day at St. Gregory the Great. We ask that your child come to school wearing brightly coloured mismatched socks. We have learned that wearing mismatched socks is a sign of genius. Albert Einstein was rumored to wear mismatched socks and the image of placing them heel to heel represents the shape of a chromosome. Students are asked to donate \$2 for the cause. Thank you for your generous support!

ChessTournament!

On February, 20th, 2019 St. Gregory the Great held its annual Chess Tournament. The following students are the grade winners and will make up our chess team for future tournaments. Congratulations go out to:

Gr. 2: Frank G.; Giuliano D.; Domenico M.; Alessandro T.

Gr. 3: Caleb M.; Lucas C.; Massimo T.; Damian R.

Gr. 4: Michael B.; Jake L.; Dante L.; Julian M.

Gr. 5: Anthony G.; Aria C.; Adam D.; Gabriel A.

Gr. 6: Anna S.; Michael X.; Sebastian A.; Joshua W.

Gr. 8: Alan T.; Joseph H.; Paul S.; Dante B.

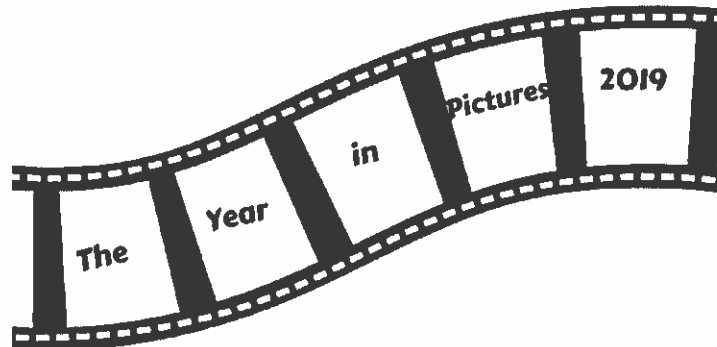
Once again, we would like to thank and congratulate all members for their hard work and skillful play!

Yearbook

Got a business? Would you like to advertise to our SGG community in the 2018/2019 yearbook? Our yearbook theme this year is, 'The Year in Pictures'.

A business card-sized advertisement will cost \$75

Please submit your cheque (payable to St. Gregory the Great) and your business card to the attention of Miss Grisonich. Join us in memory making!



News from your Catholic School Council



Shoebox Project

Thank you to all the families who contributed to the Shoebox Project. SGG delivered a total of 55 wrapped boxes. We had so many generous donations of gift cards, personal items, and boxes. We are blessed and proud to be giving back to our community.



Hot Lunch Program

This year's Catholic School Council continues to offer a Hot Lunch Program at St. Gregory the Great. Back by popular demand was Ital Vera Pizza which is being offered on Mondays and Fridays. The current pizza session runs until April 29. A new pizza form will go home in March. Council also continued to offer Costa Verde Churrasqueira on Wednesdays. This session will run until April 24. A new Costa Verde form will go home in March as well. New this year was Subway Sandwiches. This provider was met with a favourable response. A new order form will go home after March Break. This school year Council brought in Rainbow Lunches which provides lunches on Thursdays. Rainbow Lunches offers tasty and nutritious meals. Ordering is convenient as it is done online! (Go to www.rainbowlunches.com). New providers are being explored for the final term. Parent Council would like to thank you for your participation in these programs. The money raised helps to fund many important school initiatives. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Hot Lunch Program, please do not hesitate to contact the Council Representative, Daniela Chung. (danielachung@rogers.com)



Upcoming Events

Shrove Tuesday is **Tuesday, March 5th**. We will be celebrating this by distributing pancakes to students and staff as a morning treat. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who assist in preparing for this day. The children look forward to it and we are happy to see their smiles.

Dr. Karyn Gordon will be speaking to parents on **Monday, April 1st**. She is a leadership & relationship expert, a dynamic motivational speaker, a best-selling

author, and a TV personality for Good Morning America and Cityline. She travels worldwide to share her expertise and insight on various subjects relating to career, parenting, marriage and relationship topics within families. Don't miss this impactful session!



prizes we have, the more winning for families!

Family Bingo Night is scheduled for **Monday, April 15th at 7:00p.m.** If parents would like to donate any gift cards or prizes, kindly bring them to the office. Anything is appreciated, big or small. The more

Again this year, Council will be providing apples as a healthy snack to students writing the EQAO test. Apples will be distributed each day students are writing.



SAVE THE DATE! Our Year End BBQ is scheduled for **Wednesday June 19th** (with a rain date of June 20th). Last year's event was a huge success and so much fun for the children. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend the evening together with our SGG community while enjoying games, entertainment and delicious food. You will be hearing more about this in coming months. We have even more exciting things in the works for this year!



Active School Travel

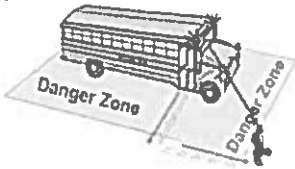
March, 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

"The wheels on the bus go round and round..." Walking to the school bus stop and riding the bus to school are considered important forms of active school travel. Students who live outside of the Non-Transportation Zone for their home school qualify for school bus service.

Walking to the bus stop and riding the bus provides a number of benefits including:

- Teaching children the value of time and being organized
- Keeping children active, which leads to strong physical and mental health
- Encouraging social interaction and improving and building social skills
- Keeping communities safe and reducing private automobile traffic congestion
- Reducing environmental air pollution
- Making school more accessible for all children

| Ministry of Transportation School Bus Safety Tips | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| When you board or leave the bus | While on the bus |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wait in a safe place away from the edge of the road• Stay out of the DANGER ZONE. If you can touch the bus, you're too close. Use 10 giant steps to take you out of the DANGER ZONE, and make sure you and the bus driver can see each other.• Always cross the road in front of the bus, never behind.• Look all ways and wait for the driver to signal before you cross in front of a bus | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay seated, facing forward at all times• Don't put things in the aisle• Never distract the bus driver• Don't eat or drink while on the bus• Don't yell, push people or throw things• Keep your arms and head inside the bus  |

If your child does not qualify for the school bus we encourage walking/cycling/scootering to school or parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way. If you can't walk/cycle/scooter every day, choosing active travel once, twice, or a few days a week can still provide benefits.

Ontario Crossing Guard Recognition Day - March 20, 2019

The Ontario Traffic Council has chosen **Wednesday, March 20th, 2019** as Crossing Guard Recognition Day. If your child passes by a crossing guard on their way to school, take a moment to THANK your local crossing guard to show your appreciation! Crossing guards play an important role in keeping children and neighborhood's safe!

Sincerely,

YCDSB Active School Travel Team

