



St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy

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APRIL 2020 EDITION | HAPPY EASTER

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

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Associate Pastor
Fr. Antonello Murgia

School Superintendent
Opiyo Oloya

CSC Chair
Joseph Cosentino

Administrative Assistant
Lilli DiCarlo

Principal
Vince Galea

Dear Parents and Guardians -

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families in good health.

We find ourselves navigating a situation that we have never seen or experienced before. We went to sleep in one world and woke up in another of social distancing. Acts of love - embraces, kisses, and closeness - are now dangers. Adults struggle to make sense of this. Like you, I spend my waking hours thinking of my own children and yours. I wonder if they know how much they're loved and if they know they are safe. I wonder if they understand what is going on around them and what they will remember of this time when it has passed. It will pass. It will get better.

In an interview years ago with late night TV host Arsenio Hall, the late and beloved children's television pioneer Mr. Rogers retold something his mother said to him when there were scary images on the nightly news and it seemed like the world was lost. His mother told him, "*look for the helpers.*" There are always people helping. No matter how bad a situation gets, there are always good people who care and who will show our children (and adults, because we need to see it too) the goodness of humanity. God's love is always around us. We never walk alone. *Be not afraid ... I go before you always.*

What will our children remember of this time? I hope they remember the time they were given with their family that they might never otherwise have enjoyed. I know they will see the helpers. I know they will see the adults around them - parents, extended family, first responders, service workers, educators, parish partners, everyone - working to keep them safe and secure. *They will see the face of God and live.*

With Easter upon us, I pray your families find peace in the promise of the resurrection. On behalf of the SGG staff, I wish you all a blessed and joyous Easter.

V. Galea, Principal

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 - 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



Catholic Communities of Faith



OUR MARCH VIRTUE WAS PERSEVERANCE:

This past month we celebrated the virtue of perseverance.

Congratulations to the following students for demonstrating this last month's virtue at SGG.

Ms. Granchelli & Ms. Pecora:	<i>Mackenzie D., Massimo A., Luca V. & Bryan G.</i>
Mr. Ricci:	<i>Jeremy C., Gianluca C.</i>
Ms. Pasquariello:	<i>Gabriella D., Nicholas C.</i>
Ms. Ciccolini:	<i>Joey F., Adamo C.</i>
Ms. Cipriani:	<i>Sienna B., Sebastian D., Salvatore M.</i>
Ms. Mammone	<i>Ethan F., Milana C.</i>
Ms. Mischiato:	<i>Samantha B., Giada F., Simone T., Anthony V.</i>
Ms. Ferazzutti:	<i>Gianluca P., Tristan P.</i>
Ms. Nunes:	<i>Alessio B., Sebastian B., Francesca M. Salvatore B.</i>
Ms. Mastrangelo:	<i>Gregory G., Sofia F.</i>
Ms. Lapolla:	<i>Alessia F.</i>
Ms. Scariot:	<i>Christopher G., Gabriel A., Michael X.</i>
Ms. Cook:	<i>Julia G., Siena M.</i>
Ms. Loizides:	<i>Mateo D.</i>
Ms. Solimine	<i>Sofia V.</i>

#RISEUP: Our staff collaborated on this beautiful video for our school community:
<https://youtu.be/IHXBeAROPKM>

APRIL'S VIRTUE IS REVERENCE: The virtue for the month of April is Reverence. The statements that we will inspire us to follow this virtue this month are: **I will honour and respect God's gift of life. I will show good manners, pay attention and treat others the way I wish to be treated.** Given our new journey into distance learning, students can exemplify this virtue at home by:

- following their parents' instructions and their teachers' online directions
- completing their requisite chores at home and their online learning obligations
- showing good digital discipleship in their respectful online interactions.

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI: Please subscribe to our parish's YouTube channel for live streaming of daily Masses with Msgr. John and Fr. Antonello: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiZD1nI84PH1nI4rFkfGcwA>. What a wonderful way to bring prayer into the family than by connecting with our priests, with God and with our greater community from the comfort and safety of your living room. We are thankful that our church has embraced 21st-century technologies so that we can still be close to one another in this challenging time.

Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

SACRAMENTS: Please note that all sacraments have been postponed by the Archdiocese at this time. They will be rescheduled once it is safe to do so. The parish will inform schools and parents when the time is right to proceed.



DISTANCE LEARNING AT SGG:

By now you are fully aware that distance learning begins province-wide April 6th in response to the school closures due to the COVID-19

pandemic. While we wish we could be physically together in our school building on this year's successes, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to continue our learning in this new online way. As this is new for everyone, please give your children and yourselves permission to ease into this. While it is easy to fret about learning (and that is certainly very important) we also want to ensure that we are all looking after everyone's safety and emotional well-being during this challenging time. Our Director, Mr. Ab Falconi, shared a guide for parents this past week outlining how to log in and what to expect from this new method of instruction for many of our students and families. We are all here to assist you in our ongoing partnership. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher. Staff and administration are here to support your child and our families through this time.

For more information on Distance Learning, visit: <https://www.ycdsb.ca/covid-19>

Click **Parent Guide** to Distance Learning



TECHNOLOGY: Our Board recently had parents complete a survey about the availability of technology to support distance learning from home. A plan is

being developed to address some of those needs in a safe way to the best of our ability. Please stay tuned for more details. They will be communicated once they are ready to be implemented. Thank you for your patience.



DAILY PRAYERS & MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Each morning, your child's teacher will post a video of SGG's prayers, *O Canada* and morning announcements to their virtual learning environments (VLEs). Please review these with your child. They are a source of daily prayer and important information, and will often contain additional cross-divisional tasks and activities to complete at your discretion. We want to continue to showcase our students' work because that's what school is about - celebrating our students' achievements. If your child takes part in the activities, please share photos or a video of their work with your child's teacher or on Twitter, tagging **@StGregoryCA**.

BIG BOX OF CARDS & HOT LUNCHES: Our Big Box of Cards fundraiser ended abruptly, but please do not fret. Our Catholic School Council met virtually last week to discuss completing the fundraiser once the schools are safe to reopen. The card provider has assured us they will work with us at that time to complete orders efficiently. Regarding hot lunches, they will be rescheduled upon school opening, otherwise, they will be refunded at a later date. As our office and school are not open, we cannot safely resolve these matters at this time. Rest assured that a plan is in place to address these outstanding issues once school reopens. The safety of our community is our top priority. A special thank you for all the work our CSC members and hot lunch committee do.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS OPEN:

Registration for our September 2020 Kindergarten class is open. Please visit our Board's website at www.ycdsb.ca/admissions/.

APRIL 20-24TH IS SGG VIRTUAL SPIRIT WEEK:

Who says we still can't have some fun and school spirit from home? Check out the next page for some upcoming events!

SGG DISTANCE LEARNING SPIRIT WEEK

SEND US PICS & VIDEOS TO BE FEATURED ON TWITTER

MONDAY

MAKE A MEAL MONDAY: get in the kitchen and make something yummy

20TH

TUESDAY

TWISTER TUESDAY put on some music and dance ... but be sure to send us a video :)

21ST

WEDNESDAY

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY: we want to see a wonderful work of art on Wednesday, please

22ND

THURSDAY

TOPPLE THURSDAY: what's the tallest stable structure you can build at home with regular household objects?

23RD

FRIDAY

FORT FRIDAY: can you build the most awesome couch fort at home? Let's see ...

24TH

Safe & Caring School Community

Working from home can be challenging! It is important to have some tips and tricks to support good mental health and well-being, both for adults and kids. Please follow [@YCDSB_MH](#) for a plethora of mental health and well-being resources!

APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY: During this period of distance learning, it is the expectation of all stakeholders that all online interactions are respectful, appropriate, considerate, kind and fair. Furthermore, given that there may be some live online video, voice and text interaction, there is a reasonable expectation that everyone's privacy is respected. Please review this expectation with your children and allow it to continue to inform all stakeholders' interactions moving forward. A reminder that parents should monitor their children's online interactions regularly. Teachers will review the appropriate use of technology expectations with their students periodically as well. If you have any concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher or to administration. Thank you for your partnership.

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 Jesus as our inspiration.

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

- ★ 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 and respect the rights of others
- ★ Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- ★ 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