



Principal—Mr. DiFrancesco

Vice Principal—Ms. Lubek

Secretary: Mrs. Gardner

Secretary: Mrs. Rawson

**St. Gabriel  
Catholic School**

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# September/October 2020 Newsletter



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome Back Everyone! What a start! We have cleaned and worked hard to make St. Gabriel School safe and especially welcoming this year. Throughout the newsletter you will see some pictures of what the school looks like now with the new measures put into place. Staff are wearing medically approved face masks and shields or glasses. As the principal of St. Gabriel School, I am excited about working with your children and you this year. The goal of our school is to continue to foster the academic, physical, social and the emotional needs of your children which is rooted in our Catholic faith. As a school community, we come together during this time and support one another and set an example for our children by staying socially distant at school. A special welcome to all of our new students and families who have arrived at St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School this year. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer; one filled with family and friends, memories, laughter, and spontaneity.

As the Principal of the school, I continue to look forward to working with you throughout the year. Please feel free to phone, [email \(jdifrancesco@bhncdsb.ca\)](mailto:jdifrancesco@bhncdsb.ca) or set up an appointment to discuss your questions or concerns. As a staff, we look forward to sharing your child's successes with you and working together to address difficulties and/or concerns.

Each child receives a variety of information in the first few weeks. Please go through this information with your child and fill out the appropriate forms. One of the most important forms is the **Student Information Form**. Please send it back if you have not already done so. The school requires this information and it is imperative that it is completed and up-to-date.

**Follow us on twitter @astgcatholic and get alerts from our website, [www.stgabrielbrantford.ca/](http://www.stgabrielbrantford.ca/) when we add new information. Stay in the know! All correspondence will be via our website and/or email.**

Thank you for the honour and privilege of helping to educate your child. I look forward to meeting you and helping to create a memorable educational experience for your children.

Peace and Blessings,

Mr. J. Di Francesco  
Principal



# New COVID Screening Guidelines

The Ontario Government has, effective October 1, provided new screening protocols for our students. Please read the following (taken from the Government of Ontario's website located at <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58629/ontario-revises-covid-19-screening-guidance-for-schools-and-child-care>):

The first set of questions asks about symptoms such as fever or cough. Students and children with any of these symptoms will still be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

The second set of questions asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as a runny nose or headache:

- Students and children with only one of these symptoms will be advised to stay home for 24 hours, after which they can return to school or child care if their symptoms are improving.
- Students and children with two or more of these symptoms will be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

In addition, based on the latest public health guidance the symptom list for children in school and child care no longer includes abdominal pain or conjunctivitis (pink eye).

# What Has Changed This Year?

## Signage/Cleaning

St. Gabriel has always prided itself on its cleanliness. This year we have added another cleaner to the school who works 9am to 6pm. This person assists the custodian with the daily work of the school but continues to clean high touch areas throughout the day. We have signage on floors, in the bathrooms, and posted throughout the school. They highlight handwashing, social distancing and other protocols to keep our children safe.

## Parking

Please be aware that the Bylaw officer will continue to monitor the parking throughout the year. He will be ticketing individuals who are parking in the no parking spots across the street from the school. Please remember that double parking in the parking lot is not allowed. Please do not block the entrance way and exit to the School. This year we have the Boys & Girls Club picking up some students at the end of the day. Our kids are worth it. Park in designated areas only.



## St. Basil's Parish

Father Kevin Sousa is the priest at Basil's Parish. Fr. Kevin will be working with us this year. We will be celebrating liturgies of the word in the classrooms. For more information <https://www.stbasilparish.ca/>



## New Staff

We are blessed at St. Gabriel to have an amazing staff. We would like to welcome our new members to the team. **Miss Mori (ECE), Mrs. Palmer (ECE), Miss Da Costa (Gr. 2/3), Mrs. Gardiner (4/5), Mr. Sewerynek (Grade 5), Mr. Hollingworth (Gr. 7), Ms. Mori (Gr. 8), Miss VanBrandt(FSL), Ms. Duckers (Prep), Mrs. Faust (EA), Miss Bennett (EA), Miss Hamstra (EA) and Mrs. Gardner (Secretary).** I know you join me in welcoming this new group to our school.

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## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council Meeting will take place on Monday, October 19th @ 6:00 pm. It will be a virtual meeting and if you are interested in attending, please contact Mrs. Gardner. [tgardner@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:tgardner@bhncdsb.ca)

## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE—VERY IMPORTANT

We really appreciate having every family on board with this initiative. This year St. Gabriel School will only utilize School cash online as a form of payment. Sorry, NO CASH or CHEQUES will be accepted.

### YOU CAN NOW USE CREDIT CARDS ON SCHOOL CASH.

Once you are registered, you can pay for field trips, hot lunches etc., for all your children at one time. You will also receive notification when an item has been placed on School Cash.

### HOT LUNCHESES

Hot Lunches will only be on School Cash. We will not be sending notices home and we will not be accepting any late orders. If you are signed up for School Cash you will receive an email when a new item has been added. Please make sure you sign up for School Cash to get the Hot Lunches. School Cash Online now accepts credit cards.



**A smile is a laugh that burst!**



# SCHOOL STAFF 2020-2021

FTK1 .....	Mrs. Luciani	Secretary.....	Mrs. Gardner
ECE .....	Miss Mori	Principal .....	Mr. DiFrancesco
FTK2 .....	Miss Parent	Vice Principal.....	Ms. Lubek
ECE .....	Mrs. Palmer		
Grade 1.....	Ms. Christie		
Grade 1/2.....	Mrs. Dunbar		
Grade 2 .....	Mrs. Nowlan		
Grade 2/3 .....	Miss DaCosta		
Grade 3 .....	Miss P. Luciani		
Grade 3/4 .....	Mr. Savard		
Grade 4 .....	Mrs. Hogan		
Grade 5 .....	Mr. Sewerynek		
Grade 6A .....	Mr. Paul		
Grade 6B.....	Mrs. Conley		
Grade 7A .....	Mr. Hollingworth		
Grade 7B.....	Mrs. Blackwell		
Grade 8A .....	Ms. Mori		
Grade 8B.....	Mrs. Plant		
French .....	Mlle Van Brandt		
French .....	Madame Moyer		
French .....	Mme. Cuthbert		
Prep .....	Mrs. Duckers		
Special Education .....	Mrs. Howarth		
Special Education .....	Miss Hallihan		
S.T.E.M.....	Mrs. Labinowicz		
Educational Assistant .....	Mrs. Porteus		
Educational Assistant .....	Mrs. Rivers		
Educational Assistant .....	Mrs. Faust		
Educational Assistant .....	Ms. Hancock		
Educational Assistant .....	Mrs. Greenwood		
Educational Assistant .....	Miss Hamstra		
Custodian .....	Mr. Parker		
Secretary-part time .....	Mrs. Rawson		



## ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

Students who arrive late to school must report to the office.

## LEAVING FOR APPOINTMENTS

A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must come to the office to sign the student out. All students must be picked up at the office. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all of our students.

## HALLOWEEN

Information re: Halloween will be coming at a later date.



## MEDICATION

The staff at St. Gabriel Catholic School must follow Board procedures for the administration of medication during school hours. If your child requires such medication you are asked to contact the Principal and the necessary arrangements will be made.

Authorization to provide such service must be made in writing by the parent and physician on the appropriate form (obtained at the school). Only prescription drugs will be administered. Nonprescription drugs such as aspirin will NOT be administered to the students.

# NUT ALLERGY ALERT!

## St. Gabriel's is a NUT FREE facility.

There are students in our school with life threatening allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. Even a trace amount from peanut/nut products or food that has come in contact with a peanut/nut source (cross contamination) can result in a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reaction being respiratory difficulties, blockage of the airways, which if not medicated immediately, can lead to death.

To provide the minimized allergen environment, we need the support and cooperation of the parents/guardians and the school community. Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts and tree nuts as well as products that have the "may contain **peanuts/tree nuts**" warning on them. Please read labels before sending food to school. Keep in mind not all packaging is clearly labelled with the warning. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If you have caregivers who provide your child with lunches or snacks we encourage you to share this information with them.

## NUT ALLERGY HELP (Understanding what to look for.)

When identifying whether or not food is safe to send to school, there are few things to look for:

### 1. READ THE LABELS!

That means there should be **NO** tree nuts & peanuts in the ingredients.

The item should also be made in a **TREE NUT & PEANUT FREE FACILITY**.

The label can NOT say "May Contain Nuts" or made on equipment that also processes nuts, or anything similar.

### 2. DON'T BE FOOLED BY SYMBOLS!



*The symbol on the left indicates "peanut free", but not necessarily "tree nut" free so please read the ingredients to be sure!*



*Each companies standard of school safe is different so please read the ingredients to be sure!*

Anaphylaxis Canada recommends reading all labels instead of just reading the symbols

### 3. Remember that peanuts and tree nuts are NOT the same thing

**Peanuts:** a member of the legume family and not botanically related to tree nuts.

**Tree Nuts:** Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Cashews, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Hickory Nuts, Macadamia Nuts, Pecans, Pine Nuts, Pistachios, Shea Nuts and Walnuts.

We realize this request may require added planning and effort on your part when packaging your child's lunch and snacks, however, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation. We cannot guarantee a nut free environment for students nor an "allergen free" area at our school, but with your help we can make our school as safe as is reasonably possible in this regard.

Parents we have a number of students in the school who have serious allergies. In order to best ensure the students do not have an anaphylactic reaction we are insisting that no food items other than your child's lunch and snacks be brought to the school.

We will still have our hot lunches (pizza days, pita days). **However, fruit trays, vegetable trays, freezies, popsicles etc. that are occasionally brought to classes will be eliminated.** Children's birthdays or special occasions, will have to occur at the home. I'm confident that you understand the importance of this and will support this initiative. The health and safety of all our children is most important.

## MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

**St. Gabriel School is a very big and busy school. It is very important that you make pick up arrangements first thing in the morning and write it in your child's agenda for the teacher to see.**

**If you are bringing lunches into the school, there is a table in the front hallway. Please put a label on it with your child's name and teacher. It is the responsibility of your child to come to the office to pick it up.**

**This way we avoid any interruption to the classroom.**

**St. Gabriel School is now using a central system call to leave messages at your home. It is very important that you listen to the message before you call the school.**

**Thank you for all of your support.**



# Paperless



## St. Gabriel School is paperless

Access to the school calendar, newsletter, hot lunch forms and other notes usually sent home will now be posted on the school website. Permission Forms will continue to be sent home.

### **Worried you are going to miss something?**

Please go to our school website at [www.stgabrielbrantford.ca](http://www.stgabrielbrantford.ca) and 'SUBSCRIBE' to our webpage.

By doing this, you will receive an email notification whenever something has been added to our website.

We will also have links on the school Twitter Account that will allow access to school information.

Go to [@stgcatholic](https://twitter.com/stgcatholic) and start following us on Twitter.

If you have any questions or need help subscribing please call the school.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

*J. Di Francesco, Principal*



# Keeping Everyone Safe!

