



Saint Gabriel

November/December

Newsletter

Dear St. Gabriel Community

November brings a wonderful sense of change and growth—both in nature and in our school community. It's been a joy to see our students settling into routines, building friendships, and engaging deeply in their learning.

This month, we're focusing on **kindness and community**. Our classrooms are exploring ways to show empathy, celebrate differences, and work together. I encourage you to ask your child about what kindness looks like in their classroom.

We also have exciting events ahead: National Child Day, parent-teacher conferences, and school-wide kindness activities. These moments are not just fun; they are opportunities to strengthen the connection between home and school.

December offers a special opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and look ahead. During the month of December, the focus will be seasonal stories, celebrations from around the world, and engaging in creative projects that highlight the spirit of giving and togetherness. We will also engage families with our winter concert, art exhibition and classroom celebrations.

Ms. Caruso

Principal

November mentions events and reminders:

- **Generations Hot Lunch** 3 days a week program (Tue, Wed, Thurs) began Oct. 28th, 2025. Please call the school should your child require a hot lunch, and they have not received one.
- **Fire drill:** We have had 5 Fire drills. Three during class time, one at lunch and one after school. With each drill we have progressively improved our evacuation time. The students have shown excellent collaboration throughout the drill. We are proud of their efforts and the teachers' efforts in preparing the classes.
- **Sistema:** We are happy to announce that the Sistema music enrichment program began 2 weeks ago with 18 students registered.

- **Irish Dancing** is currently underway with 20 students registered this session.
- **McGill Afterschool Piano Program** began early September with 23 students currently registered.
- Once again, this year **Boite à lunch** is running its program from **Oct. 10th to Dec. 12th** with 12 students registered.
- French Second Language (FSL) tutor with Mme Marisol began this Wednesday. She will be working alongside the teachers to provide additional FSL support. We are happy to have her back.
- Ms. Shannon continues to work with our students on Eco Sustainability and Eco Projects this year. A shout out to Ms. Shannon, we are happy she can be back with us this year.
- Ms. Sherron our IT support is also back this year on Tuesday morning. Looking forward to seeing all the class projects she collaborates on this year.
- A shout out to our Grade 6 council members with their special announcements each morning.
- **Our Kindness Committee** will be out and about sprinkling kindness throughout the month.
- **Wednesday, November 5th** our grade 1-6 students will be taking part in a Remembrance Day Celebration (band and guest speaker).
- **Friday, November 7th** is a Ped. Day. **Daycare will be closed**
- **Tuesday, November 11th** will be a vaccination day for K4 and K5.
- **Monday, November 11th- November 19th** grade 5 and 6 students will be completing the Our School Survey (info to come)
- **Thursday, November 20th** is National child day. Families and staff are asked to complete "Stars" indicating why their child/student shines bright.
- **Friday, November 21st** all report cards will be ready on Mosaik
- **Reading Week:** November 24th-27th 2025
- **Wednesday, November 26th (class time) and Thursday, November 27th (parent teacher interview)** we will be having our Scholastic Book Fair.
- **Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th** are PED DAYS. Daycare will be open
- **Thursday, November 27th** is our in-person Term 1 Parent Teacher Conference. Invitations and booking options to come.

Report
Cards

December mentions, events and reminders:

- **Monday, December 1st** the grade 6 students will be visiting the Holocaust Museum from 10:15am-1:30pm.
- **Tuesday, December 2nd** is our Grade 4 vaccination day.
- **Friday, December 5th**, classes will be going on a field trip and enjoying the ballet performance of **"THE NUTCRACKER"** (info to come)
- **Thursday December 10th** is our annual Winter Concert: Gear up for a great show 🎭 (invitation to come)

- **Friday, Dec. 19th, 2025**, is the last day of school before the holidays. School will end at 2:40pm and daycare will be open until 6:00 pm.
- **Monday, Jan. 5th, 2026**, is the first day back from the holiday break

Upcoming GB meetings (in person or virtual):

Wednesday. November 12th, 2025 (in person)

Wednesday. December 10th, 2025 (virtual)

Wednesday. January 14th, 2026 (virtual)

Wednesday. February 18th, 2026 (virtual)

Wednesday. March 25th, 2026 (TBD)

Wednesday. April 22nd, 2026 (in person)

Wednesday. May 27th, 2026 (in person)

Wednesday. June 10th, 2026 (in person)

Improvement Updates

We're pleased to share a few updates regarding improvements to our school grounds:

- **Playground Refresh:** We've secured playground-grade fiber wood chips to replenish the areas on the Hall Street playground that had eroded over time due to weather. The refresh was completed on October 27th. This refresh has significantly improved the condition of the school yard, and both students and staff are happy with the results.
- **Drainage Maintenance:** The drain hole in the schoolyard regularly backs up during heavy rain, causing puddles. We were able to have that drain, along with the one in the junior yard, professionally cleaned—successfully removing the issue.
- **New School Banner:** You'll notice a new St. Gabriel School banner on Wellington Street soon. Keep your eyes peeled when walking, cycling, or driving past!
- **School Yard Line Painting:** We are seeking competitive quotes to repaint the game lines in the school yard to give it a bit of a facelift. If you know of someone who provides this service—or if you are willing to get out and help repaint the lines using asphalt paint—please be in touch with Ms. Emily.
- **Intercom System Upgrade:** Our intercom system project is now complete, with the last work finished on Friday, October 24th, 2025.

Eco School Update

- We're continuing to build on our **Eco Schools** initiative, which earned us Gold Certification last year! This fall, we've restarted our classroom and lunchroom composting, with a special thanks to the Transitions class for helping take the compost out each day. We're also continuing our milk carton recycling program, and starting this November, we'll re-launch **Waste-Free Lunches on Mondays** to encourage reusable containers and less packaging in our lunchboxes.
- **Our Pollinator Garden** was a wonderful success; the plants thrived all summer long! Daycare students have been busy collecting seeds and beans to replant in the spring. To bring the beauty of the garden indoors, artist Emily Read worked with Grade 4A and SEEDS C students to design and create a stunning mural inspired by our garden and its pollinator visitors.
- Our Grade 6 students have been hard at work collecting bottles and cans as part of their grad fundraising efforts. Through this recycling initiative, they have collected over 1,000 bottles and cans, helping to divert waste from landfills, reduce carbon emissions, save energy, and conserve thousands of liters of water. The students are continuing their collection, so please keep sending in your bottles and cans. If possible, rinse them before sending and separate glass, aluminum, and plastic to make sorting easier.
- We're also excited to welcome Ms. Shannon back to continue her work with our SEEDS, Transitions and daycare students. Together, Ms. Naomi and Ms. Shannon are exploring funding opportunities and applying for grants to help our garden and environmental initiatives continue to grow!

Daycare Update

As we move into November and December, we will take time to honor Remembrance Day with the children through activities that help them understand and appreciate the contributions of our veterans.

Daycare will embrace the festive season by introducing winter activities. We'll be encouraging the children to enjoy both outdoor and indoor fun. Outdoor fun will include building snowmen and sledding. Indoors, children will be creative with crafts like making snow globes, tree decorating, painting, and taking part in baking and holiday story telling.

PPO Update: *The PPO Pulse*

Frightfully Good News —
\$1,600 Raised for Our Kids' Classrooms!

Thanks to our incredible volunteers, bakers, and guests, this year's Haunted House was a spooky success! Your spirit and support make all the difference. We can't wait to see you at our next holiday event — stay tuned...

Families that contributed baked goods can come by the school to grab their containers

Home and School Update

- **September Activities:** In September, we supported the cost of the Welcome Back Corn Roast and the Terry Fox Fundraiser.
- **October Initiatives:** October has been a busy month with our annual Chocolate Bar Drive. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards Grade 6 Graduation. We will be awarding a \$200 scholarship to a deserving Grade 6 student. Additionally, we plan to purchase decorations for the graduation ceremony and contribute to the cost of the graduation trip, if needed.
- **Student Treats:** Throughout the year, we will continue to provide treats to students for special occasions, including the upcoming Halloween and Christmas celebrations.
- **Chocolate Bar Drive Update:** The Chocolate Bar Drive has now concluded. We successfully raised enough funds to cover the cost of the chocolates, which totaled \$3,024.00. However, not all funds have been returned yet. Once everything is finalized, we will award prizes to the families who sell the most chocolates. Prizes will include gift cards valued at \$50, \$40, and \$30.
- **Generations Foundation Hot Lunch Program:** Due to budget constraints this year, we've decided to support the Generations Foundation Hot Lunch Program by purchasing essential items to help launch the initiative. These include forks, spoons, soap, dish cloths, and containers.