

George Vanier Catholic School

May 2015



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Vision Statement

Inspired by our rich heritage and challenged by the struggles of our past, we at George Vanier Catholic School are called to express our mission as church, to pass on the good news of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION Exploring Paths of JOY



The theme of this year's province wide celebration is Exploring Paths of Joy. Five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week, are aimed at helping staff and students reflect more fully on what Exploring Paths of Joy asks of them: Walking Together and Sharing our Stories, Opening the Scriptures, Welcoming Others to the Table, Recognizing Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread, and Proclaiming the Good News.

Tony Cosentino, Religious and Family Life Education Resource Teacher at RCCDSB sums up the importance of Catholic Education Week very well when he says, "Catholic Education Week gives us a chance to celebrate the joy of learning and growing as Jesus' disciples in our Catholic schools. This is really what Catholic education is all about."

We have a number of activities planned at George Vanier during the week. Here are some of the highlights:

Monday – Hydro presentation beginning at 9:00 am in the gym and ending with tree planting outside; Book Exchange from 6:00-8:00 pm. Everyone welcome (coffee, tea and treats will be available by donation).

Tuesday – Chess tournament; School visit by some RCCDSB administrators in the afternoon.

Wednesday – Teachers participating in moderated marking session in the afternoon; Parent Inspiration Night at St. John Bosco – 7:00 pm.

Thursday – Living, Glowing Rosary in the gym at 12:30 pm, please join us if you are able. Dental screening for grades 2, 4, 6 and 8.

Friday – 4 students will participate in the Gray Matter Trivia challenge and our whole school will celebrate mass at Holy Canadian Martyr's at 12:30 pm. All are welcome to join us for the Eucharistic celebration.

Throughout the week, we will be giving out footprints to the students and staff we see walking in the footsteps of Jesus. These footprints will take the place of our Christian Spirit awards for the week. We are looking forward to creating a path all around the school!

Special thanks for your support during the month of April to:

- 🌸 The angels who removed the rink boards
- 🌸 Mary Yaraskavitch for her donation to the Library
- 🌸 Ms. Landon for coaching our Chess team and the Gray Matter team
- 🌸 Mrs. Susan Yaraskavitch for raking our yard to keep it looking beautiful

Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteer Appreciation Day was on April 20th. We would like to thank the amazing volunteers who are part of our George Vanier family. Special thanks go to our Library volunteers; Carmel Rumbleskie, Helen Parisien and Susan Yaraskavitch, our classroom volunteer Theresa Golka and our Healthy Snack volunteer Tracy Glofcheskie. We would also like to thank our DI volunteers Bobbi-Jo Coulas, Becky DeCarle and Trista Betournay for their work and all of our parents who help out through the year with fundraisers, chaperoning and by supporting school events.

Dress Code Reminder

With the arrival of the beautiful weather, please be mindful of our dress code, as outlined in the front of the agendas. Students who are wearing clothing that does not meet the code will be asked to call home for a change of clothing or will be given something to wear on top of their own clothes if a change can't be brought for them.

Safety Reminder

Student safety is a priority for us at George Vanier. This extends to students who are riding bicycles to school. Helmets must be worn and bikes must be walked out of the parking lot after the end of recess bell rings. It is law that anyone under the age of 18 must wear a helmet when riding on a public roadway. The fine for not wearing a helmet is \$60.00.

Trivia Night

Thank you to everyone who contributed to or participated in our Trivia Night on April 10th. We were thrilled to have 11 teams playing that night and we look forward to seeing even more next year! We are so blessed to live in such a generous community and the prizes that were donated were incredible. Thank you to Yuill's Valu-Mart, Metro, Afelskie Shoes, Rainbow Rafts, St. Francis Herb Farm, Bromley Farm Supply, Eve's Escapes Spa, The Wilno Tavern, St. Joseph's House, Lorraine's Pharmasave, Tim Hortons, Vito's Pizzeria and the Beggs and Enright families for their donations of raffle prizes.

Primary Class Trip

Planning for the primary class trip is in the works. This trip will take place on Wednesday, May 20th. More information will follow shortly.

Library Reminder

Please keep bringing in the Campbell's Soup labels and pop cans. Every effort to recycle helps us get books for the library and equipment for the gym!

Great Opportunity for Young Artists!

Ms. Alicia Shulist is offering art classes at her home at 2248 Dafoe Rd. Combermere. Please see the attached flyer for details about this amazing opportunity so close to home!

Movie Night

Thank you to everyone who attended our Movie Night and to Mrs. Pecarskie for organizing the evening.

Book Exchange

On Monday, May 4 from 6 to 8 pm, our school will be hosting a community free book exchange evening. Bring a book, take a book. Bring books, take books. Novels, mysteries, non-fiction, paperbacks, recipe, hardcover, children's books, etc., will all be available and you just bring your gently used books, place them on a table, and browse for new treasures to take home. It's a great chance to spring clean book shelves holding books you've read once and are done with. Please spread the word to all the readers in the area. Refreshments will be available for a donation and this event is open to all readers!

Good Luck!

We wish the best of luck to our Chess team as they travel to the Chess tournament on Tuesday, May 5th. They have given up many lunch hours in preparation for this event and they are ready! Special thanks to Ms. Landon who has given up so many lunch hours as well. Good luck also to our Gray Matter team as they prepare to compete on Friday, May 8 at Palmer Rapids Public School!

School Visit

During the afternoon of Tuesday, May 5th, we will be welcoming 4 RCCDSB principals and, possibly, RCCDSB Superintendent, Jaimie Perry to George Vanier Catholic School as part of the Principal Inquiry Circle that all Principals in the Board have been a part of throughout the year. This visit will take the place of the former District Review process and offers the opportunity for Principals to give feedback to each other to share with their staffs. As a group, we have been discussing Mindset and Student Engagement throughout the year and this visit will provide an opportunity to share some of the learning that has taken place.

Parent Inspiration Evening

The School Councils of George Vanier, St. Andrew's and St. John Bosco each applied for a Parent Reaching Out Grant and received funding to co-host a parent night to be held at St. John Bosco on Wednesday, May 6th. The guest speaker will be Janet Podleski and we are looking forward to a wonderful evening. All are welcome!

Metro Green Apple Grant

Earlier in the school year, Mme. Ropego applied for a Metro Green Apple Grant and was successful in her application. The money is being used to introduce students to foods from around the world. We have already been treated to some French Cuisine and fruits from around the world. During the month of May, the money will be used to provide two lunches for staff and students. On Thursday, May 14th, we will have a Thai lunch and on Thursday, May 28th, we will have a Polish lunch. Students are encouraged to try the foods that will be offered, but can bring their own lunches if they so choose.

School Council

Our next School Council meeting will be held in the school library on Thursday, May 21st at 5:30 pm. All parents are welcome to attend the meeting.

EQAO

The annual EQAO assessments will take place during the last week of May and the first week of June. The exact dates will be sent home to the parents of grades 3 and 6 students in the next couple of weeks.

Mindset: Messages About Process and Growth!

Nine-year old Lisa was on her way to her first gymnastics meet. Lanky, flexible and energetic, she was just right for gymnastics, and she loved it. Of course, she was a little nervous about competing, but she was good at gymnastics and felt confident of doing well.

In the first event, the floor exercises, Lisa went first. Although she did a nice job, the scoring changed after the first few girls, and she lost. Lisa also did well in the other events, but not well enough to win. By the end of the evening, she had received no ribbons and was devastated.

What would you say if you were Lisa's parents?

1. Tell Lisa that *you* thought she was the best.
2. Tell her she was robbed of a ribbon that was rightfully hers.
3. Reassure her that gymnastics is not that important.
4. Tell her she has the ability and will surely win next time.
5. Tell her she didn't deserve to win.

Let's look at the five possible reactions from a mindset point of view—and listen to the messages:

The first (*you* thought that she was the best) is basically insincere. She was not the best—you know it, and she does, too. This offers her no recipe for how to recover or how to improve.

The second (*she* was robbed) places blame on others, when in fact the problem was mostly with her performance, not the judges. Do you want her to grow up blaming others for her deficiencies?

The third (reassure her that gymnastics doesn't really matter) teaches her to devalue something if she doesn't do well in it right away. Is this really the message you want to send?

The fourth (*she* has the ability) may be the most dangerous message of all. Does ability automatically take you where you want to go? If Lisa didn't win this meet, why should she win the next one?

The last option (tell her she didn't deserve to win) seems hardhearted under the circumstances. And of course you wouldn't say it quite that way.

If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. They will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence.

We can praise them as much as we want for the growth-oriented process—what they accomplished through practice, study, persistence, and good strategies.

Dweck, Carol S. "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success" (2008)

The following students were 'caught' showing "Christian Spirit" sometime during the month of April.

Special Thanks to Mrs. Schweig who takes so much of her time to recognize students each day!

Abbey	Alec	Amelia (18)	Brady	Cheyenne	Daniel (6)
Emma Beggs (17)	Julia (2)	Johnny (3)	Josh	Levi	Megan
Mackenzie (5)	Michelle (2)	Matthew (2)	Madison (3)	Makayla (3)	Mason
Maria	Nadia	Niomi	Sam (2)	Shaelyn (5)	Skyler (2)
Shawn	Spencer (2)	Selina (2)	Taylor (3)	Tyrell (2)	

Congratulations and thank you to all of you!

Spirit Activities

On **Thursday, April 30th**, held a **Twin day**. Students dressed like a friend or a group of friends. Pictured below are some of our twins!

Our next Spirit Day will be a hat day on Friday, May 29th.

