

George Vanier Catholic School

December 2016



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Combermere ON 1L0
613 756 3708
Acting Principal – Anne Marie Landon
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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.

School Information

- Welcome to new GV student Aimee!
- Our Christmas concert is on Thursday, December 15 at 6pm. Students are asked to be here by 5:50 for costumes. This time may be inconvenient for some of our families, but it is necessary so that those families who wish to attend the MVDHS concert the same evening may do so. Snacks will be provided prior to the concert and donations collected will be forwarded to our local hospital's Tree of Lights campaign. Students have been working hard to prepare for an evening of drama, music, and Christmas cheer. Feel free to invite Grandparents, neighbours, and others to attend as well. The more the merrier!

The order of the presentations will be: Grade 6/7/8 video playing before and after concert, then the concert will open with the Grade 3-5 class, followed by the 6-8 class, French, Music, and finally the K-2 performance of the Nativity. The School Council Basket raffle will also take place during the concert as will the draw for the stained glass made by the Grade 6-8 class. Children must sit with their families, not on the floor at the front of the gym, when they are not in their classrooms getting ready to perform or on stage performing.

- All students have participated in Bus Safety sessions. Please remind your child to be at their stop 10 minutes early, sit properly in their seat, and move carefully when outside of the bus.

School Council

- Next meeting is on Thursday, January 19 at 5:30. New members are always welcome! Come out to learn about the many ways our School Council makes a difference for GV students, including the success of the recent Christmas Bazaar.
- \$900 worth of new floor hockey equipment has arrived, purchased by your School Council

- The Christmas Bazaar held on November 19 was very successful. School Council raised over \$1500 from the event.
- Natalie Toppin won the 50/50 at the Bazaar. It was worth \$129.
- Mary Ann McCann won the coffee and cake package donated by Tracy Glofcheskie, School Council Chair, on behalf of families of GV. Sadie Brotton won the bird feeding package donated by Anne Marie Landon, Acting Principal, on behalf of the school. Angelina from Palmer Rapids won the Metro gift card donated by Father John Lacey on behalf of the Parish.

School Board

- The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board is working on a multi-year strategic plan and wants input from parents, staff, community members, parishioners, and students. The on-line survey can be found on the Board homepage at www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca (scroll down – the survey link is on the right hand side). Please contact the school office if you would prefer a paper copy.

Parish Information

Parish Priest: Fr. John Lacey	
Weekend Mass Times:	
Holy Canadian Martyrs, Combermere Saturdays 5pm Sundays 9am	St. Francis de Sales, Latchford Bridge Sundays 11am

- The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated at Holy Canadian Martyrs on Thursday, December 8 at 7pm. The final class will be that afternoon at 1pm and will include a visit to the Church. If you have any questions please contact Fr. John Lacey or Ms. Landon.
- Our next school Mass is on Wednesday, December 21 at 1pm. Mrs. Pecarskie will be preparing the music and readings with her K-2 class.
- Father John will be at the school the afternoon of Tuesday, December 13 to hear Confessions for any Catholic students, Grades 2 and up, wishing to take part in this Sacrament.
- Christmas Mass times at Holy Canadian Martyrs are: Christmas Eve 8pm and Christmas Day 10am
- Christmas Mass times at St. Francis de Sales are: Christmas Eve 5pm
- Father John Lacey extends a warm welcome to all Christmas visitors

Thank You

- Melody and Michael Priestley for providing healthy snacks the 2nd week of November.
- Trista Betournay for providing healthy snacks the 4th Thursday of November .
- Coronation Orchards and St. Albert Cheese for on-going food donations to our school.

- School Council for purchasing over \$900 in floor hockey equipment
- Brian, Skylar, and Brady Glofcheskie for putting up the boards on our school ice rink
- Tracy Glofcheskie and Gloria Kosnaskie for organizing the Christmas Bazaar
- To everyone who donated items, volunteered to decorate and set-up, helped on the day of the bazaar, and who helped with clean-up.
- The Grade 10 and 11 students at St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew who handcrafted our buddy bench.
- The Madawaska Valley Public Library for recognizing our school as a community hub and organizing the donation of a book tree. The book tree will be used by anyone in the community to take a book or leave a book.
- Gertie vonDeschwanden who donated a beautiful Nativity set to the school in thanksgiving for all of the support (and "Gertie box" goodies) she has received from our school community. Check it out when you come to the concert.

Community Information

- The organizers of the Palmer Rapids and Area Lions Club are looking for individuals and families to provide entertainment for their annual Tree of Love fundraiser and celebration to be held on Sunday, December 4 at 6pm. For more information please contact Sharon at 613 756 3035.
- St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation is holding the annual Tree of Lights in Barry's Bay on Friday, December 2 at 6:30pm. Shaelyn Betournay, Grade 2, will be representing our school this year.
- The evening Combermere broomball league is starting in January for children ages 6 and up. Registration is at the Combermere rink on Wednesday, December 14 starting at 6:30pm.

Did You Know?

- That GV recently received a buddy bench that was handcrafted by students from St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew. Ask your child about the buddy bench rules. The bench will be permanently installed in the spring.
- A book tree has been donated to our school. It will be permanently installed in the spring and is a spot where community members can take a book or leave a book.

Looking Ahead...

- Thursday, December 15 Christmas Concert at 6pm (Back up date Monday, December 19)
- Friday, December 16 N.E.T. (National Evangelical Team) Retreat at St. Andrew's, Killaloe for students in Grades 6/7/8. An information letter and permission form has been sent home.
- Friday, December 16 Christmas Semi-formal dance at St. Andrew's Catholic School in Killaloe
- Wednesday, December 21 Advent School Mass at 1pm. K-2 class (with the help of some Grade 3/4/5 students) to look after readings and music ministry.
- Friday, December 23 is the last school day before the Christmas holidays

- Sunday, December 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY!**
- Monday, January 9, 2017 Back to School
- Wednesday, February 8 Grade 8 Transition Information evening at MVDHS 6-7pm

Perhaps...

- Parents: Perhaps you would like to complete the on-line Parent Climate Survey. You can locate it at www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca/parent-involvement-committee. If you would prefer a paper copy write a note in your child's agenda. Parent climate surveys are used to gather information to help in RCCDSB School Improvement Planning. The Board and the schools welcome your opinion.

Action Items for Our Families

- Please encourage your child to dress for the weather so they can enjoy outside play. Extra mittens are great as is a change of clothes for Primary students (can be kept at school in their bin).
- Continue to sell raffle tickets for these baskets. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and more are available at the school office. Draw is the evening of our concert.
- Ask a Grade 3-5 student for information about the Christmas cards they have designed and are selling as a fundraiser toward their class trip.
- Come out to the Pyjama Movie Night at GV on Friday, December 9 starting at 6:30. *Finding Dory* is the movie. Donations are accepted and snacks will be for sale. All proceeds to the K-2 class trip.
- Come out and enjoy our Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 15 at 6:00pm.
- Grade 8 students should return their High School registration package to the GV office by December 16.
- Our school is a drop-off spot for gently used and new snowsuits which are collected by CPAN (Renfrew County Child Poverty Action network) and distributed to families who need assistance. If you require assistance please contact CPAN at 613 735 9579.

Attachments

December 2016 Calendar	RCCDSB Notebook Publication	Advent 2016 Calendar
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Family Activity of the Month

Here is our school's favourite Advent song. We sing it each week in Advent as a school community as we prepare our hearts for Christmas Day.

Advent Candle

Light the Advent candle one
Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way
Time to think of Christmas day.

*Refrain: Candle, candle burning bright
Shining in the cold wint'ry night;
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

Light the Advent candle two.
Think of humble shepherds who,
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the Child on Christmas night.

Light the Advent candle three
Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing "Peace on Earth"
At the Blessed Saviour's birth.

Light the Advent candle four
Think of joy forever more.
Christmas in a stable born
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

Light the Christmas candle now
Sing of donkey, sheep, cow;
Birthday candles for the King
Let the Alleluias ring.

As a family you could sing this song together each week as a different Advent candle is lit or you could draw and colour the scenes from this song. *Merry Christmas everyone!*