

George Vanier Catholic School

May 2019



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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 Board Information

-We are celebrating Catholic Education Week. Check out our May calendar for activities at GVCS to celebrate this week including special French plays and Mass. The main theme this year is “Living as Joyful Disciples” and the daily themes are:

Monday, May 6 Rooted in Prayer / Enracinés dans la prière
Tuesday, May 7 Living in Community / Vivre au coeur de la communauté
Wednesday, May 8 Doing Justice and Creating Hope / Semer la justice et inspirer l'espérance
Thursday, May 9 Journeying Together in Faith / Cheminer ensemble dans la foi
Friday, May 10 Sharing the Good News / Partager la bonne nouvelle

-We would like to draw your attention to an opportunity for parents to hear Jennifer Casa-Todd speak at Bishop Smith Catholic High School on May 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Casa-Todd is a wife, mom, and a Teacher-Librarian at Cardinal Carter CHS in Aurora, a former English-Special Education-ESL-Religion-Cooperative Education teacher, former Literacy Consultant for the York Catholic District School Board, and the author of the book, *Social LEADia*. She loves to read (she is in 3 Book Clubs), play cards with her kids, travel, and curl. In the summer, she tries to golf. She has been an active member of parent council for over 10 years, is an Ontario GEG leader, a Breakout EDU trainer, a Google Certified educator, a co-founder of the Ontario Educational Student's chat, and the lead organizer for the first Canadian Digital Citizenship Summit. Jennifer is also a grad student at the University of Ontario Institute for Technology focusing on the impact of adult mentorship on student use of social media. She has had the honour of being a presenter, featured speaker, and keynote speaker at conferences such as ISTE, TCEA, TIES, The Calgary Teacher Association, The Ontario Principal's Council, and The Texas Library Association to name a few. She is passionate about showing teachers and students how they can use technology and social media to make the world a better place.

Her talk is called ***Raising Digital Leaders***. In this talk, Jennifer will share some of the research, challenges and strategies we can use to ensure that our kids are using the power at their fingertips not just to consume, but to create and make a positive difference in the world. We have no doubt she would eagerly answer questions on cell phone bans!

There is no need to register for this event. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity.

-Information about **Summer School** is attached. You can register on line and transportation will be provided. The nearest local site is in Barry's Bay at St. John Bosco and is open to students from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8. Registration deadline is June 3.

Transportation

-Due to spring flooding in some lowland areas across Renfrew County, bus routes servicing both Renfrew County Catholic District School Board (RCCDSB) and Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB) may be altered with little to no notice to make accommodations for water on roads and or bridges. In some cases, the RCJTC receives notification of flooded and closed roadways and or bridges in advance by local public works representatives. In most instances, a bus driver will come across water on roadways and or bridges while on their route. In these circumstances, drivers are not able to determine if the road or bridge has been compromised and are instructed to turn around and not cross the flooded area for everyone's safety. With student safety our top priority, the Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium (RCJTC) works closely with the School Bus Operators to keep students, parents and schools informed of the status of busing. In the event of flooding, parents will be contacted by the operator as quickly as possible if their children's address cannot be accommodated; all the while every effort will be made to secure alternative pick up and drop off locations as required during this event. Once the flooding has subsided, the routes and stops will be reverted back to the way they were as soon as it is safe to do so. We appreciate everyone's support and patience during flooding events. Check frequently for bus cancellations and/or delays via: • Website (www.onthebus.ca) • Twitter (@RCJTC_Trans) • Facebook (RCJTC) • iTunes with iPhone App (verify with "RCJTC") • Google Play with Android App (verify with "RCJTC") • Email to parents who subscribe for notifications

-Brad Musclow from Musclow Buslines is looking for bus drivers, especially in the Killaloe area. For more information please contact him at 613 334 7624.

-Parents are reminded that there must be an adult waiting with young children at their bus stops in the morning (be out together at least 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time) and waiting for them to be dropped off at bus stops in the afternoon. Young children without an adult waiting in the afternoons will be driven by the bus driver back to the school.

School Information

- Please call us if your child is absent from school. We need to verify the safety of all students each day as part of the Safe Arrivals program. If you know ahead of time a note in your child's agenda is helpful.

- A number of our families are affected by flooding. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to your family. We keep all people affected by flooding in our daily prayers.

-We are a nut free school. We have been reminding several of our students about this lately. If you send in something that looks like a nut butter but isn't, such as tahini or Wow butter, could you please label the package or container with this info. Thanks!



School Council Information

-At the April 30 School Council meeting a lengthy discussion was held about the collection of money at GVCS. The following questions were shared:

Why are so many envelopes being sent home for fundraisers (like popcorn days, hot lunch days, etc.,)? It seems like a waste of paper. Why can't my child just hand over the money?

Answer: We agree that it is a lot of paper and want to be better stewards of the environment. The envelopes are proof of payment and we need to keep them for audits. They include an area for parent signature which allows us to know that you approve of the purchase. This helps us to manage family preferences about food, food allergies and sensitivities. There is a better way – register for and use School Cash on line – no paper needed.

Why can my child not just give the money to their teacher?

Answer: Children must bring money to the office in a labelled and signed envelope so all funds can be tracked and proper amounts of food and supplies purchased to meet the needs of all who have ordered.

We are, like many other schools in Renfrew County, heading toward a cash free environment. We are encouraging families to register for and use School Cash on line. This will save a lot of staff time and make our accounting practices more efficient. It also allows you to control exactly what is purchased for your children. Over the upcoming months we will be switching to only accepting School Cash on line payments or cheques for all purchases. And then looking further ahead we will only be accepting School Cash on line. More information about these changes will follow.

-Trivia Night was very successful. A total of \$720 was raised by table rentals at our annual trivia night. \$81.36 was spent on advertisting.

The canteen raised a total of \$232.98 (after expenses). The canteen money goes to our Grade 5-8 class towards their upcoming class trip to Sudbury.

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

- We will be joining the Parish community at **Mass on Friday, May 10 at 9am** as part of Catholic Education Week.
- **First Communion will be on Sunday, June 23** at 9am Holy Canadian Martyrs and 11am St. Francis de Sales
- **Confirmation will be on Tuesday, May 14 at 7pm** at Holy Canadian Martyrs. Each family of Confirmation candidates are asked to bring a finger food item (cookies, cheese and crackers, etc.,) to the school prior to Mass. Candidates and their sponsor need to be at the school for 6:30pm. A group photo will be taken outside of the Church at 6:50pm.
- Upcoming dates for Sacrament classes are as follows:

	First Communion Sessions 1pm in School Library	Confirmation Sessions 1:45pm in School Library
May 9	Session 3	Session 5
May 14		Rehearsal - afternoon
May 16		Session 6
May 23	Session 4	Session 7
May 30		
June 13	Session 5	

Thank You

- to our tutor in the classroom, Tyler Shalla, who has completed his hours at our school and is now working at his summer job in Algonquin Park. He will be returning to his post secondary studies in the fall.
- to Tyler Shalla for accompanying our Gray Matter team to their competition on May 3.
- to Mrs. Villeneuve, Ms. Manwell-Golden, Ms. Burchat-Marquette, Mr. Olsheskie, and our MPP and MC for the evening, Mr. John Yakabuski, for helping with our trivia evening fundraiser.
- to all of the local businesses and individuals who donated prizes for our trivia evening including Barry's Bay Bank of Montreal, Yantha Backhoe and Trucking, Knights of Columbus Barry's Bay and Area Council, Barry's Bay Metro, Alphonse Yantha Maple Syrup Producers, St. Joe's, GVCS staff, and St. Francis Herb Farm.
- to all of the families who donated baked goods for the Trivia evening canteen.
- to everyone who sold or purchased tickets for the Grade 5-8 raffle and to Ms. Burchat-Marquette for organizing this fundraiser.

Congratulations

- To our Gray Matter team who competed in the annual trivia contest at Palmer Rapids Public School on May 3. Our team placed second and was made up of Anya, Ava, Daniel, and Louetta.
- To Father John Lacey and his "Not Dead Yet" team for winning our 7th Annual Trivia evening.
- To the winners of the Grade 5-8 raffle: Roxanne Musclow, Heather Krueger and Judy Fitzgerald. \$771.10 was raised towards the Grade 5-8 end of the year class trip to Sudbury.

Community Information

- The **Game On** activity program is offered at GVCS every Tuesday after school from 3-6pm for students in Grades 3 to 8. Registration is on-going. For more information check out www.facebook.com/crcgameon/ or call Cheryl at 613 757 3108.
- The Community Resource Center is hosting a rural girls leadership summit in Killaloe on May 17, 2019 for girls and nonbinary youth age 9 and up. Sign up at 613 757 3108 or girls@crc-renfrewcounty.com There is also an ongoing Girls Rising Empowerment Program. See the CRC or ask at the GVCS office for an information package. Transportation is available to this program, if needed.
- Prenatal:** CRC strives to be a fun and relaxed place for expecting parents to meet new friends, share experiences, discuss healthy eating and enjoy good food. In Barry's Bay we meet Tuesday mornings at St. John Bosco School. The Killaloe group meets Wednesdays at the Community Resource Centre. Our

groups offer grocery gift certificates, prenatal vitamins, connections to new friends and service providers. Partners/support persons are welcome as well as older children. Please contact San at the Community Resource Centre 613-757-3108 for more information and to register.

-Information about the Lion's Club child safety identification kits, available free of charge, will be sent home with our Kindergarten students soon.

Did You Know?

-George Vanier Catholic School celebrates **50 years** of educating students from Combermere and area in 2019. Please share with Ms. Landon any ideas you have for when and how we can recognize and celebrate this milestone. Ideas so far include a Mass, digging up a time capsule buried on June 2, 1994 by Mr. Bates and his students, burying a new time capsule from our current students, a 50's themed family dance, a picnic for all, a mural in the school. We are tentatively thinking of celebrating in October.

-Free live afterschool Ontario certified teacher **tutoring in math** is available Sunday to Thursday 5:30-9:30pm to help students consolidate their classroom learning. Available for students in Grades 7 – 10 on www.tvo.org/mathify. Students need their OEN (Ontario Education Number – found on report cards) and an email address to register.

Looking Ahead...

May 21-June 3	EQAO (students in Grades 3 and 6). Assessments will take place in the mornings, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, with Mondays and Fridays being "catch up" days if needed.
Wednesday, June 5	Kindergarten to Grade 4 Class Trip to Ottawa (if you wish to volunteer you must have an up to date Vulnerable Sector Check completed – see the office for more info.)
Thursday, June 6	Track and Field – Grades 2-8
Friday, June 7	PA Day "Reporting"
Tuesday, June 11 and	Grades 5-8 Sudbury overnight trip "Night at the Museum" (if you wish to volunteer you must have an up to date Vulnerable Sector Check completed – see the office for more info.)
Wednesday, June 12	Grade 5-8 on trip (students not going are expected to be at school both days)
Friday, June 14	Grade 8 Grad dance
Friday, June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
Friday, June 21	3 pitch tournament – Grades 5-8
Sunday, June 23	First Communion
Monday, June 24	T-Ball tournament – Grades 1-3
Tuesday, June 25	Grade 8 Graduation Mass at 7pm followed by ceremony and reception at GVCS
Wednesday, June 26	Mass 9am
Thursday, June 27	Last day for students
Friday, June 28	PA Day "Closing the Gaps in Student Achievement and Literacy"

Perhaps...

-You would like to stop in at the school during regular hours to check out some of the **wonderful children's books that have been donated for our families to take home and keep**. Books will be displayed starting May 15.

-Your family would like a copy of the Traditional Catholic Prayers booklet compiled by the RCCDSB. Write a note in your child's agenda and a copy will be sent for you to keep and use at home.

Action Items for Our Families

-Please register for **School Cash On Line**. For safety and efficiency reasons the RCCDSB would like to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into schools and the amount of class time being spent collecting money. It takes less than 5 minutes to register at <https://renfrewcatholic.schoolcashionline.com> Please contact Ms. Landon or Mrs. Villeneuve for more information. At this point GVCS will continue accepting cash payments, in labelled envelopes, for hot lunches, class trips, etc., but **we are working towards going cash free in the near future**. See the note in this newsletter under "School" section concerning the collection of money at GVCS and upcoming changes to our current process.

-All volunteers, including **class trip chaperones**, must have an up to date Vulnerable Sector Screening check, on file with the school. Please contact Ms. Landon as soon as possible if you wish to have one completed for upcoming spring trips. You will need to visit your local OPP office, with forms from the school, and then it can take several weeks for the check to be completed. **Now is the time to complete Vulnerable Sector checks for the upcoming June class trips.**

Thank you for your attention to these items. Together we're better!

Attachments

May 2019 GVCS calendar	Summer School information	Envelopes for food orders
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Family Activity of the Month

From the RCCDSB Mental Health and Wellness Newsletter:

Parent ideas for students who are worried about the flooding

Think about how we can help children feel okay in 10 years about this time – what normalcy can be put into their day? How can they see themselves as helpers? What calming conversations can we have with them that help them feel safe? Remind them as often as they need that they are safe. Having the flexibility to check-in with children about how they are feeling and if they would like to support is invaluable during this time.

Feel free to speak to your school if you are worried about how your child is feeling.