



St. Gabriel Catholic School

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December 2025 Newsletter



Principal's Message

As we approach the end to this calendar year, with the holiday break starting on Monday December 22nd, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments and the joy this season brings. December is a time for celebration, gratitude, and giving back. Our school has been bustling with learning, creativity, and collaboration, and we couldn't be more proud of our students, staff, and families.

This month, we have a host of exciting events to close the year on a high note. We encourage you to join us and stay connected as we embrace the season and prepare for a bright new year ahead through our website [St Gabriel Catholic Elementary School-Brantford .](http://StGabrielCatholicElementarySchool-Brantford.ca)

The holiday season will be warmly felt at the school thanks to our Council who have planned and will lead our festive spirit days leading into the Holiday break. We thank you for your support & encouragement at home to bring the joy of the season to St. Gabriel!

On behalf of the school team, we want to thank our families for their generous donations to our Saint Vincent de Paul toy and food drive to support our community members in need of non-perishable food items, baby items, hygiene items, and pasta over the holidays and into the New Year.

We do encourage all of our students to visit the lost & found to claim any personal belongings that may have been misplaced over the course of their days at school. The last day for claiming their belongings will be this Friday December 19th.

With the holiday season approaching, the staff at St. Gabriel extend their well wishes to all our students & families. Wishing you all a very enjoyable and memorable holiday season. We hope you find the time to rest, relax and value time with family & friends. We look forward to our students' safe return on January 5, 2026.

Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Shelley Callender and Mrs. Catherine Colatosti

Principal & Vice-Principal



An Advent Prayer

God of light and hope,
look upon us in love
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus.
Be with us during the season of Advent.
Keep us watchful in prayer
as we await the coming
of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who is the light of the world,
and lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit,



Advent Caring Collection Campaign



During the month of December families are invited to make food (canned good, pasta, peanut butter, baby food) and personal hygiene (toothpaste, toilet paper, shampoo, body wash, deodorant) donations to our **Advent Caring Collection Campaign** in support of **St. Vincent De Paul**. We thank you for your generous support.

Date	Theme	Item being collected
Monday December 1	Door decorating kick off	
Tuesday December 2	Red/green	Canned food
Thursday December 4	Christmas hat	Pasta
Tuesday December 9	Christmas sock/leggings	Breakfast items
Thursday December 11	Ugly sweater day	Baby items
Tuesday December 16	Crazy Christmas hair	condiments
Thursday December 18	Christmas Pajamas	Personal Hygiene



St. Gabriel Christmas Social

Please join us for our Christmas Social on Thursday December 12th. This is a great evening of fun for the whole family. Our Staff have organized some fun Christmas events that families can participate in. We look forward to welcoming everyone on **December 11th from 5:30 – 7:30pm**

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Christmas Break begins Monday, December 22nd, and continues until Friday, January 2rd, 2026. School resumes Monday, January 5th, 2026.



Dates to Remember

Tues Dec 2nd: Red/Green Day and Bring in a canned food donation
 Tuesday December 2-5 St. Gabriel Book Fair
 Thurs Dec 4th: Christmas Hat Day and bring in a pasta donation
 Tuesday December 9th: Christmas sock and legging day and bring in breakfast Items
 Thursday Dec 11th: Ugly Sweater Day and bring in baby Items
 Thursday December 11th: Christmas Social (Evening) 5:30-7:30pm
 Tuesday December 16: Crazy Christmas Hair and Condiment Donations
 Thursday December 18: Christmas Pajama Day and Personal Hygiene Item Donations



Nutrition Break/Lunchtime

Our school consists of a balanced day with two nutrition breaks. It is important to ensure that students are being sent to school with enough food for both nutrition breaks so that they are energized and able to complete the day without feeling hungry. At St. Gabriel school we are fortunate to be a part of the Brant Food For Thought Snack Program, which runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On these days, students are provided with a healthy snack before the first nutrition break. Even with the help of the snack program there has been an increase in students coming to the office for more food or saying that they have no food left before the end of the first nutrition break.

It should also be noted for families who order food on **Hot Lunch Days**, that students do not receive their hot lunches until the second nutrition break at **12:40pm** so it is important to pack food for your child to eat during the first nutrition break.

Catholic Virtues of the Month **November – Being a Promoter of Peace (Peacemakers)**



Demonstrates being a responsible citizen and who gives witness to Catholic social teachings by promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life. Demonstrates the ability to deal with others in a peaceful way and promotes peaceful resolutions and problem solving.

The November recipients of the Catholic Virtue are: Riri O., Evie M., Mackenzie S., Zoe N., Austin W., Madelyn D., Nife A., Ali H., Vivienne P., Adam A., Lennon F., Ryalie P., Olivia I.G., Neil B., Harmynce H., Maria P., Vivian D., Fritz V., Rylie S., Carson C., Raya C., Mateo F. Raya C., Mateo F., Bluecille C., Gregory I., Valerie A., Elijah A., Charleigh W., Syllas C., Elliott C., Syllas C., Elliott C., Clara C., Chloe C., Luke S., Olu N., Aviela A., Michael D., Michael M., Cara G., Mason R., Nujhaa N., Chris C., Abby N., Maddy L. Christian H., Fernando S., Maddie S., Ilana F., Eva B., Alyssa A., Nico A., Eddie D., Kathyln E., Christian L., Mya V. Callum E., Amirah B.

Congratulations to all our winners!

In January we will be working towards “Making Good Decisions and Being an Independent Worker”

Kleenex Donation

It's that time of the year when classrooms are using Kleenex on a more frequent basis. We are asking families who are able to do so, to donate a box of Kleenex to their child's class to help keep up with the demand that we are experiencing at this time of the year.

Thank you for your generous support.

Dressing for the Weather

Please remember now that the Winter is here to make sure that students come dressed and prepared for the cold, wet weather. Students go outside in all sorts of weather, as low as -20. Winter coats, snowpants, hats mittens and boots are recommended. It is also a good idea to pack a spare pair of socks and mittens if you can do so.



Indoor Shoes

While at school, all students are expected to wear a clean pair of shoes when indoors. This practice provides for a cleaner and safer school facility. We recommend that students have running shoes that can also be worn in the gym as their indoor shoes all year long.

Thank you for your cooperation.



LIBRARY BOOKS

Students may keep their library books to read over the Christmas Break. Please remember to send all library books back to school the first week of January.



Transportation and Use of the Chipmunk App



The transportation department continues to offer a free app which allows students and parents to track where their child's bus is and be notified when it is getting close to their bus stop. For additional information on how to access the app visit: <https://stsbhn.ca/faqs>



INCLEMENT WEATHER– SCHOOL CLOSING OR BUS DELAYS

www.stsbhn.ca

St. Gabriel School is Zone 4

Student Transportation Services of Brant Haldimand and Norfolk has developed a website which contains information on bus cancellations and delays. This site can be accessed either through the Board's website www.bhncdsb.ca (under the Parents tab) or directly through your browser to www.stsbhn.ca. Once you have entered into the Transportation's website, click on the "Cancellations– Closures Morning Fog Delays" icon, which is on the top left corner of the page. This will tell you: A) What routes have been cancelled/delayed on any given day; B) When a zone is cancelled or delayed, it will flash and read "Cancelled" or "Fog Delay". Please note when transportation is cancelled in a zone, the schools in that zone are closed. We are in Zone 4, and that includes all the schools in the city of Brantford. When the weather is bad, be sure to check the Board Website and check your email for information on school closures. Have a back-up plan for baby-sitting in an emergency. Please do not send your child out in bad weather until you know that the schools are open, and staff are in attendance. The information on the website is updated daily by 6:30 am and will be reported on our X account @stgcatholic. Thank you for your attention to this very important safety concern.



Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Assumption College School

FUTURE GRADE 9 STUDENT & PARENT OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14 | 6:00 PM



assumptionlions.com



ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JAN 5 - FEB 20

catholiceducation.ca



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board