



ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL
600 Dublin, Montréal, Québec, H3K 2S4

Annual Report
June 2017

Governing Board Members

Jim Daskalakis (Principal)
David Benoit (Chairperson/ Regional Delegate Alternate)
Cindy Dufke (Parent– Treasurer)
Mubeenah Mughal (Parent-Regional Delegate)
Michael Olewinsky (Parent)
Tara Young (Parent)
Christiane Doré (Teacher)
Patricia Rodriguez (Teacher)
Maria Mattiace (Daycare)
Carol Clifton (Support Staff)
Natalie Szytch (Support Staff)
Katherine MacPherson (Community Representative)
Michelle Johnson (Community Representative)

Meetings

Regular meeting: 10

Our Mission

St. Gabriel School is a true community school which cherishes heritage while embracing diversity. Staff, parents, volunteers, and community personnel work together, to guarantee that all children succeed in life and develop to the best of their abilities in a safe, secure, and respectful environment. We believe in offering a variety of activities in order to meet our students' academic and social needs. We believe that incorporating the Fine Arts into our education program helps create a lifelong learning experience. We aim for every student to experience music, both instrumental and vocal, to express themselves through the performing arts (drama) and to embrace the visual arts in their daily schedules for a holistic educational program.

Our Vision

Our vision is to instill an intricate sense of self-motivation through realizing the importance and value of education. We aim to create a general feeling of respect – self-respect, respect of others, and respect of property. We want to work cooperatively and in collaboration with the parents/guardians of our students. We want to encourage an appreciation for books to help foster and develop literacy skills. We want to have a greater involvement with the visual and performing arts to develop a holistic approach to learning. We seek in this approach to motivate the students by embracing the Fine Arts and giving them opportunity to become more socially aware of their environment and the world.

Our Directions for Success:

Orientation 1- Building all literacy competencies

Goal

Students in Cycle I, Cycle II, and Cycle III will continue to develop new strategies for reading and writing.

Current Status

Balanced Literacy Program

The literacy facilitators and Resource teachers work with all cycles for early and continuous literacy intervention.

Tutoring/Remediation

Students were tutored individually, or in small groups in language arts and math. Teachers reported improvements with those students who received the extra help.

YMCA Afterschool Tutoring Program

Was initiated in Cycle III at St. Gabriel School to help support students with their homework needs.

CAT IV/Benchmark Evaluations/GB+

The CAT IV assessment was used to define a portrait of students reading and comprehension levels. This allowed the school to develop strategies with the teachers for greater student success. Benchmarking in English and GB+ in French allowed teachers to assess a student's level of learning.

Resource

A resource teacher(s) provided assistance with the Cycle I, II, III Literacy Programs, while a second resource teacher helped students with the Cycle I, II- III French program.

Literacy Week

Literacy Week featured numerous events to help celebrate literacy and promote a love of reading.

Speech and Language Pathologist

The staff and parents were shown how to work on speech activities with our students. Students not only worked with speech activities at school but were given exercises to do at home with their families.

Occupational Therapist

The Occupational Therapist worked with students in Cycles I and II to help develop strategies according to their specific needs.

Storytelling

Grade 6 students were involved in the English Montreal School Board Competition.

Science Fair

Cycle III students were involved in learning about science through numerous presentations and experiments.

Literacy /Music Camp

Cycle I, II and III students participated in a literacy oriented camp that helped promote activities to enhance reading and phonics capabilities as well as music. This camp took place the first two weeks of July at St. Gabriel School.

Orientation 2 - Development of Personal and Social Competencies

Goal

Students develop respect for self, others and property.

Current Status

Conflict Resolution

Our Behavioral Technician worked on conflict resolution and reflection programs as well as anti-bullying. The Ensemble organization sensitized students to different issues about school life, respecting others and bullying.

Stars of the Month Motivation Program

Students were chosen as stars for the school's monthly theme. They enjoyed recognition for their accomplishments.

Girls Club

A unique opportunity for girls in Cycle II to meet and discuss personal and social issues affecting girls today.

Project T.E.A.M.

The goal of this extra-curricular program is to help promote healthy, active lifestyles to young boys and highlight the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork and inclusion when playing sports and games.

Team Sports

Students in Cycle I, II and III demonstrated good personal and social skills by working together in team sports. Students participated in inner city tournaments such as, soccer, basketball and the Halo race.

After-school clubs: Irish dancing

Under the direction of Bernadette Short, students from Cycle II and III participated in Irish Dancing lessons. These students performed at various school functions and entered competitions with winning results.

Heart of the City Piano Program

Fifteen students were involved in playing the piano. This activity was primarily aimed at Cycle II and III students due to time constraints and volunteer availability. Ten volunteer teachers gave lessons once a week and monitored daily practice sessions.

St. Gabriel Youth Choir

Singing voices from Grades 1-6 came together to form St. Gabriel's Youth Choir beginners and Advanced under the direction of Barrett Porter.

Lunch Hour Sports

A teacher taught students in Cycle II and III about the importance of teamwork and learning new skills.

Robotics

Students worked on projects in science and French using LEGO Robotics equipment for a designed task.

Martial Arts Mediation

Students in Cycle II worked with a Sensei for techniques in violence prevention and gaining internal peace.

Extra-Curricular field trips

Students from Pre-Kindergarten to Cycle III participated in field trips aimed at fostering positive relationships between the students outside of school hours. Trips included the MSO, Cabane à sucre, Apple Picking, CEPSUM, and visits to the McCord Museum and IMAX Theatre along with numerous theatrical productions.

Concerts

All students participated in two school concerts throughout the year. Our December Concert was musically themed towards the holiday season. In June we celebrated through musical repertoires and song the theme of “Family”. Cycles I and II students follow the ORFF program in music, while Cycle III is incorporating Band into their Music Program.

Encore!Sistema!

An afterschool music program focused on teaching students the violin and cello, while encouraging social interaction for social change. Thirty one students participated in this program, along with teachers and tutors. Students participated at the Festi-Point celebration.

Oasis

This indoor garden, is reflected by a serene park environment for students to relax in and reflect upon their actions. The Oasis also serves as a place for storytelling and peer reading.

Agora

The Agora serves as a place for Cycle II and III students, to unwind in and enjoy some indoor activities when the weather does not permit them to go outdoors.

Heritage Week

This event packed week celebrates cultural diversity, tolerance and knowledge. It presents the students with the opportunity to embrace the world around them as they learn about other countries.

St. Gabriel School on YouTube

Short snippets depicting the life and beat of the school as well as all the wonderful learning which takes place. The video is available on YouTube.

Earth Day Activities

Gave the students the opportunity to embrace environmental issues and concentrate on recycling. A visit from Earth Rangers gave students the opportunity to experience wildlife and understand the impact of environmental change on our wildlife.

Field Day

This event is organized by our teachers and the YMCA. Parents are invited to participate by encouraging their children in these fun outdoor events.

Peace by Peace

Through the tutelage of McGill University, our Grade 6 students explored International Issues in Human Rights.

Transition Programs

Grade 6 students participated in this program through the YMCA, to help better prepare them for High School.

Sex Health Education

The Grade 6 students were involved in a 20 week Sex Health Education Class where specialists spoke to students about adolescence, health issues, sex education and relations.

Pathways

A community program established to buddy students with mentors throughout High School for greater student success.

Geordie Production and other Theatrical Productions

Numerous theatrical productions gave students the opportunity to experience the Performing Arts.

Brain Awareness

A McGill Program that saw McGill science students communicate numerous topics in science with our Cycle II students.

Swim to Survive

Cycle II students took part in three one hour sessions to learn basic techniques in swimming for water safety in the future.

St. Gabriel Nature's Way Urban Recreational Area

The beautification Project initiated at the end of the 2014-2015 school year has seen the senior yard transformed into a green space with an ambiance of an outdoor park and playground for all students to enjoy.

Out Door Garden A vegetable garden was established to teach students about plants and growing healthy food.

Bee Keeping

An area in the Urban Recreational Park was designated for Beekeeping in conduction with Alvéole organization. Students were taught about this natural process and the honey will be harvested for our school.

Irish Society walk to Stone and Gray Nuns

Traditional ties with Pointe-Saint-Charles Irish heritage gives our students the opportunity to honor the past and understand their roots.

Clubs

Various clubs were initiated by staff introducing students to various clubs such as Math and Art.

Volunteerism

Our students participated in many activities giving their time and participating in many worthy causes such as the Heart and Stoke Foundation, Terry Fox Run, UNICEF, WE, Toy Tea, Children Now Foundation and the St. Gabriel Parish Food Basket collection.

Generation Foundation Holiday Giving

All students were involved in the holiday spirit of light, Christmas and good will to all due to the generosity of the Generations Foundation.

Orientation 3 - Enhancing Parental Involvement

Goal

To develop strategies to increase parental involvement in the school and establish better lines of communication with the parents.

Current Status

Daycare

The St. Gabriel School Daycare Program provides activities for students including Hip Hop, Karate, Comic Book design and other various sports activities.

Home & School Association

A Home & School Association is very active in our school, donating their time and collecting funds for school activities and equipment.

P.P.O.

The Parents Participating Committee was very active in organizing fund raising activities such as Halloween Haunted House Night, Bingo Night and the Spring Fling (Thrift Shop/Kiosk).

Parent Volunteers

Parents have commented that our school is very warm and inviting. They always feel welcome when entering our school for various reasons and/or functions.

Spaghetti Night Supper

A greater number of parents attended our Bistro Spaghetti Dinner this year, sponsored by our Home and School Organization.

Bake sales / Chocolate Drives

Parents bake and help to fundraise for the school.

Monthly Newsletter and St. Gabriel Website

Parents are informed on a regular basis of all school events and activities.

Action Gardien-Informel

A neighbourhood service involved in bringing the school and the community together.

Clinique Communautaire

The Clinique Communautaire is instrumental in supplying social services to the school such as a social worker, nurse and dental hygienist.

Share the Warmth

Liaisons continue with our community Share the Warmth Foundation.

St. Columba House

An afterschool program partnership with St. Gabriel School.

YMCA Partnership

An afterschool program partnership with St. Gabriel School.

Visits highlighting our Irish Dancers, Band and Choir helped entertain their seniors club throughout the year.

Generation Foundation Partnership

The Generation Foundation partners with St. Gabriel School for our hot meal program as well as other various activities throughout the year.

Open Invitations

Parents were invited to attend special activities within the school throughout the year. Such activities include Irish dancing, guest speakers, piano concerts, storytelling, school concerts, theatrical productions etc.

Principal Date:

Chairperson – Governing Board Date: