



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

**Annual Report**  
**June 2021**

**Governing Board Members**

Jim Daskalakis (Principal)  
David Burridge (Chairperson)  
Melanie Hebert (parent)  
Michael Olewinsky (Parent)  
Marc Saab (Parent)  
Rachel Voss (Parent)  
Andrea Truffa (Teacher)  
Christiane Doré (Teacher)  
Maria Mattiace (Daycare)  
Carol Clifton (Support Staff)  
Natalie Szyych (Support Staff)  
Emile Jacques (Community Representative)

**Meetings**

Virtual via Zoom: 7

**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. Our goal is 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 an opportunity to become more socially aware of their environment and the world.

This past school Year has been a challenging one due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.’ Schools were closed as of March 13, 2020. Schools were originally in lockdown for about 4 weeks and then communication with students was allowed. The month of May and June saw on-line/distance learning. St. Gabriel School staff was well prepared for virtual learning with about 95% of our student population receiving on-line education.

## **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**

#### ***Home Reading Program***

A home reading program was adopted in all grades and involved both parent and student.

#### ***Benchmark Evaluations/GB+***

Benchmarking in English and GB+ in French allowed teachers to assess a student’s level of learning.

#### ***Wilson/Foundations Program***

A literacy program was introduced in Grades 1-3 to better help students with literacy difficulties and establish strategies for greater success.

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#### ***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/Reading Week***

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

***Francophile Week***

Celebrated the French language and culture

***Psychologist***

English Montreal School Board supplies services to all our students for evaluation of their academic and emotional needs.

***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 Pre-School and Cycles I to III to help develop strategies according to their specific needs.

***Storytelling -***

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

***Science Week***

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

***Indigo Grant***

St. Gabriel School won a grant from Indigo for \$30 000. This prize money will help enhance our library and classroom book needs. One third of the funds were spent in upgrading classroom mini libraries and our main library. The rest of the funds will be used in the next school year

## **Orientation 2** - Development of Personal and Social Competencies

### **Goal**

Students develop respect for self, others and property.

### **Current Status**

#### ***Friendship Week***

Students were involved in activities to help sensitize everyone to a safe and healthy school life. Activities focus on empathy and mutual respect.

#### ***Kindergarten Preparedness Day***

This year the new Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten were introduced to the school via drive-by on June 4, 2021. All students received two bags of goodies for preparation during the summer and information about the school.

#### ***Youth Fusion***

Organization dedicated to bring projects in to school. School participated in Robotics, Structural Design (Pergola), and Game Programming.

#### ***Team Sports- cancelled due to COVID bubble restrictions***

Students in Cycle I, II and III demonstrated good personal and social skills by working together in team sports. Students participated in an inner-city basketball tournament. The soccer tournament and Halo race were cancelled due to the pandemic.

#### ***Irish dancing - cancelled due to COVID bubble restrictions***

Under the direction of Bernadette Short, students from Cycle I - III participated in Irish Dancing lessons. These students performed at various school functions and entered a competition (feis) with winning results.

#### ***McGill Heart of the City Piano Program***

Students were involved in learning to play the piano. This activity was primarily aimed at Cycle I, II and III students. Volunteer teachers from McGill University gave lessons virtually.

#### ***St. Gabriel Youth Choir- cancelled due to COVID bubble restrictions***

Singing voices from Grades 1-6 came together to form St. Gabriel's Youth Choir, beginners and advanced, under the direction of Catherine Trainor and our very own John Dodge.

#### ***Lunch Hour- Sports cancelled due to COVID bubble restrictions***

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. Youth Fusion leaders organized students for FIRST LEGO Competitions. ***Did not participate at finals due to lockdown***

### ***Entrepreneurship***

With the guidance of Katherine Childs and teachers all classes were involved in Entrepreneurship projects in knitting, jewelry making, tile art and many other projects.

### ***Music Therapists- cancelled due to COVID bubble restrictions***

Concordia University partnered with St. Gabriel School for in-school sessions to help some of our students by using Music as a therapeutic means.

### ***Dynamix***

The Dynamix organization guided our students in team building activities through character building workshops.

### ***Culture in School***

Brought theatrical and movement workshops to the school.

Black history involvement all school,  
Stained Glass Pre-Kindergarten project.

### ***Extra-Curricular field trips – Limited due to COVID restrictions***

Les Amis de la Montagne, as well as numerous theatrical productions. More activities were scheduled but due to lockdown they were cancelled.

### ***Graduation Trip***

Grade 5 and 6 students attended a one day team building fall camp and were involved in numerous outdoor activities. A days in the spring were planned for our graduates but were cancelled due to the pandemic.

### ***Concerts***

All students participated in two yearly school concerts.

Our December and June concerts were aimed towards various musical repertoires.

Both concerts were prerecorded and shown virtually due to bubble restriction

### ***Encore!Sistema***

An afterschool music program focused on teaching students the violin and cello, while encouraging social interaction for social change.

The program ran virtually

### ***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.

### ***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 and cultures.

Presentations were prerecorded and shown virtually.

### ***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 at our school can be viewed on YouTube.

### ***Earth Day Activities***

Gave the students the opportunity to embrace environmental issues and concentrate on recycling.

### ***Field Day- cancelled due to lockdown***

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

### ***Carnival Day***

All students participated in their bubbles in activities aimed on participation.

### ***Transition Programs- cancelled due to lockdown***

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

### ***Sex Health Education***

Sex and Health Education was taught in all grades.

### ***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.

### ***Swim to Survive- cancelled due to lockdown***

Cycle II Year 1 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.

***Bee Keeping***

An area in the Urban Recreational Park was designated for Beekeeping in association with the Alvéole organization. Students were taught about this natural process and the honey will be harvested for our school. 16 kilos of honey were harvested.

***Fine Arts Week -***

The Art teacher kept contact with students through various virtual art activities.

***Volunteerism***

Our students participated in many activities, giving their time to many worthy causes such as the Terry Fox Run, Tea and the St. Gabriel Parish Food Basket collection to name a few.

***Generation Foundation Holiday Giving***

All students were involved in the holiday spirit of light. Through the generosity and good will of the Generations Foundation everyone participated with great happiness.

### ***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 Recycling, Gardening and other various sports activities, keeping them physically active.

##### ***Home & School Association – activities were limited due to COVID restrictions***

A Home & School Association is very active in our school, donating their time and collecting funds for school activities and equipment. Parents bake and help to fundraise for the school. A great number of parents attended our Bistro Spaghetti Dinner this year, sponsored by our Home and School Organization.

##### ***P.P.O. - - activities were limited due to COVID restrictions***

The Parents Participation Committee was very active in organizing fund raising activities such as a Halloween Haunted House Night. The winter holiday was celebrated with a Photo Booth activity for all the children. Bingo Night was (cancelled)

##### ***Parent Volunteers-- activities were limited due to COVID restrictions***

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.

##### ***Weekly Newsletter, St. Gabriel Website, Facebook, Tweeter and Mass Communication (Messenger)***

Parents are informed on a regular basis of all school events and activities through these Media Sites/Links.

##### ***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.

The YMCA also supports our Pre-School students through a motion and movement class called Kindergym.

***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 and numerous theatrical productions.