



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

**Annual Report**  
**June 2022-2023**

**Governing Board Members**

Jim Daskalakis (Principal)  
Melanie Hebert (Parent)  
Michael Olewinsky (Parent)  
Marc Saab (Parent)  
Ryan Martin (Parent)  
Rebecca MacDonald (Parent)  
Tara McGuire (Teacher)  
Andrea Truffa (Teacher)  
Nadine Thomas (Daycare)  
Carol Clifton (Support Staff)  
Natalie Szytch (Support Staff)  
Emile Jacques (Community Representative)  
Wisely Louis (Community Representative)

**Meetings**

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**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 so that we may 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.

## **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 Program***

A literacy program was introduced in Grades 1-4 to better help students with literacy difficulties and establish strategies for greater success.

#### ***Resource***

A resource teacher helped with the Cycle I, II, III Literacy Programs, while a second resource teacher aided 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.

***Heritage Week (and Culture Québécoise)***

Week-long Celebration of Diverse Countries/Cultures.

***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.

***Earth Day Activities and Science Week***

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

## ***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 students were introduced to the school on June 8, 2023. All students received a bag of goodies for preparation during the summer and information about the school.

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

Organization dedicated to bringing projects into our school. As a result, our school participated in Robotics.

#### ***Team Sports***

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, soccer tournament and Halo race.

#### ***Student Participation***

Online tutoring, St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Respect Campaign, Hooked on school activities.

#### ***School Participation***

Ministry and School board initiative to implement an hour a day of physical activities (stationary bikes, physical education, Snow shoeing, running activities and cycling).

#### ***Irish dancing***

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 keyboard lessons at school.

#### ***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 our very own John Dodge.

### ***Lunch Hour Sports***

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

### ***Entrepreneurship***

With the guidance of Katharine Childs and their teachers all classes were involved in Entrepreneurship projects such as: knitting, jewelry making, tile art and many other projects.

### ***Art Therapists***

Concordia University partnered with St. Gabriel School for in-school sessions to help some of our students by using Visual Arts 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 dance workshops to the school.  
Black History presentation which involved all students.

### ***Field Trips***

Trips to the Contemporary Museum of Fine Art, Museum of Fine Art Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Biodome, Planetarium, Science Exposition, and Apple picking were some of the activities which took place throughout the year.

### ***Plein Air Day-Arbraska***

This outing gave the students the opportunity to be with nature and experience nature from the treetops

### ***Graduation Trip***

Grade 6 students went on a one-day excursion, discovering their city through numerous experiences and terminated with a school sleep over.

### ***Concerts***

All students participated in two school concerts throughout the year. Our December and June concerts were aimed toward various musical repertoires.

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

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

### ***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, tutoring and peer reading.

### ***Heritage Week***

This weeklong event 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.

### ***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/Week Activities***

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

### ***Carnival Day/Orange Shirt Day/ Pink Shirt Day***

All students participated in these events sensitizing them about the diverse and tolerant society we must live in.

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

Sex and Health Education was taught in all grades.

### ***Pathways***

A community program was established to buddy students with mentor 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***

Cycle II Year 1 students took part in three one-hour sessions to learn basic techniques in swimming for water safety.

### ***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 kilograms of honey was harvested and sold to parents as a fundraiser for the school.

***Fine Arts Week***

The Art teacher kept contact with students through various \Performing and Visual Arts activities.

***Volunteerism***

Our students participated in many activities, giving their time to many worthy causes such as the Terry Fox Run 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, Robotics, and various Sports Activities, Helping to keep students physically active.

##### ***Home & School Association***

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

##### ***P.P.O.***

The Parents Participation Committee was very active in organizing fundraising activities such as a Halloween Haunted House Night, Scholastic Book Fair, Movie Night, Clothing Exchange Evening, and Garage Sale. Various bake sales were also part of the festivities.

##### ***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.

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

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

##### ***Action Gardien***

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 (vaccination) and dental hygienist.



***Partnerships***

Partnerships with Montreal Childrens Hospital through the Teddy Bear Project.  
Visual Screening through the Visual Clinic Montreal.  
Champions for Life.

***Share the Warmth***

Liaisons continue with our community groups like the Share the Warmth Foundation. A Tutoring Program was established through our partnership with Share the Warmth at St. Gabriel School.

***St. Columba House***

An afterschool program partnership with St. Gabriel School.

***Generation Foundation Partnership***

The Generation Foundation partners with St. Gabriel School for our hot lunch 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, reading, school concerts and numerous theatrical productions.