



**Guardian Angels  
Catholic Elementary School**  
200 Lawford Road Vaughan, ON L4H 0Z5  
Phone: 905-303-5441 Fax: 905-303-9912  
[@GuardiangelsWB](#)



June 30, 2020

Dear GNA Community,

I write this letter of farewell with gratitude for all your support in establishing a vibrant and engaging Guardian Angels CES community. I thank our trustee and Chair of the Board, Maria Marchese, and Superintendent, Anthony Arcadi, for their guidance and support. I thank Monseigneur John and Father Antonello for their spiritual partnership in shaping our students' Catholic journey. I thank all of our parent volunteers, Catholic Council, past and present, for collaborating with us to support GNA's ongoing initiatives. I thank our students for remembering to live as Jesus taught us and to "Be Kind Every time". I express deep appreciation for the GNA staff for their ongoing efforts to provide current and meaningful school experiences for our children, especially during the COVID 19 school closure. Together, we made history.

Since our inception in 2014, we have certainly lived by our motto: *Passion, Purpose, Participation and Prayer.*

Our "*Passion*" to continuously grow and take on initiatives to move our system into the 21st Century in the Arts, Mathematics, Technology, Literacy and Faith fostered a community of current and critical practice in an ever-changing world. Our team continuously strived to teach our students that peaceful means to conflict resolution is what we are called to implement in a world that turns too readily to aggression.

At GNA, our "*Purpose*" was established early on...to always reflect on our practice and to think deeply about change and to have the courage to delve into new ways of thinking and being. It is our hope that our students will see themselves as agents of change, where creativity and critical thinking come together to realize the possibilities of a brighter future.

"*Participation*" takes great courage. Our staff leads the way in engaging one another in current practice where technology and stewardship come together. We continued to engage our parent community, students and staff in events that brought us together throughout the school year. More, now than ever,

we are reminded of the importance of gathering in community and GNA will continue to bring you all together to pray, celebrate, plan and collaborate in the years to come.

As a Catholic school, all of our endeavours are strengthened by our faith as we engage in *"Prayer"*. As Catholic educators, we remind our students that prayer and faith will support them throughout their lives. Especially during times of crisis, our community has come together in faith to pray and to hope for a safer and more peaceful future. During the COVID 19 school closures, our staff supported our children with synchronous learning and provided meaningful experiences in the Virtual Learning Environments, but it was most importantly our work during Catholic Education Week, Igniting Hope, that reminded our children that "we are never alone" and that God walks beside us and often carries us when we grow weary:

*For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear, I will help you Isaiah 41:13*

I sincerely thank you all for the heart warming messages, texts, cards, generous gifts and phone calls. I am truly humbled, and although my heart is heavy with sadness to leave the school that I love, I am grateful for new opportunities and adventures. I bring with me a heartful of memories, gratitude and appreciation for this extraordinary experience.

I wish you all continued success, peace and health in the years to come. It has been an honour to lead and guide your children and I pray that our Guardian Angels will continue to light, to guard and to guide you all.

*God bless you always,*

*Diana Candido, GNA Principal 2014-2020*