



GUARDIAN ANGELS CES

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JUNE 2020 EDITION -- A Month in Review

**Catholic School Trustee
& YCDSB Chair**
Mrs. M. Marchese

School Superintendent
Mr. A. Arcadi

Pastor
Msgr. John Borean

Associate Pastor
Fr. Antonello Murgia

Principal
Ms. D. Candido

Vice- Principal
Mrs. L. Pocrnic

Secretaries
Mrs. F. Messina

CSC Chairs
Ms. S. Deleo
Ms. D. Verrelli

Loving God,

We thank you for all your gifts to us: for making us, for saving us in Christ, for calling us to be Your people. As we come to the end of the school year, we give You thanks for all the good things You have done for us. We thank You for all who have shared in the work of our school this year and we ask You to bless us all in Your love. We offer this prayer, O God, through Christ, our brother and our Lord. Amen.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This school year has been different than all others, but TOGETHER we have persevered. On behalf of the staff, we extend heartfelt thanks. We thank Monsignor John and Father Antonello for their faith leadership and community care. We are grateful to our Trustee and Board Chair, Mrs. Marchese for her support. To our Superintendent, Mr. Arcadi, we are thankful for his steadfast guidance, and to his administrative assistant Ms. Cosentino who always answers a call. Thanks to our Catholic School Council, parents, and volunteers for being so generous of spirit. We are truly grateful to our entire community for your support, cooperation and assistance throughout this challenging school year. We also appreciate immensely the efforts of our administrative and custodial staff, without whom the day to runnings of the school would be impossible. Finally, we sing praises and gratitude to our GNA teaching staff, ECEs and EAs, for their dedication and resilience in the face of change, moving from the live to the virtual world, learning and leading simultaneously, with constant care to meet the needs of our students.

Together, we have been able to foster a positive and vibrant learning community with Jesus at the heart of all that we do!

The Staff at GNA will look forward, very hopefully, to the return of smiling faces in school buildings... hands washed, hearts open. Have a relaxing and safe summer!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Ms. D. Candido, & Mrs. L. Pocrnic

Please read Ms. Candido's personal farewell letter attached.

To report student absences and lates, please dial:
1-855-856-7862 or visit
go.schoolmessenger.ca

GNA School Day:
7:55 - Supervision Begins
8:10 - Morning Entry
9:30 - AM Recess
11:10-11:30 - Lunch
11:30-12:10 - Recess
1:30 - PM Recess
2:40 - End of Day

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values



Strategic Commitments



Catholic Communities of Faith

JUNE'S VIRTUE IS REVERENCE:

This month of June, we reflected on the following statements:

I will be Sincere, trustworthy and truthful, even when it is difficult.

I will stand by what I believe to be good and right.



Teachers worked diligently daily to model these virtues for our students and to provide them with learning and growing opportunities to develop this virtue. [Mrs.](#)

[Fazari's Virtual Library](#) provided access to the June Virtue Read-alouds. A faith-filled literacy opportunity!



Virtual Masses: Thank you to Monsignor John and Father Antonello, who continued to lead our communities spiritually in virtual Sunday Masses. If you would like to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist in a virtual way during this continued time of physical distancing and healthcare protocols, visit the parish website: <https://saintclareofassisi.ca/> It's a pleasure to welcome them into our homes to share in Spiritual Communion and it's so exciting to return to Mass at the Church! Thank you for ministering to our needs!



Act of Spiritual Communion
My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Honouring Our Graduates

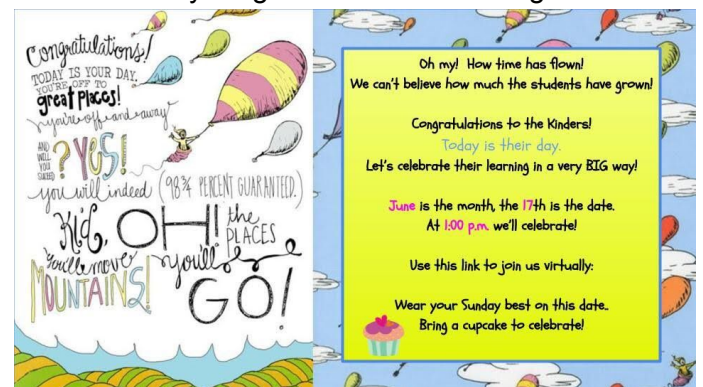
Congratulations to our Grade 8 students! We are so proud of all of your accomplishments and we wish you all the best as you begin the next stage in your academic journey! Although our graduates were not able to celebrate in person, we still commemorated this special milestone by celebrating each and everyone of our graduates in a unique way that connected us together as a grade 8 family and GNA community.

Celebration of Faith and Future for Grade 8s: It was wonderful to gather as a community of faith for a Graduation Mass celebrated by his Eminence Cardinal Collins, virtually from St. Michael Cathedral. His messages of love and the celebration of Catholic faith-based education were well received.

A SPECIAL thanks to Ms. Heaney, Ms. Figliomeni and Mr. Rocca who went above and beyond, ensuring that lawn signs (Thank you, CSC!) were delivered at the crack of dawn before the Graduation Mass. They spent countless hours compiling a stellar virtual celebration for our families (adding last minute contributions just 10 minutes before going live!) The trio even made an extra trip out into the community to deliver hats and bags as a GNA send off gift for our Grade 8 Crew. We know that it was not Grade 8 Graduation as you envisioned it; nevertheless, it was meaningful and momentous! We applaud you Grade 8s and wish you all the best as you head off to secondary school!



Celebration of Faith and Future for SKs: So exciting! We gathered again as a faith community to celebrate our youngsters in their Growing Celebration!



We applauded, we cheered, we teared, we cupcaked ... We celebrated! We thank our Kindergarten Team

of dedicated professionals for bringing this presentation to life. Thank you Ms. Gesualdo, Ms. Raimondo, Ms. Cozza, Ms. Gennaro, Ms. Fulton, Ms. DeBartolo, Ms. Donato, Ms. Roti, Ms. Santoli, Ms. Silva for highlighting the children's growth over the course of the year and for helping them to aspire for big dreams and hopes for the future. A wonderful foundation has been laid in Kindergarten. Oh the Places they'll go!

DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE:

The Staff at Guardian Angels committed fully to provide engaging learning opportunities for our students. Take a look at all of the wonderful learning that has took place on our virtual platforms:

KINDERGARTEN: The FDK students participated in weekly Google Meets which included, Show & Share, Mother's Day Tea, A Scavenger Hunt, Number BINGO, Sight Word BINGO, Directed Drawing, Father's Day Virtual Barbecue and Kahoots.

GRADE 1: This crew was busy with : Interactive Google Slides, Padlet Photo Sharing, Jamboard Math Talks, Interactive Board Games, Choice Boards, Guided Drawing, Fun Friday Google Meets (BINGO, What Time is it Mr. Wolf, Sharing Circles), Virtual Zoo Field Trip, Digital Class Yearbook

GRADE 2: The engagement continues through the Primary Division with: Daily Virtual Community Circle Tasks, Jamboard Math Talks, Interactive Google Slides, Daily Video Lessons, Daily Virtual Announcements, Guided Drawing, Book Talks, Weekly Meditation, Fun Friday Google Meets (Sharing Circles, BINGO, Praying the Rosary, Math Games), Author Visit, Scavenger Hunts, Virtual Class Field Trips to the Toronto Zoo and Ripley's Aquarium, Virtual Math Manipulatives Sites, Daily Language & Math Games & Learning Opportunities on Epic Books, Raz Kids, IXL, Lalilo

GRADE 3: Our Grade 3 students were occupied with outreach and big ideas: delivering Letters to Healthcare workers at St. Joseph Hospital; celebrating Earth Day, participating in Education Week activities to Ignite Hope within our local community, practising Mindfulness; hosting wonderful community guests!

(Guests Included: *Laurie Thompson author of Emmanuel's Dream, Andrea from @gatewayyoga,*

Angela Hanimyan author of "Fearless Felicia", Scientist Amanda, CBC Studio K Host, Tony)

They delved into United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Our Global Classroom, Good Health & Well Being, Student Voice and Hope Movement; a virtual bitmoji classroom to share student presentations using video, flipgrid and shadow puppet ed... They co-constructed and shared a google slide for class poetry party, had a padlet showcase of mother mary prayers, mandala art, problem solving build/creations! But wait there's more...

GRADE 4: Our Grade 4 students participated in: Dear God Gratitude Journal, Hour of Code Monday, Whiteboard Wednesday, Book Talks, Author Visit, Gateway Yoga, Joy for All Project, Celebration of Learning, Father's Day Salute, Joke of The Day & Brainteaser, Victoria Day Class Fun Facts Poster and FIREWORKS Art, Scavenger Hunt, Google Meet Hope Where Are You? Stories of children all over the world during COVID; Digital Escape Rooms, FUN Friday Google meets (themed Fridays, Beach day/Special memory photo day, Poetry Cafe) and the Paper Airplane Challenge!

GRADE 5: Our Grade 5 students were positively consistent in their attendance and participation in Daily Google Meets, sharing Daily Virtual Announcements and messages of positivity. They explored multiple learning opportunities on Epic and IXL, created Interactive Google Slides & Jam Boards, hosted a Live Scavenger Hunt, Genius Hour and Minute to Win it!

GRADE 6: The Grade 6 people engaged in daily Google Meets too, to talk and discuss their daily learning goals and consolidate their newly acquired concepts. Hope Boxes were a hit, as students gathered simple items around their homes that reminded them that there is hope all. Poetry Slides showcased the hidden poets inside of everyone, Students created virtual collages to represent monthly character virtues, using Pic Collage and Google Draw. Grade 6s prepared Virtual Family Trees, through which they shared family history as immigrants to Canada and created symbols to represent their identity as Canadians. Amazing!

GRADE 7 & 8: We can count on our Intermediate Division to round out the rich learning. This month, our intermediate students continued to showcase their

creativity through poetry. Despite the unknown and the distance between them, they were connected once again through their shared thoughts, feelings and experiences by creating a digital Poetry Anthology. Our students took on the role of photojournalists as they captured the special moments that have emerged from this unprecedented time. We are so proud of our intermediate students for their dedication and hard work!

CORE RESOURCE: Core students also interacted with their own VLEs, which included literacy and numeracy practice, fun activities and daily living tasks that could be practiced at home. Students participated in live Google Meets with EAs to hear stories, practice skills, play some games and interact with classmates and peers.

FRENCH: En français, students shared videos and pictures of their work and of themselves practising poems, singing songs while using vocabulary and lessons that they have been learning. They have enjoyed posting on the shared class padlet as well as sharing with their teachers. Junior FSL students have attended Google Meets, created posters of what Hope means to them, listened to music and played games to reinforce vocabulary and lessons. They even created a superhero to help fight/cure Covid-19, illustrating and describing their superhero en français! Bravo, les élèves!

MUSIC: With Catholic Education Week as the inspiration, students in Grades 3/4 to Grade 8 learned the Theme song "HOPE" by Christopher Rait. Students responded to the song in a variety of ways. Some students video recorded themselves, complete with artwork and choreography (!) while singing the song and /or accompanying themselves on various instruments, like guitar, piano, recorder, ukulele, or they otherwise created or improvised with body percussion, drums, or Garage Band! Using symbols of Hope, students also created pictures and posters which they could share with the world by posting them in their windows. Uplifting!

HEALTH / FAMILY LIFE: With establishing EASY Health Habits as the end goal, students participated in a health scavenger hunt and explored how to manage their heightened emotions by taking a brain break. Remember E- eat fruits and vegetables; A- active for an hour or more daily; S- screens - limit that screen

time; Y- yes - say yes to water and no to sugary drinks. A healthy body works for you! Continue to work on those EASY Healthy Habits!

LIBRARY- The Virtual Library gave all the students an opportunity to enjoy a variety of books, including the Virtue books. Google Meets allowed Mrs. Fazari to read aloud to the students & have meaningful discussions.

DAILY PRAYERS & MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS: Although not nearly as fun as the Kiss n' Ride or touring the yard, Mrs. Pocrnic delighted in "greeting" the students each morning, as your child's teacher continued to post a video of O Canada, prayers, and morning announcements to their Virtual Learning environments (VLEs). We hope that this source of information and daily prayer with your child proved useful!



GNA - THE OFFICE OPPORTUNITIES

With the absence of clubs and little extras that we seek to provide within the 3 dimensional walls of our school, we offered this extra "office space" for our students. Thank you for visiting! Let's see what September brings!

Overall, GNA brought the VLE to life! Students and staff continued to learn and grow together.



BORROWED TECHNOLOGY: We ask that you take good care of all borrowed technology over the summer months. We await direction from both the Ministry of Health and the

Ministry of Education as to what September will look like in terms of schooling. For this reason, we will deal with retrieval. If you require technical assistance, you can visit this website and submit a ticket and someone will be in contact with you ASAP to help: <http://help.ycdsb.ca/VLE>



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Our Welcome to Kindergarten Site was created to share information with our new families regarding the FDK program at GNA. Through Google Meets, the Kindergarten Staff had the opportunity to meet our new Kindergarten students via Google Meets. It was a pleasure meeting all of them virtually and we are looking forward to having them begin their educational journey at GNA.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: We continue to welcome new students for the 2020-21 school year. Student registrations will take place online throughout the summer, as a result of the Ontario public school closures due to COVID-19. The YCDSB Admissions Department is accepting online registrations for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students during the summer at www.ycdsb.ca/admissions/. The deadline to register a student is August 17, 2020. Students and families seeking to register past this cut-off date can register and will have to wait until early September, after the school year has started, to be assigned to a class. This deadline is necessary to help facilitate a safe and predictable school year start-up as per the Ministry of Education.

ARE YOU MOVING?: Will you be leaving the GNA community at the end of this school year? If so, please let us know so that we can adjust classes and staff accurately for the 2020-2021 school year.



YEARBOOK UPDATE: As previously communicated, we have elected to place a hold on this year's yearbook development. Instead we will combine the 2019-2020 year with next year's edition, including a special COVID-19 section dedicated to memories of school closure times. Please share pictures of your child engaging in virtual learning experiences or year end celebrations to us for possible yearbook additions: gna@ycdsb.ca Thank you!

REFUND REMINDER: Thank you again, Mrs. Messina, our school secretary for preparing countless refund cheques for cancelled events / activities i.e. snack, pizza lunches, McMillan Fundraiser, Boys Club... Our sincere gratitude to our CSC Members who assisted in this process too! We anticipate that cheques arrived at your home some time ago, as they were all mailed on May 21st. Please, if you have not done so already, deposit these cheques as soon as possible. (Of note: Any cheques that were not cashed were also returned, marked VOID.)

RETRIEVAL OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS: The process for families to retrieve items students left at school before school closures ran smoothly. Thank you for your attention to our schedule and health and safety protocols, as outlined by the Board in collaboration with York Region Public Health. Families who were not able to pick up items, such as Epi-Pens and medication left at school, or return textbooks, library books and school materials are asked to do so upon the re-opening of our school.

FAREWELLS & THANKS! We bid several staff members adieu and best wishes this year, as their paths take them in other directions. K. Belvedere, A. Colakic, and P. Donato are extended special blessings on their parental leaves. We wish the best of luck to O. Marinelli, A. Guido, E. Wehbe, L. Davis, V. DeSouza, E. Bartella, F. Gallo and A. DeBartolo as they head off to other schools. Wishes for a wonderful retirement are sent to Ms. Luchetta! Our gratitude to all!



TO THE ENTIRE GNA COMMUNITY, THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT & YOUR PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THIS HISTORIC YEAR.

WE WISH YOU A BLESSED, SAFE, AND HEALTHY SUMMER!