



St. Gerard School

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



May God bless us all with a new year filled with peace, health and hope!
Happy New Year to everyone in our St. Gerard School Community.

God Bless,

Miss J. Gilbert, Principal

Please remember to call the school when your child will be away from school. If you call before 8:15 a.m., please leave a message on the answering machine, with your child's full name/grade.

Attendance is taken at 8:55 a.m. and we are responsible to account for all students. It can take a great deal of time to track down parents to check on missing students. This is done for the safety of your child. Please be considerate and contact the school to advise of your child's absence/tardiness.



(Do not advise a sibling or other student to notify the Office of your child's absence – it is the responsibility of the parent.)

Thank you for your help and cooperation!

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Winter Family Fun Dance

Friday, January 31, 2025
(7:00 – 10:00 P.M.)

ORDER FORMS WILL BE SENT HOME
WITH YOUNGEST OR ONLY



Parents ...

Please ensure your child comes to school each day with appropriate outdoor clothing. Temperatures can change rather quickly. Students should be prepared for outdoor conditions by having ski pants, hat, scarf, mittens, etc. with them. If possible please include an extra pair of mitts and socks. Students are not permitted to "stay in for recess" because they did not bring warm enough outdoor wear!

NEW ADDRESS? NEW PHONE NUMBER?

Please notify the office of any changes to your home address, email address, home phone number or cell numbers. It is imperative that the office has up to date contact information, should your child become ill or require immediate attention.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Almost half way there!



January 31st marks the half-way point of our school year, which means that all families should have at least half of their current school year tuition paid at this time. St. Gerard School, as with all independent schools, receives only 50% in government funding ~ therefore, your payments are essential to meet the financial demands of the school. School bus fees are required for the daily operation and continuous maintenance of the bus –and are required to be paid in full or monthly.

The *Before & After Program* is a “user-pay” program that charges a nominal fee to pay for salaries and supplies. If your family uses the *Before & After Program*, the fee is due upon receipt of your monthly bill (normally the first week of the following month). Without payment, this program cannot continue to exist, so prompt payment is necessary and appreciated.

Thank you for assisting St. Gerard School to operate successfully for the benefit of all students!



SCHOOL BUS NEWS



The general rule is if the actual temperature reaches or exceeds -35° C or the wind chill reaches or exceeds -45°C, we cancel the school bus for the whole day, but schools usually remain open. All metro Winnipeg school divisions follow one system based on these rules. Please listen to major radio stations for Winnipeg school bus information. You will be contacted by phone that the bus is not running due to extreme cold weather.

When your child will not be on the bus (in the morning and/or afternoon) please remember to contact

**Mrs. Wong at (204) 981-3502
between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**

Thank you!

Christmas Hamper News!

Thank you to all the families who contributed to our hamper for the Sisters of Charity Soup kitchen.

They were very appreciative of your gift.

Cellphone Reminder

The cell phone policy set out by the government does not allow for the use of cell phones in school for all children from kindergarten to grade 8 during school hours. Students must give phones to the teacher at the beginning of the day or if you are in grade 6-8, you may leave it in your locker.

As always, if you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the school office.

We are asking that when you volunteer in the school that you too set the same example for the children, that you are not using your phone in front of the children, instead you be engaged with the children and what you are volunteering for.

Thank you for your continued support.

WINE RAFFLE

Congratulations to all the winners from our Wine Raffle Draw: (December 17, 2024)

First Prize: *Jacklyn Rhodes*

Second Prize: *Aron Micael*

Third Prize: *Adenika Bakuchi*

Fourth Prize: *Carmina Fajardo*

Sold Tickets – 134 Booklets out of 250 booklets

Thank you to all families who supported the Fundraising.

Great job everyone!



Hot Lunch News

Hot Lunch will resume this Friday, January 10th.

Lunches **must be pre-ordered on Wednesday morning**, as Pizza Pizza requires 48 hours notice.

Late orders will not be accepted. Lunch can be an x-large slice of either cheese or pepperoni pizza for \$3.00 or the "full meal deal" of an x-large slice of either cheese or pepperoni pizza, choice of beverage (white milk, chocolate milk or juice) and treat for \$5.00.

Please use a separate envelope for each child.

Yearbook Update

As we grow older and look back on childhood memories, it is always nice to have pictures to help us remember. This is your opportunity to have a "visual" record of the 2024-2025 school year.

If you missed the December deadline, you can still order a copy of the yearbook @\$20.00. Order forms are in the office - deadline for order is March 21, 2025. Absolutely NO yearbook order will be accepted after March 21, 2025.



STUDENT ILLNESS & MEDICATION



As indicated in the Student Handbook, St. Gerard School does not have facilities to accommodate children who are ill. When a student becomes ill, we will call a parent (or Emergency Contact, if necessary) to request that the student be picked up. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT FAMILIES ENSURE ALL PHONE NUMBERS IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE ARE CURRENT. Out of consideration for the health of others, a child who is not well should be kept at home. Please contact the School Office when your child will not be in attendance at school due to illness, appointments, or other planned/unplanned absences.

The school does not keep pain relief or cough medication on hand to administer to students. **A child who is not well enough to go outside for recess should be kept at home.**

Parents should administer any required medication at home, when possible. If a student requires a prescription (or over-the-counter) medication to be administered at school - parents must complete an "Authorization of Prescribed Medication" form (available from the Office); or submit a note to the Office with the medication indicating:

- DATE THE NOTE
- NAME OF CHILD/GRADE
- NAME OF MEDICATION
- DOSAGE OF MEDICATION & TIME TO BE TAKEN, AS WELL AS ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (I.E. TO BE TAKEN AFTER LUNCH). THE MEDICATION SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE SCHOOL IN THE ORIGINAL PHARMACY'S CONTAINER.

WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION is imperative for your child's safety. It is not the school's responsibility to decide when medication should be administered - and therefore specific instructions from the parent must be submitted with the medication. Students should not be presenting medication to the Office with "verbal" instructions from home. For the safety of your child: Please take the time to write out this important information.

For the safety of the entire school - all medication should be kept in the School Office.

Please do not send medication with your child and advise them "... to keep it in their backpack or locker until they need it". This is an extremely unsafe practice and can put the School in a precarious situation should the medication be accessed and ingested by another student.