



# St. Gerard School

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## September 2021

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



*Dear God,*

*We thank you for the gift of our children. Please watch over them as they go back to school and protect them from negative influences. Help them to be a light to others, help them to show love, care and respect to their friends, fellow students and teachers. Help them to remember when they are scared or afraid that YOU are there with them.*

*Bless and protect our children and their teachers. Hear us O Lord and have mercy.*

*Amen*

Welcome to the start of the 2021-2022 school year! We would like to welcome the new students, family and staff to the community of St. Gerard. We look forward to a year filled with great learning and becoming better individuals in the image of Jesus.

Wishing everyone a wonderful year in our St. Gerard Community.

*God Bless,*

*Miss J. Gilbert, Principal*

### 2021/2022 ST. GERARD SCHOOL STAFF

<b>Miss J. Gilbert</b>	- Principal	<b>Mrs. C. Deang</b>	- Administrative Assistant
<b>Mrs. B. Potkonjak</b>	- Kindergarten	<b>Mrs. A. Chartrand</b>	- Administrative Assistant
<b>Mrs. J. Parsons</b>	- Kindergarten/Resource Teacher	<b>Mr. D. Kolowca</b>	- Physical Education
<b>Miss E. Logan</b>	- Grade 1	<b>Mr. S. Kharchenko</b>	- Library/Music
<b>Ms. K. Tan</b>	- Grade 2	<b>Mr. Calvo</b>	- Educational Assistant/Gr. 7 Geography
<b>Mrs. J. Francisco</b>	- Grade 3	<b>Mrs. J. Kelly</b>	- Educational Assistant/Pre-Kindergarten
<b>Mrs. H. Pollock</b>	- Grade 4	<b>Mrs. S. Letkeman</b>	- Educational Assistant
<b>Mrs. R. Cunningham</b>	- Grade 5	<b>Ms. J. Vines</b>	- Educational Assistant
<b>Miss M. Pyrozyk</b>	- Grade 6	<b>Mrs. C. Yorski</b>	- Educational Assistant/ Before & After School
<b>Mrs. N. Escoto</b>	- Grade 7	<b>Mr. J. Munoz</b>	- Custodian
<b>Mr. T. Moore</b>	- Grade 8	<b>Mrs. R. Wong</b>	- School Bus Driver
		<b>Father Janusz Maron</b>	- Pastor

**WEB INFORMATION**



Go to our webpage [www.stgerardschool.net](http://www.stgerardschool.net).

Click on our **Facebook** link.

**Like** us on Facebook and you will automatically get the information we post.



**None of us are  
"nutty" around  
here!**

**ST. GERARD SCHOOL PROMOTES A  
"NUT-SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT".**

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD WITH YOUR  
CHILD THAT CONTAINS (OR MAY CONTAIN) NUTS – AS  
WE HAVE STUDENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING  
NUT ALLERGIES.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO KEEP  
ALL OUR CHILDREN SAFE!**

**DROP-OFF**

**Students who come in late or after  
appointments should enter at  
back door entrance.**

**Uniform Update**

St. Gerard School is excited to announce  
that we have a new uniform supplier –  
**envision**

All uniform pieces will be available to  
order on-line at any time of the year.

<https://envisionuniforms.ca>

If you have used uniforms that you do  
not need, you can donate them to school.

If you have any questions please do not  
hesitate to call the school office.

**Attention: All Volunteers ....**

*We will be having the volunteer  
program running this school year. All  
volunteers must be adults that are fully  
vaccinated. You will need to have your  
QR code for verification. Miss Gilbert  
will scan it for verification and when  
you get the green check mark you are  
able to volunteer in school. Without  
fully vaccinated verification you will  
not be permitted to volunteer in the  
school. All people working or  
volunteer in schools need to be fully  
vaccinated for the safety of the  
children. Thank- you for your co-  
operation with the new protocol that  
we will be following.*

*We would like to welcome  
**Ms. Tan** (Grade 2 Teacher)  
to our St. Gerard School staff.*

*Please help us in welcoming her to our  
school community.*

**Hot Lunch News!!!**

**Hot Lunch program will not be  
available until further notice**



Mark your calendar...

**Picture Day:**

**Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (K - 8)**

Picture day for Pre-K is November 12th



### **Reduced Speed Limits in School Zones:**

Please remember the reduced speed zone on Talbot Avenue. The reduced speed limit is set at 30 km/hr and in force Monday to Friday from 7:00 – 17:30, in the months of September to June. This has been set out by the City of Winnipeg. You will find signs to indicate the start and end of the reduced speed zone. Please be mindful of this as you drive down Talbot Avenue during the school months. It is for the safety of our children.

## **School Bus News**

### **A FEW REMINDERS TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO USE THE SCHOOL BUS:**

★ Ensure your child is at their stop 5 minutes prior to pick-up time.

**Masks are required for all students on the bus.**

★ Call **Mrs. Wong 204-981-3502**  
(7:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.) - on the days your child will not be taking the bus.

★ Remind your children to be courteous to the driver and other children.

## **SCHOOL FEES**

All families are aware of their yearly mandatory school fees, and have been invoiced for such.

Please be aware that all SEPTEMBER fees were due **September 1<sup>st</sup>**, and should be submitted to the School Office (Activity, Building Improvement, Tuition, School Bus).

**If you have not already done so, and in order to keep your account up-to-date, please submit your fees immediately.**

(Note: An outstanding **Activity Fee** may hinder your child's participation in Field Trips until fees, which are used to pay for these events, are collected.)

If you have submitted your payments, they will be applied to your account accordingly, and you will receive a receipt.

For those requiring payment plan information or current balances, please contact the Office.

*Thank you for your timely payments!*

## **EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS**

All families have received a copy of **"2021/2022 Year-at-a-Glance"** which indicates holidays, in-service, administration days, and early dismissal days for the school year. These days are printed on the monthly school calendar and newsletter available on the School's website: [www.stgerardschool.net](http://www.stgerardschool.net)

Please mark the dates at home to remind yourself when your child will be dismissed early to ensure they have a ride at 2:25 p.m. Early dismissal days are scheduled to provide time for school personnel to attend Staff Meetings. Teachers/Staff are not available to supervise students after 2:30 p.m. on these days. Students are not permitted to wait unsupervised for their ride – and students not picked up by 2:30 will be sent to the *After School Program* (a service Parents **will be** charged for).

**DO NOT INSTRUCT YOUR CHILD TO PHONE TO REMIND, OR ARRANGE RIDES ON EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS. TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS, ETC. SHOULD BE MADE IN ADVANCE. THE PHONE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE IS FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY.**

We do our best to keep our families informed of all school events.

It is the parent's responsibility to read all school correspondence in a timely manner to ensure they are informed of important announcements/events. Parents should check backpacks/agenda books daily for notes, permission slips, etc. (Ask your child each day if there are any notes sent home from school!)

We will be emailing all notes/information that does not require information from families. This way there is less paper transfer between many hands.

Thank you!

**First Early Dismissal Day is September 14, 2021**

## National Truth and Reconciliation Day- September 30th

Since 2017 the Government of Manitoba had formally recognized September 30th as Orange Shirt Day in honour and remembrance of the residential school Survivors, to educate students and reflect on the detrimental impacts of these schools. Students will not be in school on September 30<sup>th</sup>; it is the hope that people will take time on this day to reflect on the history of residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action.

We will honour Orange Shirt Day at school on September 29th.

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!**

Many of our families in past years have chosen to celebrate their child's birthday by generously providing the entire class with cake, treats, and beverages.

**Unfortunately, the school is unable to allow this practice – mainly due to severe food allergies which may prevent some children from participating in the “party”.**

(As well, the celebration is a disruption to the day's lessons.)

The teachers have asked that all birthday celebrations be conducted at venues outside of the school. St. Gerard will continue to recognize our students' birthdays by sending greetings to them during morning announcements, as well as granting them a “N.U.T.” Day  
(**No Uniform Today).**

**We thank parents for their cooperation.  
If you have any questions regarding this matter,  
please contact the School Office.**

## **Play Structure News:**



Many people taking on the task we did this summer was a wonderful community building experience! We had parents who shared not only their time but also tools and experience in building. We had the opportunity to get to know each other a little better by working side by side, sharing in laughter, hard work and perspiration.

Thanks a bunch to the volunteers that removed the old play structure from the playground.

A huge thank you to the many parents, grandparents, siblings, former families and staff that worked long hours to install our new play structure with much effort and love!

We cannot forget to thank the parents, retired staff and staff that came out to paint the swings, metal slide and goal posts to finish off the revitalization of that equipment.

A special thank you to Josh and helper, Dustin and Blair who operated the machinery for the take down of the old structure and the install of the new structure. They volunteered their time and talent as people connected to someone in our community. Without the kindness of these gentlemen we would have had to work much longer and harder throughout the process!

We look forward to many years of fun on our new structure. It truly is great!

**The School is again reminding all our families to please follow our “road safety” rules to ensure our children are safely dropped off and picked up from school:**

- ▶ The lane is **ONE WAY** from Foster to Grey streets during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.
- ▶ We thank our families for following the signage that indicates the area in front of our back lane door is a “No Stopping / No Drop-Off” area. For the safety of our children – please park in an open parking spot against the gym wall when dropping off or picking up your child.  
(NOTE: the spots against the school wall that are “numbered” are for **STAFF ONLY**. As there are minimal spots available for our staff’s use, please refrain from parking or stopping in these stalls at any time.)
- DO NOT STOP OR PARK YOUR VEHICLE ON OUR NEIGHBOUR’S PROPERTY!**
- ▶ Many of our families are stopping/parking “hugged” up against the garages/fences situated along the school’s back lane. These areas are not school or public property – therefore, our families should be respecting the property of the home owner. Let’s practice and encourage “healthy living lifestyles” with our children by walking the short distance!
- ▶ The 2 handicapped parking spaces located near the gym entrance are to be used by vehicles with designated handicapped stickers only **PLEASE**.
- ▶ Please do not park in the School Bus Loading Zone on Foster Street (as indicated on the street signs).

Let’s be respectful of each other – as we ask our children to be.

**SCHOOL TIMETABLE:  
(Entrance and Exit Times)**

**Morning Entry:**

8:45 a.m.	Front Doors:	Kindergarten – Grade 2
	Back Doors:	Grade 6 – 8
8:55 a.m.	Front Doors:	Grade 3 – 5

**Lunch:**

11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.	Grade 6 – 8 - Lunch
12:05 p.m. – 12:35 p.m.	Grade 6 – 8 - outside
	Grade 3 – 5 - outside
	Kindergarten – Grade 2 - Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.	Grade 3 – 5 - Lunch
	Kindergarten – Grade 2 - outside

**Dismissal:**

3:15 p.m.		Bus Leaves
		Walkers Leave
		Students to Before and After
3:20 p.m.	Front Doors	Kindergarten – Grade 2
	Back Doors	Grade 6 – 8
3:25 p.m.	Back Doors	Grade 3 – 5
3:30 p.m.		Sweep of all areas for students not picked up.
3:45 p.m.	<b>If children still at school they are sent to After School Program at the expense of the family.</b>	