

Virtue of the Month: *Respect*

OCSGE of the Month: *I Care & I Have a Voice*

School Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: Parents/Guardians are reminded of the importance of consistent and regular punctuality and attendance for their children. **Please ensure you create a routine that allows for students to present and on-time at school each and every day!**

SCHOOL MESSENGER: Did you know that our School Messenger tool is a convenient, safe and secure tool that parents/guardians have access to for reporting student absences and receiving school communications? If you would like more information about this web-based program and app, please visit: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/parents/absence-reporting>

School # 905-792-2251

Principal: Mr. Birkenbergs

Secretary: Mrs. Gill

Superintendent:

Mr. Diogo

Trustee: Mr. Xaviour

School Parish:

St. John Fisher

Pastor: Fr. Liborio Amaral

Term 1 Reporting

Reports Cards for Term 1 will be sent home for all students on February 11th.

Parent-Teacher-Student conferences will occur on February 13th (evening) & 14th (P.A. Day).

Attendance Matters

Did you know that missing even 2 days of school a month is considered at-risk for habitual inattentance? Over the course of a school year that is equivalent to 20 school days. The average month has approximately 20 school days meaning that your son/daughter would miss a month of learning each year. It is very important to build positive attendance and punctuality habits with children at an early age. Research shows that students who miss school regularly often experience significant disadvantages throughout life. For more information about building positive attendance habits with your child, please visit our website and review the information provided at: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/GVANI/about/school-hours--student-absences--lates>.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Now that that winter weather is here, please ensure that your child(ren) come to school daily prepared for outdoor activities. Students will be outside a minimum of 70 minutes per day at recesses and may also engage in additional outdoor learning in their classes. We request that parents/guardians ensure that students have additional layers to ensure comfort during outdoor times. This includes jackets, hats, mitts/gloves and appropriate outdoor footwear. In addition, all students must have a suitable pair of indoor shoes available on a daily basis.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 IS UNDERWAY!

We are currently accepting registrations for Kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to register early to ensure that we are aware of the number of students who will be attending our school next year. The registration process can be completed entirely online. Please visit: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/schools/register-for-school/kindergarten-registration> for more information. Families who would prefer to register in-person at the school are asked to please call us at 905-792-2251 to make an appointment to register. Families needing before and after school care are asked to contact PLASP via: <https://www.plasp.com/>.

CELEBRATING BLACK BRILLIANCE AT GVANI!

Annually in February, we celebrate the contribution of Black individuals to Canadian culture and worldwide. Through various activities at the school, our students have opportunities to explore and engage with examples of Black brilliance that too often are left out of our curriculum and resources. Our school takes pride in ensuring “missing” stories are shared so that all our students and community can see themselves in the learning. This month our school will have daily announcements highlighting Black individuals and accomplishments, engage in a Black wax museum and have iconic Black persons displayed in the front display case of our school. Our hope is that through these focused activities, we can shine a light on many important stories that may not have been shared in the past.

A Look Ahead – February 2025

Please note the dates of various upcoming events below.

February 11th – Term 1 Reports distributed

February 13th – Grade 8 Grad Photos / Term 1 Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences (evening)

February 14th – **P.A. Day:** Term 1 Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

February 17th – **Family Day**

February 19th – Junior Basketball Tournaments

February 24th – Catholic School Council Meeting @ 6:00pm

February 27th – Virtues Assembly: Kindness @ 2:45pm

