



Fall Newsletter

Message from Director

Happy Hauntings to all our ghouls and goblins!

I hope this newsletter finds your families all in good health and enjoying the change in season. The team at St. Gabriel Child Care Centres are embracing the crisp air and fall foliage. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see all the happenings. We are excited to see what creatures, royalty, community helpers and celebrities will grace our halls in the coming week. We ask parents, should you provide a loot bag for any Halloween parties please do not provide anything edible. Should you send a loot bag they will be sent home through the screeners that are wearing full ppe. As the weather turns, we ask the children to come prepared to be outdoors for a minimum of one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoons. Once the wet weather approaches, we will require indoor shoes.

This September the Before and After School Programs experienced some lightening up on restrictions and I am happy to report that the childcare will also have some loosening. In coming weeks children will see a return of carpets and soft spaces in the classroom as well as cloth clothing on the dolls and a return of some group sensory activities. A focus on hand hygiene will continue as well as our morning screenings, follow up calls, and temperature recording. We continue to ask for your cooperation and transparency to support the wellness of us all.

COVID-19 Screening Update

Thank you to all for the patience and transparency you have demonstrated over the last few months. We have had many changes to our screening since our year began and yet another is on its way. York Region has shared communication with us that the revised Ontario screening can now be used for the childcare programs. The Ontario Screening tool is available electronically and, in many languages, should you require it. We will be editing our screening tool to use the Ontario language. I'm sure this will be music to many parents' ears. Runny nose has been taken off the covid screening tool. We continue to monitor the health of all our children and will follow our pre covid policies regarding runny noses. Children can experience a runny nose and still be transmitting an infection to others. Since they are sick and could potentially transmit this respiratory infection to other children in the centre (i.e., flu), they are advised to remain home but do not need to get tested for Covid 19 if experiencing only a runny nose.

To clarify, 24 hours starts from the time the parent starts to see improvements with runny noses in their child. For example, a child is sent home on Monday with a runny nose. On Tuesday, the parent notes the runny nose is gone by 9:00 am and no other symptoms. The 24-hour clock now starts and the child if the runny nose does not return and no other symptoms present, can return to the centre on Wednesday which is 24 hours from the start of the improvement. If you notice an improvement on the following Monday, then the 24-hour clock begins, and the child would return to the centre on Tuesday morning.

The 24-hour clock does not start from the time the child is dismissed from the centre. It is from the time the symptoms have started to improve. That could happen, for example, 4 - 8 days from the last day at the centre.

In the case of GI symptoms, it is a Covid -19 symptom so the child would have to get tested by a PCR test. If positive, remains home for 10 full days and on the 11th day returns if not experiencing any symptoms or symptoms improved. If not tested, remains home for 10 full days, and returns on the 11th day if no symptoms/symptoms improved. If PCR test is negative, and no other symptoms, it is 48 hours with no GI symptoms or improved - no loose stools/vomiting. The 48 hours clock would start (if tested negative for Covid-19) on the first day with no loose stool/vomiting. For example, that could be 5 days from the last day at the Centre.

If your child is ill, they must not attend childcare.

In the case of diarrhea or vomiting, bowel movements must return to normal after a minimum of 48 hours and as well as normal food consumption.

Should your child have a runny nose with fever or cough, this will be treated as a covid symptom due to the multiple symptoms.

Our goal is to keep all infection out of the centre whether it be GI, covid or any other infection. We ask that your child stay home when not well. **If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact health connections 1-800-361-5653**

Board of Directors Update

As you know we will be having our Annual General Meeting on November 17th, 2021. If you have not received any of the emails in this regard, please call us 905-850-3358 so that we can update our contact info on file. If you are unable to attend virtually then we ask that you provide your proxy to another parent or board position. We are also looking for representation of the membership to sit on our Board of Directors. See all the links below for more information. Your screeners will be checking in with you over the coming weeks survey parent attendance to ensure we have quorum. Thank you in advance to all of you that will come out to join us on November 17th, 2021.

Join us on November 17th, 2021, at 7:00pm at

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88101630012?pwd%3DUXE4SnZCd1ZvemVFZDBVZFg4aG15Zz09&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1634992560823187&usg=AOvVaw3iFFHWc4vMFP_tgMqXFBN

If you are unable to attend, please provide a parent who is attending, or a board position your proxy to represent you at the meeting. Fill out the form at this link or ask for a hard copy with the screener at your child's program.

<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.83/d9a.f73.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Proxy-policy-and-Declaration-2021.pdf>

Are you interested in volunteering as a representative of the parent body on our Board of Directors? Fill out the application on the link below.

<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.83/d9a.f73.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Draft-Board-of-Directors-application-2021-St-Gabriel-Child-Care-Centres-draft-Sept-29.pdf> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 905-856-3358.

Do you want to earn a \$100.00 childcare credit?

Family Referral program – Refer us to a friend and if they register you will receive a \$100.00 credit at the Families three-month anniversary.

Celebrating Our Heroes of Early Learning and Child Care on Their Appreciation Day October 21st, 2021

“Free the child’s potential and you will transform him into the world.” – Maria Montessori

To all our Early learning providers on behalf of the Board of Directors and the management team we wish you a very Grateful and Happy Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day.

Not all heroes wear capes! Some wear paint smeared shirts, tear-soaked shoulders, and big smiley eyes above a mask, with open arms that offer comfort and encouragement to the children they champion. Without words they say I see you; I hear you; you matter.

Last year on Early Childhood Educator Day we cheered their contributions in a year that brought much upheaval. We cheered the inspiring way they rose above it all with resilience, perseverance, and great spirit. Last year we thanked them for Rising Up and challenged them to continue to champion on for the children and families we serve and for each other.

Well, they did just that. A year later, we are not out of the cloud of covid yet, but we see light at the end of the tunnel and our champions took up the challenge and should be celebrated as Heroes. They have been a shining light in a dark time. Thank you to all our early learning providers for all they give, day in and day out for our community.

“Every day, in 100 small ways, our children ask, ‘Do you hear me? Do you see me? Do I matter?’ Their behavior often reflects our response.”

– L.R. Knost

September Before and After School Registration

Dear Families,

We want to thank you for your patience in collecting the fees, as we return to a new “normal”.

We have collected security deposit and registration fees on either September 15th OR October 15th, 2021. Your security deposit is equal to one month fee, as per our policy we require 30 days written notice to use your security deposit for the last 30 days you are with us. If no withdrawals, your security deposit will pay for June 2022 fees.

Monthly fees are due on the 1st of every month, any returned items (NSF’s) will automatically be withdrawn on the 15th of the same month plus \$35 NSF fee to keep your account in good standing.

Fees to be processed for PA Day and Winter Camp – PA Day on November 19th will be communicated shortly upon confirmed attendance, kindly check your spam/junk folder for emails, Winter Camp to follow as well.

If you have any questions regarding your account, please contact Antonella at antonella@stgabrielchildcare.com or call 905-850-3358 and ask for Antonella.

Before and After School Programs



Kindergarten

During the month of September, the kindergarten children took part in several play opportunities, indoors and outdoors, that encouraged sensory, fine motor and gross motor skills. The students showed their creativity through many different craft-based activities, such as chalk drawings outdoors, using loose parts for art creations, as well as painting rice to then be used for individual sensory bins. Working cooperatively and with turn-taking, the kindergarten children enjoyed participating in measuring and mixing to make different coloured playdough.

During the month of October, the kindergarten children showed great interest in the outdoors and exploring nature. They took part in collecting and investigating rocks, where they then showed curiosity in comparing the sizes, colours and textures which led to a rock inquiry. The children also explored the outdoors by collecting and using nature items, such as leaves, sticks and pinecones to build and create art displays. In preparation for Fall and Halloween, the kindergarten children showed an interest in creating monster puppets using different art supplies.

What to look forward to:

Our program is excited for the winter weather to be able to play in the snow. Please dress appropriately for the weather, as we will be going outside during the winter months.

Every year St. Margaret Mary Before and After School is proud of the Christmas Party that we throw on the last day of program. The children assist with the theme of the holiday party and make all props and crafts to set up the gym.

School Age

During the month of September, the school age children took part in many learning experiences, indoors and outdoors, that encouraged creativity, communication, as well as collaboration with their peers. The children showed off their athleticism when taking initiative over planning and setting up for an outdoor baseball game, involving all students and staff. This provided the children with the opportunity for team building, problem solving and cooperation. They also connected with the outdoors and nature through outdoor play. The children explored and investigated nature items, which were then used as supplies for art creations and structure building.

During the month of October, the school age children showed off their creative side through many arts and crafts learning experiences using a variety of materials. The children focused on landscape art using silhouette and depth perspective. Working together in small groups, the children planned and designed an outline for creating volcanoes using loose parts, which we are now in the process of putting to the test! This group activity promotes goal-setting, cooperation and fine-motor skills. The children have also begun preparing for our Fall and Halloween festivities, by working on creating pumpkins skeletons, and developing set design and props for upcoming celebrations.



Important Upcoming Date

October 21 st , 2021	ECE Appreciation Day
October 22 th , 2021	Last day to register for PA Day November 19 th , 2021
Week of November 1st, 2021	Date that confirmation email will be sent out to families regarding PA day meeting minimum enrollment
November 12, 2021	AGM proxy forms due if family is not attending
November 4 th , 2021	Last day to submit Board Application
November 12 th , 2021	Payment for PA day taken
November 17 th , 2021	Annual General Meeting
November 19 th , 2021	PA day Camp (should minimum enrollment be met)
November 28 th , 2021	Last day to register for Xmas Camp Dec 20 to 23
December 1 st , 2021	Confirmation email to be sent out for Xmas Camp
December 15 th , 2021	Payment to be taken for Xmas Camp
December 20 to December 23, 2021	Xmas Camp (should minimum enrolment be met)
December 24 th , 2021	Child Care open from 7:30 to 12:00 only
December 27, 2021	Programs closed for Dec 25 th Statutory Holiday
December 28 th , 2021	Programs Closed for Dec 26 th , Statutory Holiday
December 29 th , 2021	Programs Closed for St Gabriel Professional Development Day
December 31 st , 2021	Programs Closed for January 1 st , statutory Holiday as per survey results
January 3, 2021	All Programs Open