



# 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

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 11<sup>th</sup> day returns if not experiencing any symptoms or symptoms improved. If not tested, remains home for 10 full days, and returns on the 11<sup>th</sup> 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](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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup> OR October 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> of every month, any returned items (NSF’s) will automatically be withdrawn on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:antonella@stgabrielchildcare.com) or call 905-850-3358 and ask for Antonella.

## Child Care Programs

### Toddler Room

The toddlers interest this month are focused on the season of Fall. The children are learning about the change in weather and the colours of leaves and how pumpkins grow.

At the beginning of October, the toddlers talked about the Thanksgiving holiday where they created handprint turkeys, scarecrows, and self-made turkey placemats. The classroom is now getting ready by decorating for Halloween. The toddlers will be decorating pumpkins and participating in lots of fun activities.

As the Christmas holiday is around the corner, the toddlers will be having a special visit from Santa and their Elf on the Shelf Buddy will be returning from the North Pole. The children will also be sending Santa letters and participating in fun Christmas activities.

Thank you,

Ms. Rosa & Ms. Vlasta

### Preschool Room

A warm heartfelt welcome to all our preschool children and parents. The children have settled nicely and have developed a sense of trust and security with their teachers and peers. We welcomed Fall decorating leaves for our tree and apple stamping. October has been an exciting and fun time for the children. They eagerly collaged a keepsake turkey for Thanksgiving. We are currently participating in various shapes. We will be busy craving pumpkins in preparation for our upcoming Halloween party.

Moving forward in November we will be implementing child directed activities as the children learn through play. We will incorporate a program based on their interests. As we approach the Christmas season, we will be writing and mailing a letter to Santa. A special visitor Elf on the Shelf will be delighting the children.

We thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Ms. Anne & Ms. Lisa

### Friendly Reminder

As the colder weather approaches, both rooms ask if you can please provide extra change of clothes, jackets, hats, mittens, indoor shoes, snow pants and boots for your children.



## Before and After School Programs

### Primary

As the new year has begun the primary class has been enjoying arts and crafts which include sail boats and little turkeys.

In the month of October, the primary's will be focusing on Halloween. The children will be painting pumpkins and decorating the classroom. They will also be able to explore with sensory bins that include spiders, gems, bones, worms and goeey slim.

As Christmas is approaching the primary class will be enjoying a spirit week that will include pajama day, Christmas movie day, Christmas socks and tie day. They will also be creating their own personal letters for Santa and will be joined by their classroom elf.

Warm wishes,

Ms. Leslie & Ms. Briana

### Junior School Age

During the month of September, the juniors were fascinated by natural disasters and loved talking about tsunamis, earthquakes, and tornadoes. To foster inquiry and promote discussion we organized an underwater volcano experiment. This led to interest in creating their own volcano. Students gave their own input in how they thought the volcano should be built and were able to explore their creative expression when designing the volcano. Check out our Instagram @stgabrielchildcare to see the volcano eruption!

This fall the students also created Thanksgiving turkeys, collages and brought programming outdoors through a scavenger hunt.

The juniors are very excited for Halloween this year! They will be participating in various activities.

Kind regards,

Ms. Emily, Ms. Stefania, and Mrs. Daniela

### Senior School Age

Welcome to the senior school age! I would like to start off by introducing myself; My name is Zainab, I am the RECE in the classroom. I have been working with children for the past 16 years. I have worked with all age groups. I love writing and photography in my spare time.

We are off to a wonderful start with the school year so far. The senior school age class really enjoys games especially those of the competitive nature. We have also managed to create some great trivia questions in which we played in teams.

Please be advised we will be going outside during the cooler months, please ensure children have their hats, scarves, mittens or gloves. We are looking forward for more exciting activities and games throughout the rest of the year.

Respectfully,

Ms. Zainab

### Important Upcoming Date

October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	ECE Appreciation Day
October 22 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Last day to register for PA Day November 19 <sup>th</sup> , 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 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Last day to submit Board Application
November 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Payment for PA day taken
November 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Annual General Meeting
November 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	PA day Camp (should minimum enrollment be met)
November 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Last day to register for Xmas Camp Dec 20 to 23
December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Confirmation email to be sent out for Xmas Camp
December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Payment to be taken for Xmas Camp
December 20 to December 23, 2021	Xmas Camp (should minimum enrolment be met)
December 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Child Care open from 7:30 to 12:00 only
December 27, 2021	Programs closed for Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> Statutory Holiday
December 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Programs Closed for Dec 26 <sup>th</sup> , Statutory Holiday
December 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Programs Closed for St Gabriel Professional Development Day
December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Programs Closed for January 1 <sup>st</sup> , statutory Holiday as per survey results
January 3, 2021	All Programs Open