

# GLADSTONE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2025

### IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 3 – Character Day (Historic figure, anime, cartoon, book, movie character you admire)

Dec 5 – Freaky Friday (Kids dress as adults, adults dress as kids)

Dec 8 – Family Library Night (3:30 pm -5:00 pm)

Dec 10 – Sports Day (Dress in your favorite sports attire)

Dec 11 – Fancy Film Fashion (Movie Premier Night)

Dec 12 – Winter Outdoor Adventures (Winter Fun Day)

Dec 17 – Cultural & Career Day (Dress as a career you would like to be in or in your traditional cultural attire)

Dec 18 – Pancake Breakfast

Dec 19 - Pajama Day (Wear your favorite PJ's)

Dec 19 – Last day before Winter Break

\*Classes resume on January 5th\*

Dear Gladstone Families,

Well, after a long and lovely extended fall, it is clear that winter is upon us! With winter here for a while, we encourage you to make sure your children have all the clothing they need to enjoy the outdoors. If you have any needs around winter clothing, please contact the office.

It was so great to hear about the conversations around student learning that we had at our parent-teacher conferences. As a staff, we are also continuing to grow and learn. One of the areas we have been digging into is both our understanding and practices in numeracy. Since 2003, Canada's average math score has decreased by 35 points, an equivalent of nearly two years of learning! This was determined by a yearly international assessment called the PISA. One response we have made to this concerning data is our involvement in a multi-year divisional math learning initiative called Math Up. The math curriculum is quite broad, and it can be difficult to determine where to focus our attention for maximum results. We are focusing on four key concepts that elementary students need to be competent in to be successful in math in later years. These are:

1. **Embedded Quantity** – the idea that within every number are smaller numbers, *e.g., 2 is embedded in the number 3; "The less is in the more."*
2. **PartS Whole Thinking** – the ability to break up a number, *e.g., 24 can be  $10 + 2 + 12$ ;  $6 + 6 + 6 + 6$ , or  $8 + 8 + 8$*
3. **Additive Reasoning Relationships** – understanding how addition and subtraction are related, *e.g., 20 is 12 more than 8*
4. **Modelling and Visualization** – the ability to use a variety of models to represent mathematical thinking, *e.g., open number line, parts whole box, Cuisenaire rods.*

Our intent is to be more deliberate in helping our students develop these vital understandings.

Are you wondering what you can do to help? For students to gain these concepts, it is important that they have fluency with the basic number building blocks. Working on memorizing their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts helps free up brain space for deeper thinking. Spending 10 – 15 minutes per day working on this can really support the work they do here at Gladstone! Feel free to ask your child's teacher for some suggestions on how to do this.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Nikkel





Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	1 Day 2	2 Day 3	3 Day 4 SPIRIT DAY Character Day	4 Day 5	5 Day 6 SPIRIT DAY Freaky Friday	6
7	8 Day 1 LIBRARY NIGHT (3:30-5:00 pm)	9 Day 2 Variety Club Winter Wonderland Event	10 Day 3 SPIRIT DAY Sports Day	11 Day 4 SPIRIT DAY Fancy Film Fashion	12 Day 5 SPIRIT DAY Winter Outdoor Adventures	13
14	15 Day 6	16 Day 1	17 Day 2 SPIRIT DAY Cultural & Career Day	18 Day 3 PANCAKE BREAKFAST	19 Day 4 SPIRIT DAY Pajama Day LAST DAY BEFORE WINTER BREAK	20
21	22 WINTER BREAK	23 WINTER BREAK	24 WINTER BREAK	25 WINTER BREAK	26 WINTER BREAK	27
28	29 WINTER BREAK	30 WINTER BREAK	31 WINTER BREAK *Classes resume on January 5 <sup>th</sup>			

# SPECIAL NOTES

## WEATHER APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Friendly reminder to families to ensure that your child(ren) arrive at school with the appropriate clothing for the weather. Now that we are in our colder months, it is important that everyone is dressed for warmth as we do still enjoy the outdoors during morning, lunch and afternoon recess (weather permitting). Proper clothing consists of mitts/gloves, neck warmer/scarf, toque, ear band/earmuffs, winter boots, and snow pants/snow suit. If you need assistance in obtaining any of the above-mentioned items, please reach out to the school office.

## LATE / ABSENT

If your child(ren) are going to be late and/or absent from school, we ask that you use our Safe Arrival Absent Management System. Please see below for further information.

### What is SafeArrival?

SafeArrival is an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

You are asked to report your child's absence in advance whenever possible using one of these convenient methods:

#### **SchoolMessenger app (free)**

1. Provide your email address to the school.
2. Get the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>).
3. Tap **Sign Up** to create your account.
4. Select **Attendance** from the menu, and then select **Report an Absence**.

#### **Web and Mobile Web: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)**

1. Provide your email address to the school.
2. Go to the website.
3. Click **Sign Up** to create your account.
4. Select **Attendance** from the menu, then select **Report an Absence**.

#### **Interactive Toll-free Phone 1-855-278-4513**

1. Call the toll-free, interactive telephone system.
2. Follow the instructions to report an absence.
3. Record the confirmation number at the end of the call.

***If you hang up before this is given the absence will be cancelled and will not be reported to the school.***

Whenever an absence is reported or updated, you will receive a confirmation notice by email (assuming you have provided your contact information to the school).

If you don't report your child's absence in advance, the automated notification system will try to contact you (using the communication preferences if you have set them up in the SchoolMessenger app). This may include push notifications to the app, email, phone calls. You will be asked to provide the reason for your child's absence immediately. You may do so using the phone line, website or mobile app.

If an absence is not explained within approximately 20 minutes of the time that the school starts the notification process, school staff will follow-up to make sure that your child is safe. If you try to explain an absence using SafeArrival, but are then told that it is past the cut-off time, please contact the school directly.

***If you don't want to receive notifications when your child is absent, be sure to report your child's absence in advance.***

***If you do receive notifications of your child's absence, be sure to provide the reason as quickly as possible, using one of the 3 methods listed above or during the phone call notification itself.***

Absences can be reported in advance:

- 24 hours/day
- 7 days a week
- For any school day in the school term
- Up to the cut-off time on the day of the absence.








# SPECIAL NOTES

## COUNTDOWN TO WINTER BREAK

Our Grade 6 Student Council has organized “Spirit Days” in celebration of our countdown to winter break. It will take place starting December 3<sup>rd</sup> on the days specified on the calendar below.

Participation is not mandatory, but we ask students to try join in the fun and participate where they can.

## December Countdown to Winter Break 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
01	02	<b>03</b>  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b> <b>Character Day</b> (Historic figure, anime, cartoon, book, movie character you admire)	04	<b>05</b>  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b> <b>Freaky Friday</b> (Kids dress as adults, adults dress as kids)
08	09	<b>10</b>  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b> <b>Sports Day</b> (Dress in your favorite sports attire)	<b>11</b>  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b> <b>Fancy Film Fashion</b> (Movie Premier Night)	<b>12</b>  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b> <b>Winter Outdoor Adventures</b> (Winter Fun Day)
15	16	<b>17</b>  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b> <b>Cultural and Career Day</b> (Dress as a career you would like to be in or in your traditional cultural attire)	18	<b>19</b>  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b> <b>Pajama Day</b> (Wear your favorite PJ's)

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Community Programs

Organization	Phone #	Website	Cost	Ages	Focus
Art City 616 Broadway	204-775-9856	<a href="http://www.artcityinc.com">www.artcityinc.com</a>	Free	All	After school Art Program
IRCOM 95 Ellen St.	204-943-8765	<a href="http://www.ircom.ca">www.ircom.ca</a>	Free	6-12	After school program for international youth
N.E.E.D.S 251a Notre Dame Ave.	204-940-1260	<a href="http://www.needsinc.ca">www.needsinc.ca</a>	Free	All	Homework Club for international youth
PAN AM POOL 25 Poseidon Bay	204-986-5892	<a href="http://www.winnipeg.ca">www.winnipeg.ca</a>	Free Swim	All	Free Swim
Studio 393 Portage Place Shopping	204-667-9960	<a href="http://www.graffitigallery.ca">www.graffitigallery.ca</a>	Free	12-29	Art & Music
Broadway Neighborhood Center	204-772-9253	<a href="http://www.thebnc.ca">www.thebnc.ca</a>	Free Youth drop in	6-17	Drop in Monday to Friday & other activities on website

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Community Programs

Sam Southern Arena  625 Osborne St.	204-986-4926	<a href="http://www.winnipeg.ca">www.winnipeg.ca</a>	Free Public Skate	All	Free Public Skate
River-Osborne Community Center	240-452-8822	Check Facebook Page	Free Skating	All	Free skating on outdoor rink everyday
Earl Grey Community Center	204-452-2074	<a href="http://www.earlgreycc.ca">www.earlgreycc.ca</a>  Check Facebook Page	Cost varies  depending on which activity	All	Activities & Family  Nights
YMCA  301 Vaughn St.	204-947-3044	<a href="http://www.ywinnipeg.ca">www.ywinnipeg.ca</a>	Day Fee	5 +	Variety of activities