

St. Francis Catholic School

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www.wcdsb.ca



December 2016

Principal's Message

As the Christmas season quickly approaches, let us be reminded that before this beautiful celebration, there is a time of preparation. During Advent, may we continue to prepare ourselves to receive Jesus more fully in our daily lives and hearts.

Please join us in celebration for our Family Evening School Advent Mass on *Thurs., December 8th at 6:00 p.m.* at St. Ambrose Parish. There will also be a social gathering following the Mass at the parish.

To celebrate the First, Third and Fourth Weeks of Advent, we will come together as a school community in our gym on the following dates/times. Parents/guardians are most welcome to join us for our celebrations:

First Week of Advent Celebration in the Gym on Dec. 1st at 10:30 a.m.
Third Week of Advent Celebration in the Gym on Dec. 14th at 1:20 p.m.
Fourth Week of Advent Celebration in the Gym on Dec. 20th at 12:45 p.m.

Our last day of school prior to the Christmas Holidays is Friday, Dec. 23rd and dismissal is at our regular time ~ 3:15 p.m.. Classes resume on Monday, January 9th at 8:45 a.m. On behalf of the St. Francis Staff, we extend warmest of wishes to all of our families. May everyone experience a peace-filled Christmas Season.

God Bless, *R. Bumbacco Sodaro*, Principal

St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church

The times for the celebration of Holy Mass for Christmas at St. Ambrose Parish located on 210 South Street are as follows. The Parish website is www.stambrosecambridge.ca:

December 24 at 6:00 pm; 8:00 pm; 12:00 Midnight
December 25 at 9:00 am; 11:00 am

PA Day: Friday, December 9

Friday, December 9th is a PA Day. There will not be any classes for students on this day.

Cash on Line Sign Up

Congratulations Lions! Mrs. Sodaro & Mrs. Rodriguez would like to personally thank you for all of your support with using *School Cash Online*. We have reached the WCDSB goal of 85%! We are currently at 86%! We have earned our FREE school wide Pizza Party with a Juice Box for all students! Way to Go! Our school wide Pizza Party will take place at lunch on Dec. 6th.

If you have **not yet** signed up with School Cash On Line, please do so. If you require help at any time please call Mrs. Rodriguez at the main office. She is also encouraging parents/guardians to come into the Main Office, and register with her if you require assistance. Our next goal is 95%.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Our "Cookie Dough Fundraiser" was a great success. A heartfelt thank you to our school community for your support of this school wide initiative. We could not have done this without your support and St. Francis Spirit. We raised \$3075.00 profit.



The class who earned a pizza party is Ms. Fink's Grade 1 class; they had a total of 173 tubs of cookie dough ordered. The funds generated from our school wide "Cookie Dough Fundraiser" will go towards such items as library resources, Chromebooks, as well as helping to offset the costs of Agendas, Pottery to Go, Trips and Scientists in the Classrooms.

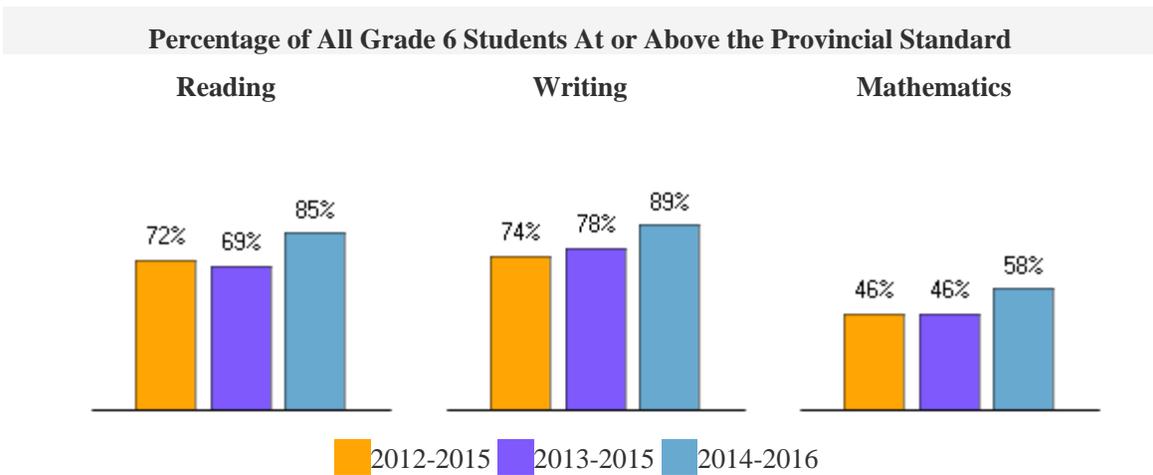
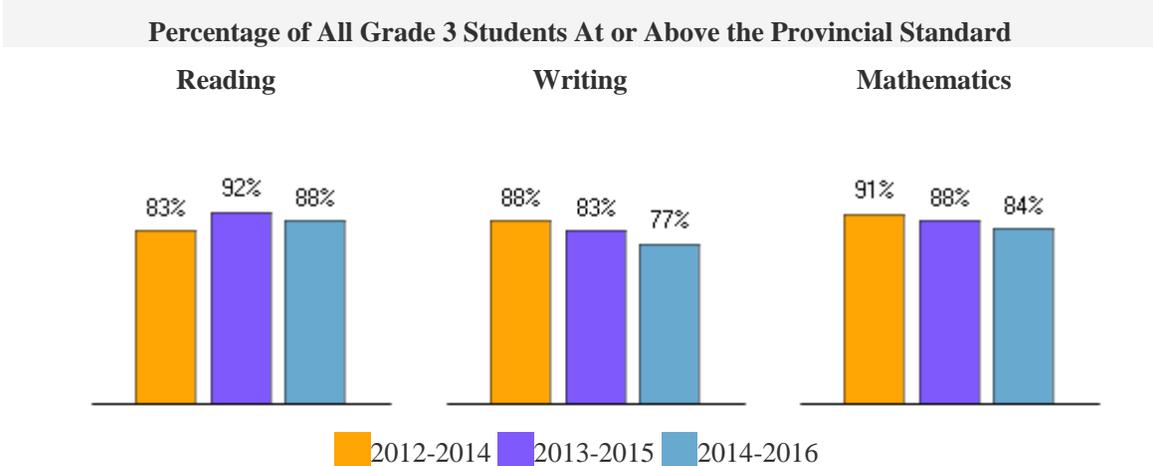
Reminder to our parents/guardians that the cookie dough orders will be arriving at our school on **Wednesday, Dec. 7th**. Parents/guardians are encouraged to come to the school **between 2:00-4:00 p.m.** to pick up your orders. We thank you again for your support!

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council Meeting at St. Francis will be held on Wednesday, March 1st, 2017. We will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the library, and all are most welcome to join us.

EQAO

This provincial assessment provides the opportunity for our students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of Reading, Writing and Mathematics showing percentage of students at or above the provincial standard (levels 3 and 4). Student achievement data help us to know what students are learning and to help improve learning for all students. Test booklets and examples of student answers from the past five years are available at www.eqao.com. There is also a parent resource section for your perusal on the EQAO website.



Our Grades 1 to 3 students completed a Mock Math EQAO question in November and teaching staff came together to moderate the results with our Numeracy Teacher. Our Grades 4 to 8 students will complete a Mock Math EQAO question this month. As a school we are preparing our students for EQAO by working on

questions and mathematical language that align with EQAO. Please see below two multiple choice questions from the EQAO website in the area of Mathematics. Families are encouraged to work through the questions and discuss how the results were generated. It is important that students show their thinking and the process to which they arrived at their answer.

An example of a Multiple Choice Grade 3 Mathematics Question

A store has 7 tricycles. How many wheels in total are on these 7 tricycles?

- 3
- 7
- 14
- 21



An example of a Multiple Choice Grade 6 Mathematics Question

A store sells 12 oranges for \$3.96. How much does one orange cost?

- \$3.84
- \$3.03
- \$0.39
- \$0.33

Math Bits: Number Sense

The math strand of Number Sense involves an understanding of and an ability to manipulate numbers. A strong foundation in number sense can create opportunities for future math success.

Play “Guess my Number” with mathematicians of all ages. For younger learners, use friendlier numbers, but don’t hesitate to challenge them. For example, “I am thinking of a number which is 2 less than 10.” Or, “Guess my number; it is between 7 and 40. I have some hints you can ask me to give you more information.”

For older learners, consider using decimals or negative numbers. For instance, “I am thinking of a number between 10.2 and 10.8”. You can also give clues if you like (i.e. “It is closer to 11 than it is to 10.” Or, “It’s half way between those numbers.”). Make it as challenging as you see fit. Encourage them to come up with their own “guess my number” idea that you will try to answer. This is a great opportunity to model your thinking out loud. You can check out this website as well: www.mathsisfun.com.

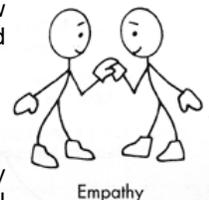
Outdoor Wear

Students are reminded to wear their coats when outside. If parents/guardians could kindly reiterate this message at home that would be appreciated.



Roots of Empathy

Ms. Fink’s Grade 1 class is engaging in the “Roots of Empathy Program”. The program teaches children about feelings, their own feelings and the feelings of others. Once every 3 weeks, baby Andre and his parents visit the Grade 1 classroom. Our trained Roots of Empathy instructor, Mrs. Maw, gathers the children around a green blanket and together they watch the baby grow. The children predict and cheer, “He can roll over.” “He got his first tooth.” “He can crawl.” The Roots of Empathy instructor coaches the children in observing the baby and reading the clues the baby gives as to how the baby is feeling: “Is the baby feeling happy or sad?” “How can you tell?” This discussion is used as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates and others feel: “Do you smile when you’re happy?” “How can you tell if your friend is happy or sad?” Being able to understand how other people are feeling is called “empathy.” Thank you to Mrs. Maw for her leadership with the “Roots of Empathy Program” at St. Francis.



Safe Schools Team

For December, the focus of the month is *Compassionate Christian*. When students display this quality, they demonstrate their compassion for all; care about the needs of others; are understanding, accepting, helpful and sympathetic. These are the expectations the staff will be looking for when recognizing the student of the month for December.

We are in our 4th year of Peer Mediators. Peer Mediators are older students who provide mentoring and support to younger students during the lunch hour recess. This year we are excited that we have over 20 students who are interested in volunteering their time during lunch recess to help younger students on the playground (e.g., sharing, staying within boundaries). Peer Mediators also run the popular PALS program which teaches and encourages students to play simple outdoor games, especially children who are not inclined to join others. Peer Mediators/PALS begins this month. Thank you to Mrs. Kroetsch for her leadership with these two Programs at St. Francis.

Our goal as a school community is to track the behaviour at recess and in the classroom, so to work collaboratively with parents/guardians and students to address the reason for the behaviour, and supports that may be required to de-escalate the behaviour. To track the behaviour at recess and in the classroom, all staff has Green Slips to record incidences that are then forwarded to classroom teachers. When a Green Slip is given, this information is communicated to the parent/guardian via a label in the agenda book. Thank you to parents/guardians for your support as we work together as a team. The following chart indicates the common consequence for students if 1 to 3 Greens Slips are received for the same student.

<i>Green Slip</i>	<i>Common Consequence</i>
#1	Walk with Staff at Recess
#2	Walk with Staff at Recess; Office Detention
#3	Parent Meeting with Classroom Teacher, Principal, Student <i>Behaviour Supportive Interventions: nature of misconduct, seriousness, frequency will determine consequence</i>

The following members met in November as part of our Safe Schools Team: Mrs. Woodman, Mrs. Bumbacco Sodaro and Mrs. Albrego, If you wish to join the team, please let the office know. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 9th at 3:20 p.m. in the library.

Bus Transportation

The STSWR website allows parents/guardians to subscribe and receive notifications about route delays, cancellations and school closures. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region at 519-650-4934 ext.221.



For Delays, Closures & Cancellations:

Visit www.stswr.ca. Click “Delays, Closures & Cancellations”; Click “Delays & Cancellations” Please note that bus cancellations are also communicated via local media (radio, television).

To Subscribe to E-mail Notifications for Route Delays, Cancellations & School Closures:

Visit www.stswr.ca. Click “Delays, Closures & Cancellations”; Click “Delays & Cancellations”

Nutrition Bits

An idea for preparing school lunches: load lunches with food from 3-4 of the food groups in the Canada's Food Guide. Limit 'empty calorie' foods that have calories from sugar and/or fat but no vitamins, minerals or protein. Here are a few suggestions for foods that fuel the mind and body:



Instead of...	Try...
Chips, cheesies	Mix equal portions of chips, plain popcorn, multigrain pretzels, and (preferably wholegrain) fish crackers - Popcorn can be a choking hazard for those under 5 years of age. Check the label and pick a trans-fat free brand.
Fruit roll up	Fresh fruit, dried mangos, or mix dried blueberries, cranberries and raisins - Dried fruits like raisins are high in sugar and sticky. Eating often without brushing teeth will encourage tooth decay.
Donuts, cream filled cookies, pastries	Small homemade banana or whole grain muffin with a few chocolate chips, plain cookies, fig cookies.
Soda pop, fruit punches, fruit drinks, sports drinks	White or chocolate milk, 100% fruit juice, fortified soy beverages, water with frozen berries for edible ice cubes. Made with white milk; chocolate milk is equally nutritious with no more sugar than unsweetened 100% fruit juice.

