

St. Francis Catholic School

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www.wcdsb.ca



February 2017

“To move ahead with confidence is to know that there is a God who goes before you as your captain and your guide.” (Roy Lessin)

Principal’s Message

Let us keep in our prayers the Grade 2 students as they prepare to receive their First Reconciliation at St. Ambrose Parish on February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. This celebration emphasizes the positive aspects of “going to confession”. Thank you to Ms. Correia for all of her work and dedication as she prepares our Grade 2 students for this very special sacrament. May the Grade 2 children continue to be assured of God’s forgiveness and unconditional love, and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a means to spiritual growth.

A special thank you is extended to our St. Francis school families for their unwavering support. Thank you for purchasing popcorn on-line to help support the Grade 8 Mount Mary Retreat.

Peace be with you, *R. Bumbacco Sodaro*, Principal

Family Day Holiday: Monday, February 20

A reminder to parents/guardians that Monday, February 20th is a Family Day Holiday. The school will be closed on this day.

Cash on Line Sign Up

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.

St. Francis School Website

On our school website, parents/guardians are able to sign up for “Newswire” and check out our many wonderful tweets.

Report Cards

Report Cards are distributed on Thursday, February 16th to all SK to Grade 8 students. Kindly ensure that the tear-off section of the report card is signed, and returned to your child’s classroom teacher along with the envelope. Please note that interviews are welcome at any time throughout the school year to discuss progress, next steps and celebrate student achievement. If you wish to have an interview with your child’s teacher(s), please indicate your request on the report card on the parent/guardian signature page.



Catholic School Council

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

Inclement Weather Procedures



In the event of very inclement weather, the Board may cancel school for the day. This decision will be announced on local radio stations, and notices affecting bus cancellations will be given between 6:45 A.M. and 8:30 A.M. Please listen to CHYM FM 96.7, Dave FM 107.5 or Oldies 1090 AM, KOOL FM 105.3, CKCO TV CHANNEL 12 for a decision about bus cancellation or school closure from the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. Also visit the board website: www.wcdsb.ca. If school buses are cancelled in the morning due to inclement weather, they are cancelled all day and will not pick up students who found other means of transportation to arrive at school.



Parents/guardians are the primary decision-makers regarding the safety of their child(ren). Regardless of the fact that schools are open and buses are running, if parents/guardians feel that conditions are not appropriate for their child(ren) to attend school, they have the right to keep their child(ren) at home.

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.

JK/SK Registration

Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten: **Children born in 2013** (Junior Kindergarten); **Children born in 2012** (Kindergarten Registration for children who have not attended Junior Kindergarten).

Please contact the school office to book an appointment with Mrs. Rodriguez to register your child during the Week of Feb. 6th.

Online Registration is also available. Parents can access the Online Registration form by clicking on *Register for School* link on the WCDSB homepage (www.wcdsb.ca) then choosing either *Kindergarten, Grades 1-8* or *Secondary Registration*. The link to Online Registration can be found under the *Registration Options* button.

Check in at Office upon Entry

We respectfully ask that parents/guardians check in at the office upon entry into the school regardless of the reason for the visit (drop off an item/lunch; speak to a staff member; escort child to class). We have a check in/sign in policy for the safety of all students and staff. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Photographs and Digital Memories

Parents/guardians are asked to be mindful when taking photos and/or videos of their children during school related events (ie. assemblies). As we are part of the digital age, we ask that photos and/or video clips not be posted on the internet (You Tube, Instagram) out of respect and privacy of other families within our school community.

Safe Schools Team ~ Virtue of the Month

For *February*, the focus of the month is "*Cooperation in the Classroom and on the Schoolyard.*" When students display this quality, they demonstrate the ability to follow instructions the first time; share willingly and cooperatively in groups; accept the uniqueness of others; always include others by demonstrating what it means when we say, "there is always room for one more." These are the

look-fors the staff will be observing when recognizing the student of the month for February. 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.

As part of our Good Deeds Initiative, every time a student receives a Good Deed Coupon, he/she will receive a pompon to drop into our showcase that is in the hallway on the way to the gym. Once the pompoms reach different increments, we will celebrate together as a whole school community. We are looking to have complimentary Pizza Day, Popcorn Day and a possible trip to the Movies.

Safe Schools Team ~ Behaviour at Recess

When a Green Slip is given, this information is communicated to the parent/guardian via a label in the agenda book. The following chart indicates the common consequence for students if 1 to 3 Greens Slips are received for the same student; each month the Green Slips start anew.

<i>Green Slip</i>	<i>Common Consequence</i>
#1	Walk with Staff at Recess
#2	Walk with Staff at AM and PM Recess; Office Detention
#3	Parent Meeting with Classroom Teacher, Principal, Student <i>Behaviour Supportive Interventions: loss of privileges, detention, BSP, suspension, student services, outside agencies(nature of misconduct, seriousness, frequency will determine consequence)</i>



Concussions

A concussion is a type of brain injury that is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head. Concussions can also be caused from a fall or blow to the body. It is extremely important to seek medical attention if signs or symptoms of a concussion are present: ringing in ears, headache, fatigue, irritability, vision imbalance, difficulty concentrating, dizziness, nausea, vomiting. For more information on concussion and injury prevention, please visit, www.ontario.ca/concussions.

Safety of All ~ Peanut Butter and Substitutes

We have students who have an allergy to peanut butter. There is a product on the market, “School Safe Soy Butter Spread” that is available to consumers. There may be other similar products on the market as well. Should such a product be brought to school that looks, smells and tastes like real peanut butter (but isn’t real peanut butter), it places staff in a position of having to decide definitively if the product is or isn’t real peanut butter. Board members are not qualified food experts. Therefore, as directed by the board, all peanut butter substitutes are to be treated in the same manner as real peanut butter. Please do not send these items to school.

Nutrition Bits

Healthy eating contributes to the physiological, mental and social wellbeing of individuals. Here are some healthy snack ideas:

- fruit (fresh or canned)
- granola bars (not chocolate coated)
- pudding made with milk
- white or chocolate milk
- carrot and celery sticks



Canada’s Food Guide is an educational tool to help to establish healthy eating habits and meet nutritional needs. For more information, visit Canada’s Food Guide: www.canadasfoodguide.net.

EQAO

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.

An example of a Grade 3 Mathematics Question

Which list shows the lengths from shortest to longest?

- a) 2m; 50m; 300 cm
- b) 50 m; 300cm; 2m
- c) 300cm; 50m; 2m
- d) 2m; 300cm; 50m



An example of a Grade 6 Mathematics Question

If $n \times 3 = 24$ and $n + 40 - s = 36$, what is the value of s ?

- a) 8
- b) 10
- c) 12
- d) 14

Before/After School Extended Day Program

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is pleased to offer a fee based Extended Day Program for children from JK to Grade 6. If you are interested in enrolling your child in an Extended Day Program, please express interest by pre-registering for the 2017-2018 school year. To register visit www.wcdsb.ca and follow the Extended Day Program links to 2017-2018 Viability Registration.

Extended Day Programs:

- Led by knowledgeable Early Childhood Educators (ECE)
- Operate from 7:00 a.m. to school starting bell time and school ending bell time to 6:00 p.m.
- Provides convenient, consistent programming for parents and children
- Allows for full time schedules or part time schedules that follow a weekly recurring set of days
- Are available for an affordable fee offering a variety of payment methods, including most major credit cards
- Are eligible for Region of Waterloo child care subsidy

Extended Day Programs will operate only at sites with sufficient parent/guardian demand. Program location will be announced through the Board. If you would like to know more about our WCDSB Extended Day Programs, please email extended.day@wcdsb.ca

***Our Catholic schools...heart of the community, success for each, a place for all.
The call of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board is to educate and to nurture
hope in every learner to achieve their full potential to transform God's world.***