

## St. Francis Catholic School

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[www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)

***We are People of Hope***

January 2017



### **Principal Message**

A warm welcome back is extended to all of our families within the St. Francis Catholic School Community. We certainly hope that the Christmas season was one filled with memorable moments and wonderful blessings.

It was incredible to witness so many generous donations to the Food Drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the many items of new hats, mitts, scarves and socks that were also donated on behalf of our St. Francis School families.

It was wonderful to come together as a Catholic school community for our Advent Family Mass at St. Ambrose Parish. Thank you to our many families for their generous donation of treats for our social that was led afterwards. St. Francis Catholic School Community certainly demonstrated the call to service through their many acts of kindness during the Advent Season.

As we begin another year, let us take the time to celebrate, and remember to be grateful for our many blessings, reflect on what was good during the past year, perhaps what was not so good, and what we may want to do differently in this New Year. During the month of January, we are called to reflect on the Baptism of Jesus and our own Baptism. Just like John the Baptist, we can know Jesus is our Lord.

We look forward to our continued working together.

Sincerely, *R. Bumbacco Sodaro*, Principal

### **PA Day: Friday, January 27**

Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day. There will not be any classes for students 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.

### **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](http://www.wcdsb.ca) or check out our board Twitter account: @WCDSBNewswire. Information is also communicated on the Transportation website: [www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.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. Please note that transportation cancellations do not automatically mean schools are closed.

If school is to be closed during the day, students will not be dismissed until 11.30 A.M. for morning closure or at the regular 3:15 P.M. dismissal. Students will be dismissed according to the request identified by parent/guardians earlier this year.



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.

### **Catholic School Council**

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

### **Math Tips for Home: Proportional Thinking**

The more experience children have to make mathematical comparisons, the more they are likely to progress to thinking proportionally (comparisons using multiplication)<sup>1</sup>. For example, the father is about twice the height of the boy. Many researchers agree that proportional thinking and reasoning is a complex process that takes time to develop.<sup>2</sup>

Whenever possible, ask questions where your child(ren) will need to compare quantities. You may ask for help when following a recipe by increasing the final amount. For example, if the recipe makes 10 cookies, then ask about the ingredient amounts needed if you want to make 15 cookies.

Parents/guardians may want to talk about different ages and have children compare them. For instance, "Mommy is 31 years old and you are 10 years old. How much older is Mommy than you?" You might expect to hear the response of 21 years older, but deeper proportional reasoning moves towards multiplication. Therefore, the response that Mommy is about 3 times as old as the child, requires a greater degree of thinking.

- 1 Doing Mathematics with Your Child : A Parent Guide by the Ontario Ministry of Education.
- 2 Paying Attention to Proportional Reasoning. Ontario Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat.

### **EQAO**

Test booklets and examples of student answers from the past five years are available at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). There is also a parent resource section for your perusal on the EQAO website.

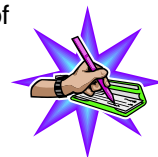
### **An example of a Grade 3 Mathematics Question**

Kathy and Michael go to a craft store to buy paint and brushes.  
One bottle of paint costs \$5, and 1 brush costs \$3.  
Kathy buys 1 bottle of paint and 4 brushes.  
Michael buys 2 bottles of paint and 1 brush.  
How much more money does Kathy spend than Michael? Show your work.



### An example of a Grade 6 Mathematics Question

A store has 11.2 kg of potatoes. Maria buys 572 g of potatoes from the store and Colin buys 1.42 kg of potatoes from the store. After these two purchases, how many grams of potatoes does the store have left? Show your work.



### Attendance/Late Check Program

It is very important that if your child(ren) is ill, has a medical appointment, or will be late for any reason, that you contact the school with the necessary information: full name and grade, teacher's name, and reason your child(ren) will be absent. Our school answering machine is in service 24 hours a day. Please note that we must receive a call from a parent or caregiver. If your child(ren) does not arrive at school, and you have not contacted us, we will attempt to contact you at home or at your place of work. Please keep us updated on current and active phone numbers.

### Visitors and Volunteers

Parents/guardians who wish to speak with a staff member during the day, including before school begins in the morning, are asked to wait until the office has notified the staff member. We respectfully ask that you please do not go directly to the classroom.

Similarly, parents/guardians are asked to not go onto the school yard while students are outside. For the safety of all, please check in at the office.



### Electronics

Please note that no electronics are to be brought to school (mp3 players, gaming systems, etc.) other than for instructional use in the classroom under the direction of staff. Cellular phones are not permitted to be used at school during any school time, including recesses. If students require cellular phones specifically for safety reasons, to and from school, the students must be sure that the cellular phones are placed in a safe location and turned off.

There will be opportunity for students to bring personal devices such as laptops, Ipods and tablets to class for instructional purposes (i.e. research) under the direction of staff who have assigned the work. These devices are for classroom use only. Students will be required to complete the form, "*Student Acceptable Use of Outside Technology Equipment/Student Personal Electronic Device Consent Form*" which is kept on file for the school year. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged personal devices.

Electronics that are found at school that are not being used for instructional purposes will be removed from the student, and forwarded to the office. The items will be returned to the student after a parent/guardian has been notified. A parent/guardian will be asked to come to the office to pick up the items, as these items will not be returned directly to the student. Please refer to the school agenda that was sent home on the first day of school.

### Digital Images

Our students and staff enjoy opportunities to share some of their activities with parents/guardians, and the school community through teams, clubs, and special events. Many of these are "memory making" for families and as such photographs are often taken. We ask that families exercise their discretion when taking photographs or videos at school events and consider the privacy of other students who may also be present in those pictures. We would appreciate if families not upload images of students other than their own to the Internet (e.g. YouTube; Facebook). Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **Safe Schools Team ~ Virtue of the Month**

For *January*, the focus of the month is *Enthusiastic Learner*. When students display this quality, they demonstrate their eagerness to explore new ideas and complete new tasks by taking risks; they show and model leadership by being involved in the school community, and being an active member of groups; they have a positive attitude and show initiative in their learning. These are the look fors/expectations the staff will be looking for when recognizing the student of the month for January.

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Special Lunch Days**

Lunch Box Orders are on Wednesdays and Pizza Days are on Monday and Friday. Please place orders through School Cash on Line. Please be careful of the deadline for ordering.

### **Nutrition Bits**

Here are some helpful tips when thinking about lunch preparation:



- Place items like juice boxes and individual yogurts in the freezer for about an hour in the morning. They will be half frozen when you put them into the lunch bag, and they will still be cold at lunch time.
- Ask your child(ren) to bring home anything he/she doesn't eat. This way one can get a sense of the amounts of food to pack for snacks and lunches, and see which food is a favourite/least favourite.
- If your child(ren) doesn't like to eat the crust off the bread, trim the crust off the bread before making the sandwiches. Then freeze the crusts in a freezer bag and use them to make bread crumbs.
- Make trail mix with Cheerios, Shreddies, raisins and mini chocolate chips.

### **Library News**

The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program, with over 250,000 readers taking part every year. Readers have the unique opportunity to vote on their favourite nominated book for their age group.



In our library, the Blue Spruce, Silver Birch and Red Maple Reading Programs are starting. Blue Spruce books will be read to students in Grades JK to 2. After we have read all ten books, students will vote on their favourite ahead of the provincial voting. Students in Grade 3 to 6 may choose to join the OLA's Silver Birch programs. Fiction and Non-fiction programs are being offered in the library each containing 10 books. Students in Grades 7 and 8 may join the Red Maple fiction program. Students who read 5 or more from a category will have an opportunity to vote on their favourite in late April. You can visit [www.accessola.org](http://www.accessola.org) to see this year's selection. Thank you to Mrs. Brunt for bringing the Forest of Reading to St. Francis.

***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.***

