

St. Francis Catholic School
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“Walking Forward Together as People of Hope”

May 2017

Principal’s Message

As we celebrate the month of May, may we give thanks to the mothers within our school community, and let us also remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who was totally receptive to the Word of God. She knew the great love of God, the one who watched over her and her son. May Mary continue to be an inspiration to us in our daily lives.

A sincere thank you is extended to our school community of staff, parents and students for their very generous contributions towards our Bake Sale. We raised \$937.00 to help build a school in Educador. Thank you also is extended to our families for your contributions to our “PJ Day” to help support Nutrition for Learning. We raised \$180.00. Your generosity is appreciated.

Our Grade 2 students will receive the Sacrament of First Communion on May 6th at St. Ambrose’s Parish at 1:00 p.m. Thank you to Ms. Correia for her leadership as she prepares our students for this very special day. Our Grade 8 students will take part in a Residential Retreat at Mount Mary. They will be in Ancaster from May 17th to May 19th with Mrs. Lemos, Mrs. Kroetsch, Mademoiselle Sliter, Mrs. Maw and our school chaplain Mr. Schneider. May this time be one of spiritual growth and prayerful celebration for our Grade 2 and Grade 8 students of St. Francis.

Congratulations are extended to Ms. Correia and Mrs. Maw who receive certificates of recognition of 5 to 10 Years of service with Waterloo Catholic. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to Catholic Education and St. Francis Catholic School.

We welcome Ms. Lawrence to our St. Francis Team in the role of Library Technician beginning the week of May 8th. She will be on site Tues. and Wed. all day, and Frid. mornings. Mrs. Brunt will be working at St. Gregory’s and St. Brigid; we wish her all the very best at her new schools.

This month we celebrate Catholic Education Week, and the theme is “*Walking Forward Together as People of Hope.*” During May 1st to May 5th, parents/guardians are invited to visit the classrooms: 9:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. and 12:45 P.M. to 2:45 P.M. We have a number of events/activities planned for this week:

Mon. May 1st:

- 10:30, Student of the Month Assembly
- 12:40, Free the Children Motivational Presentation, Gr.’s 2 to 8

Tues. May 2nd:

- 12:45, Marian Celebration

Wed. May 3rd:

- Mini We Day



Thurs. May 4th:

- Grade 2 Retreat at St. Ambrose’s Parish
- 5:30 to 7:00, Family Math Night

Frid. May 5th:

- 1:30, Blues Council Presentation, Gr. 2 to 8
- PM, Celebrating Multiculturalism in JK/SK, Gr. 1

It is truly evident that St. Francis Catholic School is a proud place to be. The students are actively engaged in their learning, model the example of Jesus through their generous acts of service and kindness towards all others, and many learning opportunities are available to them under the leadership of our dedicated staff. We have many reasons to thank our loving God...St. Francis Catholic School Community is one of those many reasons. Sincerely, R. Bumbacco Sodaro, Principal

Victoria Day Holiday, May 22nd

Students are not at school on the Victoria Day Monday, May 22nd.

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 24th at 5:30 p.m. in our school library and all are most welcome to join us.

Grade 3 and 6 EQAO Testing

Please keep our grade 3 and 6 students in your thoughts as they participate in the EQAO testing at the end of this month and beginning of next month (May 23rd to June 5th). We are very proud of all of their work in preparation for this provincial assessment. This assessment provides the opportunity for our students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of reading, writing and mathematics. 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 EQAO website.

An Example of a Grade 3 EQAO Question

Look at the two pattern rules below.

Start at 1 and add 3 each time. Start at 1 and add 4 each time. Which of these numbers is in both patterns?

1. 4
2. 5
3. 9
4. 13



An Example of a Grade 6 EQAO Question

Which of the following fractions has the smallest value?

1. $\frac{4}{5}$
2. $\frac{4}{4}$
3. $\frac{4}{3}$
4. $\frac{4}{2}$



Math Bits: Exploring Number Sense

The math strand of Number Sense involves an understanding of and an ability to manipulate numbers (e.g. computations like adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing). A strong foundation in number sense creates opportunities for future math success. It is important that children see that numbers are everywhere. Younger learners focus on counting and as they get older focus on fractional amounts, proportions and alternate number systems (e.g. integers or negative numbers). Encouraging the exploration of number outside of school helps to build math capacity and helps students to recognize the importance of being numerate as a critical life skill.

Tips for a Home Connection to Math

(Doing Mathematics with Your Child: A Parent Guide by the Ontario Ministry of Education)

Mathematicians in K-3:

- Wherever possible, ask your child to help you count a variety of objects (e.g. toys, cutlery, clothing from the dryer). Sing counting songs together and have your child skip count (by twos, fives or tens) to count larger sets of objects faster.
- Play number games. Have your child look for number symbols in games like “I spy”. For example, “I spy something that has a 5 on it.” Ask questions such as, “Each chair has 4 legs and we have 4 chairs, I wonder how many legs there are altogether.”

Mathematicians in Gr. 4-8:

- Play money games: banker vs. accountant can be made simple or increasingly difficult. For example, “I have \$1.75 in my bank. 1) “What possible combinations of coins might I have?”
- When eating food, ask questions about fractions. For example, “Did you eat more than half of your apple? How do you know?” or, “Would you like more or less than one-quarter of the carrots in the bowl?”

Nutrition Bits

Breakfast is an important meal of the day as it gives the brain and body the energy it needs to learn, play and grow. A complete breakfast is made from food chosen from at least 3 of the 4 Food groups of Canada’s Food Guide: one or more servings from the Grain Products group; one or more servings from the Vegetables and Fruit group; one serving from the Milk and Alternatives or the Meat and Alternatives groups.



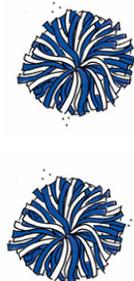
<i>Some Possible Breakfast Ideas</i>			
Unsweetened cereal Sliced banana Milk	English muffin Milk Grapes	Scrambled eggs Pita bread or tortilla Tomato juice	Whole Wheat Bagel Cheese Apple juice
Bran muffin Apple Milk or cheese	Cereal bar Yogourt Fruit	Hot cereal Milk Fresh orange	Leftover pizza Milk

Safe Schools Team ~ Virtue of the Month

For *May*, the focus of the month is “*Perseverance.*” When students display this quality, they put hard work into everything they do; they never give up even when something is challenging; they keep trying and are patient until they get the job done.” These are the look fors the staff will be noticing when recognizing the student of the month for May.

Safe Schools Team ~ Good Deeds

As part of our Good Deeds Initiative, every time a student receives a Good Deed Coupon, he/she also receives a pompoms 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 a complimentary Pizza Day, Popcorn Day and a possible trip to the Movies. We are almost at Pizza Day. Way to go, Lions!



Safe Schools Team ~ Behaviour at Recess

Our goal as a school community is to track student behaviour 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. When a Green Slip is given, this information is communicated to the parent/guardian via a label in the agenda book. The chart indicates the common consequence for students if 1 to 3 Green Slips are received for the same student.

<i>Green Slip</i>	<i>Common Consequence</i>
#1	Walk with Staff at AM 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>

Electronics

Electronics are not 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.

Class Organization for September 2017

In June, I will begin to meet with staff to begin the preliminary discussion of creating class lists for next September which is our last year as a St. Francis School Community. This is a long, comprehensive process in which considerable time is given. The task is complex, and must be the subject of many revisions. Staffing for September 2017 is a long way from being settled at this point.

HOW CAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS PROVIDE INPUT TO THIS PROCESS?

Parent/guardian input is welcome in this process – within the following parameters. You, as parents/guardians, know the ways your child learns best; you know what he/she needs in terms of the development of work habits and study skills; you know some effective discipline techniques that bring out the best in your child and maintain his/her dignity. There are a number of important details that would be invaluable to the staff as we create class lists.

We, at the school, will then take the information we have to make the best decision for your child. Our goal at St. Francis Catholic School is to develop balanced classes. A balanced class reflects the diversity of our community and allows the variety of interests and talents of our learners to emerge and be appreciated. Like families, the class unit provides a balance of opportunities for a range of learners to succeed through appropriate challenges. Like the community, school is a socializer. So each New Year brings opportunities to meet and make new friends and expand our circle of acquaintances.

Some of the many criteria we use to build classes are:

- 1) Balance of ability, interests and talents.
- 2) Balance according to gender.
- 3) Learning Style: How does the learner go about the process of learning?
- 4) Social Blending: What is the best cluster of individuals to effectively, efficiently learn?



For you to state a teacher preference would not be helpful or in most cases even possible to accommodate. As well, statements about other children in terms of them being placed with or not with your child are also discouraged. Groupings of this nature will, by and large, be a staff decision, as staff observes on a daily basis those students who work well with others...and those who don't. As a General Rule, your comments about your child's strengths and needs are most appropriate and welcome and, conversely, comments about other individuals – staff or students – are not. If you wish to give input into this process, please write your comments and send them directly to me. These comments should be given to the office by the end of May. Thank you for your support of St. Francis School.

Moving



If your family is expecting to move prior to the Fall, we ask that you kindly notify the office as soon as possible. Families moving in and out of our community over the next few months can influence class organization. This information will be especially helpful as we plan for the next school year.

*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.*

