

## St. Francis Catholic School

60 McDonald Avenue  
Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 4J2  
519-621-0371  
[www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)

November 2016



*"May we daily live the peace we pray and hope for in our world."*

### **Principal's Message**

As the first term continues to move along, it is quite apparent that St. Francis Catholic School is a dynamic place to be. Students are actively engaged in their learning, and model the Image of Jesus through their interactions with one another in the classroom and out on the yard. Students most definitely demonstrate their gift of self to each other, as was evident in their generous contributions to our Terry Fox Campaign (\$2432.55). Congratulations are extended to the Fontes Family, who earned the Terry Fox t-shirt for bringing in the highest amount of pledges.

For the month of November, we will pray for members of our school community. Thank you for forwarding your Intentions. The form was sent home in October. If you did not have a chance to complete the form and send in your intentions, please come by the office for the form or send a note in your child's agenda for one to be sent home.

Please check out our School Website at [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca). This link will lead you to our board website. Once there, please click "Schools" and then scroll down to St. Francis. On our school website, parents/guardians are able to sign up for "Newswire", check out some valuable resources under Library, and see our amazing photos that capture all that we do at St. Francis.

Our school wide Remembrance Day Celebration is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the gym. All are most welcome to join us.

For this school year, Officer Mike Douglas will be on site once a month. He will spend time in the classrooms working with the classroom teacher under her direction. And Officer Mike will also be on the yard at last recess on the days he is on site to interact and have fun with our school community. This is a great way to help promote a positive connection with youth while in the schools. We welcome Officer Mike to our St. Francis Community.

As we celebrate the month of November, let us remember the individuals who have died in war, and for the families who suffer the loss of their loved ones. Let us also remember in our prayers, our own family members and friends who have gone before us, and ask all those in heaven to pray for us.

Peace be with you,  
R. Bumbacco Sodaro, Principal

### **Professional Activity Day**

Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day. There will be no classes for students on this day. Staff will be involved in professional development activities.

### **Progress Reports: Grades 1 to 8**

Progress Reports are being distributed on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, and this is the home copy. Kindly ensure that the envelope is returned to your child's classroom teacher. Parents/guardians are asked to sign the original copy of the progress report at the interview.



### **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

Interviews will be held on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Interview time assigned for each student in Grade 1 to 8 is sent home with the progress report to the youngest child. Please contact the office or your child(ren)'s classroom teacher, if you are unsure of the interview time assigned. Please note that interviews are welcome at anytime throughout the school year to discuss progress, next steps and celebrate student achievement.

### **Catholic School Council**

St. Francis Catholic School Council will continue to provide excellent support to meet the needs of our students, and indeed the entire school community. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. All are most welcome to attend.

### **Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser**

We are excited about our Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser this month from November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>. The money raised will be used for chrome books, outdoor/indoor recess equipment, and to help offset school trips/bussing costs, and agendas. The cookie dough is easy to make: drop the cookie dough from the spoon onto a cookie sheet, bake, and it's ready to be enjoyed by all just in time for the Holiday Season fast approaching. Thank you for your support of this School Council Fundraiser.



### **Medication at School**

If you will require your child(ren) to receive ANY form of medication, either over the counter (Tylenol, cough medicine), or prescription, the school is required to have on file, your signed consent. Please contact the office or your child's teacher if you require an "Administration of Oral Medication Form" for your child(ren). We are not able to accept a verbal request to administer any form of medication. The medication is to be kept in the office cabinet, and must be administered by one of the staff.

### **Safety of All ~ Peanut Butter and Substitutes**

We have some students in our school 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.

### **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. Students and staff may not know you; for the safety of all, please check in at the office.

Throughout the day, schools often have many volunteers/visitors who enter the school. The Board policy is that all volunteers/visitors to a school must sign in at the main office when they arrive, and sign out when they leave the school building. A name tag is also to be worn so that school personnel and students can identify the volunteer/visitor as someone who is “safe”. This policy is designed to protect children from coming into contact with a stranger, and your understanding is most appreciated.



### **Safety of Our Students**

On occasion, your child(ren) may indicate that a “Lockdown Practice” or a “Tornado Drill” was called at school. Please be assured that the safety of all students is paramount, therefore, we have these practices/drills, similar to a “Fire Drill” to ensure that as a school community we can respond quickly. Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions. We will continue to practise with our students throughout the year. Again, we have these practices so to ensure the safety of our school community.



### **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](http://www.ontario.ca/concussions).

### **Electronics**

Please note that no electronics are to be brought to school (iPod's, mp3 players, gaming systems, etc.). 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.

Electronics that are found at school 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.

There will be opportunity for students to bring personal devices such as laptops, Ipods, and tablets to class for instructional purposes (ie. research) under the direction of staff who have assigned the work. These devices are for classroom use only. Students are required to complete the form, “*Students 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.

### **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**

As part of our St. Francis school community, each month there is a “quality/descriptor” that is a focus and fostered throughout the school. For *November*, the focus of the month is making good choices in the classroom and on the school yard. When students display this quality, they demonstrate the ability to think through the consequences of their choices; make choices that are positive, selfless, consider the feelings of others and follow the rules/procedures. These are the look fors/expectations the staff will be looking for when recognizing the student of the month for November. Our Safe Schools Team Meeting is on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. in the library. If interested, please join Mrs. Woodman, Mrs. Kroetsch and Mrs. Bumbacco Sodaro for this meeting. Kindly let the office know of your interest.

On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. Enrol Lee will be at St. Francis during Anti Bullying Week. We applied for a Grant and were successful in our application to cover the cost of his afternoon presentations.



- From 12:45 p.m. to Recess: Enrol Lee will present “The Golden Rule” to our JK/SK to Grade 3 classes. Through music, messaging and fun, he will talk about feelings and emotions and the simple rule of thumb for behavior: “The Golden Rule”.
- From 2:15 p.m. to Dismissal: Enrol Lee will present “The Hero Club” to Grades 4 to 8. His presentation supports our work about having a Growth Mindset. He will focus on the power of Empathy, Respect, Optimism and Care.

### **City of Cambridge Anti-Idling By-law 164-09 and School No Idling Zones**

The City of Cambridge has its Anti-Idling By-law as of December 1, 2010 whereby there is a one minute idling time limit. Enforcement staff will issue tickets (\$40.00) within School and City Hall No Idling Zones for persons parked and idling. It is anticipated that enforcement staff will concentrate on drop off and pick up times at the schools, as these times were identified as having the highest levels of emissions. There are exemptions for engaged emergency or work vehicles, or vehicles in the process of using a lift for persons with wheelchairs or other mobility assist devices. The by-law defines the School No Idling Zone as the property and parking lots as well as the adjacent streets to the school parcels. If you have any questions, please contact the school and/or the City of Cambridge.

### **Nutrition Bits**

A chocolate covered granola bar with marshmallows and chocolate chips is more like a chocolate bar. If you're buying granola bars to boost your child's nutrition, look for this information on the Nutrition Facts panel:

*Serving size (or per 1 bar): 30-40 grams*

*Fat: 5 grams or less*

*Trans fat: 0 g*

*Fibre: 2 g or more*

*Sugars: 8-12 grams (some bars have fruit so their sugar content will be higher.)*

If you can't find a granola bar that is similar to these criteria in the cereal section of the grocery store, try the health food section ...you are able to get some other products to choose from in the same price point.



*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.*

