

Administration Report: January 13, 2020

Achieving

Focus on Math: On Nov. 19 and Nov. 20, Mrs. Wrixon-Relf and Mrs. Jobity attended a 2-day workshop with expert Alex Lawson, and Mrs. Meredith and Mrs. Wieshar participated in specialized meetings as Division Leaders on Dec. 4. Admin also participates in regular math education sessions run by the Curriculum Dept. Math professional development to be a standing item on staff meeting agendas and is a major focus of the School and Board Improvement Plan.

Parent-teacher interviews were held the evening of Nov. 21 and all-day Nov. 22. Next year, we will move to an electronic registration system for scheduling interviews.

An Administration meeting with Superintendent Jeff Crowell on Nov. 29th was held to discuss school improvement planning.

Grade 8 Transition Meetings on Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 occurred between classroom teachers, SERTs, Admin and staff from Jean Vanier to supports students with special learning needs with planning and transitioning to high school.

Student Success Meetings on Dec. 4 and Dec. 16 were held with Admin and SERTs to support classroom teachers with strategies to support students falling below benchmark in Language and Math.

Grade 5 and 6 students participated in field trips to Toronto in December. Grade 6 visited the Science Centre and Grade 5 students visited Ripley's Aquarium.

Believing

Advent prayers began Dec. 2 over the announcements to coincide with the lighting of each week's Advent candle.

We also moved to reciting the Board's Focus on Faith Prayer in the morning on the announcements.

A new faith initiative around Christian Meditation began with the start of Advent and continues school-wide on Wednesdays after lunch each week. Sessions are student-led over the announcements.

Advent Mass was celebrated with Fr. Jim Petrie on Dec. 10 in the gym.

The Primary Christmas concert took place on Dec. 11th and was well attended, as was the Kindergarten Christmas Concert on Dec. 17. The rest of the school was invited to attend the dress rehearsal performances.

Belonging

The Paint the Town Red Day on Nov. 29 raised \$1260.00 for United Way's Milton Community Fund.

Constable McMullan, our School Liaison Officer, spoke to the Grade 6-8 students on Nov. 29 about various relevant topics related to school safety including social media awareness and physical altercations.

Food and Gift Card Drive throughout Advent was established to support families both in our school community and through the Salvation Army led by students on our Faith Team, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Plati. A generous \$980.00 was collected in gift cards.

Christmas Craft Night was a sold-out event on Dec. 12th with over 150 families in attendance. Marvin Duarte, Milton Trustee, also attended.

A Christmas door decorating contest was held on Dec 18 and a pizza party was awarded the winning class from each division.

We had 2 Spirit Days in December: Pajama Day on Dec. 19 and a Red, Green and White on Dec. 20.

The Intermediate Dance-Off competition was held on Dec. 19 in American Idol style, with Mrs. James' class awarded as winners.

A Mental Health and Wellbeing Team of 8 staff members was established in December and will be invited to participate in Board provided Mental Health training throughout the school year.

Code of Conduct Assemblies took place with the primary, junior and intermediate divisions on Jan. 7 to review appropriate behaviour and recess expectations with students.

PALS (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools) and STEM Club continue over the lunch hour. A group of Grade 7 STEM club members will be competing this Wednesday at the Ontario Skills Competition.

A Gr. 8 Band under the direction of Mrs. Cilia begins today. Auditions to be held.

Other Items

The GA Book Fair raised \$2500.00 for the school in commissions.

A Grade 8 Ottawa trip meeting was held on the evening Dec. 2 for parents.

Over the holidays the Library flooring was updated, and other improvements will continue including painting, the addition of a Lego wall, and ceiling outlets.

On Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 will be early registration for students attending Kindergarten in Sept. 2020.

Jan. 31 is a PD Day.

A Grade 7 Camp Brebeuf trip meeting will be held Feb. 3 for parents.

Family of Schools Community Evening Event: During Education Week, on May 7, Grade 8 students will be bussed to Queen of Heaven School to see Paul Davis presenting about Social Media: Accountability and Responsibility in a Digital World. He will also present to parents in an evening presentation at Jean Vanier Secondary School along with 2 other guest speakers. Funding provided by the Pro Grant.

Our GA sports teams are in fine form. The Sr. Girls Volleyball team made it to the first round of the playoffs, and The Sr. Boys finished the season 4th in Halton. Our Jr. Volleyball teams are participating in tournaments next week, and our school hosted a Jr. Girls tournament last week. The Ice Hockey team

will participate in 3 tournaments in the coming weeks, and our Gr. 4/5 Floor Hockey team play in 2 tournaments this month. The Sr. Basketball teams have been selected and their season will officially begin in mid-Feb.

Beat the Winter Blues Spirit Days:

Feb. 7 – Jersey Day

Feb. 12 – Red/Pink/White Day

Feb. 21 – Silly Sock Day

Feb. 28 – Crazy Hair Day

School Website Update - The GA website is regularly updated with new information including: Weekly Updates, School Council Agendas/Minutes, and Upcoming Events. Parents can subscribe to our calendar and it will push events into your personal calendars as they are updated on our website.