

Catholic School Council Administrators' Report

November 2, 2020

Believing

Parish Update

St. Benedict Parish has recently begun offering a Virtual Children's Liturgy Classroom because during mass no children's liturgy can be offered. There are many "click-able" items in the classroom that open to the current gospel message and other resources. This is promoted in our school's Weekly Update to parents.

A sacramental preparation parent meeting was to be held in mid-October but was rescheduled. The church opening has been pushed again, and Fr. Jim wants to wait until the new year to provide further information. Gr. 3 First Communion and Gr. 7 Confirmation will likely be during the Winter months 2021. Gr. 2 First Communion during the Spring.

School Donation

We were blessed with a generous gift donation from the Pires family. They donated a large beautifully framed print of the Sacred Heart of Jesus which is mounted for display in our front hall and was blessed by Fr. Jim at our school's October liturgy for the Feast of the Guardian Angels on Oct. 2nd.

Achieving

Rise 'N Shine Program

Our Special Education Resource Teachers are resuming the Rise 'N Shine reading program. The program is offered to 10 students who are struggling readers in Grade 2. Teachers are asked to flag students who are struggling readers. The program involves 1-1 before school reading sessions with an Educational Assistant 3x/week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:45-8:10 am. The focus is to develop fluency as well as comprehension strategies.

Annual Curriculum Night

A Virtual Curriculum Night will be held Thursday, November 5th from 6:30-8pm. We will start the evening with an Introduction and Welcome from the Admin. Team followed by the teachers offering 3 identical sessions each at different times to offer families choice and the opportunity to attend sessions for multiple children in the family. The schedule is as follows:

- 6:30-6:45 – Admin. Team Welcome
- 6:50-7:10 – Session 1
- 7:15- 7:35 -Session 2
- 7:40-8:00 – Session 3

*Sessions are 15 min. with 5 min. in between for time for technical glitches, and to allow parents to log out/login as their next child.

HCDSB is one of only 2 Boards in the province hosting a Curriculum Night this year. We feel that now more than ever, it is important to foster the home-school connection due to the isolating nature of the pandemic.

Learning Environment Survey Results

Oct. 19th marked the switch date for those students who opted to change learning environments. We had 20 students opt to switch to virtual learning and had 17 students switch to in-person learning. As a result, no class/school reorganization was necessary. The next learning environment switch date is Jan. 4th. Another survey will be sent to parents from the Board in December.

Progress Report Cards

The teacher in whose class the child resides as of Oct. 19th is responsible for writing the November Progress Report and must connect with the previous teacher to seek their input. Progress Reports go home November 24th and Virtual Parent Interviews are the evening of November 26th and all day November 27th. Parents can elect to have either a telephone call or virtual interview with the teacher(s).

Belonging

Halloween Festivities

Our Halloween Dance and Pumpkin Decorating Contest was a hit with staff and students. Each in-person and virtual class was invited to decorate a pumpkin generously donated by the Real Canadian Superstore (50 pumpkins in all). We offered each division a prize of their choosing in Kindergarten Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Virtual. Winning pumpkins were featured on Twitter. The Halloween Dance afforded classes an opportunity to see all the pumpkins in the contest and some additional DPA time in the gym. A special thanks to Mrs. Pipe our CYC for being our DJ.

Spirit Days

We plan to host Spirit Days (at least 1x/mo.) to bring a little joy into our school. Students will be afforded an opportunity to suggest and vote on the next spirit day.

Equity and Inclusion Initiative – Anti-Racism and Anti-Black Racism

This initiative is designed to spark a system wide conversation on engaging with anti-Black racism work in schools. Anti-Black racism continues to be a pervasive issue in education and needs to be addressed intentionally in order to dismantle systemic barriers and disproportionate outcomes. Mrs. Filice has volunteered to be our school's Equity Champion and along with Admin. is charged with developing an action plan for addressing the need for staff capacity building around issues of Anti-Racism and Anti-Black Racism. Our aim is to support staff to develop their equity lens focusing on all aspects of our school culture and curriculum and offer tools to observe, reflect,

challenge assumptions and consider diverse perspectives regarding student well-being and achievement.

CYC Initiatives

In addition to supporting students/teachers through classroom programs, our CYC supports families by liaising with several outside community agency programs. We support families via the Food4Kids program and now the FEED program. Food4Kids provides packages of healthy food for kids aged 4-14 yrs. old with limited or no access to food over the weekend. The FEED Project was developed to support vulnerable families who could use some extra food on their tables. Bonnie, the coordinator of FEED, collects baked goods from COBS bakery and distributes it to families in the community each week.

Elementary-Secondary Transition Initiative

Each Family of Schools is provided a budget to support cross panel planning for students in Grades 7-10 with a focus on supporting Grade 8 students transitioning into their HCDSB Secondary School. The Cross Panel Team is charged with developing a budget and implementing a series of events to support this transition. See also St. Francis Xavier's Budget/Event Plan (attached).

Staff Wellness Initiative

The Board is promoting staff well-being through the Staff Wellness Initiative. GA has a staff wellness committee led by Mrs. Pipe (CYC) which is tasked with developing a plan to improve staff morale. The first event had Mr. Hawken and Mrs. Pipe delivering hot beverages last week to staff before school. We also gave everyone a treat bag for Halloween. We plan to organize order-in hot lunch days (staff paid), easy meal ideas for busy families, and staff gentle yoga/meditation sessions after school.