

## **Catholic School Council Administrator's Report: January 21, 2021**

### **Catholicity and Community of Culture and Caring (Believing and Belonging):**

#### **Bullying Awareness Week – November 16- 20**

Announcements were read over the PA system every morning. Teachers were encouraged to incorporate key messages from announcements in their daily discussions with their classes.

#### **Anti-Racism and Anti-Black Racism Action Plan Completed and Submitted to the Board**

The purpose of the Action Plan is to bring awareness to our staff and students to make a positive difference in our schools in HCDSB. Designated time at staff meetings and divisional meetings will be set aside to focus on action items within the plan.

**Sacrament Update** – Due to COVID restrictions in place at this time, Sacrament of Confirmation (for students in Grade 7) and First Communion (for students in Grade 2) are postponed until further notice from Father Con. The hope is that once churches re-open, dates will be set. With assistance from Father Con and Mrs. Brown, teachers in Grade 2 and Grade 7 will ensure the students are prepared for these Sacraments.

**Grade 7/8 Secondary Programs Presentation** – Virtual Presentations took place prior to Christmas Holidays to show various programs offered at St. Thomas Aquinas: IB, Physical Education, Business, Tech. All students in Grades 7 and 8 received STA T-shirts!

**STA Extra-Curricular Presentation for Grade 8's** – Virtual Presentation took place prior to Christmas Holidays to inform our Grade 8 students of the various extra-curricular activities that are available in high school (of course, restrictions in place during COVID).

**Keeping Christ in Christmas Contest** (Deadline Nov. 25) - Mrs. Chong's Grade 6 class participated in this Board initiative. Her class entered artwork. Other classes used the theme for art lessons.

**Virtual Advent Liturgies (Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 16)** – With the assistance of Mrs. Chong, our school celebrated three virtual Advent Liturgies together for the first three weeks of Advent. Students from various classes took part in creating the Liturgies. Classes viewed the Liturgies at the same time during the school day. Link was provided for parents/guardians to watch as well. Virtual Liturgies incorporated key messages from Father Con.

**Christmas Show (Dec 16)** – All students at St. Luke participated in our School Virtual Christmas Show. Each class had a theme to present. With the leadership of our teachers, Mr. Serrano, Mr. Saturno, Mrs. Holowatsky and Mrs. Chong, the Virtual Christmas Show was a huge success! School viewed the Virtual Christmas Show at the same time, first commencing with the Advent Liturgy. Parents/guardians received the link to view the Christmas Show as well – it was made available until December 26.

**School Christmas Tree** – All students had their photos displayed on our Christmas Tree in the front foyer of the school. Classes took turns putting up all the photos. It was a beautiful way to bring our school community together during an otherwise challenging time prior to Christmas. Special thank you to Mrs. Rosati for organizing all the photos of our students for our tree!

**Christmas Urns at Front of School** – A special thank you to Mrs. Thorn and Mr. Morris for putting together the beautiful Christmas urns at the front of the school. A very welcome addition to our front entrance of our school!

**Christmas Gift Card Donations** – Thank you to all our families who were able to donate gift cards. Our school community raised \$2, 285 worth of gift cards for St. Vincent De Paul and Acts of Kindness Network.

**December Spirit Days** – Friday, December 11: Pajama Day and Friday, December 18: Christmas Spirit Wear Day

**Christmas Cookie Grams/Candy Cane Distribution (Dec. 17)** – Thanks to all our parents who made the cookie gram initiative possible! Thank you to Mrs. Rosati for all her time assisting with the organization of the cookie gram orders. Thank you, Mrs. Guzzo for the Reindeer Candy Canes for all staff and students!

### **Achieving:**

**Resilient Students at St. Luke** - Students continue to be resilient, despite the challenges with COVID-19. Overall, students have adjusted very well to the safety measures in place. Prior to Christmas Holidays, Curriculum was being delivered at a slower pace due to the time that is needed with safety measures. Now with virtual learning, students and staff continue to be resilient and are working really hard to make virtual learning as successful as possible.

**MathUp** – Our school continues to be part of the MathUp Program this year to improve Math skills with students Grades 1- 8.

**Long Range Plans for Math** – Teachers are following the Board's long range plans for Math this school year to ensure consistency for all teachers and students (transitioning from online to face to face at school, visa versa).

**Caribou Global Math Contests** – Students in Grades 4-6, 8 continue to participate in the Caribou Global Math Contests. Thank you, Mrs. Pomirko for organizing this Math initiative for our students.

**Grade 8 Option Sheet Presentation from STA** – Took place in November. The purpose of this presentation is for students to know the differences amongst the course pathways in high school (academic, applied, life skills).

**Grade 8 Pathways Itinerant Involvement/MyBlueprint** – Itinerant Teacher working with Grade 8 students on MyBlueprint so they gain an understanding of the different educational pathways beyond Secondary School: University, College, Apprenticeship, Hard and Soft Skills.

**New Kindergarten Registrations** – Step One: Online component for early registration in January. Step Two: Documents needed for registration are confirmed with school secretary in person, once schools re-open.

### **Return to School Plan:**

#### **Routines/expectations that will continue once students are back to school:**

- Students go directly to their class lines in the morning when they arrive to school.
- Staggered entry into the building in the morning and after recess times/lunch time. Students consistently use same door.
- For the remainder of the winter months, students will continue to **use lockers to store boots, winter coats, snow pants, hats and mittens/gloves**. All other items will still be stored in the classrooms to avoid students lingering in the hallways. Students use hand sanitizer before they enter the classroom.
- **Masks will be worn at all times when students are in the school other than when eating or drinking. TBD: Masks worn outside for recess times as physical distancing is not possible. The Board will take direction from Public Health on this new safety measure.**
- Parents are encouraged to have their children arrive at school on time. If children arrive late, they go directly to class to avoid congregating in the office area.
- Use of hand sanitizer or washing of hands at the sink with soap and water has been implemented by the teachers numerous times throughout the day.
- Recess Time/Lunch Time: 2 separate recess times and lunch times to ensure students play in their designated zones.
- Washroom Use – only one student at a time in the washroom.
- Students remain in their own classrooms all day. Only exception, Mrs. Leahy's grade 3's will go to Mrs. Holowatsky's class for Science.
- Disinfectant sprays and wipes are used often by teachers in classrooms.
- Essential visitors only and meetings are to take place virtually as much as possible.
- No lunch services to date.

### **Other Items to Bring to Your Attention:**

- **Grade 8 Graduation** – Due to COVID, no plans confirmed. Board wide decision on how we will proceed with Graduation in the future.
- **Facilities Update** – In the spring, the front gardens of the school will be beautified by replacing all the bushes with other greenery (tall grasses, plants) and hopefully some armour stone!

