

Holy Cross Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday Oct 4th 2023

Attendance: Lori Leduc, Lindsey Melanson, Paola Nikodem, Amanda Nesci, Jana Hall, Sarah Duncan, Pam Anderson, Frances Cavanagh, Katie Richardson, April Abott, Angela Polischuk

Regrets: Anita Nero, Ashley Trebb, Krista Orazi, Sharon Selmen Chattaj, Rose Scopazzi, Christine Pun, Meghan McMillan, Alison Burgess, Tina Timpano

- 1) Welcome and Prayer
- 2) Introductions
- 3) Ministry guidelines -
Reviewed goals of meetings, specifically that these meetings are places for whole school improvement and it was reminded if there are specific concerns about your child, they can be addresses with teacher and administration separately
- 4) Election
Chair: Lindsey
Secretary : Katie and Paola
Parish Rep: Angela
- 5) Principals' Report
Mrs Polischuk reviewed many aspects of the school including:

Reviewed cross country running
-our school didn't attend the Kivi park event due to safety concerns, and scheduling constraints
-we are hopeful that there will be another event end of October and we have staff and volunteers willing to participate

Current enrollment 365, with expected 370, 8FI classrooms, 9 English Classrooms
-new teaching staff includes Mme Modesto (Grade 4 FI)
-SK/grade 1 FI currently has substitute teacher
-English Prep post is currently open

Program and Curriculum
-new language curriculum (released in June) based on the Right to Read report (Human Rights commission) for English language arts has commenced
-parents will now note only 1 mark (used to be oral, writing, medial, literacy) – but now there will only be 1 grade for literacy
-there are new language resources for teacher to use
-oral language is the base and then strategies to teach reading

-for FI there is no new curriculum, but some of these new resources have been giving to the teachers

-Empower Reading Program continues to be offered, two resource teachers, along with early reading intervention program for other students

-Providing the Spark reading program (online reading program) for English reading

-Providing French “Je Lis Je Lis”, for French Reading

School Supports

-We now have a clinical social worker in school Monday and Tuesday, she is in classrooms doing programming such as “Minds up curriculum” “Kids have Stress Too” “Zones of regulation”

-she can also do individual and/or small group sessions if needed

-Behaviour Support Worker, to support staff with student with needs

-Continue with Indigenous Programming; An Indigenous Elder is coming for teaching 3 session this year

-Joel Agoweissa ‘s program for kindergarden is continuing and will now include a history lesson in grade 6 classes and lunch program for any students who are interested (grades 2-5)

-Tutoring Program (English and French tutor); SLP student on Thursday, focus is primary, and a former student two mornings a week; focus in primary (K-3) to support language, small group reading

Spirit wear

-is now available for purchase (email sent out on the weekend)

-using ProAm company this year

Communication

-Communication has chosen to use a platform called “Edsby” to write report cards, attendance, it is designated as the only platform, but unfortunately it is not yet working, we have been told that they cannot use other apps such as SeeSaw, Dojo etc due to confidentiality concerns

- the only other format will be the google classroom

-hopefully the Edsby will be up soon

Snack Program

-will be up and running, doing smoothies for students (parent and community volunteers)

-there will have healthy snack program (3 food groups everyday)

Sports and Extra curriculum

-staff have signed up for ‘every sport’, running teams for tournaments but also for intramurals

-floor hockey intramural, with possibility of handball and possibly basketball

Parish Involvement

-Father Pat will continue to be involved, he will come every other Thursday and will visit various classrooms

Sacramental Registration

Grade 2 or above, can register for First Communion or Reconciliation

Various Activities have already occurred

Franco-Ontario Day, Field Trips, Truth and Reconciliation, Virtues Celebration

-reviewed that there were no 'habit' awards given at the Celebration

-it was discussed that the "Leader in Me" program has been put on hold as

Most teachers are no longer fully trained therefore it cannot actually run,

-Significant discussion occurred that high-lighted how important it was to the parent council, many members felt it was an initial draw to the school, and members advocated to return to this program

-Administration will bring this back to the team and see how this can be incorporated

6)Upcoming Activities for the Year

Book Fair (end of October/November); need volunteer – Pam may have volunteered

Family Dance (Lyndsey will head the committee, Lori, Pam, Paola, Sarah D have volunteered)

-will need to make a subcommittee

Feb 1st as a date

ACTION: subcommittee to meet and report back for next meeting

Fun Fair

Christmas concert

- during the day

-tentative dates: Dec 19/20 (A-L, M-Z)

Charities

-annual giving tree

-Neo Kids Fundraiser with St Bens in June

-discussed Share Lent as a global initiatives

-Food Drive at Christmas time or maybe after Thanksgiving

-significant discussion occurred over importance of choosing Charities that had local importance and were guided by values of intrinsic motivation

Next meeting November 15th 6pm

discussed upcoming information sessions for parent council

-suggestion of information sessions Constable Howard on online safety