



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

Principals' Report

Monday, September 18, 2023

Be Joyful----Be Loving----Be Humble----Be Forgiving

KUDOS

- Thank you to all our parents for supporting a smooth transition for their child(ren) this school year and for attending our Meet the Staff event on Wednesday, September 6th. We were pleased with the turn out.
- Thank you to our parent volunteers who came and supported our Wolves Gear table at our Meet the Staff evening
- Thank you to all parents who completed the surveys in the spring to help guide staff in implementing a strong transition back to school this year.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS

School Focus for the 2023-24 school year:

- FAITH: focusing on the word 'nurture' in our Faith Theme. Our focus will be to continue to nurture and foster faith in our staff and students throughout the year.
- SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL CULTURE:
 - collective caring for our students, staff, and families
 - academic caring- support each student in achieving success,
 - Knowing our learners
 - Implementing new curriculum
 - Assessment and reporting practices
 - logical consequences & interventions to support our students with their learning, and
 - establishing strong connections and relationships with our students.

August & September Learning Focus:

- Indigenous Teachings: Showcase of Indigenous languages - The story of Aline Spears
- Student Support Model Planning: Know, Understand and Respond to your learner
- School Culture: Safe and Caring Schools with Dr. Scott Morrison
- Learning Management System: continuing to support staff learning and ensuring student and parent access with Schoology.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2023-2024 Student Population

- 720 students Grade 6 to Grade 9
 - Decrease of 88 students from previous school year

Grade 6 (6 classes)	Grade 7 (6 classes)	Grade 8 (6 classes)	Grade 9 (7 classes)
152 (42 less)	183 (16 less)	187 (23 less)	198 (7 less)

- Current average class sizes
 - Grade 6 is 25
 - Grade 7 to 9 is 30

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

Staffing

- 55 staff members in total for this school year
- Please join us in welcoming new staff members
 - Mr. Zachary Baker (Grade 9)
 - Mrs. Joelma Bentes (EA)
 - Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel (Principal)
 - Ms. Malania Delcourt (EA)
 - Mr. Andrew Demuynck (Grade 8)
 - Mrs. Sarah Drake (EA)
 - Mr. Nick Gilbert (EA)
 - Miss Kristen Ackerman (EA)
 - Mrs. Bianna Grove (Grade 8 - Welcome Back)
 - Mrs. Christina Love (EA)
 - Mrs. Carolyn MacKay (LC)
 - Mrs. Kristin Mauro (Grade 6)
 - Mrs. Janelle Melenchuk (Grade 7)
 - Mrs. Kelsey Pfeil (Grade 7)
 - Mrs. Kathleen Robinson (Vice-Principal)
 - Mrs. Kaitlyn Van Grinsven (Grade 8)

School Wide Opening Mass

- School Opening Mass is on Thursday, September 21st at St. Francis School Gym (10:30 am). All parents are welcome to attend.

Student Grade Team Meetings with School Administration - [September Agenda LINK](#)

- School Administration met with all students early in September to launch our safe and caring school focus. These meetings will likely take place every second month or as needed throughout the school year.
- Agenda included introduction of new school administration, expectations during lunch eating time, hallways/outside, dress code, cell phone, attending school wide events including Mass, St.Pat's/Dawe Run, presentations in the gym

St. Pat's / Dawe Run

- Tuesday, September 19 - all students participating.

Extracurriculars (Athletics / Musical Production)

- Frozen Jr
- Volleyball
- Cross Country

School Wide Presentations

- Valéry Brosseau - September 13, 2023
- Legacy One - September 28, 2023

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents often ask how they can best support their child's classroom teacher and the school community. Asking your child specific questions at the end of the day that are framed in a positive manner that promotes a growth mindset. For example:

- What was your favourite part of the day today?
- What did you do during recess?
- What made your teacher smile today? What made him/her frown?
- Who is the friendliest person in your class?
- What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- Tell me about something kind you did for someone today. Did someone do something nice for you?
- Who is someone at school that could use a friend?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today?
- What are you looking forward to tomorrow at school?

Thank you to all families for:

- Communicating respectfully and thoughtfully to teachers - in emails, on the phone and in face to face communications
- Supporting your child with their learning goals
- Meeting your commitments with transportation & school fees and staying in touch with the office if you need extra time or consideration
- Supporting your child's social emotional growth: learning the value of: good manners, appreciating difference, contributing to the greater good, saying sorry, learning to forgive, working hard and playing hard too, being kind to ourselves and to one another, the power of prayer, giving service to others...

ADVISORY QUESTION

We aim every year to support open communication with all staff, students and guardians/parents. Our Week at a Glance has been an existing practice to help our community be informed. This year we strive not to send information out after 6PM or on weekends, therefore we are sending the Week at a Glance out on Friday afternoons. This is posted on our website [LINK](#) and sent to all parents/guardians via SwiftReach and contains upcoming important dates and information pertinent to the school. We also include division and community information that may be applicable.



We are seeking your feedback regarding our Week at a Glance:

1. **Should we also place this on our Social Media?**
2. **Is there anything else that should be included to help our community be informed?**

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We will be continuing with our week at a glance which is posted on our website, social media and emailed to parents. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the classroom teacher or school administration. Teachers welcome parents to contact them directly by calling the school or sending them a message. Please note that if they are teaching, on supervision or unable to take your call we ask that you leave a message and they will get back to you by the next work day. In our commitment to honour family time we will work hard not to send messages after 6:00 PM unless there is an emergency.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is a means for parents and community to work together to support and enhance student learning. School Council provides a venue for parents to reflect their wishes of the broader community of education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal.

Roles that are not to be taken on by a School council include:

- School governance
- Employment issues
- School management
- Listening to complaints.

Thank you to our parents for continuing to work in a team to meet the goals of School Council