



# St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

## Principals' Report

Monday, October 21, 2024

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

### KUDOS

To Our Parent Community: Thank you to all parents for engaging in meaningful dialogue with our staff. We are truly blessed to have such a supportive parent community working alongside us to ensure the success of every student. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we are creating the best possible environment for our students to thrive.

It truly takes a village, and we are grateful to have you as part of ours!

### STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS

#### School Focus for the 2023-24 school year:

- FAITH: focusing on the word 'serve' in our Faith Theme. Our focus will be to continue to nurture and foster faith in our staff and students throughout the year.
- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: Newly established Student Engagement Team (SET) Collaborative Groups:
  - Indigenous Education Support
  - Numeracy
  - Wellness
  - CTF
  - Literacy

#### October Learning Focus:

- Know Your Learner: reviewing student learning and data; reviewing literacy screens and how this informs instruction in all subject areas.
  - Sharing Tools to support the teaching and learning of our students
- Student Engagement: reviewing previously learned strategies and focusing on a new Total Participation Technique - True, Not True, True with Modifications, Unable to Determine based on the information given

### SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

#### 2023-2024 Student Population

- 656 students Grade 6 to Grade 9

Grade 6 (5 classes)	Grade 7 (5 classes)	Grade 8 (6 classes)	Grade 9 (6 classes)
145 (7 less)	151 (32 less)	178 (9 less)	182 (16 less)

#### Staffing

Please join us in welcoming **new** staff member:

- Mr. Jason Kelson Grade 7 (replacing Ms Pfeil / Mrs. Poulin's maternity leave)

#### Orange Shirt & National Truth and Reconciliation Day (recognized on Sept. 27th)

- Our school-based Indigenous Education Support Student Engagement Team developed a school-wide plan including a variety of grade-specific activities, viewing the division's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation presentation and participating in our "Quilt" Art Installation

#### Faith

School Wide Thanksgiving Liturgy - led by 8-3 and 8-4

- All staff and students attended Thanksgiving Liturgy on Thursday, October 18th in the gym.

St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day: October 4th

Catholic Education Week: October 20-25th

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

### **Extracurriculars**

- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Student Council: Your Voice Matters
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Basketball: Looking at offering a camp

### **Upcoming**

- Halloween Assembly & Activities: The Student Council is taking the lead on organizing and planning
- Parent Teacher Conferences: Nov. 6 & 7th - teachers will start reaching out to families that they are requesting to meet with this week and then we will open it up to all parents; an opportunity to sign up for an open spot or the “open house” in the teachers' classrooms.
- Edge Imaging Retakes: November 7th
- Remembrance Day Ceremony: led by 6-5 pm November 7th @ 10:30 am

## **ADVISORY QUESTION**

We are seeking feedback on the organization and timing of School Picture Day, especially regarding how well the process worked this year. Key topics include whether the timing supports holiday orders, the overall experience with our photo provider, and preferences for group and individual photos. Additionally, we want to explore ways to better involve parents in decisions about events like this and ensure the ordering process meets families' needs. We will be sending out a survey to all parents requesting feedback.

### **Questions for School Council:**

1. **How do you feel about the timing of School Picture Day? Would you prefer to keep it early in the year to accommodate holiday orders, or do you have other suggestions?**
2. **Knowing that this is our second round with our new provider, Edge Imaging, what feedback do you have on the quality of the photos, including the move from spring to fall group class photos?**
3. **How can we improve the ordering process to better meet parents' needs, such as ensuring photos arrive in time for the holidays?**

These questions will help us gather meaningful input to enhance future School Picture Days.

## **SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

Parents often ask how they can best support their child's classroom teacher and the school community. Ask 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 who 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 differences, contributing to the greater good, saying sorry, learning to forgive, working hard and

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playing hard too, being kind to ourselves and to one another, the power of prayer, giving service to others...

## 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 the community to work together to support and enhance student learning. School Council provides a venue for parents to reflect on their wishes for 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