



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL COUNCIL

DATE: Monday, November 21, 2016

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Seminar Room 2.1 (beside main office)

Facilitator: Bose Blokland & Julie Hofstetter

Recorder: Sharon Vitug

Prayer: Annabel MacDonald

Chaplain

- Annabel MacDonald - Chaplain of St. Mary's for 10 years. Her main role to be present and listen. She is available for the students and staff. She works closely with the priests in the area. Reconciliation is happening in November. She also plans the Grade 10 retreat and grads retreat. Father Toby is at the school every Friday morning to do mass 11:50), work with classes as individual staff/students as required.

High Skills Major

- Joan McCormick – Coop teacher spoke about the High Skills Major program which is available for grade 11 and 12. It takes a lot of planning in order to achieve, that is why they talk to kids earlier to promote the program. It enhances education and learning for students. It complements the courses your children are taking.
- There are 3 areas – courses, certifications (first aid, working from heights and Co-op). Co-op is a 2 credit course and is offered in the afternoon, morning during school, summer or at the college co-op or university co-op (only Catholic school board).
- Currently there are 79 students signed up for next year. This year there are 310 grade 11, 210 – grade 12 signed up. There are 11 different categories eg.(Health and Wellness, Justice,Business). Course selection – need 8 courses, 7 trips in a 2 year period – during school time or online and Co-op.
- Students will receive a red seal on their diploma when they graduate. Which provides scholarship opportunities for student that have the red seal.
- Question from Linda if the are going to get a Horticultural program. She has companies who will support. She is already supporting Rez. The proposal in with the board.

Student Activity Council (SAC) update

- SAC co-op presidents are Jordan and Allie. SAC is made up of individual reps that plan events. Goal is to raise school spirit, hold fund raisers and make the school fun for students.

November Activities

- Dress down day – raised \$2542 – previous years – pay \$2 to dress down, but not all people were paying, homeroom teachers didn't always enforce the \$2 for dress down. So this year students had to raise the money first before getting the dress down day. The goal was to raise \$2,500 and they needed 3 days to reach it. The next dress down day is Tuesday Nov 29th. They are going to sell wrist bands Thursday & Friday and day of. No wrist band must wear uniform. Money is going to Christmas Cheer. We didn't establish a goal for this dress down day. No dress down day is scheduled for December.
- Coffee house was Nov 3rd 6-9pm. Students perform and it recognizes the artists of the school. It is \$2 to get in. Parents are welcome to attend. Proceeds went to Home for the Holidays \$290 was raised. Tim Hortons donated coffee and Mary's café made the treats. One parent asked if we could donate baked goods but it is not allowed due to allergies.
- Ontario Leadership Conference – this is attended by 2000 students from councils across Ontario
- Anti Bullying week – 2 guest speakers for grade 9 & 10 came in today – BRAVE. Pink shirt day Wednesday Nov 23 (uniform pants required).

December up coming events

- Grade 8 night is December 1st.
- SAC is going to do a fashion show on how to wear the uniform
- Community event - Christmas Spaghetti Dinner– Dec 15th.
- Semi formal night Dec 16th – hoping to book Bingeman's – dress up, school spirit DJ, security and teachers. Tickets \$15-20 to cover costs. Tickets are not on sale yet. Normally 2 weeks before.
- Might do an Ugly Christmas sweater day – not full dress down.
- Christmas movie night Dec 21 – movie undecided. Pretty decent turn out.
- Christmas assembly – big ideas, assembly reps working on it right now, live twitter feed??, teacher challenges, have fun,
- mission collections every week – ask for loose change, take care of kids in our school – \$100 gift cards for Zehrs to families in our school.

Information Items

- Online literacy test – didn't go well. Service attack and computers did not work. The kids were amazing and very patient while we tried to figure it out. They will write on March 30th written or online. Wifi wasn't the issue.
- Community Christmas Dinner Dec 15th – nice dinner with family, looking for volunteers
- Midterm reports coming out November 22.
- Christmas Cheer fund – last year St. Mary's supported 120 families with \$100 gift cards for Zehrs. We have lost a few contributors this year. If you have any

business connections please let Mr. Dietrich know. John to provide a letter so we can approach companies for donations.

- Push for Change Challenge – a former homeless person, trying to raise money by pushing a shopping cart across Canada. He is coming through Kitchener on Monday Dec 19th – students bused to Our Lady Of Grace - 30 minute presentation. Another planning meeting next week to finalize.
- SIPSA – School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement
Process – how we develop a school improvement plan we need to engage staff
School strengths – student centre, diversity, kindness, teaching excellence, kindness, caring
School challenges - diversity, collaboration, relevance, communication
Professional learning, time, open to change, instructional collaboration
Need to involve everyone in the school – what do students need, what do staff need? 4 school learning teams – literacy, numeracy, pathways, student success.
Mr. Dietrich proposed at least 2 site based school training teams – they came up with 5 – 21st century teaching and learning (not just electronic), culturally diverse classrooms, healthy (mental, spiritual) classrooms, applied/college pathway learners, programming for students with special needs and accommodations (400 IEP students).
Developed by staff for student needs – not once a year plan, 18 month process to achieve. Need to understand what is being asked of the teachers and coming up with an action plan. Valuable process. Getting buy in from the teachers.
Wednesday Nov 23 we are meeting with the board – Derek Hame to go over the plan.
Still a work in progress. Always room for change and improvement. Involving the whole staff in the process. 3-5 year process. Long term commitment.

PIC grant

- Mr. Dietrich met with ESL teacher and classes and they are really excited and have come up with following words: welcome, chapel, library, guidance, gym, office, in all the languages in the school. We want to be able to add new languages. It shows collaboration and makes a difference. It would be nice to add that this was created by the ESL students. Put it on the website when completed.

Pro grant

- All the folders have been printed and stuffed for grade 8 night. Included how to sign up for SMH Student Activity emails.

Grade 8 night

- School council has a table 6:30 to 8:30 Dec 1 – looking for any volunteers. Come early to park. All tables will be outside the office. Folders have a pen, magnet, and welcome letter from school council,

- Parent teacher interviews – school council should consider having a booth because we have a lot parents in the school.

Other items

- Need to consider the Pro Grant for 2017
 - we should consider creating a manual for parent school council, what resources are available, roles and responsibilities.
 - Multi-cultural night – massive buy in from parents – we did this a few years ago. Daytime function and invited parents in the evening. Performances by teachers and students – it was a wonderful community event.
 - Come with some ideas in January – need to apply by March.
- Would it be possible to pre order lunch for Mary's café for kids who have period 4 lunch?
- Literacy test results – results why are they mailed and not included in the report cards? Other schools don't mail separately. Just wondering why they are not included in report cards? Mr. Dietrich is going to check.

Future Agenda Items

- Career cruising – how to do it,
- Security at school – lock down procedures