



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL COUNCIL

DATE: Monday, April 23, 2018

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

LOCATION: Seminar Room 2.1 (beside main office)

Facilitator: Bose Blokland & Julie Hofstetter

Recorder: Amanda Isley

Prayer: Julie Hofstetter

Attendees: Matt Acheson, Erik C., Maryanne Cahill, John Dietrich, Liz Gibbs, Julie Hofstetter, Amanda Isley, Jane Malleck, Naomie S., Amanda Wilk (KPL)

SAC Update

- Feb 26 - was Innovation Week which focused on technology & artistic innovations in today's world. There were lots of activities and workshops planned around the school for students to get involved in. Next years Innovation Week will be held around the same time frame, or it may be aligned with National Innovation Week?
- There is a 3D printer available at the KPL for students and the public to access & use
- March 21 was Dress Down Day and proceeds went towards the Relay for Life and March for Life
- March 22 the Relay for Life rally was held to increase awareness of the event & promote the cause
- March 23 Shamrock Shakes were sold in exchange for a donation
- April 11 was Spirit Day and the Together Table where students were encouraged to give up their mobile devices in exchange for a hot meal. Kindness grams were also distributed.
- April 12th - Coffee House was hosted
- April 13th was the Elementary Student Leadership Conference where SMH hosted 100 students from feeder schools. The focus of the event was sharing leadership skills & knowledge.
- April 30th to May 4th is the upcoming campaign week for next years Student Council elections
- May 7th to 11th is proposed to be Mental Health Awareness week, also Catholic Education week and Multicultural Day from 5-7pm on May 10th
- May 11th is the Relay for Life from 10am to 10pm
- May 31st is the Prom at the Hacienda from 6:30-10:30pm

Technology and Student Mental Health

- Discussed the impact of social media & electronic entertainment on pre-school and school aged children
- Introduction to the "Yonder Wallet"
- Symptoms of overuse of technology are similar to those of addictions
- BYOD - bring your own device policy since the school board can't keep up with the advances in technology for each student
- School board policies are silent which means its up to the discretion of each teacher/classroom

- Signs of addiction were discussed - students would prefer to fail academically than to sacrifice their smartphone in class
- There is a strong correlation between social media use and mental health and the risks are considerable since screen addiction is viewed as a mental health issue
- Be aware and make others aware, seek advice & give advice, reach into feeder schools and educate parents & teachers who are just beginning the struggle with screen time issues

Admin Updates

- Enrollment scheduling process for next school year is underway - there are 1913 students registered - forecasting upwards of 2000 students by the end of September
- parent volunteers are needed to collect used uniforms on June 15 from 8:30 to 11
- Volunteers are also required for used uniform sales August 28th & 29th from 9am to 3pm. Uniforms are usually sold out on the 1st day.
- Dates for next years parent council meetings are September 24th, November 26th, February 25th and April 29th.
- Online e-learning courses are offered - check the website. Mostly grade 11 & 12 courses, but the grade 10 Careers and Civics is offered for summer learning through St Louis
- The Strategic Plan was discussed, parents are encouraged to take the online survey for the multi year strategic plan
- Update on the Pic Grant is that the banners will be done by weeks end. There were issues with the resolution that are currently being resolved.
- Council is looking for feedback with regards to the Pro Grant and what to apply for next year

Future Agenda Items

- Proposed additional Parent Council meeting date is May 28th, 2018
- Dates for next years parent council meetings are September 24th, November 26th, February 25th and April 29th May 27th .