



ST. MARY'S ADVISORY COUNCIL



DATE: April 25, 2022 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **LOCATION:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Facilitators: Sherry/Amy

Recorders: Amy Soares

- AGENDA -

Attendees:

Regrets:

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

TOPIC	OUTCOME	FACILITATOR	TIME
<i>Prayer</i>	Land Acknowledgement Opening prayer	Deanna Wehrle	5 minutes

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS			
TOPIC	OUTCOME	FACILITATOR	TIME
<i>Catholic Education Week</i>	<p>Before beginning on his topic, Deacon MacIntosh spoke about the food drive and that the food went to St. Mary's Parish in downtown Kitchener and that it was their first donation as they were reopening the food hamper program. Also, he said that as he was preparing for Multicultural Monday this morning, two students approached him and asked if he could share something about their culture. He said he could next week and pointed out that students are already realizing that this is happening each Monday.</p> <p>Catholic Education Week is May 2nd-6th. There are not as many activities this year as pre-covid but more than the last two years. Monday students will see a video from Bishop Crosby as he goes over the themes for the week. There will be a Liturgy in the Chapel which will be the first "larger" gathering since 2019. He is hoping to have a special education class, a religion class and one other class in the Chapel and the rest of the school will be able to watch the live stream. OCSTA (the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustee Association) has provided daily prayers for the week. On the Friday, Father Toby will do mass at noon in the Chapel for those who wish to attend. Next year Deacon MacIntosh is hoping for guest speakers and more special events for Catholic Education Week.</p> <p>Question: prior to covid would the whole school get together for mass? The norm was 2 Masses given the large size of the school and hope is to go back to this as soon as possible. Many Priests are not doing masses in schools still because of covid. The Bishop has said that if they contract covid they will have to shut down their parishes for the weekend.</p> <p>Question: possibility of parent drop-ins at the school during Catholic Education Week like in elementary schools. (D. Wehrle answered) Usually only time parents are in is during teacher interviews. She will bring the idea back to staff to discuss. Fears it may be complicated logistically because of the number of students and classes.</p>	Deacon Ed MacIntosh	10 minutes
<i>Mental Health Minutes</i>	Kelsey has created "Mental Health Minutes" for Wellness Wednesdays at the school. Discussions include self-care (including a 30-day challenge for students), calming spaces, visualization, gratitude, and affirmation. There is also information for students on mental health facts and where to find help. 85% of teachers are using this regularly and 50% of students have accessed the files in Google Classroom on their own time. Feedback from students so far is that they would like more movement sessions. School	Kelsey Agunmadu	5 minutes

	<p>Mental Health Ontario also has more resources. There is also a link on the school website.</p> <p>Comment: (D. Wehrle) spoke about the great work that Kelsey and the Youth Care team are doing and that the question now is how staff (and the larger education community) incorporate this so regularly that it becomes part of the norm and the curriculum.</p>		
<i>Destreaming</i>	<p>This year only Grade 9 math was de-streamed. At the school they are noticing that a Level 4 among all students is only down 1% even with all students learning together. De-streaming is to give students more time once entering high school to figure out what pathways are best for them. Grade 9 math classes are also using the teaching philosophy of “Thinking Classrooms.” Students are in groups and can work on problems on large white boards and learn from each other as well as looking around the room at what other groups have come up with. All of Grade 9 will be de-streamed next year. On Tuesday May 10th, staff not involved with the OSSLT Literacy Test will have professional development around de-streaming for next year.</p>	Deanna Wehrle	5 minutes
<i>OSSLT-Literacy Test</i>	<p>The literacy test will be held on May 10th with less than 250 students planning on writing it that day. On the Fall date approximately 1000 students took part in the test online. This year Grades 10, 11 and 12s who are not on track to graduate this year were eligible to write the test. On May 10th only students writing the test will be at school. All other students will be at home and their teachers will post work for them in the morning.</p>	Deanna Wehrle	5 minutes
Academic Supports/Tutoring	<p>There are many additional academic supports for students at Student Success.</p> <p>Homework Club is offered Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday in Room 235, 3-4pm. Science clubs run Monday-Thursday at lunch (Grade 9/10 any day, biology Tuesdays, physics Wednesdays, chemistry Thursdays). Math club for grades 9 and 10 is Monday and Thursday and for grades 11 and 12 on Thursday from 3-4:30.</p> <p>*New* after school tutoring is offered Monday-Thursday from 3-4pm and all students are welcome.</p> <p>See website for more information.</p>		

Relay for Life	<p>Relay for Life is being held on Friday June 10th. Prior to covid 500-600 students would participate. Students can sign up online. In 2019 more than \$60,000 was raised at St. Mary's.</p> <p>Link to the school Relay for Life page: https://tinyurl.com/2jm7xvdm</p>	Deanna Wehrle	
Cafeteria and School Lunch for 2022/23	<p>School Cafeteria is open again for students to eat lunch with their friends, but they are not serving food. The hallways also remain open for students at lunch time. Staff are in discussions now for what lunch will look like for next year and they may go back to a double lunch with the cafeteria open and serving food. The school day timing shouldn't change to accommodate this, but it could look different for students in that they all won't have the same lunch time and will not have the same access to the hallways as they do now during lunch as other classes will be going on. This decision to be made soon and shared with families.</p>	Deanna Wehrle	5 minutes
SAC Report	<p>Nico: Student council has been using Instagram to connect with students. Doing an Instagram Series to showcase students and happenings at the school. Now doing Multicultural Mondays and there is a Google form for students to suggest music for the mornings. For International Women's Day posts were done on Instagram and school announcements and special music. For World Autism Awareness Day on Instagram staff and students were encouraged to wear crazy socks. Students did an Easter food drive and school cash online donations went to Nutrition for Learning. To celebrate Easter there were jokes and QR Code hunts in the school and Homeroom teachers were provided eggs to do hunts in their classrooms.</p> <p>Ava: SAC worked on a mental health week flyer that was put on Google Classroom as well as wellness tips on Instagram and on the school announcements. Adult colouring pages and a positive affirmation wall at Youth Care. Messages of encouragement were also posted to the school website and Instagram. Ava and SAC will be leading Yoga in the gym at lunch for mental health week. Also supporting Wellness Wednesday presentations by homeroom teachers. Evening Coffee House is coming back for the first time since Covid. SAC doing virtual auditions for performers and drinks and snacks will be served. For Spirit Week, students will be able to wear spirit wear all week with their uniform bottoms</p>	SAC CO-Presidents	5 minutes

	and there will be prizes, a Family Feud game show, hoping for a student band during field games and a student carnival. The teachers versus students basketball game will be this week and they are hoping for a theme spirit wear day for the Friday. SAC is working on plans for the school lunchtime BBQ.		
Black Lives Matter Update	<p>The Black Lives Matter group at the school is very active and hoping for support from parent council for their upcoming basketball tournament. They are also planning a cultural walkabout and fashion show as they want to share information about their culture with others in the school. They're hoping to do an end of the year BBQ for the club and are looking for support for this as well.</p> <p>Question: how can the council support this? (D. Wehrle) will connect with council co-chairs to discuss the budget and options and then co-chairs to ask parent council.</p> <p>Question: what type of support were the students hoping most for? Spirit wear or food. Katarina to ask the club at their meeting next Monday what they would appreciate the most.</p>	Katarina Luke	
<i>Future Agenda Items & Questions?</i>	Recommended plan for September a vision meeting for parent council for next year as this year has also been so different because of covid.		
	Next Meeting: May 30, 2022		