



**St. Bernard of Clairvaux
Catholic Elementary School**

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**Catholic School Council 2020-2021
Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

School Organization

1. February 16th Return to School

- a. Our school population is 569 with 466 students attending through the Hybrid model and 103 students in the Remote model. There has been little movement since Christmas.

2. Staffing

- a. On January 4, 2021 we welcomed Mrs. Donna King, ERW, to our school. She is working as part of the mainstream ERW compliment.
- b. We continue to have two unfilled positions: Planning Time and Planning Time/ESL. Job postings have gone out with zero applicants to the jobs. The positions are currently being filled by Emergency Instructors, but the subject matter is not being taught. If we are unsuccessful this next round of postings, then teachers have been informed that they will be planning and assessing for the subjects that the Planning Time/ESL teachers cover.
- c. Projections for the 2021-2022 school year were released yesterday and for September we have tentatively been allocated 22.5 classes, which consists of 18 classes in Gr.1-8, 3 classes in FDK of which one is considered a half-class with only 1 teacher and no DECE with a maximum of 15 children, and then 1 Needs Moderate/Needs Severe Class and 1 Special Education Resource Class or SERC.
- d. At this time, we do not have information if there will be any Remote classes for the fall.
- e. All permanent staff will be given their tentative assignments on March 12, 2021.

3. Kindergarten Registration Week

We had a total of 27 new kindergarten registrations during our Kindergarten Registration Week. For the new school year, we will have approximately 60 students in JK/SK. Many thanks to our secretarial staff, Mrs. Giansante and Ms. Mills-Brooks for organizing these registrations!

Literacy and Numeracy & Excellence in Student Achievement

1. Progress Reports & FDK Communication of Learning

These were digitally issued to students on February 9, 2021 and Parent-Teacher Interviews were held by telephone or by Google Meet.

2. CCAT – Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test

This assessment determines students' eligibility for gifted programs in our board. It measures verbal, non-verbal and quantitative reasoning. The Gr. 4 students completed this test over a series of three days, facilitated by Mr. Dietz. Results have shown 1 student who meets the criteria for giftedness and 3 who will require further testing.

All students who meet the criteria for giftedness then will have the opportunity to attend gifted programs in our board.

3. **Gr. 9 Course Selections for St. Joan of Arc C.S.S.**

All our Gr. 8 students who are going to attend St. Joan of Arc C.S.S. this September completed their registration packages and course selections for September 2021. We will be meeting with the secondary school staff shortly to complete this process.

4. **Scientists-in-the-School**

We are currently hosting Scientists-in-the-School virtually for our primary classes. The topics covered focus on science curriculum expectations. Many thanks to Mrs. Lopez for arranging these presentations.

5. **Indigenous Education**

Both staff and students continue their learning about indigenous education. Some of our primary classes participated in a presentation by indigenous elders Isaac Murdoch and Shannon Paul of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. They learned about the stories of Nenaboozhoo.

Some of our junior classes will also be participating in an upcoming presentation on understanding the Land Acknowledgement.

6. **Exploring the EDWIN collections**

In partnership with Nelson, the intermediate students met with the Edwin Student Success facilitator and they explored the new features and resources available on the Edwin suite. It was a lot of new learning for our intermediate students and teachers.

7. **Black History Month**

As part of our work to honour and celebrate Black heritage and history and to bring greater awareness to not just our students, but staff also, our school has purchased a variety of texts that speak to the Black experience, diversity, traditions, and celebrations. Our goal is to continue to build and grow our resources for staff and students and to bring greater awareness, acceptance and understanding of the oppressive forces that many Black individuals have faced in the past and continue to face today.

Some of the activities our school has undertaken this month include:

- Daily announcements about important individuals in Black History, with a focus on Canadians. Also featured daily is a short video biography of that person as well as a quote of the day.
- Activities, virtual guest speakers and presentations:
 - Saidat, BHM presenter (whole school by grade)
 - Fr. Tony Ricard, BHM presenter for Gr. 8 students
 - Hockey Hall of Fame presentation on Black players – open to all classes
 - Class read-alouds on prominent Black figures and texts promoting acceptance and understanding e.g. The Colors of Us
 - Language writing activities
 - Religion/Family Life, Social studies and history discussions and reflections
 - Equity and diversity PD for staff
 - Colonialism PD for staff (upcoming)
 - And more!

Health & Safety

1. **Fire Drills and Lockdown Practices:** Our next set of Fire Drills, over the course of three days will take place in April, while keeping in mind safety and social distancing. Lockdown drills are discussed only with classes. We continue to await further direction about this from the board.

2. **Student Safety – Arrival & Dismissal**

- a. On February 8, 2021, our school, along with St. Faustina and St. Sebastian, launched the Safe Arrival absence reporting system. All absences and lates should now be reported by parents/guardians through this app.
- b. With our morning arrivals and afternoon dismissal, parents who are walking children to the school or picking up, are now required to wear a mask while on school property.
- c. We continue to remind parents about respecting school schedules and that students need to be at school on time, in order to start their day of learning with their classmates and not miss morning announcements and prayers.

3. **COVID-19 Staff & Student Safety**

On January 25th, we had an inspection by the Ministry of Labour with respect to our COVID-19 health and safety practices and additional inspection by Peel Public Health on February 12, 2021. Both the Ministry of Labour and Peel Public health provided direction and recommendations on some of our procedures that required further attention (e.g. sign-in/out, wearing of face shields, masking, etc.)

As always, we continue to be vigilant in keeping students and staff safe and enforcing appropriate health and safety protocols as directed.

I continue to report to the Ministry of Education daily, the number of student and staff absences in relation to COVID-19.

Catholic Community, Culture and Caring

1. **Pastoral Planning**

- At this time, we are doing any liturgies or masses with Fr. Mark virtually.
- Our Advent Mass was held on December 17th and was celebrated by Fr. Mark who came to the school foyer, while students participated through their classroom SmartBoards. Many thanks to Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Marano for their help in organizing this mass.

2. **Sacramental Dates**

We are still awaiting further information about dates for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Parent meetings for all schools will be confirmed and notices will be sent from the church.

3. **Virtue Assemblies**

In December we celebrated the Virtue of Hope. This lovely assembly was presented by Mrs. Tomas-Zahhar and Ms. Macri's students.

We celebrated our January Self-Control Virtue Assembly on January 29th. It was beautifully presented by Mrs. Boles and Ms. Vien's classes.

Our February Virtue Assembly on Respect will be tomorrow, February 26th. It will be presented by Mrs. Lopez and Ms. DeMedeiros' classes.

We also had a virtual Ash Wednesday liturgy, which was beautifully organized and presented by Mrs. Salema and Mrs. Antezza's classes.

All of our virtual presentations have been going well and students and staff have gotten used to this new way of coming together.

4. Christmas Spirit Week

As we have traditionally done here at the school we had a successful Spirit Week in which students and staff got into the Christmas spirit through their participation in different activities throughout the last week of school. The days included: Christmas Tree Day, Purple n' Pink Day for Advent, Christmas Character Day, Christmas Holiday Headwear Day, and Christmas Colours Sweater Comfy Cozy Day.

5. Jordan's Sock Drive

Our school participated in Jordan's Annual Sock Drive, where families were invited to donate money for the purchase of socks for the homeless. We were able to raise close to \$600.00 from our community. Many thanks to Mme. Fabbri and Mme. Larson for organizing this.

6. Eco-Schools

Our annual application for Eco-School certification was completed this past week. Our Eco-Leads this year are Mrs. Lopez and Mr. Derry. Teachers continue to work with students to support understanding and learning about stewardship of our environment.

7. Pink Shirt Day

Is celebrated annually during last week in February. This year we celebrated Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday, February 24th. Students and staff were invited to wear something pink in recognition of bullying awareness and prevention. Teachers also took this opportunity to teach lessons around the subject of bullying, bringing a faith perspective as part of the teaching and learning.

Respectfully submitted,

I. Sauvé
Principal