

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2018 – 2019

St. Aidan Catholic Elementary School

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Aidan Catholic School is to provide an inclusive Catholic Education setting that develops the unique talents and abilities of each individual and encourages all to follow in Jesus' footsteps to become models of service in the community.

MOTTO

"Enlightened by Knowledge, Enriched by Faith"

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Aidan Catholic School is an elementary school of approximately 490 students, of diverse social and ethnic backgrounds, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The school, located at 34 Buick Boulevard in northwestern Brampton, opened in 2007 and belongs to Guardian Angels Parish. The school's patron saint, St. Aidan, was a seventh-century Irish monk who established a monastery off the north coast of England, where he spread the Gospel, educated monasteries and evangelized the people. This year we celebrated our 10th Anniversary.

St. Aidan Catholic School is a caring school community that stresses tolerance and acceptance of others, commitment to our Catholic faith and high academic standards. We provide a safe and inclusive learning environment where models of Gospel values and Catholic doctrines, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school. All activities at St. Aidan School help to prepare our students for their lives as Catholics in the community. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our faith form the foundation of our school program.

At St. Aidan we believe that:

1. Every child can learn.
2. Effective, engaging and innovative teaching addresses student needs and maximizes opportunities for student learning.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

3. Educators take responsibility for the success of the students by building rapport with students and collaboration with home, school and parish.
4. Everyone has a responsibility to enlighten each student with knowledge and enrich each student with faith that respects human dignity;
 - Modelling all learners after Jesus, as ministers of compassion

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. Aidan Catholic Elementary School is further committed to:

- Deepening the understanding, appreciation and practice of the Catholic Christian lifestyle, with Jesus as role model;
- Aligning a school-wide approach to Catholicity, whereby all educational practices are implemented through a Catholic lens;
- Developing students who are fully alive in Christ, not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.
- As a diverse educational community responding to God's call, St. Aidan Catholic Elementary School fosters and nourishes an inclusive atmosphere rooted in tradition and scripture while:
 - Being authentic witnesses to our Catholic Faith;
 - Being responsible stewards of God's grace in the world;
 - Respecting human dignity;
 - Modelling all learners after Jesus, as ministers of compassion

DUFFERIN PEEL'S STRATEGIC SYSTEM PLAN CORE PRIORITIES

CATHOLICITY

How does the school community model, celebrate and nourish gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centered programs and services?

The St. Aidan Catholic School community models, celebrates, and nourishes gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centred programs and services through the following ways:

Conscious integration of Gospel values in daily teaching and interactions. Using classroom sacred spaces for liturgies and prayers

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Celebration of faith through liturgies, prayers, school masses and in-school reconciliation, by fostering the school-home-parish relationship

Student led social justice initiatives e.g. Cram a Cruiser toy drives, food drives, Terry Fox, ShareLife

Putting the virtues in action - classes are responsible for presenting a virtue together with an anti-bullying message through the year. This is in the form of a reflection, play or concept of their choice as it relates to the virtue / anti-bullying message.

Promoting compassion, caring and consideration of the whole child as well as integrating restorative justice strategies when addressing progressive discipline with students. Promoting student awareness of Catholic Code of Conduct and WITS (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Seek Help), to promote student collaboration, inclusivity and accountability, while ensuring transparency and support with student, and parents/guardians.

Embedding the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations through the daily life and activities of the school.

Youth and Adult Faith Ambassador Program to promote continual and enriching faith development.

Adult faith formation opportunities offered for staff (Advent, Lenten staff liturgies and school masses).

Sacred spaces are displayed in each classroom with colours and symbols of the liturgical seasons.

Presence of an altar and sacred space in the front foyer.

PALS leaders and Recess Guardians promote inclusive play at recess.

Acknowledgement of treaty lands and the Mississagas of the Credit First Nations as stewards of the territory our school was built on, through daily announcements, assemblies, and meetings.

Collaborative relationship with Guardian Angels Parish and home in matters of sacramental preparations and liturgical celebrations.

CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Summary of the school's most recent (2017-2018) EQAO Primary Assessment Performance

- Reading 78 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 67 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 42 % of students at or above Provincial Standard

Summary of the school's most recent (2017-2018) EQAO Junior Assessment Performance

- Reading 80 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 80 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 41 % of students at or above Provincial Standard

Describe how the school fosters the achievement, well-being and continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment.

St. Aidan fosters the continuous development of all students through a caring, safe and inclusive environment through the following:

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Promoting innovative, inclusive and engaging practices founded on faith and a positive school climate designed to enhance student learning experiences.

Monthly virtue assemblies where individual students are celebrated for their Catholic leadership.

Yearly assemblies that outline the Catholic Code of Conduct and promote student collaboration and leadership through the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

The use of the student Agenda as a communication tool and a resource for student expectations.

Differentiated instruction and individualized programming, including evidence-based intervention/remedial programs (Empower, Corrective Reading, Reading Mastery, Sound Letter Chart, Leveled Literacy Intervention Program), Resource support, IEP's, TEAM meetings, transition meetings, IPRCs.

Student discipline is progressive in nature and specific to individual students, with a focus on improving behavior, self-regulation, conflict resolution, and forgiveness.

Showcasing student activities, achievement and professional practice during Catholic Education Week.

Support services are available through Child Youth Worker, Psychology department, Social Worker, and outside services as needed.

Promoting activities to build relationships among students.

Staff lead by example in all areas of the school culture.

Opportunities for student leadership e.g. Youth Faith Ambassadors, Eco-Team, Choir, and chess Club, bracelet club.

Inclusion of guest speakers/presentations, Peel Health Nurse, SRO Police Unit, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentoring initiative with St. Edmund Campion, Go Girls, Game On, Girls Night In.

Open invitation to all members of the school community to become a part of the school council through the school newsletter and attempts to recruit participation at Open House and other school events.

Staff will collaborate throughout the school year to share and discuss best practices in the areas of instruction and assessment to move students forward and enhance the fundamental skills gained in earlier years. We are committed to providing rich and effective instructional programs and activities and implementing the Ontario Curriculum as the basis for teaching and learning.

The school continues to foster and emphasize the importance of literacy across the curriculum through an emphasis on Guided Reading and Guided Writing.

A focus on inquiry-based approaches to teaching and learning allows for more student voice and engagement in the learning process.

Dedication to professional development sessions and dialogue throughout the school year to furthering our understanding of teaching and learning in Mathematics and to move our students forward in math. Strategies such as the three-part math lesson, access to manipulatives, 60 minute blocks, and collaboration amongst students will be used to provide a deeper understanding of mathematics for all students. Teaching and learning will emphasize the mathematical processes to ensure a deeper understanding of mathematics and to improve student self-efficacy in Numeracy.

Added focus on the writing strategies through the use of the First 20 Days of Writing Program and Visualization to allow students opportunities for increased writing opportunities.

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Author visits to continue to promote the engagement of students in the writing process.

Continuing the implementation of Raz Kids on-line access to current books at school and home.

Student IEPs are developed to support 'at risk', and exceptional learner needs and, learning opportunities for growth. At risk students are brought forward and discussed in TEAM for multi-disciplinary problem solving.

Transition meetings and conferences are organized to support the transition of learners into Kindergarten, from grade to grade, from elementary into secondary schools and for students at risk.

Resource staff are using programs such as Empower, Leveled Literacy Intervention, Corrective Reading and Language for Learning with struggling readers. Maximum utilization of our Support Services Team: Special Education Teachers, Educational Resource Workers, Psychologist, Social Worker, Speech and Language Pathologists, Child and Youth Worker, Nurses, Occupational and Physical Therapists, Board-wide service.

Using profiles K-6 and My Blueprint (Grades 7-8) to support students in identifying interests that will inform future learning pathways and eventual career planning.

Teaching/learning cycles supported by Admin and SAT using resources from LNS.

Data gathering and analysis to monitor student achievement.

EQAO After School Tutoring Program for students achieving at levels 1 and 2.

Co-teaching and co-learning through the Brampton West Family of Schools PODs and carried over to the rest of the school. Involvement of Instructional Support Teacher in co-teaching and co-learning.

Manipulatives have been inventoried and purchased where needed for use in the classroom.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How does the school demonstrate that it values the involvement of community through partnerships and collaboration?

The St. Aidan Catholic School team builds and sustains community partnerships and collaborative relationships by:

Open invitation to all members of the school community to become a part of the school council and/or attend school council meetings and attempts to recruit participation at school events.

School Council supports all school activities that reflect the diversity of our community through subsidizing diversity presentations as well as resources for our central text rooms and library.

Continued partnership with Guardian Angels parish (e.g. support for the Guardian Angels Church Building Fund) and sacramental preparations).

Engaging parent community with information on how they can assist their child(ren)'s learning.

Close relationship with our School Resource Officers (SRO) and Peel Police Youth Education Officer and safe school presentations, RAID program for Grade 6s.

Implementation of activities with the Peel Health Nurse.

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Continue partnership with St. Edmund Campion Catholic Secondary School (e.g. transition planning, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentoring initiative).

Inclusion of outside programs such as Junior Achievement, Scientists in the School.

Continue partnership with various community agencies, groups and schools through participation in Brampton Northwest Connects.

Christmas Mingle and Jingle Weekend Community Event.

School Access after school hours to various groups through the Permit Program.

Communication of community events and activities posted in our newsletter and on school website.

Creation of School email list.

YMCA programs hosted at St. Aidan.

PARISH – HOME – SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

Describe how the school demonstrates strong partnerships and collaboration among Parish, Home and School that are based on mutual respect rooted in our lived Catholic Faith.

The school demonstrates strong partnerships and collaboration among Parish, Home and School based on mutual respect through the following:

Develop a close collaborative relationship with Fr. Jan, Pastor of Guardian Angels Parish. Invitation to Father Jan to attend various school events. Guardian Angels Church Bulletins and website are made available in the main office and Guardian Angels Parish website is linked to the school website.

Sacramental preparation.

Parish information is shared through the monthly school newsletter and school council meetings.

Celebrations of school masses and Reconciliation with Fr. Jan with invitations extended to parents/guardians to attend our school masses and liturgical celebrations.

Continue to support Social Justice Projects.

Promotion of ShareLife activities throughout the school year (one of top 10 schools in the Archdiocese for Share Life fundraising).

The initiation of Rosary Apostolates visits once per month.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Describe how the school is committed to healthy and safe learning and working environments that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement.

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St. Aidan Catholic School is committed to healthy and safe learning and working environments that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement by:

Encouraging the Walk to School Program.

Encouraging Healthy Eating.

Attending to the site safety.

Promoting a clean and healthy environment.

New painting of the playground in foster greater co-operative games and movement.

Additional PALS outdoor equipment to foster healthy active learning and engagement.

Prompt attention to acts of vandalism.

Staff are in-serviced at September and October staff meetings on policies and procedures according to GAP

Staff are provided with a summary GAP handbook as a quick reference for these policies and procedures

Staff are informed of policy and procedural changes/updates through our weekly update and /or staff meetings

Monthly Health and Safety Inspections of the premises and follow ups are completed.

Students with medical concerns e.g. asthma, anaphylaxis are identified and management plans created.

Health and Safety concerns are addressed quickly.

"At Risk" students are brought to In-School Team meetings and their needs are assessed and addressed.

Kiss N' Ride/Driveway procedures are monitored for safety.

Working with the Region of Peel Health Nurse to promote Region of Peel programs and OPHEA certification.

TECHNOLOGY

How is the school committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context?

The school is committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context in the following ways:

Staff have been in-serviced on GAP 324 and the use of Wi-fi in the school. Wi-fi is active and some staff are using personal devices at the present time.

Students have begun to use their personal devices in the classroom.

Most communication with staff is via email, not paper.

School website is updated regularly to provide relevant information and resources to the school community.

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Purchase and use of SMART Boards (all classrooms inside the school have SMART Boards as of October 2014).

Acquisition of 30 iPad Air tablets and mobile charging cart, as well as, an additional 24 iPad Air tablets and mobile charging cart. Additional Chrome Books 30 in the library, and 2 additional carts for Intermediates, and 2 for Junior classes have been added.

Purchase and use of cameras throughout the FDK and Primary Division to document learning.

Compiling parent email list for electronic distribution of newsletter and have begun using electronic distribution of newsletter and other reminders.

Compliance with new anti-spam legislation (CASL).

Use of Twitter to communicate school news to parents.

School website is updated regularly to provide relevant information and resources to the school community.

Learning resources and supports for parents are linked to the school website to support student learning at home.

Catholic agencies are linked to the school website to provide community access to Church and faith-based organizations.

Promotion of Digital Citizenship.

Promotion of the EDWIN project with the Grade 7 students.

SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

How does the school encourage the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling?

St. Aidan Catholic School encourages the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling by:

Increasing our Eco Schools Certification.

Community partnerships contributed to the creation of a butterfly garden at the front of the school.

Recycling Program in all classrooms and throughout the school .

Promotion of Litter-less Lunch Program.

School participation is encouraged in Earth Day Activities, Day of Pink, Sweater Day, the Region of Peel Great Gulp Challenge and more.

Promotion of a clean and healthy environment.

The school's Eco Team, consisting of students and staff, has led the school's certification in the Eco School program. Eco School initiatives are framed in the Catholic Social teaching perspective of stewardship of creation.

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Eco Team is very active with campaigns focused on waste management, recycling, reduced energy consumption. Eco Team monitors waste management and recycling efforts and provides rewards to classes for their achievement.

Eco Team provides outstanding opportunities for student-leadership in the stewardship of creation.

Opportunities for school-grounds greening will be explored.

Field trips that promote preservation and awareness of the environmental issues are encouraged.

Communication sent electronically to parents and staff to conserve paper consumption.

Setting photocopying targets and monitoring our use through Papercut.

Promoting the use of reusable water bottles for staff meetings and for students.

Growth and use of the Outdoor FDK yard.