

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2018 – 2019

St. Alfred Separate School

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Alfred Separate School community respects the uniqueness of all persons and enhances their potential. We are committed to promoting a love of learning within an environment that fosters the lifelong development and spiritual growth of every person.

MOTTO

Every child a promise.

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Alfred Catholic School opened its doors in 1965. There are over 410 students from Full Day Kindergarten to Grade 8. The school is located in Dixie and Bloor neighbourhood of Mississauga, Ontario. The area served by St. Alfred is a high density area that includes both single and multiple family dwellings. The community is diverse in nature, incorporating a variety of different ethnic backgrounds, cultures, social and economic conditions. Statistics derived from the Canadian Census show that many of our families are living in situations that put their children at risk academically. A number of families have resided in this community for several generations and they have chosen to remain a part of the St. Alfred community. Walking through our school, you will feel that the world has come to St. Alfred. A student led census in 2014 found over 65 different countries represented in our small school. From Poland to Kenya, Portugal to Korea, the fabric of our school is certainly global. Less than 50% of our students speak English only and 1 in 5 have lived in Canada less than 5 years. We embrace our differences and live in a place of mutual respect and curiosity for each other. Increasingly, many of our students are coming to us as refugees who have experienced many stressful and traumatic experiences in their short lives. There are one or more students in each of our classrooms who reside in a shelter that is located in our school catchment area. We have a significant number of students who have special needs and require additional supports within in the school in order to achieve greater success. A significant number of students require extra assistance with academic programming. Our English Language Learner Teachers and Special Education Resource teachers collaborate with classroom teachers so that students acquire necessary literacy and numeracy skills. Children come to us from all over the world with various learning needs and life experiences.

Although there are many students and families are in need themselves, they are incredibly generous in spirit and deed. Every year, our food drive is a tremendous success. In 2016, St. Alfred School was recognized by Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, as a top fundraising school for Sharelife in our school board. In 2015, our

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school was awarded the Premier's Award for Safe and Accepting Schools. For the past two school years, the St. Alfred community has received platinum certification from Eco Schools highlighting our efforts to improve our environment. We celebrate all students who enter our school. Every child is a promise!

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. Alfred Separate 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. Alfred Separate 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 school community models, celebrates and nourishes gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centred programs and services by:

- Infusing gospel values, Catholic social teachings and scriptural teachings in all curriculum areas;
- Continually promoting and empowering our youth to embrace a Catholic worldview through community, prayer and sacramental life;
- Highlighting of Catholic Virtues in school celebrations, announcements and school communications;
- Celebrating liturgies and the sacraments;

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- Providing Youth and Adult faith opportunities;
- Encouraging Social Justice Projects - Share Life, Food Drives, Terry Fox Run, Hospital for Sick Children, Diabetes and Autism Awareness, Moccasin Project.

CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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

- Reading 63% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 73% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 58% of students at or above Provincial Standard

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

- Reading 62% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 73% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 33% 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.

The school community supports and provides opportunities for the development of all members of our school community by:

- Having student voice on our Caring Catholic Community Safe Schools Committee and Health & Wellness Committee;
- Further study and incorporation of trauma sensitive approaches into our school community;
- Artists in the School Presentations – to foster the development of visual arts and dance appreciation beyond the classroom;
- Scientist in the School, McMaster Technology presentations- to provide a greater number of hands – on opportunities for students to experience scientific and engineering phenomena;
- Peel Police through their Youth Education Programs and School Resource Officer Program;
- Peel Health Programs that include direct support from the Region of Peel Health Nurse;
- School Council attends professional development at CCCSC meetings and Mississauga East Family School Council Meetings;
- Community resources are integrated into curriculum: Peel Police Education Programs, Peel Health, Peel Safety Village, Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School presentations to elementary feeder schools, St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program, various presentations to support good physical and mental health.

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CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Our school values the involvement of the wider community through partnerships and collaboration with the following:

- Sts. Martha and Mary Parish, Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, Peel Police Youth Education Officer, Peel Police Community Resource Officers, Reduce Abuse In Drugs (RAID) Program, Region of Peel Public Health Nurse, PALS program, Swim to Survive Program and Learn to Skate programs, Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre, St. John Ambulance;
- Various corporate partners have donated product to St. Alfred (i.e., backpacks, winter coats);
- Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School to collaborate and transition our Grade 8 students moving to Grade 9;
- Provide school access to various community groups through permit use;
- Communicating community events and activities through our newsletter/information bulletin board, email blasts, Twitter accounts and the school website.

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.

Our school demonstrates strong partnerships and collaboration among the school parish, home and school are based on mutual respect rooted in our Catholic faith. We will endeavour to:

- Continue to maintain a working relationship with Fr. Darrin Corkum, pastor of Sts. Martha and Mary Parish, sharing Sts. Martha and Mary Parish news with our school community and encouraging our school community to participate and support Sts. Martha and Mary Parish events;
- Support the Sacramental preparation with Sts. Martha and Mary Parish team;
- Continue to support social justice projects and various needs within our own school/parish community (i.e., food drives for the Mississauga Food Banks, Terry Fox Foundation, ShareLife);
- Invite parents/guardians to attend our school masses and liturgical celebrations;
- Regularly communicate with families through our school website, Twitter accounts, emails and direct teacher communication.

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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.

Our school will continue to explore opportunities to create a healthy and safe learning and working environment that promotes wellbeing, engagement and achievement by:

- Continuing with healthy school initiatives that focus on physical and mental well-being of our students and staff;
- Continue to offer opportunities for students to access programs and services to support mental health through the Eagle's Nest;
- Continuing our work with implementing and creating a trauma sensitive environment at the school;
- Using achievement data on an ongoing basis to inform and enhance instruction and while providing specific interventions and strategies for students;
- Providing assessment resources and instructional support to all staff to support ongoing Numeracy and Literacy initiatives;
- Providing tutoring opportunities for students when preparing for EQAO assessments.

TECHNOLOGY

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

Our school community is committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context by:

- Promoting the safe use of iPads and Chromebooks within all classrooms of the school;
- Deepen staff understanding how technology can be used to adapt to all levels and styles of learning (i.e., Edwin pilot project);
- Acquiring more computers through the SEA process to provide more students with greater access to assistive technology;
- Providing professional development for staff to become more familiar with social media such as Twitter, Office 365 and the exploration of apps on the iPads, Chromebooks, Smartboard technology;
- Facilitating sessions centred on the importance of Catholic digital citizenship;
- Promoting greater use of Adobe Connect and Skype in the Classroom to provide opportunities for our students to access authors, professionals and classrooms through the internet.

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SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

Our school encourages the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling by:

- Promoting litter less lunches and snacks, use of reusable containers;
- Monitoring waste in classrooms;
- Recycling of paper in all classrooms and throughout the school;
- Continuing to use of G.O.O.Se (Good On One Side) paper in all classrooms and offices;
- Continue to encourage maintenance of community grounds – free of litter;
- Yard clean up during Earth Day and promotion of Earth Day activities;
- A committed Eco Club who educate and inform our school community about global environmental issues;
- Maintaining Platinum level of Green Schools Certification;
- Acknowledgement of and encouragement of participation in 'Earth Hour' and Earth Day;
- Encourage bicycle riding and walking to school;
- Promote respect and care for all resources and equipment;
- Reduce paper use and photocopying;
- Planting and maintaining the school garden and providing trips to the Glenforest Community Garden.