

SJA School Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2023

6:30pm – 8:30 pm

via Microsoft Teams

Present: A. Bomben (Principal), J. LePrevost (VP), S. Simeone (VP), S. Ngo (Student Rep) D, Serafini (Staff Rep), S. Smalridge (Non-Teacher Rep), G. Ling (Chair), Maria Eskaros

Regrets: B. Corbet, H. Vioria, A. Longrich (treasurer)

Recorder: Teams Transcription

Opening Prayer & Land Acknowledgement: S. Smalridge, SJA Chaplin

Welcome:

A. Bomben, Principal

- Mr. Bomben welcomed everyone to the meeting
- A motion to approve the minutes from the previous minutes was put forth and seconded
- A motion to approve the agenda for the December meeting was put forth and seconded

Student Report

S. Ngo

- The Student Prime Minister gave a brief description of what the council has accomplished since the last meeting
- Student Council was able to host a Halloween spirit week the last week of October. The events that were held were hit with students.
- A number of small activities like Family Feud, face painting and bracelet making, and the trick or treat Scavenger hunt where students had to work to get candy by decoding hints to find student council members.
- Overall, it was a good experience for council to get a feel of what kind of events students were looking for and a nice sweet for everyone who participated.
- The Christmas spirit week will take place in the last week before Christmas break, which is December 18th to the 22nd.
- The week will consist of the following events, ornament decorating Christmas karaoke, a letter to Santa where we where we are hoping to get a member of City Council dress up as Santa and deliver letters back.
- Cozy Day, where students are encouraged to wear Christmas attire.
- Family feud, a Christmas themed photo booth and candy candle grams.
- The big event that we are the most excited to bring back this year is Frost Fest, a full period event that takes place on the last day before break when a ton of interactive games will be held.
- A funny pre filmed interview with teachers and students in various other games like musical chairs.
- This will be a great transition from winter break to winter break where we are hoping to relieve some of the stress of upcoming exams.

- Semiformal there is a small update on Semiformal. The dance is open to all great elevens and twelves, and we need a minimum of 200 students attending to run the event.
- Our Deputy Prime Minister and our Minister of School spirit have been able to put together a committee and we are now in correspondence with a representative from the Canadian Cancer Society to help us get the Relay for Life up and running.
- This event is a fundraising event for cancer where students will walk around the track and support of those with cancer and who have successfully fought cancer.
- There will be other track events, sporting events, sporting activities and possibly food trucks.

Chaplaincy Report

S. Smalridge

- We finished our school, our retreats for the semester and and most recently we had the grade Nines going to the parish, the parish hall, and we had a a board approved facilitator coming in called Hopestone and and that went quite well and it renewed our I think it refreshed our relationship with the parish too and it was nice that I think the priest was like their father.
- Our Advent mass was held on December 6.
- first time that we gathered as a whole school for mass in many years before COVID so that was a great experience and it was nice for all the students to come together to pray.
- some positive feedback given from some students who just felt like they really were enjoyed the opportunity to pray together and to receive Holy Communion for those Catholics that were prepared to do so.
- This month, we had some charitable initiatives for Advent as a focus for Advent. In particular, we're just wrapping up a clothing drive for Doctor Simones, and we've got a hygiene product drive for the food banks of Mississauga.
- Students are asked to bring in toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoos and those kinds of items, feminine hygiene products so that we can give those in need
- Finally, there's the Holly Jolly gift card fundraiser where we raised some money throughout the month of December through different initiatives, including a basketball game, period 4 December 18th where we're selling and tickets and some of the proceeds will go to help us purchase as a school purchase grocery gift cards so that our social worker has these grocery gift cards to give to families that she's working with and that they've identified as being in particular needs.

Teacher Report

D. Serafini

- Mr. Serafini discussed the life size nativity scene in the matrix prepared by our construction teacher and students
- The hockey team played in a ROPSSAA tournament. Although they tried very hard, they were unable to move on to the playoffs
- The basketball team participated in a well attended game against St. Joe's and Gonzaga. Both games were well attended and very entertaining
- The teachers in Planning for Independence took the students to the Special Olympics Basketball qualifier – more news to come about this event
- We're always a strong volleyball community, there's practice going on all the time and we always compete at a high level there.
- the Grade 8 course selection will be taking place in January for the current students from grade 9 to 11.

Principal Report

A. Bomben

- Awards Assembly was a great success
- A schoolwide mass was held to celebrate advent. The students were extremely respectful throughout the mass. It was a nice way to bring everyone together
- Christmas Concert Dec 20 at 6:00
- The December Newsletter from Trustees Corbet and Vilorio was sent out via school messenger. Some highlights:
- At the DPCDSB Board of Trustees' annual Organizational Meeting on November 21, Trustees re-elected Mississauga Wards 6 & 11 Trustee, Luz del Rosario, as Chair of the Board and Mississauga Ward 5 Trustee Thomas Thomas as Vice Chair. A complete list of the trustees representing the various board committees is available on the board website
- **Student Trustee By Election** - The successful candidate for the by-election for the Student trustee – South position is a student from St. Martin Catholic Secondary School
- **Ministry of Education Curriculum Updates:** The Ontario government is introducing new mandatory learning in the Grade 10 Canadian History course about the Great Ukrainian Famine and its impact on the Ukrainian community in Canada. This new learning is intended to elevate Canadian values focused on embracing democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. Beginning in September 2025, the curriculum will outline how the Famine was a result of totalitarian policies of the former Soviet Union leading to a man-made famine in Ukraine that resulted in the deaths of millions of Ukrainians between 1932 and 1933.
- In honour of the December 6 shooting deaths of 14 women at the Ecole Polytechnique Montreal. It's been over 30 years since this senseless murder and the desire to honour the victims is still very strong.
- The Student Activities Fee of \$45.00 is an annual fee that is used to offset costs for school initiatives, materials and student activities. The support of our Parents/Guardians through the payment of the Student Activities Fee makes it possible for our school to continue to provide many of the valuable initiatives, materials and activities that enhance the school experience for our students. Our school and the DPCDSB are committed to ensuring every student has equal opportunity to benefit from the school environment, regardless of financial hardships or barriers. The Student Activities Fee helps to offset some of the costs of the following items:
- Support for clubs, teams and activities (entry fees, equipment, transportation to events, trophies/awards, club/team uniforms).
- Guest speakers and assemblies (Anti-bullying initiatives, mental health awareness).
- Student Council (supports for speakers, special event days).
- Chaplaincy initiatives, faith formation and supports for families in need.
- Support for student enrichment opportunities and leadership Initiatives.
- School beautification.
- As a result of the reduction there will be some items and services like the yearbook which will be impacted. Moving forward, there will be a separate charge for the yearbook for those who want it. The school will not be ordering a yearbook for every student.
- Next year's projection is 940 students next year. This is a reduction of approx. 60 to 80 students. We anticipate more, but will have a better picture in February. Hopefully our Grade 8 info night created enough buzz and interest that we will increase that number so we don't lose any teachers or support staff or office staff
- Has been approved and has been posted on the school website. We have a number of student-related activities tied to the SGF. Feel free to have a look at the plan under the Parents tab on the home page.

- School Plan has been submitted to the superintendent for approval. We are in the final year of the board plan. The Multi-Year Strategic Plan values guide the goals of our annual operational plan, the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle.
- The CBILC articulates the goals for each value.
- Schools develop Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycles containing local action plans and data sources to support attainment of the CBILC goals.
- The Multi-Year Strategic Plan looks at 5 core values:
- **Believe** – overall goal is to provide students with opportunities to enhance faith formation – retreats, outreach opportunities for both staff and students
- **Excel** – essentially deals with numeracy and literacy – outlines all the things we will do to support literacy and numeracy
- **Respect** – strengthening the sense of community, belonging and areas related to diversity & equity – ideas to build a sense of belonging
- **Thrive** – mental health strategy -
- **Trust** – environmental stewardship, open communication with community and staff (sharing School Messenger) moving forward staff will be made aware of what is being sent home to the community via newsletters and school messenger
- **Once approved, the plan will be posted on the school website under School Plan at the very top of the page.**

J. LePrevost

S. Simone

- nothing to report

- nothing to report

Chair Report

G. Ling

- Nothing to report

Treasurer Report

A. Longerich

- No activity to report

Other Business

- No other business

Next Meeting Dates

All meetings will be held via Microsoft Teams and in person for those wish to attend in person at 6:30 pm. Please check your emails for the invite or contact the Principal, Adriano Bomben.

Proposed Meeting Dates:

Wednesday April 10, 2024

Wednesday June 5, 2024

Motion to Adjourn: G. Ling 1st motion, D. Serafini 2nd motion

Closing Prayer: A. Bomben