



Principals' Report

Monday, September 14, 2020

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

KUDOS (Rori-Lynn)

- Thank you to all members of the School Council for your gift of time and talents, our community greatly benefits and is better as a result of all of your hard work. We are looking forward to working with each of you this school year.
- Great job School Council, many parents commented in the year end parent feedback survey:
 - that our school is warm and welcoming; love Holy Family School
 - they feel that School Council has worked hard at being inclusive, welcoming & inviting and as a result expressed interest in becoming involved
 - they appreciated the reduction in fundraising this past school year
- Thank you to all of the parents who completed the Year End Feedback Survey and the Parent Volunteer Opportunities Survey, all of this is helpful with our planning for this year.
- Our staff and students are very thankful for the purchase of Chromebooks, this is allowing for increased access in our classrooms. THANK YOU SCHOOL COUNCIL!

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS for August/September (Rori-Lynn):

School Focus for the 2020-21 school year:

- Faith: focus on the 8 Characteristics of Catholic Identity specifically on hospitality and justice
- Wellness for staff and students
- Knowing our Learners: what is our student data telling us and how do we use it to inform our instruction & intervention (Reading Comprehension)
- Assessment Practices: continue to develop formative assessment that provides meaningful feedback to learners and informs our day to day instruction

School Culture

- Holy Family vision and beliefs

Safe and Caring

- Staff Training: Disinfectant and Sanitizer Safety (material safety data sheets) & Handwashing and Non-Medical Masks

Breaking Open Division Faith Theme

- Liturgy & [String/Stencil Reflection Project](#)

Know your learner

- Learning & the Brain: Reviewing student response models, developing meaningful lessons and intervention to meet the needs of our students.

Wellness

- Putting On Your Own Oxygen Mask First: identifying stressors and how our brain responds

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2020-2021 Student Population (Rori-Lynn)

- 444 students Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5

Pre-K	Kinder	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
32	70	60	60	63	77	82

- 77 students at home learning
 - Our in classroom students are 366
 - Current average class sizes
 - Kindergarten to Grade 2 is 16
 - Grade 3 to 5 is 22
 - Excellent opportunity for teachers to provide enhanced intervention to all our students

Staffing (Rori-Lynn)

- Currently 40 staff members
- Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Stacey Martz (vice principal) and Mr. Sterling Duplessis (new day maintenance person-in the building every day from 9:00 am - 11:00 am).
- Our teachers are committed to supporting the teaching profession and are welcoming a Red Deer College student teacher, Ms. Kathleen Easthope, to our grade 4 team; who will be with us every Tuesday and then full-time starting in February for 9 weeks..

School Wide Opening Liturgy (Stacey)

- A pre-recorded liturgy including songs, prayers, videos and a follow up activity for classes is being created by students/staff from Gr. 5 Edens and Gr. 3 Pearson.
- HFS staff and students will view the liturgy on Sept. 24 at 10:45am from their own classrooms following a unified prayer as a school community over the intercom.

Believe in God: The BIG block (Stacey)

- BIG (Believe in God) lessons are faith based and taught to all Kindergarten to Grade 5 students 13 times throughout the year by Mrs. Bussard, Mrs. Weddell, and Mrs. Martz. While the children receive a BIG lesson, their classroom teacher is given the opportunity to professionally collaborate with their grade team members.
- The first BIG lesson has students learning about our school division faith theme, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Activities, conversations and reflections about trust have been meaningful for both staff and students.
- The lessons will promote student’s spiritual well being through activities and discussions specifically tied to the school division faith characteristics of justice and hospitality (i.e. God glasses, prayer)

Schedule Changes (Stacey)

- Supervision: outside supervision starts at 8:12 am and ends after school at 3:15 pm
- Staggered Entry and Dismissal
- Staggered Recesses
- Lunch: with the changes to the division calendar we were able to increase lunch eating time from 15 minutes to 20 minutes

Physical Education and Recess Time (Stacey)

- Our Phys. Ed. team has been busy taking all phys.ed. and recess equipment and preparing cohort bins of equipment to be used within each of the classroom cohorts during phys ed and recess. Students are able to play in close contact with others in their classroom cohorts and social distance play with friends from other classroom cohorts. Students will use hand sanitizer/wash hands prior and after recess and physical education.

Mindset Mondays (Rori-Lynn)

- Our Wellness Team will be continuing to plan lessons this year; the focus being on growth mindset, wellness, being welcoming and respectful of others

Administrative Procedures Review (Rori-Lynn)

Below are the administrative procedures to be reviewed by the division administration this month. Please provide Rori-Lynn with any feedback you may have by September 16th via email and she can bring forward on your behalf to the meeting.

These procedures can be found on the division website <https://www.rdcrcs.ca/board/admin-procedures>

- AP 425 - [The Role of the Divisional Psychologist](#)
- AP 426 - [The Role of Division Behaviour](#)
- AP 427 - [The Role of the Division Cognitive Lead](#)

SCHOOL WIDE PRESENTATIONS

Face2Face Ministries:

- Rescheduled date is November 26th
- As this student retreat was cancelled prior to school closures and was being funded by the Red Deer Regional Catholic Education Foundation we will be able to utilize this funding to cover the costs.
- Awaiting a response from Face2Face Ministries to see *if/how* we will proceed with the retreat. Stay tuned.

ADVISORY QUESTION

We aim every year to make our division faith theme come alive with our students, our staff and our parent community. How can we as a staff make our division's faith theme, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" become part of each parents journey this year? This is the year to really live "Trust in the Lord".

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We will be continuing with our week at a glance which is posted on social media and Edsby as well as emailed to parents. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the classroom teacher or school administration. Teachers welcome parents to contact them directly by calling the school or sending them a message on Edsby. Please note that if they are teaching, on supervision or unable to take your call we ask that you leave a message and they will get back to you by the next work day.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is a means for parents and community to work together to support and enhance student learning. School Council provides a venue for parents to reflect their wishes of the broader community of education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal.

Roles that are not to be taken on by a School council include:

- School governance
- Employment issues
- School management
- Listening to complaints.

Thank you to our parents for continuing to work in a team to meet the goals of School Council.

