



Principals' Report

Monday, October 19, 2020

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

KUDOS

- Thank you to all of our new members who have taken on roles; we look forward to working with all of you this school year.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS for October:

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

Safe and Caring

- Trauma Informed School: Trauma Informed Care Training (level 1 and 2) for all staff over the course of the year
 - Day 1: **Define** trauma and understand different types of trauma
 - Day 2: **Identify** signs and symptoms of trauma

Faith

- Bearing Witness: What does it mean as a Catholic to bear witness?

Know your learner

- Individual Student Support Plans, English Language Learner Benchmarking, Fountas Pinnell
- Using all data to inform instruction in the class to support student success

Wellness

- Learning about the 4 Key Dimension of Self-Care

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Family Check Ins (Rori-Lynn)

Last meeting we asked in our Advisory Question how we could support our parent community with our division faith theme, "Trusting in the Lord with all their heart". The suggestion was made for administration to connect via telephone with each family in the school as a check in. Administration started this process and to date have connected with 51 families over the phone. The feedback from families is positive, they are expressing appreciation for the phone call and supports open communication

School Lockers (Stacey)

Our Health and Safety Committee met and developed a plan to introduce lockers to our students. All lockers in the school are numbered 1,2,3, or 4 and students will enter or be dismissed as a group of one number at a time (i.e. all 1s at the lockers) this will support safe distancing in between lockers. Students will store all outdoor gear in their lockers, backpacks and lunch kits will remain in the classrooms to continue to minimize the amount of students in the hallway

Halloween

Halloween will be alive at Holy Family School on Friday, October 30th. Students are invited to come to school in a costume. Parents are reminded to ensure that costumes are appropriate, comfortable to wear all day, and the child can be independent (not requiring adult assistance). Make-up is acceptable as it will still allow students to wear their "face mask" as needed throughout the day. Costumes that depict violence are

not appropriate and fake weapons should not be brought to the school. Children are invited to bring an additional snack, not to be shared with others, on that day to enjoy in the afternoon classroom activities.

Virtual Book Fair

Our school will be hosting a virtual book fair, October 30 - November 10th

Parent - Teacher Conferences (Rori-Lynn)

Parent teacher conferences will be taking place on the evenings of November 9 and 10. Parents will be invited to sign up for a time with each of their children's teachers for a Google Meet. For families who do not have the technology to support a Google Meet, they can sign up for a telephone call and the teacher will contact them via telephone at the assigned time. We are anticipating families will be able to start the sign up process early next week.

Catholic Education Sunday (Stacey)

Catholic Education in Alberta will be celebrated on November 8.

- #IBelieveinCatholicEd

The theme for this year "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31) is especially relevant and inspiring during this time of COVID. Catholic schools are best situated to move forward during hardship and uncertainty for we know that God is with us and holds us in the palm of His hand. The faithfulness of God gives us hope.

This year's theme was chosen for a number of reasons:

1. Our theme is rooted in scripture. God's people have experienced trial and been called to hope and renewal throughout all generations.
2. The Alberta Bishops have set in motion a movement of Christian renewal during this time of pandemic.
3. Pope Francis, in his new Encyclical: Fratelli Tutti uses "hope" as a central theme during his reflections and call to action.
4. Hope and Renew are verbs...actions. This theme invites us to action. How will you HOPE? How will your RENEW?

Please join us in celebrating this Catholic Education Sunday during these unique times. May God bless Catholic Education!

Let us unite in prayer that the Holy Spirit may intercede for Catholic Education throughout Alberta, by praying this daily prayer from October 29 until Catholic Education Sunday, November 8.

What is a Novena?

- A novena is a type of prayer where we can enter into a conversation with God. It is a nine day period of private or public prayer to obtain special graces, to implore special favors, or make special petitions. (Novena is derived from the Latin *novem*, meaning nine.) As the definition suggests, the novena has a more specific devotion. These 9 days we will pray for the sustainability of publicly funded Catholic Education in the province of Alberta.
- In honour of Catholic Education Sunday, on November 8 we will have closing school day prayers for each day of the week leading up to Catholic Education Sunday over the intercom

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 224 - Outreach Program](#)
- [AP 411 - Employee Assistance and Wellness Programs](#)

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.
- We are confident that we will be able to move forward with this faith based retreat. It will look different from the original plan, but all students in the school will participate and benefit from the message being offered.

ADVISORY QUESTION

We invite you to share with us what has been helpful for you and your family with the school re-entry this fall. Please share any ideas that at this time that you feel would be helpful?

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.

