



Principals' Report

Monday, March 15, 2021

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

KUDOS

- Thank you for parents' continued diligence with completing the daily checklist with their child before going on the bus or coming to school.
- Thank you for Soup for the Soul for staff each month; this is very much appreciated by staff

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS for February/March:

- **Faith Day:** Our beautiful day of virtual faith development began with a Liturgy of the Word led by Father Les, and transitioned into a variety of pre-recorded faith sessions that were hosted by an assortment of speakers. Sessions focused on two of the 8 Characteristics of Catholic Identity: Justice and Hospitality. Our staff were engaged in virtual coffee chats and reflective practices throughout the day. Pre-recorded sessions continue to be available for all staff, students and families to view. They can be accessed [here](#) indefinitely.
- **Responding to our Student Needs:** Dig Deeper into our Data; what is it telling us; how can we best support our students? Using all data to inform instruction in the class to support student success and further respond to the data by allocating student supports and interventions
- **Curriculum Review/Assessment Practices:** reviewing essential learning outcomes with reading comprehension; formative assessment practices; responding to our learners; scaffolding activities to support reading comprehension
- **First Nations, Métis and Inuit :** A Division PD offered the opportunity for several HFS staff members to engage in a book club that took place over 3 evenings in March. The book was called '21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act'. Through conversations and active listening, educators continue to show our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.
- **Safe and Caring / Healthy Minds Healthy Children:** focus on staff and student wellness.
 - Trauma Informed School: Trauma Informed Care Training (level 1 now completed); Level 2 will be a full day training with Line Perron from Imagine Learning on March 22nd
 - Emergency Protocols/Occupational Health & Safety

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Staffing Updates

- Mrs. Cathy Ratzlaff is currently on leave for an undetermined amount of time
 - **Mrs. Annette Grieman Kocins** is covering for the duration of the leave

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registrations 2020-2021

Program	March 15th	Comparison	Considerations
Pre-Kindergarten	28 registrations	Decrease of 19	Total registration for next year is currently projected to be 400 students if we are able to maintain 2 Pre-Kindergarten programs. This is a decrease of another 40 students for next year.
Kindergarten	59 registrations	Decrease of 10	City of Red Deer census data indicates a declining birth rate which our school catchment areas are experiencing along with a new private school offering Pre-K - Grade 3 on the south side of Red Deer is likely impacting our declining enrollment.

Registration Intention including At Home Learning (AHL)

Planning for the 2021-22 school year has begun; to assist with planning families are encouraged to complete the intention form as soon as possible. At Home Learning will continue to be offered to families for the 2021-22 school year. Registrations will be confirmed through our school office by completing the Student Registration/At Home Learning Intention Form which was sent out to all families this month.

City of Red Deer RCMP Community Policing

Red Deer City RCMP Community Policing were invited by administration to complete a CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) assessment to address concerns of after hours activity in and around the school property and the unwanted debris that is left behind. As we continue to provide a safe learning environment we welcomed the strategies from the RCMP to assist. In early February, our Deer Park neighbours will receive a joint letter from the RCMP and Holy Family school requesting their assistance in reporting activities to the RCMP. [HFS Neighbourhood Letter](#)

Spirit Days

- March 17: Dress Green Day
- April 13: Twin Day
- May 5: Hats on for Mental Health
- June 3: Tacky Tourist Day
- March 23: Crazy Sock Day (Down Syndrome Awareness Day)
- May 14: Jersey Day
- June 15: Crazy Hair Day

Social Justice Plan

Our students and staff continue to seek ways to show acts of charity (giving funds or physical items) and justice (acts of showing kindness, awareness, acknowledgment) that support our community in meaningful ways. Here are examples of previous and upcoming acts:

Charity: *Lenten Calendar (Food Bank donations each week)*

Justice: *Privilege Day (more information to come); Indigenous Prayer Ribbon (awareness activity to support Truth and Reconciliation); HFS Staff are supporting Julietta's Place (cards of care for Moms, toy items for 14 children living in the facility)*

Mindful Mondays

Mindful Mondays touch on respect, kindness and our growth mindset in different ways. In the months of February and March we have focused on the following with our students:

- Jan. 25: We are all unique
- March 8: Humility
- March 15: St. Patrick
- Feb. 8: Love
- Feb. 22: Pink Shirt Day

Believe in God (BIG Lessons)

Our students receive faith based lessons that support our division faith theme and the 8 Characteristics of Catholic Identity that are organized and prepared by our Faith Coach. All students Kindergarten to Grade 5 will have the following lessons from Feb-April We look forward to celebrating our BIG lessons on our Social Media channels in the coming months!

- BIG Lesson #7: Leaping into Lent
- BIG Lesson #8: What is Justice?
- BIG Lesson #9: Justice in Action (school-wide HOPE project)
- BIG Lesson #10: We are Stewards of the Earth (Earth Day)

March Division Focus from our Family School Enhancement Counsellor

- **HUMILITY** and the Catholic education characteristic of **spirituality**
- **Scripture:** "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves" Philippians 2:3
- **Mental Health Strategy:** Share your gifts and talents: God has given each one of us your own unique abilities to bless those around us.
- **40 Developmental Asset**
 - #8 Youth as resources
 - #36 Peaceful conflict resolution

Administrative Procedures Review

Below are the administrative procedures to be reviewed by the division administration this month. Please provide Rori-Lynn with any feedback you may have 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 419 - Employee Conflict of Interest](#)
- [AP 503 - Lease of School Buildings or Space Within School Buildings](#)

ALBERTA EDUCATION SURVEY

[Holy Family Highlight Sheet](#)

Alberta Education and RDCRS will be sending all parents of children in grades 4, 7 and 10 across Alberta an annual survey. The results of these surveys are used to help guide programs in the school, address school needs and celebrate the great things we do here at Holy Family School.

Holy Family is an excellent school community where families and staff care deeply about student learning in all areas and work together to achieve this. Staff have high expectations and work hard to meet individual students where they are at to best meet their needs in all areas of development.

We have an excellent report card; results reflect that Holy Family is well above the provincial average in all areas.

ADVISORY QUESTION

To mitigate risks of COVID, our school implemented staggered entry / dismissal times this year to decrease congestion to support safe entry and exiting of the building for our students. We will be exploring in the coming months if we will be continuing with these staggered times. We have heard from some parents they are preferring the staggered times as it is much easier to drop off and pick up with the reduced traffic. We welcome your feedback. Would you like to see staggered entry/dismissal times continue?

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
- School management
- Employment issues
- Listening to complaints.

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

