



Principals' Report

Monday, October 25, 2021

Be Strong, Be Brave, Be Fearless. You are Never Alone.

KUDOS (Rori-Lynn)

- Thank you to the hot lunch volunteers for organizing and successfully setting up hot lunch for students. Students and families are pleased to have the return of hot lunch in our community.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS (Rori-Lynn)

School Focus for the 2021-22 school year:

- Faith: focus on the 8 Characteristics of Catholic Identity specifically on Community and Tradition.
- Wellness for staff and students: Trauma Informed Care
- Knowing our Learners: what is our student data telling us and how do we use it to inform our instruction & intervention (Reading Comprehension & Spelling)
- Assessment Practices: continue to develop formative assessment that provides meaningful feedback to learners and informs our day to day instruction
- Indigenous Teachings: staff are committed to our call to Truth and Reconciliation and learning about reconciliation from local Elders, knowledge keepers and allies (division Indigenous Support Team) and how they can permeate these teachings into their instructional practices

Faith

- The 8 Characteristics of our Catholic Identity - Going Deeper into the Characteristic of Community
 - Community: Our classrooms model the kind of community that forms students to be citizens who contribute for the common good of society. We are all part of a large family that shares the world.
- Social Justice Plan: As a school community we participate and engage in a variety of projects; each classroom or grade team plans and becomes involved with a social justice project throughout the school year.

Indigenous Teachings

- Tipi Teachings: staff and students will be learning about the Tipi and a Tipi has been set up in our Atrium to support the learning experience being led by our division Indigenous Services team

Know your learner

- Learning & the Brain: Reviewing student response models, developing meaningful lessons and intervention to meet the needs of our students.
- Responsive model of Student Supports implemented
- We have now been in school for over 6 weeks and have begun collecting evidence of learning to determine how students are responding to the high quality universal and targeted programming. One piece of the assessment process is administering the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmarks at this time with all grade 2 - 3 students to determine the students independent and instructional levels of reading. This information informs teachers with their instruction in the classroom and determining if some students may benefit from additional interventions. Our grade 1 students are assessed in late January to February.

Wellness

- Trauma Informed Care: during the 2020-21 school year all staff were Level 1 and Level 2 trained
- To continue to build on our learning staff are engaging in a book study
 - Fostering Resilient Learners: Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom; Book by Kristin Souers and Peter A. Hall

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2021-2022 Student Population

- 403 students Kindergarten to Grade 5
 - This includes 11 at home learners;

Kinder	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
69	67	62	61	65	79

Celebration (Rori-Lynn)

- This school year the administration team has asked staff to reflect on our division faith theme and identify students they witness being living examples of the theme, the 8 Characteristics of our Catholic Identity specifically Community, or Indigenous Teachings (7 Sacred Teachings) and submit a positive office referral for the students. Administration meets with the child and celebrates how their teacher witnessed God in them through their words and actions. The child identifies someone they would like to share this with and together with the principal make a phone call to share the good news with that person.
- To date the administration team has already received 45 positive office referrals in the first 8 weeks of school. We are very proud of our students, they are making Holy Family the best school!

Parent Teacher Conferences (Rori-Lynn)

- Monday, November 8th and Tuesday, November 9th
- Parents will sign up for a time for the teacher to call them
- Teacher will call at the assigned time via a Google Meet call capability; the call will show up on the parents phone as a long distance call, perhaps from Ontario. There is no cost for an outgoing call, parents cannot call back to the number. It will be important for parents to answer the call when it comes in.
- Sign up and details will be sent out shortly to parents. All parents are encouraged to sign up for a Parent Teacher Conference Call.

Believe in God: The BIG block (Stacey)

- BIG (Believe in God) lessons are faith based and taught to all Kindergarten to Grade 5 students 16 times throughout the year.
- October Lessons completed:
 - BIG #2: Thanksgiving Gratitude
 - BIG #3: Prayer
- Upcoming: BIG #4: Community (*God created us to be in relationship with each other*)

Mindful Mondays

- Our Wellness Team will be continuing to plan lessons this year; the focus being on growth mindset, positive affirmations, mindful breathing, gratitude, wellness, being welcoming and respectful of others. These practices help our learners in being happy, healthy, regulated, positive little humans. Staff report feeling better as well as they participate alongside the students, The following lessons were taught since the end of September:
 - Terry Fox: dreams and goal setting
 - Truth and Reconciliation: help everyone be included and be treated fairly and with respect; why do we wear orange shirts? Mindful practice of deep breathing
 - Thankfulness: what does it mean to be thankful, practice showing thankfulness and practice the mindful practice of gratitude
 - St. Therese: remembering that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all things with love. Mindful practice of helping others
 - Mindful Practices: mindful words, mindful eating, mindful giving as it relates to Halloween

COVID Update

Revised (rev.Oct 21) AHS Parent Guide

- AHS has recently updated the 2021-22 School Year Parent Guide, we have provided the [link here](#).

- As a general reminder:
 - mandatory masking for students in Grades 4 & 5, as well as all staff and teachers in all grades.
 - masks are recommended for students attending Kindergarten to Grade 3.
 - masks are required by all people entering our school buildings.
- For more information please visit alberta.ca, dial 811, or call the school office.
- AHS notifies us when there is a confirmed positive case that was infectious while attending school. We will send home an informing letter to parents of the specific classroom asking as always to monitor for symptoms, fill out the online [Alberta Health Services COVID-19 self-assessment](#) or call Health Link at 811 and please keep your child at home if symptomatic

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents often ask how they can best support their child's classroom teacher and the school community. Asking your child specific questions at the end of the day that are framed in a positive manner that promotes a growth mindset. For example:

- What was your favourite part of the day today?
- Who did you play with at recess?
- What made your teacher smile today? What made him/her frown?
- Who is the friendliest person in your class?
- Was there anything that made you sad today?
- What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- Tell me about something kind you did for someone today. Did someone do something nice for you?
- Who is someone at school that could use a friend?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today?
- What are you looking forward to tomorrow at school?

Thank you to all families for:

- Greeting all families and staff warmly as you move around our school
- Communicating respectfully and thoughtfully to teachers - in emails, on the phone and in face to face communications
- Supporting your child with their learning goals
- Meeting your commitments with transportation fees and staying in touch with the office if you need extra time or consideration
- Supporting your child's social emotional growth: learning the value of: good manners, appreciating difference, contributing to the greater good, saying sorry, learning to forgive, working hard and playing hard too, being kind to ourselves and to one another, the power of prayer, giving service to others...

ADVISORY QUESTION

Staff have been dealing with an increase in aggressive behaviours at recess time with older grades. Students are sharing that they are playing games inspired by the Netflix show, "Squid Games". This past week we shared with parents the website Common Sense to assist parents in determining appropriate television shows & movies, books and video games. What else can we do at the school level to support parents? Would parents be interested in attending a parent session focusing on the impact of Social Media on our youth?

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.

