



Principals' Report

Monday, January 17, 2022

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 & Wellness

- Gratitude & Community Building: Tristan Gomez, Chaplain, walked staff through scripture and a reflective process using a visio divina from the reading of the 10 lepers and how only 1 went back to say thank you
- 4 Dimensions of Wellness: staff explored spiritual wellness, psychological wellness, emotional wellness and physical wellness - practicing the act of healthy habits to attain better physical and mental health outcomes

Indigenous Teachings

- Ensouling our School: Indigenous Education Services Team led staff through the teaching of the medicine wheel and the connection with all aspects of our development

Know your learner & Assessment

- Learning & the Brain: Examining student data and reviewing student response models, developing meaningful lessons and intervention to meet the needs of our students.
- Responsive model of Student Supports: intervention groupings and elements of an effective guided reading lesson , responding to the Enhanced Literacy Grant Assessment for grade 2 & 3 students
- Technology: Rob Melenchuk introduced Makey Makey and Scratch Coding and how to use it in classrooms

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Kindergarten Registrations 2022-2023

Program	January 17th	Comparison
Kindergarten	32 registrations	Decrease of 7 at this time; 01/25/22 we had 52

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 78 positive office referrals in the first 4 months of school. We are very proud of our students, they are making Holy Family the best school!

Believe in God: The BIG block (Stacey)

- BIG (Believe in God) lessons are faith based and taught to all Kindergarten to Grade 5 students 15 times throughout the year.
- November, January & December Lessons Completed:
 - BIG #4: Community (*God created us to be in relationship with each other*)
 - BIG #5: Epiphany/Chalking of the Doors
- Upcoming: BIG #6: Tradition (with virtual guest Youth Chaplain Jeannette Manser)

Student Wellness

iRespect is a prevention program focused on empowering students in Grade 5 to grow their self esteem and respect for themselves as well as develop a respectful understanding for themselves as well as develop a respectful understanding of concepts and issues like emotions, diversity, communication, labels and stereotypes.

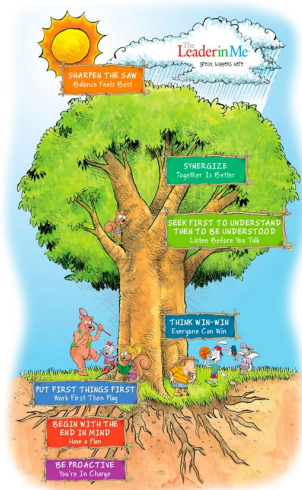
iRespect MYSELF focuses on building a foundation of understanding and respect for oneself and the people around them.

iRespect US focuses on communication, healthy peer friendships, conflict resolution and personal power. All Grade 5 classrooms participated in the iRespect Myself presentation in October. The iRespect US presentations will take place in February.

7 Habits of Happy Kids

Adults in organizations around the world know and love the 7 Habits. The same proven concepts can be

taught to students using language and examples appropriate to their developmental stage. Using the metaphor of a healthy tree, Habits 1-3 focus on developing a strong “personal root system”, building character and becoming more independent. Habits 4-6 teach skills of working well with others, and becoming more interdependent. Habit 7 is about taking care of oneself in order to ensure great leadership can continue into the future. All students in Holy Family School will be participating in lessons teaching these important habits led by our school counselor, Mrs. May-Sholdice.



Habit 1: “Be Proactive” taught in October

- You’re in Charge - I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my actions. I make good, responsible choices without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2: “Begin with the end in mind” taught in November

- Have a Plan - I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school’s mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good

citizen.

Habit 3: “Put first things first” taught in January

- Work First, Then Play - I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

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 November:
 - Helping in Our Community - link to social justice with mindful practice of changemaker drawing
 - What does Peace mean to you? - link to Remembrance Day with mindful practice of reflection
 - Bully Awareness and Being Kind - link to World Kindness Day with mindful practice of breathing
 - Respect - link to Seven Sacred Teachings with mindful practice of Mindful Breathing
 - Hope, Love, Joy and Peace - link to Advent with mindful practice of Candle Breath
 - Patience - link to a Catholic Education Characteristic of Spirituality with mindful practice of colouring through prayer
 - Grateful Hearts - link to the giving season of Christmas with mindful practice of Christmas Tree Pose
 - Epiphany - link to the Christmas Story with mindful practice of Star Breathing
 - Big Deal, Little Deal - link to growth versus fixed mindset with mindful practice of Breathe Bubble

COVID Update

Parent Information

- School Re-Entry Parent Letter from Superintendent [here](#) (no changes, just for reference if needed)
- As a general reminder:
 - mandatory masking for students in Grades 4 & 5, as well as all staff and teachers in all grades.
 - masks are strongly recommended for students attending Kindergarten to Grade 3.
 - masks are required by all people entering our school buildings.
- Administrative Procedure 162- COVID-19 Vaccination/Rapid Testing Requirements:
 - Can be found on our division website: <https://www.rdcrcs.ca/download/378133>
 - this impacts our Hot Lunch volunteers moving forward
- For more information please visit alberta.ca, dial 811, or call the school office.
- Masks and Rapid Test Kits
 - Alberta Education is providing masks and rapid test kits for each staff and student
 - We are still waiting for our first shipment to arrive at the school; each student will receive 20 masks and 1 test kit (includes 5 tests)
 - Principal Letter will be sent via SwiftReach when they are being sent home

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

All staff have been working hard focusing on our student wellness and our trauma informed approaches. We have increased universal programming and staff are committed to their trauma informed care learning journey to support the needs of our students. Looking for your feedback, how are we doing?

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.

