



## Principals' Report

Monday, March 28, 2022

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

### KUDOS (Rori-Lynn)

- Thank you for helping celebrate Shrove Tuesday! Staff and students enjoyed the pancakes and sausage lunch.

### 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, Math, ELL support )
- 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*

- 8 Characteristics of Catholic Identity: LeeAnn Arsenault, our division Faith Permeation Lead teacher, guided staff through a deeper of understanding of the Catholic characteristic of tradition
- Mass: All staff attended morning mass at St. Mary's Parish during our last PD Day. It was a welcomed experience that helped us prepare ourselves for returning to mass as a whole school community with students this week.
- 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

#### *Know your learner, Understand your learner and Respond to you learner & Assessment*

- Child Advocacy Centre: 2 Education facilitators from the centre presented to staff to build awareness of the centre and how they help children and families. Staff learned what abuse is, types of abuse, signs and symptoms of abuse, what reporting looks like, how the process works and the key factors of a trauma informed approach
- Learning & the Brain: Examining student data, both formative and summative assessments, preparing reporting outcomes and communication with parents

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### *Kindergarten Registrations 2022-2023*

Program	January 17th	Comparison
Kindergarten	41 registrations	Decrease of 17 at this time; 03/01/21 we had 58

### *Grade 1 - 5 Registrations for 2022 - 2023*

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
64	68	64	60	66

### **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 101 positive office referrals in the first 7 months of school. We are very proud of our students, they are making Holy Family the best school!

### **Faith Retreat**

We were truly blessed this year to have had Ryan and Daniel from Face2Face Ministries join us at Holy Family School. They visited us on February 10, 2022 for a whole day where they brought our Catholic faith to life through music, keynote talks, activities, and prayer. The energy and enthusiasm that they brought to our school was palpable throughout the day. Face2Face reminded our school community to *Know God, Love God, and Serve God* through acts of service and prayer! We are beyond thankful for the Catholic Education grant that allowed us to finance this amazing Catholic rich learning opportunity for our students and staff!

### **Lenten Journey**

Holy Family School started our Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday live-streamed liturgy at our school facilitated by Mrs. McCann's Gr. 5 class. We will be attending a Lent mass at St. Mary's Parish on March 31st as a whole school community. All families received the [2022 HFS Lenten Calendar](#) as a resource to use in the home to guide them on their journey through the Lenten season with ideas for family acts of service and prayer. Each week, we collect an item to support a local organization at our school. We are supporting the Red Deer Food Bank and the Mustard Seed this year with specific donations of canned meat and fruit, juice boxes, granola bars and hygiene products. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **Believe in God: The BIG block**

- BIG (Believe in God) lessons are faith based and taught to all Kindergarten to Grade 5 students 16 times throughout the year.
- January, February, March Lessons Completed:
  - BIG #8: Tradition (*guest presenter Jeanette Manser-Notre Dame youth chaplain*)
  - BIG #9: Tradition (*co-teaching with classroom teachers*)
  - BIG #10: Peace
  - BIG #11: Teaching the Mass

### **Social Justice**

- HFS Supports Ukraine: Holy Family social justice committee planned an initiative that invited all staff and students to add to a prayer chain that stretched around our school to show our love and hope for the people of Ukraine. Further, our community participated in a 9-day Novena prayer where each class took a turn praying at the chapel with their teachers and school administration. Toonies for Peace were collected during our first week of Lent collection and a donation of \$570.05 was made to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton. They matched our donation so a total of \$1140.10 has been contributed.

### **Literacy Intervention**

In response to addressing the learning loss as a result of the pandemic Alberta Education provided funding to support students to receive additional help to improve their reading skills. Thirty-two students in grade 2 and 3 participated in the additional intervention.

- We are still waiting to hear from the government if further funding will be available to provide additional intervention for grade 1 students this spring.

### **Student Wellness**

#### **Student and Family Supports**

Check out our new *Student and Family Support Site* (support resources, school wellness initiatives, our counselling team) on our website [Link](#) and will be linked each week on our *Week at a Glance* for parents

## **7 Habits of Happy Kids** [Link](#)

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 4: “Think Win-Win” taught in March

- Everyone Can Win- I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits into others’ Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise I look for third alternatives.

## **Mindful Mondays** [Link](#)

- Mindful Mondays provide important lessons of awareness and mindful practices that students and school staff engage in at school. Each week there is a new lesson to inspire a healthy mindset and lifestyle and help us to grow together as a community. The following lessons were taught since January:
  - 7 Sacred Teaching: Love - the eagle represents Love; everyone needs love. You must love yourself before you can love others. Mindful practice of showing kindness towards others in our words and actions.
  - Lent: Jesus went through a hard time for us; how do we do hard things and ask God to help us. Mindful practice - Breathe Bubble
  - Peace: every small act can help those displaced by war; how can we change the world? Mindful Practice of journaling: write a prayer, a wish for peace or how you can help and colouring
  - St. Patrick’s Day: Who was St. Patrick and the meaning of The Shamrock - learned to love and forgive his enemies; built churches and taught the Gospel to the people. Mindful Practice: snake breath
  - 7 Sacred Teaching: Humility-the wolf represents Humility; think of others before yourself; the wolf has a giving nature; protecting and working for the good of the wolf pack community; generous and loving parents setting an example for our communities and family systems. Mindful Practice - reflection and focus on breathing when listening to the song Humble and Kind I am Humble when I...

## **March Asset Virtue: Humility**

- [Link](#)

## **COVID Update**

Hand Hygiene: continuation of good hand washing and sanitizing

Cleaning: continuation of mid-day cleaning & disinfecting of high touch surfaces

Masks and Rapid Test Kits:

- Alberta Education provided masks and rapid test kits for each staff and student
- Second delivery arrived and distributed to families who expressed interest in continuing to participate

Return of multi-class and school wide activities

- As we transition and support staff and students with the return of school wide activities staff have embraced opportunities on a smaller scale (i.e. in person reading buddies, BIG Lessons, student grade team meetings, combined phys ed classes)

## **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

There have been practices implemented during the pandemic that have resulted in best practices (i.e. hand sanitizing and mid-day cleaning). The implementation of staggered entry and dismissal times along with staggered recess times will continue for the remainder of this year. We are interested in hearing from parents. What are the positive impacts of staggered entry/dismissal and recess times and what are considerations as we explore whether or not to continue this practice for the 2022-2023 school year?

## 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

