

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Paula Jubenville
Seconded by Nikole Edwards

THAT the St. Mark Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the St. Mark Catholic School Council Meeting of November 29, 2022

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest - No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the St. Mark Catholic School Council Meeting of September 22, 2022

Moved by Paula Jubenville
Seconded by Nikole Edwards

THAT St. Mark Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the St. Mark Catholic School Council Meeting of September 22, 2022, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Student council – not at this time

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING FEEDBACK

-Student's Trustee Policy 100.4

Mrs. Thompson went over changes to the policy and encouraged members to read it over and submit suggestions.

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. DeCoff went over the report and provided an overview of the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan to all Parent council members. Mrs. DeCoff provided an overview of Catholic Graduate Expectations.

See below for full report.

E. OAPCE REPORTS – Mrs. Thompson went over the newsletter.

https://www.oapce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/November_2022_v3.pdf

Mrs. Thompson requested that we have an OAPCE rep from Catholic School Council. This discussion will be tabled for the next meeting.

F. STAFF REPORTS – Ms. Wilson provided updates on classes. See below for all the information.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE Reports

1. Community Outreach/Safe Schools – no report at this time

2. Fundraising – no report at this time

3. Graduation – Mrs. DeCoff requested feedback on the possibility of charging grade 8 students a fee of \$100 to cover the cost of the year-end trip to Wonderland and graduation. If the student is not attending the Wonderland trip, then we would charge them \$25 toward the cost of graduation. This is due to increase costs post-Covid; Graduation committee will discuss and provide feedback at next meeting

4. Church Liaison – Mrs. Thompson read over the report

H. NEXT MEETING

January 24, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

J. CLOSING PRAYER was led by Mrs. DeCoff



November 2022 St. Mark Catholic Elementary School Principal's Report



2021-2026 Niagara Catholic Strategic Plan

- ✓ Sets the direction for the entire board from 2021 to 2026 (see below)

The School Improvement and Equity Planner

- ✓ Includes the provincial priority areas from the Board Improvement and Equity Plan tool provided by the Ministry of Education, with several overall goals related to the provincial performance indicators, as well as local priorities and goals. The school improvement plan is a multi-year plan.
- ✓ The priority areas include:
 - ****Catholic Faith and Community**
 - Learning Recovery and Renewal
 - ****Achievement**
 - Human Rights and Equity
 - ****Mental Health, Well-Being and Engagement**
 - Pathways and Transitions

**recent focus of our Professional development day

Catholic Faith and Culture

- ✓ Increase opportunities for all students to live out the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

Achievement

- ✓ Literacy focus will be on implementing Early Reading Strategies from Kindergarten to Grade 8
- ✓ Numeracy Focus will be on transitioning from Additive Reasoning to Multiplicative Reasoning. We are diving deeper into student understanding of the fundamentals of numeracy
- ✓ Brock Tutors will be starting soon. They will be focusing on both literacy and numeracy supports for students from grades 4 to 8.

School Climate

Welcome Back BBQ – Great feedback from families and staff on our Welcome Back BBQ. The weather was perfect and overall we had approximately 1000 people visit the BBQ.

Sports/Clubs/Extra Curricular Activities: Cross Country wrapped up with students from across the board participating in the board wide meet at Fireman's Park in Niagara Falls. St. Mark had 16 students attending the meet at Fireman's Park. Volleyball is up next, with tryouts beginning very soon. Intermediate flag football will be starting up and lead by Mr. Montague. Chess and Robotics are also up next and will be starting up very soon for our students.

Facilities updates: Our library is up and running! Mrs. Flynn will be visiting each class from kindergarten to grade 8. During this visit, she will be sharing her love of reading to our students by reading a book chosen by her and the classroom teacher. On a different day, students will visit the library and sign out a book of their choice to read.

Parent Council Meeting: Teachers Report (W.Wilson) November 2022:

Kindergarten:

Moscato/Zappitelli On Friday Oct 21st Mr. Moscato and Miss. Zappitelli invited the parents to come to the school for some cottage inquiry fun. Around 40 parents showed up and the parents and their children created 2 crafts, took a picture on the green screen and then were invited into the classroom to look at all the wonderful things they were learning about relating to cottages and camping. Zodiac signs, constellations, how to draw cottage related art, QR codes to take the students to informational videos, recordings of teacher voices sharing information about the zodiac signs, SOR folders, artwork created with paint. Then the students had some snacks the parents brought in with their children and once that was done the parents made their way back to the gym where the students got dressed in a smores costume and sang a song with some actions for the parents. The students then said bye to their parents and went back to class for lunch. It was a good day for all the parents and kids. Parents will be returning on Friday to carve pumpkins with the kids at 12:45.

The 5 Kindergarten classes have been working on developing happy and welcoming classroom communities for their new learners to feel calm and confident each day. Social/emotional skill development has been focused on. A strong focus on practicing the sounds in spoken language (Phonemic Awareness) along with the implementation of an explicit and systematic phonics program are well underway to build strong early reading skills.

Using the Math Up program, we are engaging our learners in daily Math practice through group lessons and inquiry activities. Counting, subitizing, representing numbers, and sorting are some of the skills we've been working on. Inquiry activities and learning through play are the foundations for the implementation of the Kindergarten Program. Each classroom participates in their own student-led activities to foster various skills related to our four frames (Belonging and Contributing, Problem Solving and Innovating, Self-Regulation and Well-Being, and Demonstrating Literacy and Math Behaviours).

Grade 1:

We have been celebrating who we are and each of our God given talents. We have also been discussing how we are created in God's image. Each of the Grade 1 classes have created a kind and loving classroom family where we can grow and learn together. We are working on phonemic awareness and blending to decode new and unfamiliar words. We have also been working on writing complete sentences. In Math we continue to do daily number talks. We are currently completing our unit on counting and representing numbers to 50.

Grade 5:

Novakovich Reading and Oral Communication - through center work and responding to our class text "Because of Mr. Terupt" we are working through our first reading strategies of visualization and making predictions. We have one phonemic awareness focus for each week that has also been incorporated into center work, independent word study and whole class dictation. Writing - We have completed our paragraph writing and are beginning to extend those skills to persuasive writing tasks.

Numeracy - Using MathUP and supplemental resources, we are completing whole class instruction, targeted small group practice and MATH Center rotations. Our current strand is B1. Patterns & Relationships

Faith - Through the Growing in Faith resource, we are learning how God shows His love through Jesus, the New Covenant. We are completing a Halloween culminating activity that wraps up all of our recent learning - Paragraph Writing, Media Literacy, Addition and Subtraction and the elements of art manipulation of line and colour.

Grade 6:

Thanksgiving Food Drive was successful and top classes from each Division were awarded with a Pizza Party. Reading assessments currently underway, continued use of Math Up for Math Programming, continued use of technology to support Literacy and Math in the classroom (i.e. Knowledgehook, Epic Books, Mathigon, Lexia). Halloween activities are being planned for each class. The Grade 6/7 class is transitioning well into their new classroom and with their new teacher, Mrs. Cormier. The Grade 7 students continue to enjoy the rotary classes in the afternoons and the Grade 6 students are an artistic and dramatic bunch! The focus in Literacy has been on analyzing mentor texts and summarizing the main idea in pieces of writing.

Grade 7 & 8:

This year the Intermediate division has incorporated a rotary system for instructional learning as a way to prepare the students for high school, and to gain them the skills (responsibility, organization, initiative, etc) necessary to succeed. Rotary is underway and has been very successful with both the students and the staff. Students are receptive to this change, and thus far has been very rewarding. Teaching assignments are as follows: Mr. Costantini (Science), Mr. Montague (Health and Physical Education), Miss Sirianni (Geography and History), Ms. Duggan (The Arts).

On October 17th, both the Grade 7 and 8 classes attended our first field trip to Niagara Falls to see Canada's Got Talent. A great experience and opportunity to see how TV and production work behind the scenes. The students enjoyed themselves and were excited to see some celebrities and talented acts. Grade 8 students attended a one-day Journey Retreat at St. Alfred Parish in St. Catharines. This retreat was led by various Elementary school chaplain leaders, and students were able to bond as they participated in various activities centered around our faith. The focus of this retreat was to build peer relationships and to help prepare us for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In math, both divisions are using the MathUp resource within our instruction. We continue to incorporate number talks within our lessons, and expose students to inquiry thinking. All classes are currently working with data through the use of reading and representing graphs, charts, information and analogies. In literacy, the focus has been on OCA reading assessments, Reader's Response Journals, and the Traits of Writing to help our students strengthen their skills that will lead to our class novel studies.

Intermediate sports have begun and the students are excited to finally be able to partake in these extra-curricular opportunities. Cross Country was a huge success for our school with many students placing in the top 5. Intermediate Girls and Boys Volleyball try-outs have begun.

French:

Each class begins with either "le prof du jour" or "la question du jour". This is a fun way to incorporate listening and speaking at the beginning of our class. The Grade 4s are currently working on their unit "Decouvrons notre ecole" - a back to school unit. The Grade 5s are studying "Tous des champions!" a sports unit and the Grade 6s are working on "Le mystere du trophée de basket-ball". All units have a solid focus on oral communication, reading and writing.