

Agenda

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

January 24th, 2023

6:00 pm @ St. Mark

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer - Mr. Tolomeo
2. Roll Call – Joseph Tolomeo, Jenn DeCoff, Bonnie Manchuk, Wendy Wilson, Stephanie Muhic, Monica Giammarco, Loni Pereira, Cara Hinkley, Danielle Shaw, Kerri Gray, Mychalyna Olwage, Paula Jubenville, Rob Rapiti
Regrets - Shannon Petrovic, Amanda Pokolic, Kerie Raymond, Nancy Hermans
3. Approval of Agenda – Kerri Gray and Stephanie Muhic
4. Approval of November meeting minutes – Stephanie Muhic & Kerry Gray

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Student Council Report – none at this time

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING FEEDBACK

- [Bottled Water Policy \(701.5\)](#)
- [Environmental Stewardship Policy \(400.6\)](#)
- [Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability Policy \(NEW\)](#)
- [School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure Policy \(500.1\)](#)
- [Student Senate - Elementary Policy \(100.6.2\)](#)
- [Student Senate - Secondary Policy \(100.6.1\)](#)
- Bottled water Policy has been combined into the Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability Policy, which closely reflects the Geography curriculum
- Operations for Inclement Weather Policy - question was asked regarding whether buses can be canceled only in certain areas or entire Board at once. Mrs. DeCoff stated that buses can be canceled by city/region based on weather in the different areas
- *Please submit your feedback to [Anna Pisano](#) by February 1, 2023 - 12:00 p.m*

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - see report at end of these minutes

- Question was asked whether there would be a Science Fair this year – Mrs. DeCoff stated we haven't heard anything yet.
- Mrs. Thompson noted that TVO has a lot of free tutoring online for math & reading

E. OAPCE REPORT – next meeting on January 25th

- Guest speaker coming. Register at <https://niagara.oapce.org/>

F. STAFF REPORT – Ms. Wilson

- Paul Davis is coming to St. Mark on March 6th to do presentations to grades 4-8 during the day and to parents in the evening, regarding online safety. Ms. Wilson handed out Paul Davis' bio to those in attendance for their reference.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE Reports

1. Community outreach /Safe Schools - Mychalyna Olwage (Chair)
 - No updates at this time. Suggestion to reach out to local paper for Paul Davis
2. Fundraising - Cara Hinkley (chair)
 - Spring fundraiser idea of Date Night Bingo was brought forth by Mrs. DeCoff. Items such as designer purses, tools, giftcards would be possible donated prizes. Mr. Moscato has volunteered to call numbers. Permits for alcohol and bingo/raffle will have to be obtained. Help will be needed to secure donations and to create prize baskets. Staff with smart serve are available to assist. Suggested to stay local to secure beverages for the evening. The bingo will be held mid-May. Date to be determined. A meeting will be held Tuesday, February 7th for anyone willing to volunteer to help with this event.
3. Graduation - Paula Jubenville (chair)
 - Informal survey about a small fee for graduation went over well. Many people were surprised that we haven't done this before this year. Community seems ok with it.
 - Paula Jubenville asked for the contact name for Club Roma. Mrs. Manchuk will provide her with this information.
 - The school will set out the payment of the Grad/year-end trip fee in installments for parents to pay over 4 months (Feb. to May)
 - Balloon arch last year was good for display. Club Roma gets the DJ.
 - BT funds the cake for the feeder schools
 - Plaques are organized by the school/staff
 - More water stations were needed for the outdoor ceremony
 - School may need to bring a larger screen
 - Photo Booth as an option
4. Church Liaison - Nancy Hermans
 - Church is looking for volunteers in all aspects (ex: altar servers). Bingo is up and running with breakfast. Friday bingo is doing well. More kids seem to be appearing at Mass. There is a new CWL president who wants to be involved in the school as well.

H. AGENDA ITEMS - none via email

- Question – Will there be a talent show this year? Mrs. DeCoff stated that due to the size of our school and lack of space (ie: Library on our stage), we cannot hold one at this time.
- June BBQ for students - Knights of Columbus will once again offer a school bbq at the end of the year on the same date as Play Day
- Shrove Tuesday - parent help will be needed. Bonnie will send out an email.
- Mr. Rapiti asked about receiving notifications for meetings, minutes, etc. He was currently not in the CSC email group. Mrs. Thompson will add him to the emails. It was also stated that all meetings are listed in the monthly newsletters and on the school calendar.

I. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, March 29th - 6pm

J. CLOSING PRAYER - led by Mrs. Thompson

K. ADJOURNMENT - 7:01pm



January 2023 St. Mark Catholic Elementary School Principal's Report



Catholic Faith and Community

November and December were very busy months at St. Mark! Throughout the month of November, students from grades 1 to 8 attended mass and prayed the Rosary with Father Chris. In December, Student Council led our school in virtual and in-person Advent Celebrations. It was wonderful being able to celebrate such a special season with our entire school – yes, Kindergarten to Grade 8! We held 2 separate in-person Advent Celebrations on the last day of school before the break. Our Choir were amazing and we are very proud of the leadership of our Student Council.

Our focus on the Catholic Graduate Expectations are in full motion, and students are learning about them each month. This month's focus is on being an Effective Communicator and February will be being a Reflective and Creative Thinker

Student Achievement

In our classrooms student are working hard! Structured Literacy continues to be a strong focus. Students are learning more about Phonemic Awareness and decoding strategies to strengthen their Reading Skills. In Numeracy, students are building a stronger understanding of the fundamentals of Numbers with a focus on multiplicative thinking. Both Additive and Multiplicative thinking are taught from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Helping students bridge from additive to multiplicative thinking is complex but starts early. It forms the backbone of the mathematics curriculum and includes important and interconnected ideas such as multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, ratios, percentages and linear functions. It requires time, a variety of situations and opportunities to construct their understanding in multiple ways. Additive thinking means that students are skip counting, one group at a time. Multiplicative thinking means that students are choosing fewer, larger chunks.

Home Supports – Supports for both Literacy and Numeracy can found on your child's NCVLE account. Parents will be receiving information on Knowledgehook. This is a resource used in grades 1 to 8 and our board license will be expanding to tutoring supports. All students will have an account and will be able to access a great deal of supports from home within the next month. Knowledgehook can be accessed through the NCVLE.

Mental Health, Well-Being and Engagement

During December, students celebrated many fun activities. Joy Day started our Christmas season with lots of activity. Dance-A-Thon, Christmas Activities, and a Toy drive to name a few. Our hallways were decked out and celebrating the birth of Jesus was everywhere. Around the school students participated in Choir, basketball, Go Girls, Student Council, and Vex Robotics. Our families were invited to participate in Gingerbread Night and we had a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. A very big thank you to the Knights of Columbus for helping our Student Council for this fun family night.

A very big thank you to our entire community for an extremely successful Dance-A-Thon. In total we raised \$13 000.00 that went towards technology in our school. We were able to purchase an additional Interactive Flat panel Smartboard for the Grade 6/7 classroom as well as 50 Chromebooks. Our students now have 1:1 Chromebooks from grades 4 to 8. Grades 1 to 3 now have 8 to 10 Chromebooks per classroom.



Our Mission

We are a Christ-centered Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body, and spirit.

Our Vision

Encountering souls and opening minds so that all students succeed.

Our Values

JUSTICE

We are committed to equity, works of social action, and the celebration of diversity.

COMPASSION

We practice forgiveness, generosity, kindness, humility, and service in our interactions with others.

STEWARDSHIP

We care and act respectfully and responsibly for all God's creation.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We take ownership for the impact and consequences of actions and decisions.

COMMUNITY

We foster connections where all belong and work collaboratively with our partners.

INTEGRITY

We act in a manner that is consistent with gospel values.

FAITHFULNESS

We are nourished by our Catholic faith through the word, spirit, and prayer.



2021 · 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN LISTENING, LEARNING, AND LEADING STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



ADVANCE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Focus on student success promoting and supporting all pathways for student achievement
- Support students' mental health & wellness
- Prepare students in global competencies



CELEBRATE THE RICHNESS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH AND OUR HOLISTIC, VALUES-BASED, CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- Anchor our work in the Gospel as lived in the person of Jesus Christ
- Prepare our students to live out the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
- Appreciate and highlight faith-based role models putting a 'face to our faith'



FOSTER INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, AND SAFE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES WHERE ALL ARE WELCOMED AND 'CALLED BY NAME'

- Strengthen and promote opportunities for student voice
- Advance Indigenous Education guided by the Truth & Reconciliation recommendations and the local Indigenous community
- Develop and honour a culture of respect, acceptance, and belonging
- Prioritize a diverse workforce that reflects our communities



MANAGE OUR RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD IN THE NIAGARA REGION

- Design opportunities to address changing enrollment
- Optimize our facilities through responsible stewardship and engage in environmental sustainability



FOSTER AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL OUR STAFF TO STRENGTHEN OUR WORK WITH STUDENTS

- Facilitate positive employee engagement, faith formation, and community belonging
- Create opportunities to promote staff health and wellness
- Invest in staff learning opportunities and leadership development

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations – A Vision of the Learner



1. A DISCERNING BELIEVER

formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through work, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.



2. AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively responding critically in light of gospel values.



3. A REFLECTIVE, CREATIVE AND HOLISTIC THINKER

who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.



4. A SELF-DIRECTED, RESPONSIBLE, LIFELONG LEARNER

who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.



5. A COLLABORATIVE CONTRIBUTOR

who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.



6. A CARING FAMILY MEMBER

who attends to family, school, parish and wider community.



7. A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN

who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.