

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School Council Meeting

November 18 2014

Dinner Meeting 6:00 p.m. Staff Room

Agenda

Those in attendance: Kristy Carbonara, Joseph Legace, Sue Zizian, Laura Thomas, Lisa Paquette, Kerry Morneau, Sara Turner, Cindi Taylor, Anna Racine, Melissa roma, Nicole Aubin, Sante Visca, Teri Visca, Mary D'Uva, Greg Morawek, Christine Matyas, Toni Artista Marsh, Angie Morocco, Elizabeth Davey.

The meeting began with a prayer said by Nicole Aubin. The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School Council held their potluck meeting and the dinner portion took place prior to the meeting in the staff room

Mr. Legace chaired the meeting.

I. Co-Chairs Report:

- i. Catholicity: Advent Mass: November 30th- families needed to light the candle, and carry the gifts for each of the masses. Refreshments after the 11:00 a.m. Mass Wreath making session with Strong Catholic Families/Strong Catholic Youth.
- ii. Food Days: Ideas, dates:
December 19th: Sub Day, Feb. 17th Shrove Tuesday, April: Chicken Fingers, May: Pitas, June: Hotdog Day.
- iii. PRO Grant Project: Discussion of proposal submitted to Ministry from last year's council. Ideas for this year's project are being explored for spring activity – mental health, internet safety were some of the ideas.
- iv. Lent: Catholicity Project. The Family Cross Project was suggested for the Home/School Catholicity Project. Crosses will need to be bought and instruction sheets to send home to parents will need to be made.

II. Teacher Rep Reports:

- i. Teachers from each division gave a report from their respective divisions. Mrs. Artista Marsh ELKP, Mrs. Matyas Primary, Mrs. D;Uva Junior, Miss Morocco Intermediate, Mr. Morawek :Resource information.
- ii. PALS Program: Playground Activity Leaders. It is a program whereby student leaders plan and lead activities on the playground for students. It promotes leadership, physical activity during leisure time, reduces bullying behavior on the playground. The leaders will receive a 1 ½ day workshop from Miss Gilliss and the school health nurse. National Bully Awareness Week is currently taking place and there are themes for each day as outlined in the newsletter.
- iii. Student of the month: In November the school began a student of the month recognition. The monthly student award is given to the student who most exemplifies the characteristics of our monthly theme of bearing Catholic Witness. This month's witness theme is "We are witnesses of Peace." A certificate is given to the student in the class who demonstrated being a person who promoted peaceful relationships

with others in the classroom, out on the yard, field trip etc. They will receive a certificate, have their name on the announcements, a group picture that will be posted in the school, in the newsletter.

- iv. ECO School: Thank you to the parents for volunteering. Mrs. Nadeau will be getting in touch with you once the ECO team moves onto outdoor projects – in spring.

III. Church Rep Report: Anna Racine/Mr. Legace

- i. Choir is holding a Taize at Mount Carmel on December 12th. Choir will also have a lessons in Carols at Mount Carmel
- ii. Fr. Peter has been having his orientation meetings for parents of Grade 2 and Grade 8 students.
- iii. St. Thomas More CWL had their annual bazaar on November 8, 2014.
- iv. New Pastoral Council members were commissioned at mass on November 2nd, 2014.
- v. Strong Catholic Families team is having an advent wreath gathering on November 30, 2014. Families can make an advent wreath for \$10.00 and will receive a handout on how to use the wreath in their home. There was also be short videos for children as well as refreshments. Coupled with the OLOMC family advent masses.
- vi. Youth Ministry will be hosting an advent retreat for grades 1 to 6 on December 6, 2014, for a cost of \$8.00 per child. Registration forms will go out with the school. Fun day filled with lots of activities which focus on the meaning of Advent and preparing for Christmas. Children' Liturgy is preparing their Christmas Chorale at the 5:00 Christmas Eve mass for children to participate in. There are signing and speaking parts. Rehearsals after 11:00 Mass on Sundays in the parish hall.

IV. Special Needs Report (SEAC) Report: Anna Racine

- i. Integrated Transition Planning for students in Secondary Schools attempts to connect existing community supports with educational programming as students approach adulthood. This type of planning applies to students with a developmental disability and is documented through the transition section found on the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Transition plans will focus on strengthening connections with the community, leisure opportunities, the world of work, and/or post-secondary educational opportunities. The process of involving community agency representatives in transition planning is optional for families.
- ii. Denis Morris High School is piloting the Niagara Catholic District School Board initiative called Applied Behavioural Analysis in the Secondary Classroom. We are in the second year of the initiative and are targeting selected literacy and numeracy courses. This framework looks at the communicative function of our student's social-emotional needs, behavioural needs and cognitive intellectual needs in order for educators to respond with tiered interventions and support. This is a holistic approach to responding to student need.
- iii. Every year the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario awards a \$1,000.00 scholarship to an Ontario high school student who has a documented Learning Disability and who will be attending a post-secondary institution. The student must be pursuing a bachelor of engineering or a bachelor of science in a physical sciences discipline. This scholarship is in memory of Roy V. Cooper who volunteered for many years as a Board member of his local chapter and with LDAO/LDAC and spent his working life in the engineering/physical sciences field and as a parent of an adult with learning disabilities.

V. Principal Report:

- i. School Cash Online: Parent/ portal that offers a safe and convenient way to pay for school activities. There will be a parent awareness online tutorial in December. The Board will send the information on accessing this via a flyer to parents/guardians. OLMC principal and secretary will receive their online training on November 19, 2014.
- ii. Fundraising for 2014-2015. Fundraising activities must have a designated purpose and funds collected are to be spent for that designated purpose. Expenditure ideas: Non board funded classroom or school materials or equipment, technology needs, sporting expenses - equipment for the gym or for recess purposes i.e, mini foot hockey nets and any other items that the students are interested in, uniform expenses- replacing or adding, offsetting the cost of class field trips, graduation expenses, subsidization of trips for students to insure inclusion of all socio-economic strata, a few more concrete benches under trees in the yard so students can sit and talk or read. Our Lady of Mount Carmel traditionally does one large fundraiser per year-dance-a-thon. It was suggested by Mrs. Davey that this year we could also do a favourite STM fundraiser – “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. It is a popular, profitable and is not labour intensive. As with the Dance a thon, we would require parent volunteers to help out which would mean a couple of hours of your time to help out with clerical types of things. Movie night was also suggested as a potential fundraiser. More information regarding that would be brought to the meeting by council members who were interested in this event.
- iii. School Nutrition Grant: We have applied for a grant. Mrs. Davey met with Cathy Giajnorio who is the Community Development Worker for Niagara Nutrition Partners for some preliminary information. She is trying to get our school on the priority list for the grant. She said that the nutrition program offered at a school would be based on what could be supported by parent volunteers. It was recommended to start slowly perhaps during Nutrition Month in March with a 2 morning a week grab and go early morning meal. A table could be set up in the hallway and students can grab food and go to class. The table would need to have a fruit – apple- clementines, dairy – cheese string or yogurt tube, grain product – bagged cereal is what is suggested. It usually takes a month to establish a routine with the volunteers and the students. Volunteers who cannot come to the school can be responsible for the online ordering, some volunteers can come in for an hour and prep the food items for the 2 day distribution – bag the cereal, put the fruit in a large bowl etc. The Niagara Nutrition Partners were meeting with the Ministry to see which schools would be involved in the program and she would communicate with me shortly. The most important aspect is getting the volunteers to run the program.
- iv. Progress Reports and Interviews: Reports going home on November 20th with Parent/teacher/student conferences taking place on November 25th. The Saint Michael Family of Schools post card will be included in progress reports. Registration post card outlining high school open house has been changed to January 15th, ELKP Open House and Registration Jan. 14th, French Immersion Gr. 2 & 3 Information Night December 3rd.
- v. Dress code and alternate dress days: Dress code is in effect in all of the schools of the NCDSB. Alternate dress days are with a purpose in mind such as, bully prevention wear pink, Remembrance Day wear red. All of these events need to be approved by the superintendent of schools, Mark Lefebvre. Buy out days for elementary schools are not allowed.

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: February 10th, 6:30 p.m.

Prayer for next meeting: Cindi Taylor

Goodies for next meeting: Sante Visca