



St. Michael Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 7th, 2024
School Library
6:30 – 8:00 PM

In Attendance:

School Staff – Josie Lorenzon, Catherine Lindsay, Daniela Lettieri, Natalia Lago-Byrne

Student Voice – Estela Merino

Parents – Mike Brunetto, Diane Borrelli, Gabriella Di Pietrantonio, Mary D’Adderio, Francisco De Vacas, Giovanni Borrelli, Giselle Varonelli, Heather Prechner

Parents via Zoom/Phone – Stuart Sinclair, Timea, Diana Raghoonan, Nicole V., Dr. Thompson Adiuku, Interjit, Kristy N., (416.505.2675)

Opening Prayer – Mary D’Adderio

Land Acknowledgement – online version

Approval of Agenda (Nov 7th, 2024) – Motioned Mary D’Adderio, Seconded Francisco De Vacas – Motion Passed

Approval of Minutes (Oct 3rd, 2024) – Motioned Gabriella Di Pietrantonio, Seconded Giovanni Borrelli – Motion Passed

TEACHER UPDATES

Science-

We are continuing to work on descriptive feedback tools to help student engagement in learning processes, our focus is on equitable and inclusive assessment practices

We launched a biotech experience in biology, partnering with Amgen and U of T, to support our learners in lab skills and in practices that are relevant to current science and promotes student achievement by offering differentiated learning experiences.

Math-

The math department is offering Numeracy Classes to students who are currently taking grade 9 Destreamed Math. These classes will help students practice the material being taught in the math classroom. They will run Tuesday and Thursday after school from 2:20 to 3:20. You can still register your child. Speak with your child's math teacher for more details.

Phys. Ed-

The Health and Physical Education department has introduced a Sport Focused program for this year with great success. Students in the program have an opportunity to choose a focus of Large Groups: Mind, Body and Stick (Hockey) or Large Groups: Field, Foot and Ball (Soccer). Student athletes in this program earn school credits while training in their specific sport, have convenient access to training facilities, are provided a

wholistic and dynamic approach to their sport through leadership opportunities and community involvement, and finally are coached on skill, game specific tactics, and sport specific body training and nutrition.

Religion-

In Religion, grade 11 retreats are underway. We are visiting the Exchange to learn about food insecurity in the Caledon community and participate in community service, an important part of Catholic Social teaching. Students are involved in sorting donations and preparing meals for those in need.

All the grade 11s also had class visits to the chapel where Mr. Saliba taught a lesson on the parts of mass and the connection between our faith and Judaism.

Social Science-

The department is preparing for the Remembrance Day assembly. Areas such as RAISE and the Arts are participating. Bringing school together to honour and remember those who have lost their lives and have sacrificed for us. Grade 10 Canadian History classes are going to McMichael Art Gallery- exhibit of stories across Canada through art; focus on Indigenous History. Grade 11 Ancient Civilization and Anthropology/Sociology/ Psychology courses are going to the ROM to study evolution.

Tech-

Hospitality received donations of turkey's and vegetables. SHSM students in the program packed 100 meals for Exchange. As part of our faith journey participating in social justice opportunities to give to those in need and deepen their understanding of the Gospel values in action.

Construction classes made flower boxes, in support of Eco-Council initiatives, to create more areas for flowers and greenery outside in our prayer garden.

Arts-

All arts disciplines are in full preparation for upcoming school events with their classes. Dance and Music are preparing performance pieces for the Remembrance Day assembly, promoting the themes of remembrance and compassion for individuals' past experiences. Music attended the symphony last month.

We are all in the midst for preparing for our annual Christmas Showcase on December 4, 2024 at 7pm. Students are collaborating on performance and visual arts pieces to showcase the Catholic values of humility, love, and giving during the advent season. Dance attended a workshop downtown to build community between all grade levels.

RAISE- Realize and Achieve Individualized Skills and Experiences (formerly PIP)

1. Hot Lunch just happened last week. Students prepared their own hot lunch consisting of soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. They also made some homemade desserts; apple crumble and chocolate chip cookies. It was so nice to have Mr. Clarkin (our vice principal) join the entire group for lunch Friday.

2. Brandy, our therapy dog continues to visit our students every other Tuesday. Brandy brings calmness to our classroom and gives the students opportunities to connect to their own feelings.

3. Sweet Thunder Cafe reopened this week. Our students are so excited to continue serving the school community.

4. Mrs. Lettieri has created an opportunity for our students to learn a Christmas dance choreography which will be presented in our upcoming Winter Showcase! This gives our students an opportunity to be part of our school community and showcase their talents.

5. Students will be helping Mr. Saliba (our chaplain) and Wings of Faith sorting items including coats, blankets, scarves, etc. to be given to those in need.

Chaplaincy-

The month of November—being the conclusion of the Liturgical Year--is observed liturgically as a reflection on life's end and of the final destiny that awaits the saints in glory. To foster a tangible reminder of this liturgical focus, visible iconography of a hagiographic nature has been displayed outside the doors of the chapel. To offer support for those who grieve the loss of family or friends, a Book of Remembrance has been placed on the saints' altar. Members of the learning community are invited to record the names of loved ones who have died whose intentions will be remembered in a special way in our All Souls Liturgy to take place Monday November 4th (Translated from Saturday November 2nd).

Advent Liturgy of the Word (Monday December 9th)—due to scarce personnel at the local parish, the school community in consultation with the Reverend Fr. Joseph Nguyen, has decided to observe an Advent Liturgy of the Word on Monday December 9th . This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—celebrated on December 8th --is translated to Monday December 9th given that the Second Sunday of Advent takes liturgical precedence.

(End of Teacher Updates)

- Mike and Mary to talk with Father Joseph at church to see if we can get a full Advent mass (instead of a liturgy); Gabriella offered to join in on conversation if needed. J. Lorenzon to contact Father Joseph first.

NON-TEACHER REP UPDATES – N. Lago-Byrne

- Schedule for Anti-Bullying week (November 17 to 23) dates are set by the Ministry
- Logo has been designed by one of the Mental Health Champions
- Theme of Thunder Thursdays (to be swag days)
- G Di Pietrantonio inquired if there is anything the CSC can help with or how can we support (as a parent group)
- Anxiety rates are on the increase, esp. for Grade 12 students – questions of “What to do next on the path of life?”; grade 9's anxiety is increased as well due to new environment; all grades are being affected; staff's anxiety also on the rise as well, but staff are available for students to speak to “We need to get rid of the stigma of mental health”
- G Borrelli asked “What are we doing to teach coping methods to the students?” response “We embed that in everything we do.”
- Ms. Govea (Student Success) the Guidance department is available to students as well
- Peer to Peer teaching is one of their focus (Mental Health Champions) – three students in total were trained back in August for such role
- Policy and Procedures set around letting parents know if situations are dire
- N. Lago-Byrne does reach out to parents to provide them with extra support/resource phone numbers when needed

STUDENT VOICE – E. Merino

- Wings of Faith clothing drive is going to be starting up for the Advent season; they will be looking for donations of hats, mittens, gloves and distributing to local communities
- Thanksgiving Food Drive – collecting non-perishable items
- Liturgical – book of Remembrance outside chapel
- Advent Liturgy – Monday, December 9th
- Jewish/Christian roots – First week of November – to offer presentations to all Grade 11 World Religion classes

- Mr. Saliba will not be renewing his contract and will not be returning
- Diversity and Allies (DA club) – renewing connections with other family of schools
- Student Success Teacher – offering senior students to help junior level students\
- Credit Rescue Support – Ms. Govea – you can follow her on X (Twitter) for extra resources
- Other items of interest: No plastic Wednesdays; collecting milk bags and old jeans
- Fall Sports teams are ramping up: ROPSAA finished 3rd place; Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Boys Volleyball; Flag Football (both boys and girls) – Winter Sports will be ramping up soon as well
- Brandy (support dog) visits every other Tuesday
- Thunder Café – reopening soon
- Winter Showcase coming soon also

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATES

- October 1st – St. Michael Feast Day
- Halloween Spirit Week – October 28th
- Colour Wars – Wednesday, November 26th
- Fundraising for Sick Kids
- Council is looking to raise funds for community needs and looking to staff for ideas – having a fundraising for community needs put on School Cash Online with a \$5.00 minimum donation and a second day (in April) added for Lenten dress down
- Will purchase gift cards for family in need and donation of food (Exchange)
- If council is interested in doing something (or some sort of participation)
- G Di Pietrantonio suggested donating money from basket raffle to family in need
- Ideas for Christmas Showcase to have basket(s) raffle (similar to last year)
- Thinking of raising funds for lights on field (possibility of selling ornaments and poinsettias)

PRINCIPAL/VICE PRINCIPAL UPDATE – J. Lorenzon, C Lindsay

- Shared video by DPCDSB on Discriminatory Language (use of the N-word)
- Vaping Update – Ministry rolling out vaping “monies” potential of pilot projects to occur; staff still continuing to educate the students
- Students can report other students by using “Safe Schools Reporting Tool” found on school’s (and board’s) website; students can record date and time of incident and then the school can check the cameras
- Parent Engagement Night on vaping coming

OAPCE – F. De Vacas

- Yesterday was first meeting
- More people in attendance from High Schools
- April conference
- For meetings we need to include Trustees, Director to CSC Meeting (February)
- School website needs to be updated with member names
- See Appendix A for OAPCE Report dated November 7th, 2024

TREASURER – D. Borelli

- No new updates
- Balance \$5930.

PARISH UPDATES – M. D’Adderio

- Pastoral plan – almost finished
- Ian’s last day is November 21st (Mr. Saliba)
- Question raised as to what happens from here for the Chaplaincy position - see if Tania Vincent coming back or not then staff from within and then post the position

CHAIR/CO-CHAIR UPDATES – M. Brunetto, G. Di Pietrantonio

- Meeting dates of April 24th, 2025 and May 15th, 2024 are good to go
- December 12th meeting will be social – F. De Vacas suggests going to the Exchange to hold cooking event
- Parent Council Roles – training virtual meeting taking place on Thursday, November 28th (this is run by the school board)
- Thursday, November 14th – election of CCCSC Executive
- G. Di Pietrantonio to forward scholarships from Toronto Diocesan CWL

Closing Prayer – Francisco De Vacas

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 12th, 2024 6:00 pm at The Exchange

APPENDIX A

OAPCE Report November 7th, 2024

Francisco De Vacas, Parent Council – OAPCE Rep. St. Michaels S.S.

- ❖ Attended first OAPCE Meeting of 2024-2025 on Nov 6th, 2024 at the DP board offices in Mississauga.

Some highlights from the meeting:

- Out of 151 schools in Dufferin Peel we currently have OAPCE representatives in 148 schools.
 - OAPCE has the website, <https://oapce.org/>
 - Meet and Greet with all attendees/ reps from different schools.
 - There was a special Presentation from the Co-Executive Director Joe Perri; “SuperParents in Action!”
Learn how you can Take Action and make a difference in your child’s education by getting involved and becoming empowered as a SuperParent!
 - The Commissioning Ceremony took place
 - OAPCE Overview and your role as OAPCE Liaison Representatives.
 - Round Table with Q/A.
- ❖ OAPCE 86th Conference is on April, 2024. More details to come.
 - ❖ OAPCE Parents4Parents Newsletter, has archived new and past newsletter with great information for Parents, partners, and stakeholders with news from OAPCE Provincial, and local regions.
<https://oapce.org/parents-4-parents/>
 - ❖ OAPCE Blog was presented as well with important information for Parents, students and school community in general.
<https://oapce.org/blog/>
 - ❖ OAPCE Regional and Provincial Update
Discussion regarding the involvement of OAPCE Director, Trustee and Superintendent to PC meetings. Invitations to meetings would be greatly appreciated by Director Diana Carlesimo. It was reiterated in several occasions that if we have any question/comments/concerns we can send email to Diana at dufferinpeel@oapce.org

APPENDIX B

Catholic School Council Meeting – November 26, 2024

In attendance: Mike Brunetto, Diane Borrelli, Gabriella Di Pietrantonio, Mary D'Adderio, Francisco De Vacas, Giovanni Borrelli, Heather Prechner, Mark Prechner

- Meeting was called to vote on approving to spend \$150.00 on banner for Mrs. Sicoli
- Quorum was met
- Form was received by Mrs. Sicoli asking for a donation of \$150.00 to pay for the new banner ordered; banner is to be used in the Santa Claus parade on December 7th, 2024 and for other purposes as well. (form attached)
- Vote was taken and all members were in favour of donating \$150.00