



Home of the Cardinals!

September 2017 Newsletter

Welcome back!

Let me begin by expressing how blessed I feel to be the principal of Pope Francis Elementary School! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome those families who are new to our school and those families who have children previously enrolled at our school. I hope that you will take a look at our school site regularly, and sign up for our email service in which you will receive monthly newsletters and other important information as needed. Pope Francis Elementary School is fortunate to inherit a rich history from Sacred Heart and St. Paul and we look forward to celebrating our 1st anniversary during the 2017-18 school year.

The entire staff considers it a privilege to educate your children in our Catholic School system. As such, we know that your support as parents is essential to your child's success. For the benefit of your child we need to work collaboratively together.

We are very fortunate to work with the staff of Sacred Heart Parish. This relationship allows our students to connect directly with the church and our faith. We are looking forward to working under the guidance and direction of Father John Lemire, as our school priest. Our students at Pope Francis Elementary School will have many opportunities to realize their full potential to transform God's world. Our spiritual theme for this year is "By Our Works, We Show Our Faith," (James 2: 16 - 18).

Our goal at Pope Francis is to ensure the highest levels of achievement for all of our students (academically, spiritually, socially and physically) by working and learning together. We look forward to an exciting year at Pope Francis Elementary School enriching our partnership with the church, the home and the community. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Yours in faith and education,

Mr. D. Berthier,
Principal

Pope Francis Elementary School Staff for 2017 – 2018

Success for each and a place for all!

Principal - Mr. Berthier

Teaching and Classroom Staff

English Program

FDK 1 – Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Kirkland

FDK 2 – Mrs. Bernard and Miss Morris

Grade 1 – Mrs. Byberg

Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Clausi

Grade 2/3 – Mrs. Doyle

Grade 3 – Mrs. Bonhomme

Grade 4A – Mrs. Kernick

Grade 4B – Mrs. Penna

Resource Teacher – Miss Young

French Immersion Program

FDK 1 – Mme Guevremont and Mme Tambeau

FDK 2 – Mme Vetter and Mme Paquette

Grade 1 – Mme Vallier

Grade 1/2 – Mme Baker

Grade 3 – Mme Saudino

Grade 3/4 – Mme Demarell

Resource Teacher – Mme Savard

Itinerant teachers – Mr. Garon, Mr. Hudon and Miss Kos

Support Staff

Educational Assistants

Mrs. Jezic

Mrs. Toner

Miss Murray

Mme Quesnel

Mrs. Last

Mrs. Leroux

Child and Youth Worker

Mrs. Brazeau

Secretaries

Mrs. Cheff

Mrs. Belisle (8:30 to 11:30)

Custodians

Mr. Bernard

Mr. Bedard



OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:50 - Entry & Opening Exercises

10:00-10:15 - Morning Recess

11:35-12:05 - Lunch Recess

12:55-12:35 - Lunch Inside

1:55-2:10 - Afternoon Recess

3:20 – Dismissal

As a safety issue, we would like to remind you that the supervision of the school yard does not begin until 8:30 a.m. It would be best if students who walk or are dropped off at school do not arrive to school before then.

Monthly Virtue: Faith

The Importance of Faith: The three theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love are gifts from God that allow us to be in relationship with Him. We can compare these three virtues to glue—that attaches us to God. In our baptism, we receive the gift of Faith. Faith is our ability to believe with our minds and our hearts to trust.

In order to develop our faith, we can turn to prayer, scripture, sacraments and to what the Church teaches. When we develop our faith, we get to know God in a deeper, more loving way. Faith gives us a new way of seeing God, ourselves and everything around us, above all, the needy. We then are better able to seek and do God's will. Faith is very powerful! It inspires and influences our daily actions. It is not enough to simply believe in God, we are also called to be living examples to others and to also profess our beliefs to all.

Looks like: serving others, lending a helping hand, going to Church, living the Ten Commandments, praying, involvement with the faith community, strong work ethic, responsible, puts the welfare of others ahead of their own welfare, sacramental engagement.

Sounds like: prayer, song, positive attitude, words of kindness and encouragement, responding and singing in Mass.

Feels like: A strong connection with God, safe and secure, comfort, confidence, patience.

A faithful friend or person...

- Is confident God will never withdraw His love or break His promises
- Is a loyal, supportive friend
- Can be trusted to fulfill promises and commitments
- Prays when they can, learns from Scripture stories and knows that we are all loved by God

Student Information Forms

Please review the form, make any necessary changes directly on the form and return it to school with your child by **September 11th**. It is VERY important that we have updated contact information as well as the completed section labelled "Consent Information". If you have not received this form by the end of the second week of September, inform the office and we will send a form home with your child.

Medical Concerns

Should your child have a severe allergy, a serious medical condition or require medication to be administered at school (even if occasionally), the appropriate information and Dispensation of Medication forms must be completed according to NCDSB policy. Please contact the school office at your earliest convenience to complete the necessary forms.

Welcome Night:

Our Parent Welcome Night will take place the last week of September from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This evening provides an opportunity for parents to meet the staff of the school and to see your child's classroom. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. After a short general session, parents will proceed to their child's classroom. We look forward to seeing parents on this special occasion. Please check your child's agenda for the date.

Catholic School Parent Council

The time has come to choose the parent/guardian representatives for the Catholic School Council at Pope Francis Elementary School. The Catholic School Council provides parents with the opportunity to become more involved in the life of the school. It allows you to give feedback to the school, present your views or ideas to improve the students' experience at school and involves you in the discussion of educational issues. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact the school by the end of the school day on September 22nd.

Student Attendance

The Education Act states that students must attend school regularly and be punctual. It is imperative for the safety of students that parents please call the school if your child is absent.

If a child has not arrived at school and a phone call or a note has not been received, the secretary will attempt to alert parents by telephone at home or at your place of employment, if necessary.

When a pupil returns to school, he/she should find out what work was missed and complete it within a reasonable amount of time, as decided by the teacher. Extended periods of absence for reasons other than health, require permission of the principal.

Punctuality

All students are expected to be punctual and to adhere to the school hours. They should quickly be seated and ready for morning activities. Attendance is taken daily. Students who are late for a valid reason must bring a note. They are to report to the office where their time of arrival and reason for being late will be recorded at the office. They will be issued a late slip, which will be necessary for admission to class.

Persistent tardiness and absences may result in a discussion, consultation or other consequence perhaps involving parents/guardians, school board attendance counsellor, etc.

Visitors to the school:

One of our greatest concerns throughout the school year is the safety and security of your children while at school. School staff should always know who is on school premises.

All visitors to the school (parents included) are asked to report to the office upon entering the school and **not proceed** to your child's classroom. When picking up your child during school hours, please report to the office to sign your child out. Please wait in the front foyer after signing your child out and do not go to your child's classroom.

Picture Day:

Picture Day is tentatively scheduled for September 27th. The picture package information will be sent home as soon as the school gets it.

Weekly Communication Folders

We will once again be using the weekly communication folder system so that critical information and newsletters make it home. Each Wednesday, your child's teacher will send home information from the office, permission forms, newsletters, community flyers, tests to sign, completed work, etc. Simply

complete your part of the tracker, sign items which need to be returned to school, remove all other items and send the communication folder back to school on Thursday morning. As the year progresses, we hope to decrease the amount of paper sent home; we are planning to have information available on our school website. It can be accessed by going to www.ncdsb.on.ca – click on “our Catholic Schools”, then “Pope Francis Elementary School”. You can also find us on facebook. Be sure to check your child’s bag each Wednesday. We are also in the process of having a school twitter account. Stay tuned for more details.

Closing Message:

"Everything is God's to give and to take away, so share what you've been given, and that includes yourself." Mother Teresa

Upcoming Events

- September 11th - All forms are due back to the school.
- September 14th - Commissioning Ceremony
- September 22nd - Parent Council Expression of Interest
- September 27th - Picture Day
- September 28th - Terry Fox Walk “Anything is possible if you try”

Contact Information

Principal: Mr. Berthier (705) 264-5869
Superintendent: Mrs. Brumwell (705) 268-7443
Board website: www.ncdsb.on.ca

