



The Cougar Column

ST. JOSEPH - NEWSLETTER

September 6th, 2017

A Message from the Principal...

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you as the new Principal of St. Joseph School. I come to you from Timmins as the previous Principal of St. Paul School. Prior to that I was the Principal at St. Anne's in Iroquois Falls for 7 years, the Vice-Principal with dual responsibilities at St. Paul School and O'Gorman Intermediate School, and I have worked at the primary, intermediate and senior panels. I have also spent many years working in Special Education. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you in this community. I hope you all had a wonderfully relaxing and restful holiday, and are raring to jump into a new school year! To those of you returning to our school, welcome back! To those families who have recently joined the St. Joseph Catholic School Community, you have made a wise choice. Our staff is committed to the intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of each student. In addition to excellent classroom programs, we have fantastic support staff available to those students who require extra help.

A big welcome to our new staff members, Mrs. Boucher who comes to us with years of experience in Iroquois Falls and Cochrane, and Ms. Sparks who has been with our Board for a few years on a casual basis. We also welcome Ms. Fizzel – our part time Child and Youth worker – a support which is new to St. Joseph School.

Should you have any questions, concerns or comments, please be sure to share them. I am available by phone or in person daily. If we have not already met, please be sure to drop by and introduce yourself!

Mrs. B. Pichette ☺

SCHOOL STAFF

JK/SK – Mrs. Vaillancourt
 Gr. 1/2 - Mrs. Cote
 Gr. 2/3 - Mrs. Meehan
 Gr. 4/5 - Mrs. McCord
 Gr. 5/6 - Mr. Presseault
 Resource Teacher - Ms. O'Neil
 Preparation Release - Ms. Lachance
 Child & Youth Worker - Ms. Fizzel
 School Secretary - Ms. Lefebvre
 Custodian - Mr. Raymond
 Educational Assistants – Ms. Sparks/
 Mrs. Boucher; Mrs. Watt, Ms. Royer
 Lunch Monitors: Ms. Sasseville, Mrs. Byers
 and Mrs. Stiller

SCHOOL HOURS

Morning Entry.....8:35 a.m.
 School begins/announcements.....8:50 a.m.
 Morning Recess.....10:00 - 10:15 a.m.
 Lunch.....11:35-12:35 p.m.
 Afternoon Recess.....1:55 - 2:10 p.m.
 Dismissal.....3:20 p.m.

** Please note that afternoon recess has changed – it is no longer at the end of the day. As such, students are in the class for instructional time until dismissal at 3:20.

SORRY
 SORRY
 SORRY

For those of you who came at 3:05 to pick up your children on the first day – please accept my sincere apologies. I did not foresee any difficulties as the end of day remains 3:20, however, with recess at the end of the day, many of you picked up your children early with no affect to instructional time in the past. SORRY for not letting you know sooner! Pick up is at the front entrance.



LUNCH PROCEDURES

All students will go outside from 11:35-12:05 p.m. and eat in their classrooms between 12:05 and 12:35 p.m. Staff and lunch supervisors monitor students throughout the lunch hour.

SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Please be aware that our school is **NOT supervised until 8:35 am**. If your child walks or bikes to school, be sure not to send him/her too early. Also, there is NO supervision of the school yard after school, and thus, students are expected to go directly home.

ATTENDANCE



Regular and punctual attendance is directly related to success in school. Most of our classrooms have Mathematics and/or Language classes scheduled first thing in the morning. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that the students arrive at school on time. Absent students should be reported before the start of the school day whenever possible.



Students who get enough sleep can concentrate better and learn more. For elementary school children, that means 10–11 hours a night (no I am not kidding – this is research based!). Make getting into bed on time a regular routine – it will benefit them academically and give you some time to yourself!



HEALTHY SNACKS & LUNCHES

In order for students to be at their best, they need to be well nourished. Therefore, it has always been our policy to provide time for our students to have snacks. With that in mind, we request that you carefully select snacks that have minimal fat and sugar content. Some examples would be fruits and vegetables, yogurt tubes, cereal or granola bars. We will continue providing healthy snacks several times per week, through our various programs – watch for the days in our next monthly calendar!

SECRETARIAL HOURS

The school secretary is generally available during the following times:

8:00 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.
12:35 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We have an automated telephone system that will allow you to leave a message regarding attendance or busing without needing to speak to someone personally.

Thanks to many parents who do call each time their child is away. This saves a great deal of time and unnecessary interruptions. This system of communication helps us to ensure the safety of your child(ren). Please call before 3:10 if your child is getting picked up to avoid confusion at bus time.

School Council Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 13th at 6 pm
All parents welcome!