



Home of the **CARDINALS!**

January 2020 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome to 2020! The staff and I hope that each and every one of you had a restful and memorable Christmas break surrounded by family and friends. As we look ahead to this new term, we would like to thank the many staff, students and parents who have helped to make Pope Francis Elementary School such a great place for children to learn. Pope Francis Elementary School is the heart of the community, success for each, and a place for all. We would also like to thank our Catholic School Council for all of their work up to this point in supporting our school community.

From the staff to your families, we wish you a blessed 2020!

Yours in faith and education,

Mr. Berthier
Principal

Our New Year Prayer

Dear God,
Please give the leaders of our world
A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease.
Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
We ask for a year of joy
Thy peace, thy joy divine
Springing undimmed through all the days
By thy days of shade or shine.
Happy New Year!

We want your e-mail address!

Pope Francis Elementary School posts the newsletters and other information on the Board's website under the tab "Our Schools". We also have an email option that will allow us to send electronic information throughout the year via the internet. It's an easy and great way to share information in a timely manner from our school to our families. We encourage all of our Parents and Guardians who have not yet done so, to send us your name and e-mail address in order for our list to be complete/updated.

Our spiritual theme: "By Our Works, We Show Our Faith," (James 2: 16 - 18).

Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten Registration

We will be holding our registration for children new to Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten for September 2020 on;



Tuesday, January 28th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Junior Kindergarten registration is for children born in 2016 and **Kindergarten** registration is for children born in 2015 (who have **not** attended JK at Pope Francis Elementary School) is now available by visiting our website at www.ncdsb.on.ca. Simply click the "Online Registration Request" Button to begin. Our annual Kindergarten Registration Open House is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 28th**, where families can visit our Catholic school community and complete the registration process.

The following items will be required for registration: a birth certificate for your child, a Catholic Baptismal Certificate, and proof of address (any bill or rent receipt). Tours of the school will be set up during this day. If you are unable to stay for the tour, other tours of the FDK rooms will be set up during the month of February on Tuesday and Thursday, at 10 am or 2 pm at Pope Francis Elementary School.

Please call the school to set up an appointment and tour at (705) 264-5869.



Reminders:

OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:50 - Entry & Opening Exercises
10:00-10:15 - Morning Recess
11:35-12:05 - Lunch Recess
12:05-12:35 - Lunch Inside
1:55-2:10 - Afternoon Recess
3:20 – Dismissal

OFFICE HOURS

Open from 8:00 am to 11:35 am
Open from 12:35 pm to 4:00 pm

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. If you are coming into the school, you are reminded that you must report to the office and not go to your child's classroom or locker. We appreciate your support on this.

Communication

If you have any concerns or questions about the curriculum, work being sent home or your child's progress or well-being, please contact your child's classroom teacher. You may leave a message for your child's teacher at the office or by communicating in the agenda. Please be patient and the teacher will get back to you as soon as he or she is able to. If you have any concerns regarding the school, please do not hesitate to come and discuss the matter with the Principal.

Safe Arrival Program

At Pope Francis Elementary School, our students' safety and well-being is of greatest concern to us. We must be notified by a parent/guardian, either by phone or in writing, whenever your child is going to be absent or late. Not only are we assured of that child's safety, but it also saves us the task of phoning parents at home, at work and on cell phones. **Please realize that we cannot accept notification from your child regarding any absences from school** – it must come from a parent or guardian. A note to the classroom teacher and/or a call to the office will help to speed up our job in the morning. A heart-felt thank you goes out to all those parents who have been notifying the school. We would also like to remind parents to inform the office of any changes in phone numbers and/or addresses as it is essential that we be able to reach you in case of an emergency involving your child.

School Transportation - Bus Returns

In order to ensure a safe return home for our kindergarten (JK/SK) students, bus drivers are required to keep the child on the bus if there is no adult visible at the bus stop. Please be sure that a family member or caregiver is available to meet your kindergarten student at the bus stop.

The end of the day is often chaotic. If you are picking your child up from school, please be sure to come a few minutes early and wait outside door B. If your child regularly takes the bus, please call the school before 1:30, advising that your child will not be taking the bus and who

will be here to pick your child up after school. The school policy is that **if there is no note or phone message for a bus student indicating that he/she will be picked up at school, the student will be put on the bus.**

Student Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to success at school. When students are habitually late or leave habitually early, they miss critical class time, feel disorganized and may miss important information. Punctuality is an important life skill that students learn and helps them establish good work habits for their future. Encourage your child(ren) to take responsibility for themselves to prepare and plan ahead in order to be ready and on time for school. Working together makes a difference for student learning.

Lateness: School Arrival

Lateness continues to be a concern at Pope Francis. Many students miss the initial part of their instructional school day due to this late arrival. **Valuable learning time is lost.** Chronic lateness is reported to the school's attendance counsellor. Please ensure that these inappropriate patterns of behaviour are not established with your children. Students should arrive at school no later than 8:45 a.m.

Monthly Virtue: Forgiveness

The Importance of Forgiveness:

The practice of forgiveness is an invaluable stepping-stone to peace. It is one means to healing one self and healing our relationships with others. Forgiveness can be characterized as: 1) a choice to reconcile, 2) an attitude about setting things right, 3) a compassionate way of communicating, 4) a specific action, and 5) an ongoing, lifelong process. Above all, forgiveness expresses kindness. Otherwise, without



forgiveness tremendous amounts of resentment or hurt can build-up within. Forgiveness is an important cornerstone of our faith as we reflect on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made to forgive us all. In our Catholic schools we work to honour and model forgiveness in everything we do. As a Catholic community, we are fortunate to be able to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is another opportunity for our students to engage in an honest dialogue with God and receive His forgiveness. In Luke 6:37-38 of the

Bible, it is said: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you". In Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the unforgiving debtor, summarizing: "If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." (6:14) This pronouncement certainly inspired the passage: "forgive our trespassers, as we forgive their trespasses," in the Lord's Prayer and in the equally revered Prayer of Saint Francis: "Where there is injury, pardon;" and, "It is in the pardoning that we are pardoned." Forgiveness is a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance towards a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of which they actually deserve your forgiveness.

Looks like: changing our actions and behaviours

Sounds like: saying sorry, accepting an apology from someone

Feels like: a sense of peace in our hearts

School Improvement Plan

The 2018-21 Multi Year School Improvement Plan is posted and you can locate it on the Board's website under "School".

HOME AND SCHOOL - WORKING TOGETHER FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children – Math and Science

Snow-globe science

Whether or not it's snowing outside, your young scientist can create a 'blizzard' inside with this fun project.

Have your child fill two jars with water and two with mineral or baby oil. Then, he/she can put a drop of glycerin (available at drugstores) in one water jar and one oil jar. Now it's time to add the 'snow' (1/2 tsp. glitter or crushed egg shells) to each jar and seal tightly. One by one, your child should shake the four jars and set them down to observe.

Which liquid creates the longest blizzard? The speed of the falling snow depends on the **viscosity** of the liquid. The more **viscous** (or resistant to flow) it is, the more friction there is – and the longer the blizzard lasts!

Primed!

"Is that a prime or composite number?" Playing this game can help your child remember the difference. Follow these instructions.

1. Have your child make a 100s chart by drawing 10 rows of 10 boxes and numbering them 1-100 (1-10 on the first row, 11-20 on the next row, and so on).
2. The object is to find the most prime numbers. TIP: Go over what a prime number is – a whole number that can be divided only by itself and 1. (All other numbers are composite, except for 1, which is neither prime nor composite.)
3. To play, take turns choosing a number on the chart. Circle it in red if it's prime, or colour it in blue if it's composite. Score 5 points for finding a prime number and 2 points for a composite number. NOTE: Use scratch paper to figure out if the numbers can be divided by any number other than 1 and themselves.
4. When all the squares are taken, high scores wins.

Provincial Report Card #1

Elementary report cards will be going home for term 1 on Wednesday, February 12th. We encourage you as parents to call and speak to your child's teachers prior to you receiving the report card. Parent meetings are also welcomed.

Seasonal Flu Update

As the flu season approaches, please remind your child about proper hand washing and hygiene habits. If your child displays flu-like symptoms, it is strongly recommended to keep your child at home in order to prevent the spread of the virus. When reporting the absence to the office, please inform us if your child has flu-like symptoms which include fever, cough, sore throat, sore muscles, joint pain, weakness, fatigue, headache and sometimes diarrhea and vomiting. Students are reminded to wash their hands frequently, to cough/sneeze into the elbow and to avoid sharing snacks and personal effects.

Cold Weather

With the cold weather upon us, it is extremely important that students come to school dressed for the cold temperatures. Proper winter clothing is needed daily. This includes layered clothing, a heavy coat, snow pants, winter boots, hats, gloves and scarves. Students should pack an extra pair of socks and gloves in their backpacks in case these become wet. Students will not be permitted to remain indoors

even with a parent note. If there are medical reasons for a student to remain indoors, you must provide the appropriate doctor's note.

Winter Safety

Snowball throwing is forbidden on school property. Since most snowballs may contain ice, throwing snowballs becomes similar to throwing rocks; therefore, students who throw snowballs will face very serious consequences, which may include suspension.

Winter activities can be exciting and fun, but we want to ensure that everyone is safe. Activities which are safe between 3 or 4 students in their backyard can become a dangerous activity when there are many more students in one area. Please discuss these reminders with your children. We will continue to remind them at school!

Catholic School Council

Our next meeting will take place on January 23rd, at 6:30. Please use the Balsam Street entrance. Our co-chairs, Mrs. Courchesne and Mr. Fernandez will be taking any agenda items for our next meeting. At our last meeting, items that were discussed include, school improvement plan, construction update (playground equipment and playground design), Student Led conference, Christmas concert and year end celebration.

For our next meeting, we will continue to discuss items from the last meeting and bring up the following items; playground expansion and timelines, safe schools, student behaviour, parent involvement and funds, breakfast and fruit and vegetable programs.

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

Contact Information

Principal: Mr. Berthier (705) 264-5869

Superintendent: Mrs. Brumwell (705) 268-7443

Board website: www.ncdsb.on.ca



POPE FRANCIS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL