

Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)
MEETING OF THE 2007-2008 CSAC
St. Louis Catholic School
January 17, 2008

ATTENDEES	
Valerie Devine – Chair	Rosanne Morris - Principal
Connie Gemma – Treasurer	Claudette Piscione – Member-at-large
Ida Foisy – Co-Secretary	Joanne Yano – Member-at-large
Maria Soccorso Tonon – Co-Secretary	Giulia Di Carlo
Adelina Santaluce	Connie Antonacci
Stefanie Dower	Bernadette Aman
Oriana Bono	<i>Special Guest Speaker – Edie Cade, RN,</i>
Mary Anne Cousineau	<i>Toronto Public Health</i>
CSAC Members Absent:	
Margaret Kalsi	

Prayer – For Catholic Education

O, Holy Spirit, source of truth and grace for those entrusted with the Christian development of children, enlighten our minds, strengthen our will, fill our hearts with generosity so that our homes, our parishes and our schools may co-operate effectively with You, and with one another in the mission of Catholic education. We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Welcome and Introductions

* Ms. Devine welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes from September 20, 2007

*The Minutes from November 22, 2007 approved by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Gemma.

Principal's Comments

Happy New Year Everyone!

- we celebrated a lovely school on January 17, 2008 with Father Frank Carpinelli; the theme: It Takes Courage to be a Person of Peace
- students created a Tree of Courage that will hang in the front foyer to celebrate the TCDSB theme of Courage for the month of January
- teachers are encouraged to integrate the theme in to classroom and school-wide activities wherever possible
- in a para liturgy after Mass, children presented courage-related action plans to the whole community, printed on apples, which have been pinned on the Tree of Courage as a reminder to all in the community
- there is a different virtue celebrated each month, promoted by Archbishop Collins and the TCDSB community

Home-School-Parish News

- First Communion Plans are well underway
- Father Frank will offer classes for grade 2 children at the parish right after Easter week
- Classes for Confirmandi will also take place after Easter at St. Leo Church, following Masses
- Father will send a letter to families in the next little while
- First Communion will be celebrated on April 26th at 5 pm
- Confirmation will be celebrated on May 9th at 7:30 pm
- Mrs. Hirstwood and Mrs. DiCarlo and Ms Pacheco are preparing their children for the sacraments in class
- The Grade 8s will celebrate a full retreat day at Bishop Allen on April 18th with Father Frank as our facilitator and guide

Premier's Award of Excellence

- Ms Morris with the support of our school superintendent Mrs. Tovey-Shackleton, are nominating the St. Louis School Leadership Team for an award of excellence
- Members of the school team include the divisional reps: Mrs. Nocera for the primary division; Mrs. McIntyre for the junior division; Mrs. DiCarlo for the intermediate division; Mrs. Cousineau our 5th Block teacher; Mrs. Zimmer and Mrs. MacLean our education assistants; Mrs. Johnson and Miss Petrone for special education; Mr. Finucan for the Regional Gifted Program; Mrs. Wiley for the PASS program; Ms Mondano for French; Ms Ryan our Library Technician;
- Mrs. Senatore our school secretary; Mr. Leo our head caretaker; Ms Devine for our CSAC; and Father Frank Carpinelli, our Parish priest.
- In addition Mrs. Mior is being nominated by Ms Da Luz for Teacher of the Year
- Mrs. Zimmer and Mrs MacLean are being nominated individually as support staff of the year with the support of our whole staff
- The recognition is well-deserved!

Curriculum Highlights

Divisional Meetings for Professional Development are ongoing with the following focus:

Primary and Junior Division: on the Teaching Learning Cycle and moderated marking to encourage student success

Intermediate Division: on the Teaching Learning Cycle and moderated marking with a focus on transition to secondary school

The School Learning Plan—is posted on the intranet and available for all to review; curriculum practices are reflected there

The New Safe Schools Policy—takes effect February 1st

- Ms Morris reviewed the contents of the binder with all present
- She invited parents to go to the tcdsb website for more information

The Safe Schools Action Plan—will be reviewed by the School Leadership Team prior to February 1st and reflects our progressive discipline practices and policies; see the tedsb website for more information

- our Guidance counsellor, Mr. Moroney and our school social worker, Mrs. Riopel facilitate workshops in classrooms around positive relationship building; anxiety and stresses and strategies; bullying behaviour
- The **Ontario Teachers Federation** is sponsoring an internet learning project called **Safe@School-- A Bullying Prevention Project** that involves teachers and children in the junior division—grades 4, 5 and 6

PD Day on February 15th

- see the school website for specifics
- a news flyer went home with the specific agenda: The School Effectiveness Framework; The Transition Years; Reading for the Love of It; Success for All; Differentiated Instruction
- all professional development is geared toward promoting increased student success in literacy and numeracy

Provincial Holiday on February 18th—Family Day

- no school for children across the province
- St. Louis will be closed

January Newsletter

- will highlight activities at the school level such as:
 - successful Macbeth production directed by Miss Petrone
 - upcoming ski trip to Horse Shoe Valley sponsored by Mr. Finucan and the grade 7 and 8 teachers

The Athletic Calendar is attached and was reviewed at the meeting.

*Distributed in Newsletter

Our Public Health Nurse was in attendance and provided the following information:

Our Public Health Nurse is:

Edie Cade , Public Health Nurse, Healthy Living

School Age Health Promotion & Youth

Toronto Public Health

399 The West Mall, 4th Floor

Toronto, ON

M9C 2Y2

Tel: 416-338-1558

Fax:416-338-1780

* See Attachment – Health Websites

* An excellent resource for health information for children and parents/caregivers:

<http://www.toronto.ca/health/index.htm>

* She takes care of 32 schools in our area

*There are dozens of health promotions with respect to what she can offer our school:

-Parenting

-Kids Have Street Too

-At Home Alone – Are children ready to stay home alone?

-Safe Schools

-Code of Behaviour – reminder of how to treat others

*She will send us a sample of a Code of Behaviour with respect to the code of conduct and both parent and child to sign form

* She also spoke about children’s emotional well being and having values

* We should look at the positives of life, values of caring and respect should be instilled in children

* The website www.toronto.ca/health/index offers a variety of topics from A-Z and has ready to use tips for parents

* On our newsletters, we should always include a health tip to enlighten our parents and children

* Do we have a Health Act Team? Put this on the Agenda for the next Parent Council meeting – We should review physical activity, nutrition, safe schools, and the health of the community

If we have a healthy school, we will have good leadership and we would welcome leadership. We need to review what we are good at (as a school community and what we should work on (as a school community)

*We should review our environmental issues also – our physical environment

* The children “live” at school and the “teachers” work at school so we need our environment to be pleasing to our children and staff

* She can also come to our school to talk to the female staff and mothers about female health issues and speak to the male staff and fathers about male health issues.

*She also spoke about the necessity to have a Six Week Emergency Plan if any disastrous event would occur in Toronto (visit www.toronto.ca/health)

* Commented on Local Health Integration (Moving hospitals, political activism required if we do not want hospitals moved out of our area)

* Welcome to Kindergarten Night is May 21, 2008, from 6:30 to 8:30 and Edie will be there to discuss various issues with parents

* With all the current talk about bed bugs, she emphasized that bed bugs do not transmit disease, as do other insects. Contact her directly if you have further questions regarding bed bugs and ways to keep your beds and other areas safe and clear of bed bugs.

CSAC Chair's Comments

*Ms. Devine advised that she would submitting a nomination for Mrs. Di Carlo for the Premier's Award of Excellence – with CSAC's support

*Mrs. Yano provided the update regarding Year Round Schooling:

* There was a meeting on January 15, 2008, regarding the year round schooling issue and there was a press release in November stating that this would occur for the 2009/2010 school year. There is a committee of approximately 15 or 16 people reviewing and discussing this issue.

*There are different view points on year round schooling – both pro and con

*We do want the Toronto Catholic District School Board to be innovative, competitive and attractive to students;

*Ms. Devine had brought to the table, on behalf of Mrs. Kalsi a suggestion about having McDonald's for lunch. Mrs. Kalsi had brought forward this suggestion based on information from what she had read in the St. Louis student forum on Facebook. This suggestion did not pass with a vote and Mrs. Kalsi was thanked for following-up with suggestions made by the students.

*Mrs. Kalsi had also asked for recognition for the 6 (six) Grade 8 students who help her out on Pizza Days.

Treasurer's Report

*See attached Spreadsheet

* Our total funds amount to \$12,775.78 less what we've committed of \$12,312.82 which leaves us a balance of \$462.96.

* The Board still owes us \$1,300.10 which is not included in the figures, however, we have not paid Acorn Card's invoice for \$1,305.15. As at February 11, 2008, we have since paid Acorn Cards and Ms. Morris has informed me that the Board is processing our PRO Grant refund of \$1,300.10.



Committed List Jan
2008.xls

We have also committed \$100.00 for pizza for the class which sold the most chocolates. This item was not approved by CSAC but it was announced to the school and we did decide to honour this announcement.

Old Business

* Not Discussed

New Business

* Not Discussed

Important Dates

- * February 15, 2008 – P.D. Day
- * February 18, 2008 – Family Day
- * May 21, 2008 – Welcome to Kindergarten Night

Next Meeting

- * February 21, 2008 –Next CSAC Meeting at St. Louis

Adjournment

- * Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.