

November 2014

J A M E S C U L N A N C A T H O L I C S C H O O L

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**JAMES CULNAN
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

**OUR NEXT
MEETING WILL
BE ON TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 2ND
AT 7:00 P.M. IN
THE STAFF ROOM**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME TO
ATTEND!**

It is hard to believe that it is already November. Once again, we have had a very busy start to the school year. As you will read in these pages, there has been a lot going on here at James Culnan in terms of both academics and extracurricular activities.

We have entered this school year with yet another increase in enrolment and we currently have a school population of 430 students, up from 385 from last year. We have added Grade 2 to our Early French Immersion program, as well as an additional ELP classroom. We have a number of new staff who were introduced at Meet the Teacher night in September.

We are very happy that the renovation of our Kindergarten yard took place in October and was completed in time for the students to enjoy before the winter weather set in. As you are aware, this project took over a year to complete and was the result of the efforts of our Greening Committee led by our CSAC members who applied for and received significant grants from the City of Toronto as well as the TCDSB. I would like to thank once again all those parents who were involved in this project, as well as some of our Board and City partners who were instrumental in getting the work completed in such a timely and efficient manner. These include Mr. J. McCormick, Sr. Environmental Planner at Live Green, City of Toronto; Mr. T. Beharry from Partnership Development at TCDSB; Ms. K. Dobrucki, TCDSB/Evergreen School Ground Design Consultant and Mr. A. Ruscetta with Capital Development at TCDSB. This was certainly a team effort and we are truly grateful for all of their help and assistance throughout this entire process.

The kindergarten students are certainly enjoying playing in the yard and we look forward to having our official opening in the spring.

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parent-Teacher Interviews after the progress reports were sent home. Your support in ensuring your child's learning goals are met is important to all of us here at James Culnan. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any concerns that need to be discussed.

Since the virtue for the month of November is peacemaking, I would like to finish with a few reflections on Peace from Ms. Lupinacci's class:

Peace is.....

God, family and friends. Samantha

A country that is safe. Soraia

Respecting other people. Elijah

Awesome. Andrew

M. O'Dowd Principal

REMINDERS

Registration for Full Day Kindergarten Starts January 8, 2015 for the 2015-2016 School Year

A reminder to all parents with children who will be entering Junior Kindergarten or are interested in Senior Kindergarten French Immersion in September 2015. Children born in 2011 who turn 4 years old on or before December 31st, 2015 are eligible for Kindergarten registration this year.

Beginning January 08, 2015, the Toronto Catholic District School Board will again offer parents an option to complete the Student Application Form online at <https://soar.tcdsb.org>.

The following documents are required for registration:

- Catholic Baptismal Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Proof of Residence (e.g. utility bill)

- Passport & Resident Card if not born in Canada

- Home, Work & Emergency Telephone Numbers

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Curcic, our school secretary, should you have any questions.

School Access

School supervision is from 8:00 am till 3:15 p.m. Students will not be granted access in the school other than during the hours that supervision is available. Please ensure that your child/children are not arriving at the school before the school yard supervision is available. At the end of the day, if your child/children do not take a school bus the children are to be picked up promptly at 3:00 pm when school is finished for the day. TCDSB Safe Schools policy stresses the importance of students being properly supervised while on school premises.

School Hours: The hours for the school day remain unchanged for this year. *School starts at 8:30 a.m. and dismisses at 3:00 p.m.*

Our morning recess time has been changed to reflect similar changes throughout the Board in many schools. The daily schedule is as follows: *Morning Recess: 10:12-10:27 a.m., Lunch Recess: 11:15-12:15, Afternoon Recess: 1:40-1:55 p.m.*

Cross Country

On October 16th, the cross-country team travelled to the beaches for their divisional meet. It was a beautiful day on the lake, but, more importantly, it was a great day for James Culnan. Overall, we finished 4th out of 13 schools. All runners did a fantastic job and in the end we had 24 Regional Qualifiers who travelled back the following week to compete again. At the Regional meet, all runners competed with a great sense of pride and they fought hard to qualify for the city meet. A total of 11 runners qualified for the city meet, the most ever in a very long time. The runners at the city tournament placed very well and our school finished 17th out of the 134 schools competing on that day. Congratulations to all of our runners and particularly to our city qualifiers:

Andrew A., Marija I., Matthew O., Emily O., John B., Ciera B., Miroslav I., Matthew A., Jhanina M., Hannah M., Bryan P. A very special congratulations to our Grade 8 boys team who placed 2nd overall - Matthew A., Miroslav and John!

Thank you to the coaches for all of the time, effort and hard work that went into preparing the team: Ms. Feness, Ms. Ciccarelli, Ms. Finelli, Ms. Weing, Mrs. Usher, Mrs. Bauer, Mme Allen, Mr. Barber, Mr. Nobili, Mrs. Loreti, Mr. Bello, Mrs. Weber, Mr. Volante. A special thank you to Mr. Astorino for both coaching and coordinating training and tournaments. We would also like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Officer Eric, who helped coach the team and motivated the runners to try their best!



Intermediate Girls Volleyball Tournament

The Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team had a tournament in mid November. The girls put in a lot of time and dedication into their training for the games. Their best efforts and volleyball skills were evident in the competitions. The Girls Intermediate Volleyball Team won against some of their rival teams and therefore moved on into the finals. With great teamwork skills, the team finished in second place. It was an exciting tournament! The team members are Rachel, Sheyla, Abigail, Hannah, Cassandra, Melanie, Tanya, Emily, Stacey, Chassity, Melanie and Cierra. Thank you to the coaches Ms. Menecola, Ms. Feness and Mrs. Bauer.

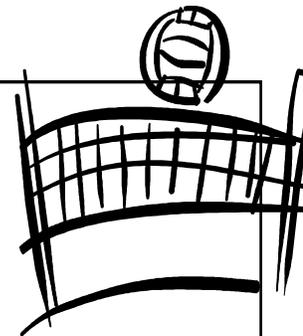
INTERMEDIATE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

This November, James Culnan hosted and competed in the Divisional Intermediate Boys Volleyball tournament. Our team approached the tournament with great enthusiasm, and during the tournament, the team played extremely well, while demonstrating good sportsmanship on and off the court, giving our school a good name. In the round robin, our team won four out of six games, earning a spot in the final versus St. Pius X. Unfortunately, the team lost both of our games in the final. A congratulations to the players on James Culnan for playing so well and for doing their best in the tournament and in the practices.

Thanks to the grade 8's: Cameron H, Malik C, Anton M, Matheus D, Jacob B, Jeremy J, Grade 7's: Shawn S, Matthew O, Edward S, Edward V, Cristiano P, Joshua C and the Grade 6's: Alex K, Adam A

A big thank you goes to the coaches, Mr. Neri and Mr. Pedrosa for the hard work and dedication they had put into to make this team the best that it could possibly be. All in all, it was a very fun experience for everyone.

By Cameron H., Grade 8 student



D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

December

- 1 Suitcase Theatre Gr. 3
- 2 TCDSB Boat Races @ Bishop Marraco/Thomas Merton
- 4 Advent Mass 9:15am
- 5 P.A. Day—Day of Reflection
- 9 Primary Soccer—Boys
- 10 Primary Soccer—Girls
- 12 Gr. 5's to Montgomery Inn
- 17 Christmas Concert 7:00 pm
- 18 Confessions 9:30 am
- 19 Last day of class—full school day



Dec 22-Jan3 Christmas Holiday

- Jan 5 Return to school
- 6-9 Suitcase Theatre ELP
- 8 Kindergarten Registration Begins
- 12-15 High Park ELP
- 15 Kindergarten Registration Evening
Kindergarten/Gr. 1 French Immersion
Information Evening

Check out all the details on the monthly calendars that come home.

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

As we move into the Christmas season, it is important to remember those who are in need of assistance. This year, we will once again be conducting a Toy Drive. Any donation of unwrapped new toys or gifts that are appropriate for boys and girls up to the age of 16 years will be gratefully accepted. Toys and gifts can be dropped off to your child's classroom teacher. Donations will be accepted until Friday, December 12th. All toys and gifts will be given to St. James Parish for their Toy Drive.



Thanking you in advance for your generosity;

Me to We Student Leaders, Mme. Allen

Primary Soccer

Many of our primary students in Grades 2 and 3 are currently participating in tryouts for the primary soccer teams. The tournaments will be held at James Culnan and the dates are as follows:

Primary Boys: Tuesday, December 9th

Primary Girls: Wednesday, December 10th

Good luck to all participating students! Enjoy the game!

Me to We Accomplishments

At the start of this school year our "Me to We" group has been busy making a difference! The students set out to help and local charity and collect canned goods for St. Francis Table, and thanks to the amazing contributions of all the students to the school, we surpassed our goal and collected over 1000 canned goods. We are very grateful. Great job James Culnan!

"Me to We" organized the collection of hard candy after Hallowe'en for a global initiative. We will be sending these candies to Doctor Simone who has spent many years of his life helping children in underdeveloped countries. Thanks to everyone who contributed their hard candies. Together we can make a difference!

By: Cassidy McInnis

Upcoming Activity

The Me to We club would like to help Free the Children with their next undertaking. We want to help families in other countries gain independence and sustainability. We want to provide a goat to as many families as possible. Each goat costs \$50 and will sustain a family for many, many years! So once again, students can look forward to Santa's Workshop. This will take place in the middle of December and we will donate the money raised to help families lead a better life! Stay tuned—Santa's elves will be making announcements in December!

Trip to Harbourfront

On Wednesday, November 5th, the grade one and two students from James Culnan enjoyed a fabulous trip to the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. The day was filled with educational activities including Hip Hop where students worked with a professional dance to explore contrast, tempo and full body coordination. In addition, the students participated in Collograph Printmaking where students created beautiful prints in various colours. Everyone had a wonderful experience and look forward to exploring the arts at the centre again in the future!

Many thanks to the grade one and two teachers who planned this great trip and to our parent volunteers who accompanied the students.

HALLOWE'EN DANCEATHON



On Friday, October 31st, the students of James Culnan came together in the gym to dance, celebrate Hallowe'en and raise money for our school. The Danceathon fundraiser was a great success. Everyone had a good time and the total amount raised during this one day came to over \$7000.00. We would like to extend our thanks to the members of our Catholic School Advisory Council for all of the time and effort that went into arranging the day. Many parents were involved with decorating the gym, purchasing and providing refreshments, counting money and tracking pledges, as well as taking the picture of every student in the school and providing a memento of this special day.

Thanks also to Mr. Astorino for donating his time to act as D.J. throughout the day and to all the staff for their involvement.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the parents and students who supported this great cause and collected pledges from family members and friends. Your support of this danceathon means a great deal as the money raised from this day will go towards many of the programs here at James Culnan.

On Thursday, November 13h, we held the draw for the Danceathon prizes. For every twenty dollars donated, a student had his or her name entered for a draw for fifty dollar gift card from one of a number of stores as well as a chance at the Grand Prize of mini I pad. The winners of the gift cards were:

JK.- Julia T.	SK - Amy M.
Gr. 1 - Mya M.	Gr. 2 - Hunter O.
Gr. 3 - Henrique B.	Gr. 4 - Stefan V.
Gr. 5 - Sophia	Gr. 6 - Clare G.
Gr. 7 - Chassity A.	Gr. 8 - Michael V.

Congratulations to our Grand Prize Winner Sienna V. ! Congratulations as well to Ms. Menecola's JK class who won the pizza party!

James Culnan Portal Corner



The James Culnan Portal is regularly updated and provides a great way to communicate with parents, family members and the community about upcoming events and school policies and schedules.

For example, the school portal offers a great link dedicated to parents that provide lots of information in a variety of different languages such as: how parents can help their children with homework, parent numeracy and literacy guides, and information about full-day kindergarten and EQAO.

In addition, the *For Parents* section of the portal has a link to the school's Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) where parents may receive information about the role of CSAC in our school and how you can get

Winter Weather Advisory

James Culnan Catholic School is part of the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Transportation cancellations are always announced through the local media. Please listen to school cancellation updates on the local radio stations. You may wish to call the Board's Information hot line at 416-222-8282 extension 2873.

Winter Weather is here!

Students need to dress appropriately for winter weather. A winter coat, jacket, hat, scarf, mitts, and snow boots are necessary attire for each child to have. Please ensure that your child is dressed for winter weather.



Appropriate Dress Code

We would like to remind all families that the Toronto Catholic District School Board has mandated a common dress code in its Catholic Elementary Schools. This Appropriate Dress Code consists of any combination of white and navy garments (i.e. plain white or navy blue top with a plain navy blue bottom; no denim or jeans). Students are expected to wear this attire while at school, on excursions, participating in competitions and tournaments and attending mass at St. James Church.



All students from Grades JK to 8 are expected to follow the Appropriate Dress Code. Thank you to those parents who continue to support the dress code by ensuring their children come to school in appropriate dress. If you are unsure of the dress code requirements, I would ask that you read the Appropriate Dress Code Policy as outlined in the agenda and review it with your child. We expect all students to dress neatly and appropriately. This includes Dress Down days that we have once a month.

M. O'Dowd, Principal